

ACCESS news

WINTER 2005

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF

golfaccess
A U S T R A L I A

www.golfaccess.org.au

*Golf Access Australia
is a great initiative for
social golfers and clubs*

ROBERT ALLENBY





EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first Golf Access Australia (GAA) Newsletter.

GAA was launched in July 2004 at the PGA Golf Show in Melbourne by the Federal Minister for the Arts and Sport, The Hon Rod Kemp. The program is a joint initiative of the Australian Golf Union and the Australian Sports Commission.

By the end of April 2005, there were more than 3000 members playing out of 40 accredited GAA centres. These members are mainly from Victoria, NSW and Queensland but opportunities to join the program will soon be more readily available in South Australia and other areas after that.

GAA OBJECTIVES:

- To provide an opportunity for social golfers to obtain a golf handicap that enables players of all abilities to compete on an even footing and measure their progress.
- To provide social golfers with an opportunity to learn more of the rules and etiquette of the game which can seem intimidating, especially for beginners.
- To support the member clubs of the AGU by encouraging golfers to use their facilities and consider taking up full club membership at some stage.

It is important to realise that Golf Access Australia is not designed to compete with the traditional member clubs of the AGU. These clubs, which form the basis of the AGU, have been assured that GAA is designed to be a pathway for social golfers to contribute to the long term viability of golf facilities through increased patronage and/or membership.

Equally, the AGU values your support in joining the program and trust that it enhances your experience of our great game. The GAA Handicap allows you to experience one of the most attractive features of amateur golf, the opportunity to play golf competitions on a level playing field with people of all ages and abilities. A 24 marker (a player with a 24 handicap) can enter an event and be competitive with a scratch player (one with a handicap of 0) in the same field.

The special nature of the handicap means that it should be a true reflection of your current ability. Therefore we urge you to always play to the best of your ability and to make sure your scores are quickly added to your handicap record at www.golflink.com.au.

HANDICAP / GOLF LINK TIPS

- Write your GOLF Link number on your scorecard, especially when playing outside your home club.
- If you play in competitions away from your home club, it is your responsibility to make sure your score is returned to your home centre for handicap purposes. If the competition you played in is being processed through GOLF Link, then this will happen automatically. If not, then you need to make sure that the competition organisers return your details (score, course rating etc) to your home centre. You can also inform your home centre of these details yourself by returning the card or informing your handicap manager of the details of your round. To check and see if a round has been processed go to www.golflink.com.au.
- When you play in a competition processed through GOLF Link, your handicap will be updated as soon as the results are uploaded to the GOLF Link central database. You can then view your new handicap at www.golflink.com.au.
- If you damage or lose your GOLF Link card, your home centre is responsible for ordering a replacement via GOLF Link.
- Please ensure that your contact details remain up to date – your home centre is responsible for updating member details on GOLF Link.

WHERE CAN YOU PLAY USING YOUR GAA HANDICAP?

Whilst it is always up to the organisers of an event as to who can enter a competition, the AGU actively encourages clubs to recognise all AGU handicaps. However organisers, typically golf clubs, may stipulate that an event is open:

- to members of that club only;
- to members and their invited guests only;
- to some or all visitors (sometimes within certain handicap limits).

It is strongly advised that you contact the club or organisers of a competition that you may be considering entering beforehand and identify yourself and your GAA club. If the event has an official entry form, conditions of entry are usually listed on that.

GAA WEBSITE

The official GAA web site www.golfaccess.org.au is being upgraded shortly. Check the members' section for news of coming events and offers etc. It is planned to provide members with a regularly updated database of courses/events where the GAA handicap is accepted.

GOLF LINK WEBSITE

www.golflink.com.au is the official source for your current handicap at any time. Just enter your GOLF Link number from your swipe card and there it is, a summary of rounds played and the resultant movement of your handicap. It is also a most useful tool to analyse your game as each of the columns may be clicked on to sort them in ascending or descending order. Many more features are planned to be added to this site to assist you with your game and inform you of important announcements.

THE INAUGURAL AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL GOLF CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP

Palm Meadows Golf Course, Queensland will host the Inaugural Australian Social Golf Clubs Championship from 30th August to 3 September 2005. A brochure is enclosed with this newsletter.

PIP INSURANCE

As part of the annual fee, all members of Golf Access Australia are covered by the AGU's PIP Insurance policy. In the member pack sent to all new members there is an information sheet explaining claim procedures. You are also reminded that full policy details may be viewed on the GAA website.

SRIXON ANNOUNCES EXTENSION OF OFFER TO NEW MEMBERS



Srixon Australia has informed the AGU that the offer of 3 Srixon balls for all new members joining GAA in year 1 has been extended for another year for all new members. The AGU is most appreciative of this support from Srixon and by all accounts the balls have been very well received by members of the program.



WILSON VICTORIAN SOCIAL GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

The 2005 Wilson Victorian Social Golf Championship was held at Churchill Park Golf Club on Sunday 10th April 2005. The event was open to Golf Access Australia members who held an AGU affiliate handicap.

70 players contested the event in hot windy conditions and the winner was Noel Tuck (pictured) with a nett score of 73. As part of his prize, Noel received an entry into the Australasian Social Golf Championships to be held at Palm Meadows in September 2005.

Churchill Park is a GAA handicapping centre which offers competitions for GAA members on Sundays from midday at a cost of \$25 which includes green fee and competition

The 2006 championships will be held on Sunday 9th April – contact the club for details





KIRK CURRIE PUTTERS

Kirk Currie Putters have been exclusively adopted by Wilson Sporting Goods as part of the Wilson Staff range. All Staff Kirk Currie Putters feature "Balance Fit," an adjustable weight system which allows full customisation of the putter for different green conditions and personal preference.

The weight, loft, offset, length and lie can also be tailored to suit each individual golfer for a perfectly smooth and controlled stroke. The 100% precision milled face ensures perfect flatness and reduces skidding to create a true roll. *Available Now.*

SPECIAL OFFER TO GAA MEMBERS

GAA members receive 5% discount on Wilson Staff products until 30 July 2005 – details of offer available only via hard copy of newsletter mailed to each member.



THE SPECS

100% Forged Titanium Head.

400cc Head with extremely large 42cm² face area

Thin face design

0.350 nano-tech shaft has an exclusive manufacturing process that increases torsional stability

NEWSLETTER COMPETITION

Win a Wilson Staff Td5 Driver

GAA members need only play a competition round of Golf in June or July to qualify for the draw for this great prize!

NB: your score must be registered on GOLF Link to qualify—result posted on www.golfaccess.org.au on 1 August, 2005.

Wilson  Staff

GOLF  Link

NEXT NEWSLETTER

The next edition of **ACCESS news** will be published in October – November 2005. It is planned to produce two formal newsletters each year and also offer updates via the GAA web site and email.



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