

2013

A Grade Pennant Final

BETTINGTON CUP - Maitland v Vintage

at Kurri, Sunday 17 March, 2013

MAITLAND TURN THE TABLE ON VINTAGE



The Maitland A grade side peaked at the right time to win the coveted Bettington Cup, the symbol of supremacy, in the District golfing calendar. Maitland overcame a determined Vintage side who were resolute in their attitude to make it two in a row. Alas, Maitland had other ideas and when the back end of the team won the first three matches, the foundation was set for the victory. In the preliminary rounds Vintage defeated Maitland 4 - 3, in the first round and from then on both teams were undefeated. This set the stage for an exciting finale.

The game was a see sawing event, with Maitland taking an early advantage, then the pendulum swung back in favour of the Vintage through the middle holes and eventually back Maitland's way over the closing holes.

(The A grade final was played off the 10th tee, so the hole numbers mentioned are not the holes numbers as per the card.)

The quiet achiever of the Maitland side Scott Pryke, led the way at number 7 when he defeated Matt Kelly 4 & 3. Scott jumped to an early lead of 5 up after 6 holes, before Matt won his first hole on the 7th. By the turn of the nine Scott had re-established his margin of 5 holes, and then hit Matt with a killer blow when he holed his second shot on their 10th hole for an eagle to go 6 up. This would normally knock any remaining fight out of an opponent, but Matt fought on bravely to claim back two holes, but unfortunately ran out of holes.

Simon Dillon was next in with a hard fought 1 up victory over junior Ben Stokes. Early in the match Ben held a one hole advantage, which increased to 2 up after 7. Simon hit back winning holes 8 & 9, to be all square at the turn. On their 11th hole Ben, made a par to once again take the lead in the crucial match. The pair made matching pars till the 16th where Simon scrambled a par, to square it up, and followed it up with another on 17 to hit the lead. On 18, both players hit the green in regulation and with Simon first away, lagging his putt to gimme distance. Ben had the opportunity to take the match to the 19th, but his putt didn't find the target, to give Simon a one up win.

Two players re-instated from the pro ranks in Chris Burdekin, Maitland and Chad Vesper, the Vintage, made for an interesting tussle in the number 5 spot. The match was the tightest of the day, with 2 up being the greatest margin either player reached. At the turn the match was evenly poised (square) and then Chad went 2 up with pars on the 11th & 12th holes. Chris, then realised there would be no celebrations if he didn't fire. He then came alive shooting one under par for the stretch of holes from 14 through 17 to clinch the match 2 up with one hole remaining.

This gave Maitland three matches and only required one more to win the Cup.

Bryan Gulliver, the "old man" of the Maitland side played at number four and normally acquits himself with the tenacity of a fox terrier. Sadly to day he couldn't lift and was soundly defeated by opposing team Captain Grant Turner 3 and 2.

Next up in the number three position was Blake Palmer, fresh out of the Maitland junior ranks, playing against Matt Dicks. Blake played like an old stager, and was never headed in his match. Both players sparred with each other and after nine holes Blake held a slender two up lead, which was returned to one, when Matt birdied the 1st hole. Over the next 6 holes the pair matched shots, but Blake gradually drew away to increase his lead to four holes with only two to play. This was the cup clinching match, which his team mates and supporters were sweating on.

With the Bettington Cup safely in Maitland's grasp, the remaining two matches were called in as they could not affect the result.

Maitland team captain Craig Melville was a relieved man. In his match against Matt Farley he held an early 1 up lead. Matt plugged away gradually picking up wins on 4, 8 & 9 to have Craig two down at the turn. Craig clawed one back on their 10th hole but by the 16th hole Matt had increased his lead 3 up, when news filtered through that the result was cut and dried.

Andrew Auld was re-instated to the number one position for the final and came up against one of the District's best in Brent Watson. The pair had a close tussle and at the turn Brent held a two hole lead. Andrew dragged one back on their 12th hole with a birdie, but Brent came back at him with wins on 13 & 14 to lead by three, when the white flag was waved and they adjourned to the Clubhouse.

Back at Maitland the celebrations went till closing time at the club, then those left standing, adjourned to Dillo's Shed to complete the morning. One player took a shower before proceeding to the shed.

Pleasing to see the Vintage captain Grant Turner & his offsider Brent Watson turn up and join the Maitland team in their celebrations. Sportsmanship is still alive.

MATCH	The Vintage Golf Club		Maitland Golf Club	
	PLAYER	Result	PLAYER	Result
1	Brent Watson	+3/2	Andrew Auld	
2	Matt Farley	+3/2	Craig Melville	
3	Matt Dicks		Blake Palmer	+4/2
4	Grant Turner	+3/2	Bryan Gulliver	
5	Chad Vesper		Chris Burdekin	+2/1
6	Ben Stokes		Simon Dillon	+1 up
7	Matt Kelly		Scott Pryke	+4/3
result Maitland defeated The Vintage 4/3				

B Grade Pennant Final

POGONSKI CUP – Maitland v Paterson

at Kurri, Sunday 14 April, 2013

MAITLAND MAKE AMENDS



The Maitland B Grade team suffered the pain of a loss in the 2012 final, for an agonising 12 months. On Sunday 7 April, at Cypress Lakes, they overcome that "monkey" and turned the tables on Paterson, who were responsible for inflicting the painful defeat in 2012 and won the Pogonoski Cup for the B grade pennant. The teams did not meet in the round robin series, as the round in which they were to meet was one of two washed out.

In the final, this year Maitland fielded 4 players from the 2012 final, whilst Paterson had 3. This set the scene for a tough final, which was played on the testing Cypress Lakes layout. Thanks to Cypress for the use of the course to host the final.

The number threes led the way out with Glen Davies & Mark Jackson (Patto) taking on Wayne "cranky" Clements and Steve Wilson (Maitland). The first six nervous holes were halved, until the deadlock was broken with a birdie on the 7th to Steve, when he knocked the flag out with his approach shot finishing 15cms from the hole and was conceded the putt.

A bogey 5 on the 9th, by Clemmo was sufficient to win the hole and for the Maitland side to turn 1 up. Holes 10 & 11 were halved with pars, and Clemmo struck again with a par on the par 3 12th to move to 2up. Paterson struck straight back and won the 13th with a brilliant birdie to Mark Jackson.

The next two holes were halved and the match came to a conclusion on the 16th where both Steve & Wayne, made regulation pars to move to 3 up with only two holes remaining.

Meanwhile behind them Dean Lauder & Graeme Valentine (Paterson) were battling it out against Brent Matthews and Mick McDonnell. Maitland made a par on the 1st courtesy of Brent to jump to an early lead but surrendered it on the second, when Dean made par. The Maitland boys made a concerted move on holes 4 through 6 to jump to a comfortable 3 up lead, with pars on all holes by Mick on 4 and Brent on 5 & 6.

Dean hit back with a birdie on the short par 4 7th to reduce the lead to 2 up. A par on the 9th by Brent saw the 3 up lead re-established at the turn. Mick chimed in with a par on the 10th to increase the lead to 4 up and the sides traded shots over the next four holes, for no result (all halved). Brent delivered the "coup de grace" on the par 3 15th, with a 40 foot par putt, to win their match 5 & 3.

Bringing up the rear were the number ones which saw the formidable combination of Wayne Stedman & Roy Bishop up against the confident Maitland pairing of Brad "the Elf" Ehlefeldt and big Bazza Vercoe. Mention must be made of Roy, who had discharged himself from Maitland Hospital, with a minor heart condition, to play in the final.

The Maitland team jumped out of the boxes to a 3 up lead after 3, with three pars in concussion, two to Baz and one to Brad. The fourth was halved with bogeys, then Roy hit a purple patch through holes 5 to 8, to level up the score. In that space of holes he parred the 5th & followed it up with a barrage of birdies, on the remainder of those holes.

This rattled the Maitland pair, but to their credit they did not capitulate and fought back with a par by Barry on the 9th to turn 1 up. He then continued with a birdie 3 on the 10th, to go 2 up. Brad then made his captains contribution with a par & bogey to win 11 and halve 12, to place them in a commanding position, of 3 up.

Wayne held them on the 13th when he chipped in for a bogey 5. Sadly this was to no avail as a win by the Maitland pair on the par 5 14th hole put the side 4holes to the good and in the position of dormie. The anti climax came on the 15th when the hole was halved with bogeys and ended the match 4/3.

Maitland had won all three matches for a convincing win and provide the Maitland club with 4 pennants for the year.

Maitland	Result	Paterson	Result
Brad Ehlefeldt	4/3	Wayne Stedman	
Barry Vercoe		Roy Bishop	
Brent Matthews	5/3	Dean Lauder	
Mick McDonnell		Graeme Valentine	
Wayne Clements	3/2	Glen Davies	
Steve Wilson		Mark Jackson	
	3		0

C Grade Pennant Final

BERCINI CUP – Maitland v Paterson

at Kurri, Sunday 17 March, 2013



The C grade Pennant Final for the Bercini Cup, between Maitland & Paterson, played at Kurri on 17 March, 2013, turned into a 6 hour marathon, and fortunately for daylight savings was able to be finalised on the day.

Paterson were the defending champions, topped the table and had defeated the Maitland side in an earlier round of the series, so were entitled to start short priced favourites.

The first group out were Tim Hicks & Mick Thomson for Paterson up against Maitland Captain Tom Oswald and Mark Burkhill. An opening par on the first by Mick saw Paterson jump to the lead only to lose their advantage on the next. Through holes 2 - 7 it was fairly even, until Paterson asserted their authority to build a lead. On 8, Mick Chimed in with a par to start the eventual rout, and was ably backed up by partner Tim, who struck to win the next four holes and provide a 5 up lead, after the 12th. Maitland, narrowed the lead courtesy of Tom, winning holes 13 & 14. The 15th was halved with a bogey, meaning Maitland would have to win the final 3 holes to move to the 19th. Paterson were not having any of this, and a par by Tim on 16, finalised their match in Paterson's favour 4 and 2.

Meanwhile the second game between Paterson captain Trent McGee and evergreen Phil Watson, up against Dave Brennan & Brad Forbes for Maitland, was well underway and reached an early conclusion, when the Maitland pair towelled their opponents up by the margin of 5 & 4 This squared the games up and it would come down to the number one teams to resolve the deadlock.

The final game was between C grade veteran Wayne Clark and Nathan Mudd against the mighty Quinn, Ian, and his partner Matt Parish. Unlike the first two games, there was no early shower and went the full distance plus one more, where it was decided on the 19th.

After some controversy on the 18th green, over whether a short putt was conceded to Ian Quinn, Matt Parish, turned hero when he sank a 5 foot putt for a 5, to take the match to the 19th. Pressure was mounting on the players as the large crowd of supporters followed the game up the first hole.

Matt made the green in two whilst Wayne bettered his shot by knocking it to 8 feet, right in birdie territory. Matt made a conventional par and the result came down to Wayne's putt. He charged the birdie putt which stormed past the hole leaving a heart stopping 6 foot return putt. Sadly and much to the delight of the Maitland players & supporters, the attempt failed and the Cup went to Maitland.

Recapping to the early part of the match, Paterson had the early running and had skipped to a 2 up lead after 9 holes. Maitland clawed this lead back through Matt, on 10 & 11, with a birdie and a par. The game flowed back & forth on 12 & 13, until Ian sank a long putt on 14 to put Maitland 1 up. Wayne responded for Paterson by chipping in from rear of the green, on 15 to even it up. The remaining holes were halved taking the match to sudden death.

Paterson		v	Maitland	
	PLAYER	Result	PLAYER	Result
1	Wayne Clark		Ian Quinn	+19th
	Nathan Mudd		Matt Parish	
2	Phil Watson		Dave Brennan	+5/4
	Trent McGee		Brad Forbes	
3	Tim Hicks	+4/3	Tom Oswald	
	Mick Thomson		Mark Burkhill	
Maitland		def	Paterson	
			2/1	

Junior Pennant Final

Hancock Shield – Muswellbrook v Maitland

at Kurri, Sunday 17 March, 2015

MAITLAND JUNIORS MAKE IT TWO IN A ROW



Maitland juniors made it two in a row, when they were victorious against the Vintage in the final played at Kurri. The final score of $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$, indicated a close match, but the individual result in four of the matches resulted in convincing wins.

The number fives led the teams out with Tom Etheridge from Maitland up against Lachlan Howells from The Vintage. Lachlan jumped out of the gates and skipped to a 3 up lead by the 6th hole. By the 11th hole Tom clawed his way back to square. From there it was a cat & mouse game with one or the other gaining a 1 up lead, only to drop the next hole. Coming to the final hole Tom had a one hole advantage, but Lachlan was not to be denied and won the hole with a birdie, to halve the match.

Pint sized Clayton Small proved too strong for Lewis Howells from the Vintage, and cleaned him up with a 5 & 4 victory. At the turn Clayton had a four hole lead and by the 12th hole had increased it to six. An uncharacteristic quadruple bogey on the 13th hole by Clayton was a temporary aberration and he quickly regrouped to par the 14th and take the match 5 & 4.

Playing in his first pennant final Ethan McKenzie had an off day and was towelled up by Jack Rachel to the tune of 7 & 6. Ethan started with a win on the first hole, but it was all downhill from that point on, as young Jack plugged away with steady golf to wrap the match up after the 12th hole, which was conveniently adjacent to the clubhouse. Brings to mind the old golfing adage "early ripe, early rotten."

Charlie Baxter a seasoned Maitland campaigner, had a slow start against Jason Varley, halving the first three holes, but then hit his straps, winning holes 4 through 8 to jump to a 5 hole lead. Jason fought back to win the ninth, immediately dropped the 10th, won the 11th, only to see "tough" Tom take the next two holes for a 6 & 5 victory.

Maitland's number 1 "captain jack sparra" Hayden Gulliver was up against "jumping" Jack Clark and played the captains knock to lead his team to victory. After losing the 1st hole, when his initial drive hit the overhead wires, and had to replay the shot, he was never headed. From that point on he quickly assumed command of the match, gradually increasing his lead to record a 5 & 3 win.

	Maitland Golf Club		The Vintage Golf Club			
	PLAYER	Hcap	Result	PLAYER	Hcap	Result
1	Hayden Gulliver		+5/3	Jack Clark		
2	Charlie Baxter		+6/5	Jason Varley		
3	Ethan McKenzie			Jack Rachel		+7/6
4	Clayton Small		+5/4	Lewis Howells		
5	Tom Etheridge		SQ	Lachlan Howells		SQ

result Maitland defeated The Vintage by 3½ - 1½

Seniors Pennant Final

FRAME CUP – The Vintage v Paterson

at Cypress Lakes, Sunday 7 April, 2013

ROYAL PATTO IN VINTAGE WIN



The humble Paterson senior team caused the upset of the year when they rose to the occasion and won the 2013 Frame Cup for the Senior pennants against all odds. The underdog Paterson team surprised the Vintage players by defeating them 2 matches to 1 and take the pennant for this years long drawn out series.

Back in December last year when the series got underway, Paterson were at long odds to be in the final at the end of the year. The team turned up each week and plugged away to finish equal first with The Vintage and the opportunity to meet them in the final.

The first match out on the course was between district stalwart Mick Watson & mate Ken Aird against Larry Castle & Greg Kellner. The match was tighter than a facelift, with neither side getting further ahead than a one hole margin. Vintage opened the account with a win on the first courtesy of a bogey 6 by Mick, only to relinquish it to a par with a shot, to Greg on the second.

The match then see-sawed over the next 14 holes where the lead changed on a further 7 occasions. until they completed the 16th hole and it was all tied up.

At this point the the match became an anticlimax, when the two matches following had been decided in Paterson's favour and there was no necessity to conclude the match. The generous Paterson players conceded the match to their opponents.

The second match out was between Bruce Rose & Tom Bradstreet (Vintage) and Brent Eslick & the wily Peter Griffin.

After squaring the first hole, Paterson made their move and won the next three holes, but by the end of the first nine, their lead had been trimmed to one hole. After 12 holes the match was back to square, and it was then that the lethal Brent was at his best, burning off the opposition winning three holes in succession, with a bogey, par, par barrage through holes 13 to 15.

A squared hole on 16 brought the match to an early conclusion, with Brent & Pete winning 3 & 2, and putting Paterson in the box seat with the win.

Bruce & Tom fought hard, but the handicap difference, and strokes conceded eventually saw Paterson win 7 of the 16 holes played, as against 4 by the Vintage pairing.

The final match out on the course was between Rod Paech & Don Guthrie up against Mark George and Bob Cook. This match was always going to be hard for The Vintage team due to the large number of strokes they had to concede to their higher handicapped opponents.

Rod & Don held Mark & Bob to a one hole lead until the 7th hole, where their opponents lifted to a higher gear, with wins on holes 7, 8, 9, 11 & 12 to jump to a 6 up lead. A halved hole on 13 brought an early conclusion to the match.

The win provided Paterson with a second match and the coveted Frame Cup. It was at this point that the first match out pulled up stumps.

No doubt the team celebrated long & hard at their drinking hole, The PattoTavern, thanks to the generosity of mine host Brent Eslick.

Paterson		v	The Vintage	
PLAYER	Result		PLAYER	Result
1 Mark George (29)	6/5		Rod Paech (14)	
Bob Cook (18)			Don Guthrie (13)	
2 Brent Eslick (28)	3/2		Bruce Rose (13)	
Peter Griffin (20)			Tom Bradstreet (23)	
3 Larry Castle (16)			Mick Watson (11)	1 up
Greg Kellner (26)			Ken Aird (18)	
Paterson		def	The Vintage	
			2/1	