



History of the 'VICARS SHIELD'

The Vicars Shield had been presented to the PGA in 1930 by Sir William Vicars, a keen golfer and the owner of Vicars' Mills, one of the largest mills in the country.

It was played for annually by interstate teams in Matchplay competition. Each State would play the other and the winning teams would continue to play until an eventual winner emerged. Team sizes varied from time to time depending on the players available. The competition wasn't held during World War II, but between 1946-56, the NSW team won the nine of the 11 years.

The next two years the competition changed its format with only two teams competing, "North" versus "South". North consisted of NSW and Queensland and South of Victoria and South Australia. The teams were confined to professionals under the age of 25 and was played as an 18-hole stroke competition. In 1957, 'South' was the unexpected winner but 'North' came back the following year to be recorded as the last winner in the interstate contest.

Eventually, lack of prizemoney, resulting in the loss of players' interest, led to the event being discontinued. Records of the Vicars Shield matches from 1930 to 1956 are listed below.

The shield itself was not played for again until 1990, when it was resurrected and awarded annual for the interstate club professionals' competition, which is incorporated in the Australian Club Pro Championship.

Year	Winners	Captain/Team
1930	South Australia	R Stewart
1931	South Australia	W Harvey
1932	Victoria	R Jupp
1933	New South Wales	F Eyre
1934	New South Wales	M L Kelly
1935	South Australia	J McLachlan
1936	New South Wales	J Spence
1937	New South Wales	W Bolger
1938	New South Wales	W Mackenzie
1939	Victoria	J Lindquist
<i>WORLD WAR II</i>		
1946	New South Wales	M L Kelly
1947	New South Wales	W R Carr

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1948	New South Wales	E Cremin
1949	New South Wales	N von Nida
1950	New South Wales	K Nagle
1951	Victoria	H Boorer
1952	Victoria	H Pickworth
1953	New South Wales	E Cremin
1954	New South Wales	K Nagle
1955	New South Wales	N von Nida
1956	New South Wales	J McInnes
1957-2003 Not Played		
2004	Western Australia	Ritchie Smith & Damien Chatterley
2005	Victoria	Brad Burns & Andy Rogers
2006	New South Wales	Neil Speirs & David Merriman
2007	Tasmania	Peter Freeland & Darren Spencer
2008	New South Wales	Mark Gilson & Craig Mears
2009	Queensland	D Simpson & M Rogers
2010	Queensland	C Goodall & M Rogers
2011	Tasmania	Alex Head & Darren Spencer
2012	South Australia	Simon Pope & Craig Davis
2013	New South Wales	Nathan King & Chris Miller
2014	Victoria	Craig McLean & Ben Roberts
2015	Western Australia	Tristan McCallum & Vernon Sexton-Finck
2016		

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Biography of Sir William Vicars

Sir John Vicars (1857-1936) and Sir William (1859-1940), manufacturers and businessmen, were born on 29 September 1857 and 24 May 1859, at Tillicoultry, Clackmannanshire, Scotland, eldest sons of John Vicars and his wife Anne, née Moor. Settling at Rockhampton, Queensland, in 1863, the family moved to Sydney in 1871. John and William completed their education at Sydney Grammar School and entered their father's woollen mill in Sussex Street. After the retirement of John senior in 1887, John and his brothers William and Robert (1867-1962) moved the factory to a larger site at Marrickville in 1893; they later acquired the Sydney Woollen Mills Ltd at Parramatta.

William Vicars was co-proprietor, with his brother Robert, of John Vicars & Co. and a director of the Sydney Woollen Mills Ltd. At the Presbyterian Church, Rockhampton, on 23 July 1884 he married Mary Emily Hutton. He also became prominent in the business life of Sydney and was noted for his philanthropy. In 1900-01 and 1914 he was president of the Chamber of Manufactures of New South Wales.

After World War I he championed the cause of returned servicemen; he was chairman of the State Repatriation Board in 1919-20 and of its purchase and contract and orphan education boards until 1922. In 1921 he and Robert gave Pitt Town Farm to the Church Social Campaign to train needy ex-servicemen for the land. Long associated with the work of the Australian Red Cross Society, in 1920 he became chairman of its convalescent homes committee and in 1921 chairman of the New South Wales division of the society. He was appointed C.B.E. in 1920 and knighted in 1922. In tribute, his employees paid for his portrait to be painted by Norman Carter.

Sir William fought to overcome prejudice against locally-manufactured woollen fabrics; as a result of his efforts, 'Vicars, Marrickville' became the hallmark throughout Australia for quality tweeds, serges, woollens, blankets and rugs. Returning from an overseas visit in December 1926, he averred that American fabrics were neither better nor cheaper than Australian.

He was also a director of Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Ltd (chairman, 1922), the Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney (1924-28, 1933-39), Home Recreations (Australia) Ltd and the Australian board of Royal Exchange Assurance of London. In 1931-33 Vicars was one of the commissioners of the Government Savings Bank of New South Wales. A founder of the National Club and member of the Union Club, he played golf regularly.

Distinguished-looking, with strong features and a King George V beard, he had an easy nature, entirely devoid of anything stilted or pompous: quoting the epistle of Saint James, a friend saw in Vicars 'no variableness, neither shadow of turning'. Survived by his wife and daughter, Sir William died at his Rose Bay home on 20 October 1940 and was buried in South Head cemetery. His estate was sworn for probate at £114,818.

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