

Inaugural South Australian Hickory Shaft Championships

Early April 2023 saw the inauguration of the South Australian Hickory Shaft Championships. Run over two days, the foursomes championship was held on Sunday 2 April at Victor Harbor Golf Club and the individual championship was contested the following day at The Royal Adelaide Golf Club. Both events were played on cloudless autumn days with temperatures in the mid-twenties.

The individual championship was contested by sixteen players, twelve of whom had travelled from interstate: six from Queensland, five from Victoria, and one from New South Wales. The winner, with an exceptional round of 79 off-the-stick, was Bendigo Golf Club (Vic) 2-marker Justin Ryan. He outplayed PGA professional from Sydney's Eastlake Golf Club (NSW), Alex Sutherland, by a solitary stroke. In third place was Lang Lang Golf Club (Vic) member Stephen 'Mango' Maguire. The individual handicap event was won by Ross Haslam from Nudgee Golf Club (Qld) with a score of 77 playing from a handicap of 14, followed by Alex Sutherland with 80 strokes playing off scratch. The youngest player in the field, local Glenelg Golf Club (SA) member Nick Lambos, was one shot further back.

On the previous day, the long and tree-lined Victor Harbor Golf Club layout provided a strenuous test of foursomes golf. Played in the Canadian variation of the game, the winners were Justin Ryan from Bendigo Golf Club (Vic) and Terry Thornton from The Royal Adelaide Golf Club (SA) with an off-the-stick score of 83. They finished five strokes ahead of Royal Queensland Golf Club (Qld) pairing Ross Bishop and Bradley Tatnell. Third place was won on countback by Queenslanders Philip Akes and Ross Haslam who finished one stroke further behind.

The championships were preceded on Friday 31 March by an 18-hole hickory shaft challenge held at Port Fairy Golf Links. This gave players in transit between the eastern states and Adelaide the opportunity to play the gorgeous seaside links located outside that historic Victorian harbour town. On Saturday afternoon, McLaren Vale Golf Club provided access to a small field of hickory golfers who were keen to play the club's home course, Ashbourne Private Links. Providing a perfect venue for hickory golf, this quirky course resides on a private farming property and has remained unchanged since 1928. These two lead-up events allowed eventual individual and foursomes champion, Justin Ryan, to tune his game to a high pitch.

South Australian Hickory Shaft Championship

| Placing | Player (Handicap) | Result |
|---------|-----------------------------|--------|
| 1 | Justin Ryan (2) | 79 |
| 2 | Alex Sutherland (0) | 80 |
| 3 | Stephen 'Mango' Maguire (2) | 84 |
| 4 | Terry Thornton (4) | 87 |
| 5 | Ian Monks (6) | 88 |
| 6 | Nicholas Lambos (8) | 89 |
| 7 | Ross Haslam (14) | 91 |
| 8 | Rob King-Scott (8) | 92 |
| 9 | John Trevorrow (5) | 93 |
| 10 | Bradley Tatnell (6) | 96 |
| 11 | Eric Cain (3) | 97 |
| 12 | Andrew Baker (12) | 99 |
| | Ross Bishop (9) | 99 |
| 14 | Philip Akes (7) | 101 |
| | David Jones (8) | 101 |
| 16 | Rod Hiscox (25) | 123 |

South Australian Hickory Shaft Foursomes Championship

| Placing | Players (Handicaps) | Result |
|---------|--|--------|
| 1 | Justin Ryan (4.7) and Terry Thornton (6.7) | 83 |
| 2 | Ross Bishop (12.0) and Bradley Tatnell (8.6) | 88 |
| 3 | Philip Akes (10.0) and Ross Haslam (17) | 89 C/B |
| 4 | Ian Monks (9.1) and John Trevorrow (8.0) | 89 C/B |
| 5 | Rob King-Scott and Alex Sutherland (0.0) | 89 C/B |
| 6 | David Jones (11.2) and Eric Cain (6.1) | 93 |
| 7 | Andrew Baker (15.2) and Rod Hiscox (28.3) | 105 |

SAHSC Handicap Event

| Placing | Player (Handicap) | Result |
|----------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| __a | Justin Ryan (2) | 77 |
| 1 ^b | Ross Haslam (14) | 77 |
| 2 | Alex Sutherland (0) | 80 |
| 3 | Nicholas Lambos (8) | 81 |
| 4 | Stephen 'Mango' Maguire (2) | 82 |
| | Ian Monks (6) | 82 |
| 6 | Terry Thornton (4) | 83 |
| 7 | Rob King-Scott (8) | 84 |
| 8 | Andrew Baker (12) | 87 |
| 9 | John Trevorrow (5) | 88 |
| 10 | Ross Bishop (9) | 90 |
| | Bradley Tatnell (6) | 90 |
| 12 | David Jones (8) | 93 |
| 13 | Philip Akes (7) | 94 |
| | Eric Cain (3) | 94 |
| 14 | Rod Hiscox (25) | 98 |

- a. Under the conditions of the event, the Winner of the Championship is not eligible to win the Handicap event.
- b. If the Winner of the Championship had been eligible to win the Handicap event, Ross Haslam would still have won on countback.

SAHSC Foursomes Handicap Event

| Placing | Players (Handicaps) | Handicap (3/8 of combined) | Result |
|---------|---|----------------------------|---------|
| __a | Justin Ryan (4.7) and Terry Thornton (6.7) | 4.275 | 78.725 |
| 1 | Philip Akes (10.0) and Ross Haslam (17) | 10.125 | 78.875 |
| 2 | Ross Bishop (12.0) and Bradley Tatnell (8.6) | 7.725 | 80.275 |
| 3 | Ian Monks (9.1) and John Trevorrow (8.0) | 6.4125 | 82.5875 |
| 4 | Rob King-Scott (10.8) and Alex Sutherland (0.0) | 4.05 | 84.725 |
| 5 | David Jones (11.2) and Eric Cain (6.1) | 6.4875 | 86.6 |
| 6 | Andrew Baker (15.2) and Rod Hiscox (28.3) | 16.3125 | 88.6875 |

- a. Under the conditions of the event, the Winners of the Championship are not eligible to win the Handicap event.