

Club History 1946 – 1977

The Beginning

Leon List double timed it across the road as the 1940 Oldsmobile approached. Just my luck he thought, after the war there's bugger all cars about and even less petrol yet I have to strike one on the road I'm crossing. As the summer sun rose amongst Manly's famous Norfolk Pines Leon could already feel the day's rising heat through his white Bonds singlet. He dodged the lumbering auto, stepped onto the promenade and then headed towards the southern corner of the beach for his morning dip.

He had come from his residence at the Steyne Hotel where he also was the pub licensee. Leon had been running the Steyne Hotel for several years now and much preferred it to his previous venue, The Paragon Hotel in Sydney's grimy Circular Quay. Manly's Steyne Hotel had a grand art deco style layout, a friendly holiday like atmosphere and was right across the road from the beach. You Beauty! He'd had enough of The Paragon's resident drunks and brawling wharf workers, not to mention getting up at an ungodly hour most mornings to prepare the early opener.

Raymond Leon List was his full name when born in 1893 but he preferred Leon to his given name. Though never an outstanding athlete Leon liked playing and watching sport, a bet and perhaps a few beverages to accompany this. Besides running a tidy ship at the Steyne, he supported local sporting groups through the pub and was a member of various clubs and associations in the area. For this he had been referred to as a "benefactor and sportsman" in the areas local rag *The Manly Daily* and was well known around the village. This meant the short amble to the surf involved several good mornings and a few head nods to the locals passing but this was not a problem on such a beautiful day.

After his swim Leon headed up to an area of flat sandstone slabs above the Manly Surf Club where he and other locals would gather and natter on about the matters of the day, often the prospects in the horse races later on that afternoon. This area was well away from the noisy children and tourists passing by below and he enjoyed this relaxing sanctuary where he could be himself in the company of his mates. Leon had an unfortunate habit of spitting whilst sunbaking, a characteristic of his that was observed and well known by the accompanying sun seekers.

Sitting nearby was one observer of Leon's particular habits, pub regular and local identity Bill Howard. Shortly later Bill left Leon and his cronies spread about on their rocks to head home and get himself down to the Steyne Hotel. You see Bill had gotten wind that a recently acquired and somewhat rare supply of draught beer would soon come on tap in the saloon bar. Shortly afterwards he was in the Steyne pub enjoying his middy of Old and was asked by the barmaid Greta if he had seen her boss Leon at the beach. Bill apparently replied "yes, he is down there lying on his rock and spitting like a lizard". This was overheard across the bar and the locals quickly took it up, "did you hear Bill Howard called the publican a spitting lizard". The quotation soon became abbreviated, the name stuck and Leon List became known across the pub and to others in the Manly village as "The Lizard".

When not running the Steyne Hotel Leon enjoyed a game of golf with some of the customers and other friends, later they would relax back at the pub with a few drinks. Sometimes it would be at the bar but they would also frequent a more private area known as the "cellarette", probably depending upon what limited beverages were available and to whom.



Avalon Golf Course between the wars, well before the Lizards arrived

As the games became more frequent Leon announced one day “This is pretty good – why don’t we make it a regular thing. We will organise a social golf club and call it The Lizards, on account of the name you mongrels have given me and the fact all the players I know are flat out like a lizard drinking”.

The third Sunday of the month became the regular date for play, the club was named “The Lizards Golf Club”, and the first official game was played at Palm Beach in 1946 (not on their regular course of Avalon). A committee was formed to organise the days with Leon being the first President and with Bill Howard as the club’s Patron. Full members of the club were known as “Lizards” and the guests they bought along were given the title “Visitors”.

Pride of Erin”, a green 1936 ford panel van. The members also referred to it as the club’s official “baggage wagon”.

Who were the original Lizards that played golf in 1946? A full record is not available but it is believed there were about 8 foundation members and that included first President Leon List, Verdi Gorman and Duncan Hattrick. It is also known that Lance Try and Tom Beer joined not long after, however a list of members during the 1950’s is not available. One can assume that there would have been a handicapper on the early committees that kept scores and game results but if so, these have been lost to time. In reminiscing early member Lance Try simply recalls the men of the beginning as “a few fellas that got together and did things”.



The “Pride of Erin”, the club’s baggage wagon outside the Steyne on a third Sunday whilst the Lizards are inside preparing for the trip to golf at Avalon

In these early days of the club the Lizards and their Visitors met around 7am at the Hotel Steyne where Leon List as licensee turned on a few ales “to put the fires out”, then transport had to be arranged. It was the responsibility of the elected Transport Officer to find space for the travelling golfers and their gear in the available vehicles, a crucial part of the day. On some occasions the players outnumbered the vehicles and some participants were forced to travel to the course by taxi and bus. One of the first cars to arrive at the side of the pub was the Steyne workhorse known as “the

Where did the early Lizards play? Before the club was formed it is recorded that Leon and his friends played games at Avalon but it seems that the first official Lizard golf ball was hit at the Palm Beach course. Then it was back to Avalon on a semi regular basis (but also playing other courses) where the Lizards stayed till around 1954. Following this it was back to Palm Beach for an extended period where they were befriended by a local resident owning a property adjacent to the course. She was given the name “Aunty” after taking pity on the half-drowned Lizards and then allowed the use

Members of The Lizards Golf Club from 1946 to 1977

Jack Abbot
 Bill Alexander
 Peter Allen
 Ron Allum
 Sandy Armstrong
 John Atkins
 Les Atkins
 Gordon Ball
 Keith Bath
 Tom Beer
 Norm Bentley
 Reg Binning
 George Bird
 Norm Black
 Ken Bloomfield
 John Board
 Lennard Brown
 Jim Buchanan
 Alistair Campbell
 Kevin Campbell
 Bluey Caines
 John Chester
 Marshall Cooper
 Harry Crang
 Brian Daly
 Ted Danby
 Arthur Davidson
 John Dearson
 Clan Denby
 Gordon Donald
 Ted Donovan
 Vic Dorman
 Fred Dumbrell
 Andy Edgar
 Roger Ehret
 Kevin Elvy
 Ron Elvy
 William Epps
 Lindsay Evans
 Jack Ewers
 Joe Falkner
 Norm Fegan
 Jim Florance
 Ken Foster
 Ludi Foster
 Monty Fowler
 Les Garlick
 Paul Gaze
 Andy Gilchrist
 George Gilmer
 Don Goozee
 Fred Goozee



Leon List

The founder of The Lizards Golf Club, Raymond Leon List was born 1893 in Sydney to parents Daniel & Johanna List. Leon was his preferred name and from this arose his nickname "The Lizard". In 1939 he was wed to Kathleen MacMahon in Ashfield, a union that produced two children, Kevin and Margaret. Kevin went on to become a monk in the Cisterian Church and at one stage was made an honorary member of the Lizards.

Leon was publican at the Grand Hotel in George St Sydney up until August 1933 (Apparently he was fined £1 for selling beer in unmarked glasses – 19½ ounces instead of a pint). He was then publican at the Paragon Hotel in Loftus St. Sydney from August 1933 before taking the reins at the Steyne Hotel in Manly. Leon passed away in Sydney on the 13th of August 1950, a mere four years after The Lizards Golf Club was established. Vale Leon List.

Verdi Gorman
 Robert Griffiths
 Lester Grossan
 Bob Guille
 Ben Haithwaite
 Keith Halliwell
 Ian Hampson
 Fred Hansen
 Jim Hardman
 Ron Hathaway
 Duncan Hattrick
 John Heaphy
 Brian Hellier
 Charles Hellier
 Max Henford
 Sam Henford
 Paul A. Hennessy
 John Herbert
 Ray Hilton
 Mo Hines
 Ron Hinson
 Aub Hodgson
 Robert Hoffman
 Jack Hoke
 Jim Howe

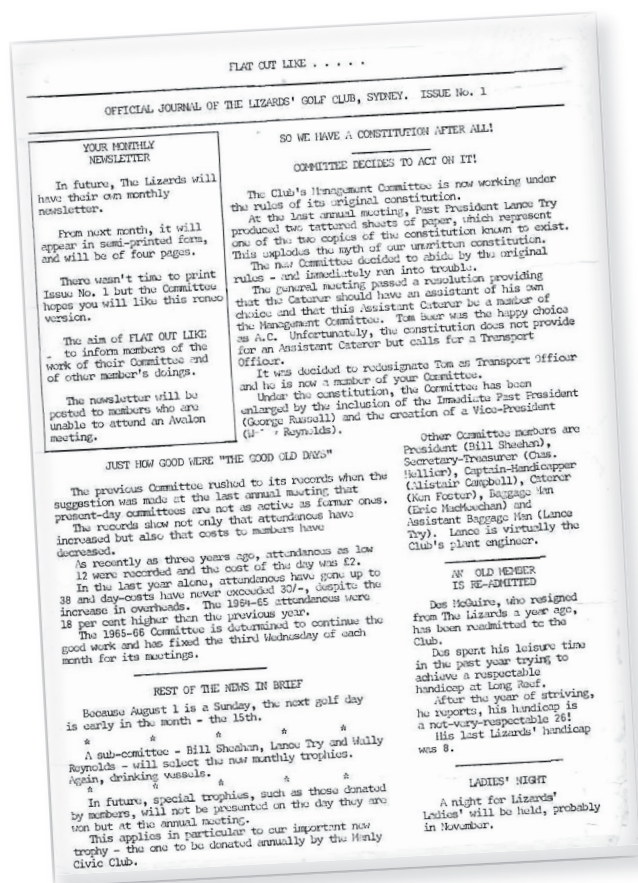
Pete Howe
 Bob Humphreys
 Vic Ingrham
 Bill James
 Frank James
 Royle Jenkins
 Eddie Jones
 John Kennedy
 Laurie Laidlaw
 Kevin Lawler
 Arthur Levy
 Alan Lewis
 Leon List
 Matt Little
 George Lobb
 Eric MacMeehan
 Don Maddy
 Des Maguire
 Roy Malm
 Les Maloney
 Alby Marshall
 John McAlistar
 Colin McClelland
 Noel McKinnon
 Sandy McKinnon

Sid Morrison
 John O'Brien
 Pat O'Keefe
 Len Olsen
 Brian Osborne
 Charles Park
 Max Penfold
 Marty Plim
 Jack Plunket
 Fred Porter
 Arthur Pullen
 Geoff Quinlan
 Neville Reeves
 Wally Reynolds Jnr.
 Wally Reynolds Snr.
 Jock Ross
 Jack Rowley
 Harry Ryan
 Mick Ryan
 George Russell
 John Salkeild
 Ralph Schoeffel
 William Sheehan
 Archie Sinclair
 Martin Smee
 Jim Smith
 William Smith
 Sam Sparks
 Roy Stringfellow
 Steven Summers
 Norm Tardiff
 Bill Thomas
 Bob Thompson
 Harry Thurston
 John Tilley
 Harry Tipper
 "No Risk" Tracey
 David Treharne
 Dick Trevillian
 Ken Try
 Lance Try
 Don Vollus
 John Watson
 Toby Webb
 Sonny West
 Harry Wilkin
 Viv Wilkin
 Walter Windred
 Barry Wood
 Geoff Wotton

of her backyard hut as the 19th hole. Palm Beach remained headquarters for the Lizards for perhaps a year before this folded and they had to move on. Games were played at Bayview, Rouse Hill, Villawood and Chatswood golf courses before the Lizards eventually settled back at Avalon where the club played continuously until 2009.

It is believed that the club remained with only small numbers for its first decade of existence before a steady growth of membership through the 50's. The numbers then started to fade away when the 60's approached as players moved to regular golf clubs or as business commitments encroached on their time to play. In 1962 the situation had become dire with only a small number of players turning up for a game and a meeting was called to discuss a motion that the club disband. This motion was not passed in and the Lizards decided to continue on with men like Col McClelland, Lance Try, George Russell, Ron Allum, Sandy Armstrong, Harry Crang and Bill Sheehan taking the bull by the horns and bringing the club back to life. They took in the best of what had succeeded for the club in the past and discarded some of the older ideas that were proving ineffective. An association was formed with the Manly Civic Club that gave the Lizards a meeting place and a venue to hold functions like Ladies Nights, The Annual General Meeting and also provide a source of new membership for the club.

In August 1965 the newly energised club's committee bought about the first edition of the Flat Out Like (FOL), the club's newsletter. The first few editions of the FOL in the late of 1965 reveal the progress that had been made in the last few years by the above committeemen with a (partially) organised Lizards group going about its business of running monthly golf games and catering for those attending on the day. For the club's historians the FOL also provides a wealth of information on the results and the goings on of the club from '65 and right through to the present day, and forms the basis for a large part of this book.



The first edition of the "Flat Out Like" Newsletter August 1965

Swinging in the Sixties

The Lizards 1965/66 year saw the Lizards target of full regular membership of 36 reached and games played in most months of the year. Games were conducted in a variety of formats including Canadian Foursomes, 4BBB's as well the regular Stableford competitions. Prior to the games on the Monday night committee meetings were held at the Manly Civic Club where prospective new members



Images from Lizards Golf Club, The First Thirty Years Booklet. Lizards around the BBQ outside the shed, groups teeing off with what looks like Postie far left, obscured



were appraised and once approved, often had to wait a period of time before an opportunity of membership was available. A full member unable to attend for three consecutive months was encouraged to take up “country membership” to allow a spot for keener players to fill. The Civic Club was also the scene for the then popular “Ladies Nights”, where Lizards and their spouses would wine and dine the night away often finishing with a sing-a-long around the organ or piano. Ladies had cocktails and flower garlands presented upon arrival, the men would make toasts and everyone dressed up for the occasion. In the FOL it was said you could bring your wife or your girlfriend to a ladies’ night, but not at the same time.

Back at the course, catering consisted of a smorgasbord after the front nine and bring your own, cook your own steak on the club’s BBQs at full time. Old and New beer was available in the three kegs ordered with Lance Try in charge of tapping the temperamental beasts, often using his own version of homegrown ingenuity. In April 1966 the golf day featured a “Back to Lizards” theme with 12 old Lizards being encouraged to come out to Avalon for the day. Foundation members attended on the day, two of the other old timers were Marsh Cooper and John Chester who

were both Lizards in the 50’s. The year finished with the Club’s AGM and Annual Dinner at the Civic Club in July attended by 35 Lizard members and invited guests such as the President and Secretary Manager of the Civic Club.

The following year saw business as usual for the flourishing club with additional innovations. Hole-in-One Insurance:- members paid 10c each game in case the event occurred and they would have to fork out for a nine gallon keg – cost \$17, instead this was hopefully covered by the existing pot. The Betting Tote Board:- this listed handicaps and betting prices on the various players of the day and enabled members to wager on themselves or other players with a bookie on hand to take your bets. One other idea was to enlist the help of an ex pro golfer as the club’s resident professional, one Frank Powell from the Manly Golf Course. This worked out fine until he came up against Bill Sheehan in a matchplay competition and lost in well natured encounter, with Bill using his handicap and local knowledge of the unpredictable Avalon Course to advantage.

Montage from The First Thirty Years book.

Those that can be identified 1) Gordon “Postie” Donald
2) Harry Thurston 3) Col McClelland 4) Duncan Hattrick, one of the
Foundation Members 5) George Russell and 6) Lance Try.
Most of these images were taken at the Avalon Golf Course

The first mention of the breathalyser being introduced on December 16th 1968 is made in the following months FOL. Whilst it was at first employed only after a road accident or after being pulled over for a driving offence it would in time change the way social events were conducted in Australia. There was a suggestion at the following February meeting that a bus be organised to take the golfers to Avalon but this was not taken up with the Lizards beginning to carpool and getting to the course as groups.

In May 1969 the Lizards played the first of several yearly matches against teachers and staff from a Catholic Boys School, St Augustine's of Brookvale, a connection made with Paul Hennessy Snr. as handicapper of both groups. This obviously led to many a funny moment with the Lizards being on their best behaviour around the "Fathers" and the home side taking out the first win between the two groups. Suffice to say the swear tin did not make an appearance that day which saw 52 players on the course.

December 1969 is recorded in the Flat Out Like as the first Christmas meeting held for many years. How long this had been going on we are unsure but the thinking was probably to allow Lizards to be available for family and friends at such a close time to Christmas. With Lizards Day always falling between the 15th and 21st of the month and the shenanigans over the year, this was probably a good idea

to help keep the peace. What also is noted from the FOL is that around this time the club already had its own suite of Lizard prizes such as glasses, tie clips and cuff links showing the club logo and these provided the bulk of the prizes given out to the day's winners.

Playing through in The Seventies

The new decade kicked off in January 1970 with The Johnny Atkins Trophy being played for, a stableford event won by David Treharne with 48 points off 40. Some other events during the year were February Presidents Trophy, April Editors Day, September Gordon Donald Day and November Hennessy/Atkins Day. Later that year players qualified for the Sandy Armstrong "knockout trophy" to be played for early in the new year, the event being the precursor to the prestigious Lindenberg trophy which began in 1973. December 1970 saw the "bring a prize, win a prize" system being implemented whereby everyone bought and went away with a Christmas present.

Only a few editions of the FOL are available for the earlier months of 1971 but play and club activity continued with a lot of the news and the standard criticism and ridicule of fellow Lizards taking the form of prose and poetry. In the June 1971 FOL the members were encouraged to attend the AGM as "you have the opportunity to propose and vote for your worst enemy to a position on the committee. You have the chance to ask all the most awkward questions, and if you are diabolical enough you may propose that women be admitted as members or that only New beer be served on the grounds of economy. If on the other hand you are idiotic enough to think that you can do a job on the committee you can put your own name down".

The rest of the year is better documented with a suggestion in August that new members applications would be better served if they came in the form of verse, the funnier the better. Its not sure how long this took to take effect but it does continue to this day. Arrangements were in place for the celebrating of the silver anniversary of the club at the 25th Annual Ladies Night and Dinner at the Civic Club, Saturday 23rd October 1971.

The first game of 1972 saw a large attendance with three players coming in with 36 stableford points, "honest" golfers but also providing a bit of work for the handicappers to get through. February remains as Presidents Day, March as Campbell & Ross Day, Jim Howe Day in April and a full card filling in the rest of the year. A side game seems to have been held at Palm Beach around this time with a number of Lizards attending but in true Lizards fashion the NTP and the Longest Drives were on the wrong holes. This seems to have a detrimental effect on



Ticket/programme from one of the early Ladies Nights put on by the Lizards Committee. These were quite formal affairs with toasts, responses, guest speakers and featured a sophisticated menu for the time. Of course you would have your wife or girlfriend, ticket, Lizards cufflinks, coin and tie clip!

David Treharne who somehow wrapped his iron around a tree. Apparently this trauma left him speechless, except to utter a five letter word beginning with 'ph'.

A trip away to the Trangie area for golf was suggested at the April meeting but it seems that this did not go ahead, it would be quite some time before the Lizards headed away. It was also at this game that the Lizards took on a new opponent in The Dee Why Garden Club of which Lance Try

was FOL for the members allowing them to see accurately how things were going at the club. The Airies were given their own conductor and Lance Try was seriously underway with plans to get the club's history into "black and ink". Negating these improvements were concerns about attendance at the club's functions and golf days with one meeting later in the year only attracting 6 visitors, a number of guests that would be most appreciated now.

In this photo are Bill Sheehan, Lance Try, Sandy Armstrong, Des McGuire, Bob Thompson and others. It was probably taken in the early 70's, location unknown but possibly is the downstairs area at the Avalon golf course clubhouse.



had an association with, the result is unknown but by then the tradition was that the Lizards win the initial encounter.

After suffering an "irregular" loss to St Augustine's in June the Lizards recovered to take on the Manly 16ft Skiff Club in August to affect a more regular result of 555 points to 551. Despite protests, recounts and veiled suggestions of rigging, the Lizards gained the honour of being the first to lift the magnificent water jug trophy which was soon placed behind the bar of the Civic Club for bragging rights to commence.

As the year of '72 ran through some changes were made that would play out for the club in the future. The kegs were proving a bit of a battle with Lance seemingly being the only one to master their function and so tinned beer was to be provided for the first time. The added advantage of canned beer had nothing to do with players popping a few in their golf bag of course! Lists of player handicaps with changes and financial results were now being printed in the

In 1973 these concerns about attendance saw more tinkering with the Club Championship structure reach its final changes to reflect the current system in place with more emphasis being placed on attendance, as opposed to straight out golf results. The Lizards prepared for a busy year with matches against the Manly Skiff Club, St Augustine's, The Flower People (Dee Why Garden Club) and the Civic Club. On February 5th about 10 early members of the Lizards met up with several current committee members at the Civic Club with the intention of "sucking the brains" of the older fellows in regards to the formative days of the club. This meeting was taped (audio) so that the history of the club could be preserved, its not sure how much of this information was transcribed to print but the cassettes tapes are not held by the club anymore.

March '73 and member Fred Porter arranged through his contacts at the Manly Skiff Club a day on the harbour for the 12 Lizards and families that turned up. By all accounts it was a great day's sailing and social for all with Bill

Sheehan in *Atlantis* skippered by I. Barrett leading home the fleet followed by Geoff Wotton and Gordon Donald's boats. The Lizards got the win over the Garden Club in April before taking on St Augustine's in June, the result of that particular matchup is unknown. Septembers Printers Day saw the knockout competition previously run become the Howard Lindenberg Trophy for the first time and the Lindenberg family were thanked in the FOL for their interest and support. Howard was a keen sportsman who unfortunately passed at an early age and it was his parents wish that in his memory a sporting organisation receive a trophy that could be played for, a proposal the Lizards gratefully accepted through family contact Len le Mon. It is still played for to this day and remains one of the clubs most prestigious trophies. The Captain Handicappers Trophy was contested in October and the year closed out with the December meeting as Lance Try in his role as Santa handing out the presents but also taking off with the trophy, a score of 40 off a 33 handicap.

The new year dawned with a report in the FOL that there would be a couple of unusual prizes at the January 1974 Bill Smith Surprise Event, a pair of greyhound pups sired by Bright Income, a less than successful dog running at the time. Somehow these had morphed into alcoholic beverages by the time the results were printed at the February Life Members Day, the donors being Lance Try and George Russell sponsoring a 4BBB won by Roy Malm and future Life Member Bill Sheehan. The club continued the year with good attendance and the usual matches against the regular opponents with varied success. A Ladies night was held in May with a limited attendance and the members being strongly criticized in the FOL for not attending and lack of apologies. However a more popular version was held later in the year, October 25th, with a much better turnout.



Also from The First Thirty Years, Bill Sheehan tending the BBQ.
Photo was probably taken around the mid 1970's

They say the Seafood Cocktail, Roast Beef au jus, Legumes en Salson and Mocha Pavlova was pretty good. Cost was \$5 per person, 51 attended with Lance Try being well received as the Master of Ceremonies.

FOL August 74 showed how far the Lizards had come with features of the day being Hot Soup, Hors d'oeuvres, Mobile Beer Conveyor, Claret Bar and Radio/TV broadcasting the Match of the Round. A far cry from the early years of collecting wood for the barbie to cook the steak you had bought yourself, providing your own chair if you wanted to sit and gathering around Lance Try's car radio to hear the football scores. Numbers though did vary throughout the year with an attendance of 32 Lizards and 21 Visitors in the September game followed by 24 Lizards and 3 Visitors the following month. One thing that had not changed was Laurie Laidlaw's suggestion at the Ladies Night that a Ladies Golf Day be held in conjunction with the Lizards meeting. For this outlandish statement he was accused of treason and fined handsomely at the next meeting. Lance Try by now was a fully paid up member of Actors Equity for his Ho Ho Ho bit (santa impersonation) and the year finished with an attendance of 26 Lizards and 16 Visitors.

"Best wishes to all of you for 1975, your editor has made a Resolution not to malign anyone in the New Year editions. Except of course the Committee, Members, and one or two of the visitors" is how the January FOL started for the next year's first game on a "beautiful, stinking hot day". Alistair Campbell won the event with 44 off 11, which he described as "bloody good golf". The March 75 game featured the annual punch up between the Lizards and the Garden Club whose reputation from prior clashes suggested the need for a direct pipeline from Avalon to the brewery being constructed, to maintain the continued flow of Old beer. Bill Epps saw out his first term of office (he was also President in 1994) at the July AGM by handing over to new President Laurie Laidlaw as head of the new committee. Lance Try did not feature in the new committee as Plant Engineer officially passing on the reigns after around 25 years of service in this position to Bill Sheehan. Peter Allen showed the club's ability to adapt to changing times with the introduction of a computer to aid in his new position as Assistant Handicapper.

The opening paragraph of the February 1976 edition of the Flat Out Like offered some sage advice to members on how to set up a hotel in their own home for financial and marital bliss, a suggestion no doubt considered by many of the members. The 33 players on this Life Members Day competed in the regular stableford competition plus a 4BBB on a wet and soggy Avalon course, won by Norm Tardif and Viv Wilkin with 45 points. Finer conditions prevailed for the March game that saw 27 Lizards and Visitors attend

but the FOL also warned of a pattern of less attendance and the need for the Lizards to have 36 full active members on the books. It appears that the glory days of the sixties had moved on and while the club was not struggling it did not have the full contingent of players every month.

Donors Bill Sheehan and Bill Epps welcomed the "Flower People" again to the April meeting where the home side prevailed and George Lobb won the day with a huge 46 points off 30 and by doing so booked an appointment with the waiting handicapper. Soon after one of the largest committees ever elected for the 76/77 Lizards year saw 18 positions filled with those of Croupier, Property, Manager TAB and Court Jester among the more interesting roles filled. The other 18 Lizards would have to spend their Monday nights at home while the bar of the Civic Club would have had quite a line up. At the August game the Lizards won against the "Sailors" in their yearly match, 27 from the home side took on the 28 visitors which was also a great result for the treasurer but not such a great showing by the hosts. "Come on you blokes – out from under your rocks!" the FOL demanded.

September 1976 saw another gathering of the older

Lizards bought together by President Roy Malm that included foundation member Duncan Hattrick, George Russell, Marshall Cooper, John Chester, John Heaphy, Toby Webb, Bob Guille and George Gilmer. Also present were current members Jock Ross, Bill Epps, Les Garlick, Gordon Donald and the perennial Lance Try. Over three hours of tape were recorded, apparently much of it was unprintable. Whilst the tapes are not held by the club anymore, it is believed a large amount of the content of discussion was transcribed to text and surfaced in "Lizards Golf Club – The First Thirty Years".

The September game saw 25 Lizards and 16 Visitors compete again for the Printers Trophy courtesy of Lizards

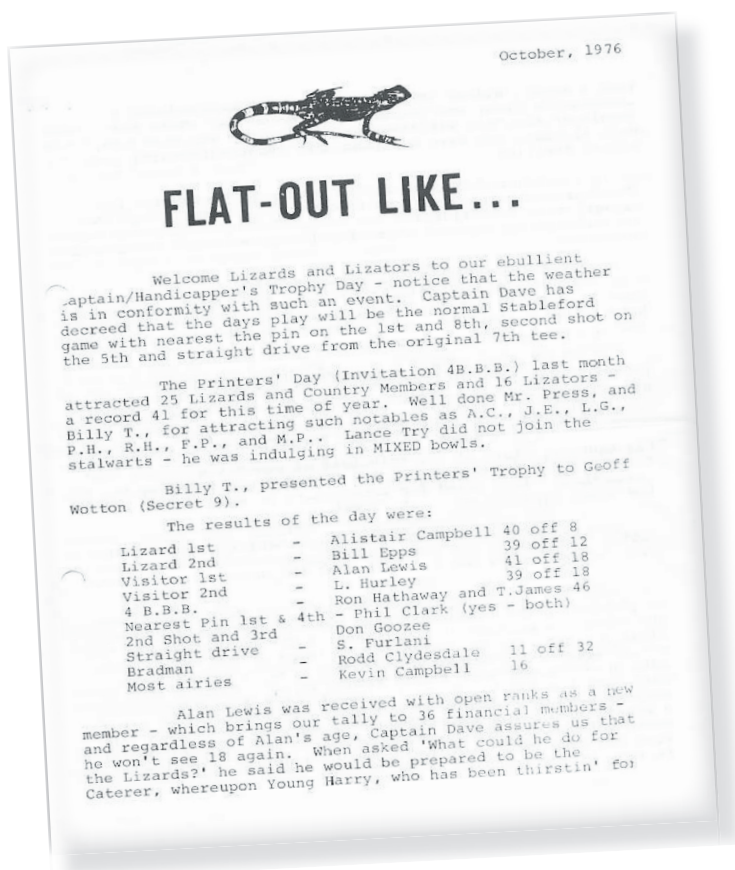
Marm and Townsend. Unfortunately Lance Try could not attend "as he was indulging in MIXED Bowls" which was duly noted in the following months FOL pictured below.

October 1976 was Captain Handicappers Day (David Treharne) the Lizards once again reaching its full complement of 36 members with Alan Lewis joining the ranks. Crapper Dave had a somewhat different way of raising funds for the club:- this involved his commencing of a rather poor and off key version of "Poor Little Jolene" mid meeting till the members had chipped enough into the swear tins to make him stop! A lack of FOL for the next few months saw our history get a little lost but Life Members Day February 1977 saw the Lizards hold a milestone day for the club with a celebration of it's 30th year of continuous play as a social golf club. Attendance on the day was 70:- 33 Active playing Lizards joined by about 18 regular visitors, a collection of 12 "old" playing Lizards and about 7 non playing older Lizards happy to meet the newer members and reminisce about the good old days. There were many highlights to the day including a brief history of the Lizards in the 30 year booklet, a birthday cake (once again thanks to caterer Harry

Thurston's wife Mary), photos and film of the Lizards inaction and a hole in one by Alan Lewis on the 10th to cap the day off. Lance Try continued to add to Lizards history by revealing in the FOL the recipe for the Kordi Juice (the beverage the Lizards concocted back in the 40's) and the origins of the bronze Lizard.

The March game was once again Campbell and Ross Day, Father and Son Day, a 4BBB and the regular stableford competition, no doubt a busy day for the Handicapper. At this game there were seven of the Lizards competing off handicaps of 10 or less which says something about the standard of golf being played. One of those members in the

single figures club was probably Gordon "Postie" Donald who celebrated his recent birthday in style at the meeting, with a regulation "downer" which was followed by trip to the fence to complete the task.



The Flat Out Like from October 1976 with the new "lizard" that appeared in the masthead and was used by the club for several years

RECIPE FOR LIZARDS "KORDI JUICE"

1 oz Angistora Bitters
1 bottle Kingswood Gin
1 and a half bottles sweet vermouth
1 and a half bottles dry vermouth
Half bottle of brandy
Half bottle of cherry brandy
6 oz unsweetened lemon or lime juice

Mix in gallon jars and transport
to Avalon. Drink straight up with ice or
further dilute with lemonade.

"Kordi Juice" was a beverage consumed by the Lizards in the early days of the club, its recipe revealed by Lance Try at the 1977 30th anniversary celebrations. It was remade in 2021 and bought to the February game for the members to sample. Fair enough to say the jury is still out on that one

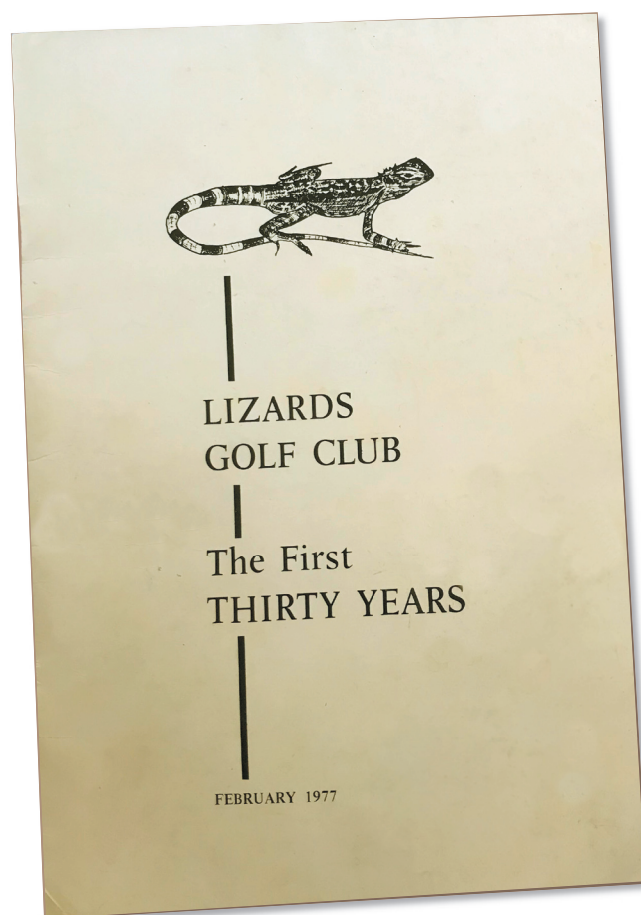
April 77 was Epps/Sheehan Day and was won by Bill Townsend with 38 points. At the meeting the Lizards received an invitation to join in association with the aptly named "The Sodom and Gommorah Golf Club" based in Israel. This came about through Lizards member Ben Haithwaite being a foundation member of the still existing GC. He explained that the game is played in 50 degree temperatures on a parched course meandering through salt encrusted boulders and all lying well below sea level. Ben had spent his honeymoon there and took up with the nearby golfers, he reported the local conditions and rules were ridiculous, seems like the Lizards would fit right in.

The May game saw the Lizards "long and contentious" association with the Manly Civic Club (MCC) reach new levels. While the diplomatic nature of the FOL initially only hints at the real situation it seems that with so many common members between the Lizards and the MCC, their President openly suggested that some of the Lizards were berift of certain characteristics and would only benefit by being absorbed into the MCC structure as a sub-club of sorts. After a series of thinly veiled insults and counter jabs between the two parties no such amalgamation was forthcoming however the Lizards position was clear with the FOL warning that "The Lizards should remain fiercely independent".

The August '77 game was Osborne/Laidlaw Day with a good attendance of 29 Lizards and 12 visitors, Len le Mon amassing a tidy 40 points off a 16 handicap closely

followed by Alan Lewis with a 38. As well as 3 NTP's there was a prize for Nearest the Line, a variation of the longest drive in which straightness of the shot was also taken into consideration. September saw Printers Day once again with The Roy Malm/Bill Townsend trophy awarded to the winner of the 4BBB competition. This day also saw Bill Epps initial contribution to the FOL, his first step towards taking over as Editor down the track, a position he was to hold for 16 years at the club.

Bill Sheehan had success with his maiden win since becoming a life member and this was the first win of a Lizards competition by a life member, at the November meeting. A solid contingent of 41 players contested the day with Dave Gilchrist making an appearance for the first time in the FOL with a win in the NTP competition. December rounded out the year with another great turnout of "28 members, 2 country members, 14 visitors and Bill Sheehan". Marty Plim won with 41 points of 14, he must have some idea that was coming because he backed himself on the tote to win. Despite "ingloriously running out of beer at 4 o'clock" the club raised a tidy sum to donate to Dalwood Chidren's Homes through a christmas hamper raffle and the year finished on a high note.



The First Thirty Year Booklet of which there only a few copies left. A 16 page A5 booklet, it was a complete inhouse effort produced by members of the club who who worked in journalism and associated print fields