

2014

A Grade Pennant Final

BETTINGTON CUP - Vintage v Muswellbrook

at Stonebridge, Sunday 6 April, 2014



The A grade final for the coveted Bettington Cup, was fought out at Stonebridge in heavy conditions, but the players fought out keenly contested matches, with 4 of the matches going down to the wire.

The Vintage atoned for their loss in the 2013 final, when they were victorious over a youthful Muswellbrook team, who went through the series undefeated. The final score of 5 - 2 flattered the Vintage who were fully extended to claim their win.

The number 7's Chad Vesper (Vintage), a seasoned golfer, came up against big hitting sMac Dawson, who has just returned

from a brief working hiatus in Yass. Unfortunately Mac never hit his straps. After 6 holes he was 3 down to Chad, the pair halving the 7th with a chipathon and the hole was halved in 6's. Chad managed to maintain the advantage and the match was finalised on the 16th hole, Chad winning by a 3 & 2 margin.

Veteran Muswellbrook player Bobba Dial proved he has lost none of his raw talent with a 4 & 3 win over Billy Fenton. At the 9 hole turn, Bobba held a slender 1 up advantage. By the 13th this was extended to 3 up. The match finished on the 15th where Bobba picked up another hole, and tied up the games at one apiece.

It was in the middle order where Vintage asserted their supremacy which was the foundation for their win.

Playing at number 5 former Maitland player Andrew Auld held on to a lead against the fast finishing Cameron Benkovic, to go the full distance and record a 1 up win. The highlight of Andrew's round was on the 7th hole where his fourth shot, a guttsed chip, struck the pin and dropped into the hole for a win. With four holes to go Andrew was as many up, when Cameron

commenced a fightback, winning the next 3 holes. A shaky Andrew held on to halve the 18th and hold his 1 up lead.

Mark Hale, made a victorious comeback to District pennants, with a hard fought 3 & 2 win over the young Muswellbrook captain Brady Benkovic. Young Stubbsie, has done a magnificent job as captain of the Muswellbrook side this year. He came up against one of the District's most talented golfers, who held a slender lead throughout the early holes. On the 376m 7th hole Brady knocked his second shot to within two feet for a gimme birdie and reduce the lead to one hole. By the 13th Mark had extended the lead to 2 up, then picking up another hole on the 15th. The match finished (3 & 2) on the 16th, when both players missed birdie chances and halved it in 5's.

Beau McDonald (Vintage) had to fight all the way in his match against Kymble Pascoe. The match see sawed throughout the round. Coming to the 16th Beau held a slender 1 up lead. Both players parred the hole for a half. The 17th was halved and a regulation par 3 on the 18th provided Beau with a 2 up win and the Vintage with an unbeatable lead.

Vintage captain Matt Farley came up against Tom Bateman, who fought his heart out for a 1 up win. After 7 holes Tom had jumped to a 2 up lead, which was reduced to 1 by the 11th. From that point on Tom held on for a desperate one hole win, but sadly the Cup had been claimed by The Vintage.

In the final match, State rep, Dylan Perry came up against a determined Craig Tuckwell, who has had an excellent series. At the turn Dylan held a two up lead, which he was able to maintain until the conclusion of the match on the 17th.

It was pleasing to see supporters from both Clubs turn up and provide moral support for their players. Kurt Barnes, who plays the Japan Tour, was present, but was diplomatic and barracked for both sides.

MATCH	<u>The Vintage</u>		<u>Muswellbrook</u>	
	PLAYER	Result	PLAYER	Result
1	Dylan Perry	+2/1	Craig Tuckwell	
2	Matt Farley		Tom Bateman	+1 up
3	Beau McDonald	+2 up	Kymble Pascoe	
4	Mark Hale	+3/2	Brodie Benkovic	
5	Andrew Auld	+1 up	Cameron Benkovic	
6	Billy Fenton		Bobba Dial	+4/3
7	Chad Vesper	+3/2	Mac Dawson	

result The Vintage Muswellbrook by 5/2

B Grade Pennant Final

POGONSKI CUP – Branxton v Singleton

at Stonebridge Sunday 6 April, 2014

The B grade pennant final, for the Pogonoski Cup, provided an enthralling finish, when a sudden death playoff was required to decide the champion team for 2014. With the first two matches in, the scores were locked at one apiece, necessitating the number one teams to head up the 19th hole when their match finished all square.



The first match out was the pairings of the experienced Phil Carter & Tom Foster (Branxton) against Shane Duggan and Mark Foster (Singleton). There was

nothing in this match over the first nine holes, with Shane & Mark holding tenaciously to a one hole lead. From this point on the pair took control and shot to a 3 hole lead after the 15th, making them dormie 3. They also won the 16th hole to complete the route, winning 4 & 2.

Kyle Mounser & Darren Gilroy (Branxton) two of the more experienced match players in the team combined effectively to defeat Wayne Chandler & Aaron Goadsby by the margin of 3 & 1. At the 7 hole mark, they had a two hole lead, but that was reduced to one, by the 9th. By the 13th hole their lead was extended to 3 holes, which was held, until the game ran out of holes, and a 3 & 2 victory evened the matches up.

The number ones was a gripping match. Dave Hollis & Russell Gogerly (Branxton) came from behind to defeat Rick Janssen & Mark Castledine, on the 19th hole. The Singleton pair jumped to a 3 hole lead by the 7th, which was maintained until the 11th where Russell & Dave clawed one back. Another two holes were won on 16 & 17, to have the match all tied up with the challenging par 3, 18th hole to play.

Dave Hollis drowned one in the dam, whilst his partner Russell played a career shot onto the very front edge some 20 metres from the flag. His opponents, Rick & Mark finished on the mound to the front right of the green. Both chipped to gettable distances, whilst Russell putted up very handy to the hole. Rick was first away and canned his putt, placing the pressure fairly on the shoulders of Russell. Showing nerves of steel he calmly stroked the putt in for the half.

Play now proceed up the first for the second time, all players getting good drives away. Dave Hollis, made amends for his scrub on the 18th by knocking his second to within 12 feet of the hole. On the green he sank the pressure putt for birdie, which could not be matched by his opponents.

The Pogonoski Cup will now sit in pride of place at the Branxton clubhouse for the next 12 months.

Branxton	Result	Singleton	Result
Dave Hollis	19th	Rick Janssen	
Russell Gogerly		Mark Castledine	
Kyle Mounser	3 & 1	Wayne Chandler	
Darren Gilroy		Aaron Goadsby	
Phil Carter		Mark Foster	4 & 2
Tom Foster		Shane Duggan	
	2		1

C Grade Pennant Final

BERCINI CUP – Oaks v Paterson

at Maitland, Sunday 9 March, 2014

PATERSON WIN BERCINI CUP



In a hard fought final the Patto C Grade side were the victors over Stonebridge to hold the Bercini Cup for 2014.

The match was hosted by Maitland and the slick greens and some tricky pin placements caused problems for the nervous C graders.

After 9 holes two of the 3 matches were all square and Paterson had a tenuous 1 up lead in the other.

In the first match out between Eddie Orchard & Mick Cairney against George Norris & Troy McCord the Stonebridge pairing had to spot their opponents 11

shots. It was all square after nine, but then the Paterson boys exploded winning 3 holes in succession, from the 10th through 12.

The match see sawed until the final 4 holes. After the 14th Paterson had regained their 3 holes margin only to lose the next two holes to hold a slender 1 up lead. The 17th hole was squared, so the players headed to the 18th, which was won by Stonebridge, to finish their match all tied up. This meant the match had to progress to the first tee and obtain a result by sudden death.

In the meantime following behind were Trent McGee & Steve Watson (Patton) against Andy Murray & Glen Westwood for Stonebridge. Once again Stonebridge had to give the Paterson opponents 8 shots start.

Over the closing holes of the front nine Paterson held a 2 hole lead, but par on the 9th saw the lead reduced to 1. On the 10th hole both Trent & Steve drowned their approach shots, conceding their opponents an easy win on the hole and squaring up the match.

By the 12th hole Stonebridge had hit the front only to relinquish it on the quarry when they both 3 putted from above the hole. From that point onwards Paterson took control of the game, winning the next two holes, and maintained their lead until the 17th hole, where a halved result provided Paterson with a 2 & 1 win.

The number one players Mick Thomson & Steve Wallington (Paterson) and Steve Hughes & Marc Eisenhauer (Stonebridge) exchanged the lead on several occasions throughout their match.

Stonebridge were 2 down after 7 holes but won 8 and then an exquisite chip shot on 9 from the front of the green by Marc rolled to within two feet for a tap in par to square the front nine.

On the back nine Paterson began taking control from the 13th onwards. A win on the quarry saw a one up lead, a further win on the 15th doubled the lead. On the par 4 16th Mick Thomson played a captain's shot pitching to two feet, then lagged his putt to the hole for a tap in 5 and a win. That ended the match, 3 up with only 2 holes to play.

This gave Paterson a winning two game margin and the Bercini Cup for 2014, meaning that the players about to start sudden death could end their game with a drawn match.

The Bercini Cup will be officially presented at the Pennant Dinner on 10 May at Muswellbrook. Players and friends are invited to attend. Information will be forwarded to all clubs.



Paterson		v	Stonebridge	
	PLAYER	Result	PLAYER	Result
1	Eddie ORCHARD	SQ	George NORRIS	SQ
	Michael CAIRNEY		Troy McCORD	
2	Steve WATSON	+2/1	Andrew MURRAY	
	Trent McGEE		Glen WESTWOOD	
3	Steve WALLINGTON	+3/2	Marc EISENHAUER	
	Mick THOMSON		Steve HUGHES	

RESULT

Paterson def Stonebridge $2\frac{1}{2}/\frac{1}{2}$

Junior Pennant Final

Hancock Shield – Vintage Blue v Maitland

at Kurri, Sunday 19 January, 2014



The 2014 junior final played at Kurri was one of the tightest finals played in the history of the junior pennants. Played between defending champions Maitland and the Vintage "Blue" team was all but won by the Vintage midway through the final 9 holes, then Maitland players grew another leg and battled their way home for a $3\frac{1}{2} - 1\frac{1}{2}$ win, to take the Hancock Shield for the third year in a row.

Maitland's number one player Sparra Gulliver, jumped out of the gates to have a 4 up lead after 9 holes against Bennie Stokes (not to be confused with the English cricketer, but after today probably has the same feelings) and continued into the back nine to win convincingly by the margin of 6 & 5. Two chip in's on the front nine by Hayden were hard for Ben to overcome.

The number two's, Clayton Small for Maitland & Josh Tracey for the Vintage, played out a drawn match in what was a tight tussle for the full 18 holes. The lead see sawed between the two combatants all morning, with neither player ever getting more than one hole ahead and a draw was a fitting result.

Charlie Baxter found he was in for a tussle when he took on Michael Barwick, to eventually go down 2 & 1. Playing in the number 3 slot, Michael had Charles 4 down after nine holes, then increased it to 5 after thirteen. Charlie then lifted under the knowledge of the closeness of other matches filtered through, winning holes 14, 15 & 16 only to succumb to a brilliant birdie on the 17th hole by Michael to finish the match.

The number fours Will Fraser (Maitland) & Jack White (Vintage) had a nervous front nine, with the match square at that point. This continued into the back nine and after 12 holes were still tied up, when Will snatched a lead on 13 only to hand it back on the next hole. From that point on Will settled to play steady golf and win his match 2 up.

Zachary Wolfe for Maitland proved to be Maitland's hero, with a magnanimous effort to win his match against Bradley Barwick on the 19th hole. Zac was thrown in the deep end just prior to hit off, when a Maitland player failed to arrive and Zac stepped up to play in the number 5 position. After 12 holes Zac was down by 3 holes, but from here on in he lifted. From that point he won 4 holes and coming to the 18th hole was one up. A missed put on the final green by Zac, saw the match progress to sudden death, where he sank a 2 metre putt to clinch the match and the Hancock Shield.

VINTAGE BLUE		MAITLAND	
Ben Stokes		Hayden GULLIVER	6/5
Josh Tracey	SQ	Clayton Small	SQ
Michael Barwick	2/1	Charlie Baxter	
Jack White		Will Fraser	2 up
Brad Barwick		Zac Wolfe	19th
TOTAL	1½		3½

Seniors Pennant Final

FRAME CUP – The Vintage v Dungog

at Kurri, Sunday 23 March, 2014

DUNGOG CHALK UP FIRST SENIOR TITLE

Dungog, led by captain Ted Russell, took out their inaugural Frame Cup, the symbol of supremacy in the District Senior pennants, in a thrilling final at Kurri.

Up against The Vintage team, Dungog the underdogs, came up victorious on the final hole of the playoff.

Dungog & Ted have been a foundation part of the senior pennant since its inception back in 1995. After the win Ted has indicated he would step down as captain, but continue as a player.



In the first match out Rod Paech & Simon Rofe, proved too competent for Phil Flannery & Paul Shearston. At the half way mark the Vintage pair had a commanding 4 up lead.

At the 11th they moved to 5 up, but then a mini fightback by Phil & Paul, saw them drag a hole back on the 12th and appeared to be making a resurgence. A halved hole on 13 kept the game alive.

On the par 3 14th Rod & Simon won the hole to end the challenge and the game, winning by the margin of 5 & 4.

The second game Vintage captain Bruce Rose teamed up with Ken Aird against James Hopson & Stewart Lowrey. This game was the reverse of the first game with Dungog leading the way after 9 holes, 2up. Thier lead was decreased on the 10th with a win to Vintage, but the Dungog boys, struck straight back winning the 12th & 13th holes to jump to 3 up. The pair maintained that margin through to the 16th hole, where the match concluded 3 & 2.

