



**CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE  
MEETING – WEDNESDAY 8 OCTOBER 2008  
AT ROYAL ADELAIDE GOLF CLUB**

**SUMMARY**

**Present:** David Cherry, (Chair and GA), Ian Read via phone (GA), Alison Holden (GA), Sue Fabian (WGNSW), Brian Lasky (VGA), Jan Plaisted (WGWA) and Gordon Scott (Golf SA)

**In attendance:** Anne Lenagan (Chairman - GA), Barry Shepherd (Golf Qld), Don Cameron via phone (Golf Tas), Peter Knight (GA) & Therese Ritter (GA)

**Apology:** Trevor Herden (GA)

**1. BUSINESS ARISING:**

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**1.1 Australian Interstate Teams Matches – Playing Order:**

Following the letter sent to State Presidents requesting Managers to place their players in playing ability during the Interstate Teams Matches, the Chair advised that overall he felt the States had taken the advice as it was intended.

**1.2 Australian Amateur Championships and Interstate Teams Matches – Swapping of the Dates:**

A paper was tabled presenting the advantages and disadvantages of moving the Australian Amateur Championships to September and the Interstate Teams Matches to March. The Committee agreed the events would remain at their current dates.

**1.3 Australian Amateur Championships - Review of Exemption Categories:**

The Committee agreed to make the following amendments to exemption categories for 2009:

- **5.1m/5.1w:** Competitors at the 2008 Men's and Colts/Women's Interstate Teams Matches (NB. This does not include participants at the ~~Colts and~~ Boys'/Girls' Interstate Teams Matches)
- **5.9m/5.9w:** Amateur Championship Winners of overseas Unions affiliated with The R&A or USGA 2006-2008

NB. Exempt players must meet the handicap criteria.

There was discussion to have the Girls' and Boys' Interstate Team Members exempt as well, however the Committee agreed States could nominate these players via 5.18m/5.18w.

The Chair also expressed the need to promote the event directly to overseas golfing bodies (in particular the Asian countries). Management will manage this process for 2009.

**1.4 Golf Australia Ranking Systems:**

A discussion paper was tabled outlining the objectives, eligibility, ranking system methods, and included events (subject to confirmation from each State) for the Australian Amateur Ranking Systems (as it will be known) for Open Men, Open Women, Boys, Girls, Senior Men and Senior Women. The Committee agreed with the conditions, and the Ranking Systems will commence from 1 November 2008. Management will distribute the conditions and confirm from the States their specific Amateur Ranking Events to be included in each category of the Australian Amateur Ranking Systems.

Ian Read expressed his thanks to the sub-committee of Peter Knight, Simon Magdulski and Therese Ritter for their effort in constructing the conditions.

### 1.5 **Perpetual Trophies – Ross Herbert National and International Teams Trophies:**

The Committee determined that the WGA Ross Herbert Perpetual Trophies originally awarded at the Australian Women's Stroke Play Championship will now be awarded to the team with the lowest aggregate scratch score after the first two rounds of the Australian Stroke Play Championships as follows:

- Ross Herbert National Teams Trophy: each State may nominate two men and two women
- Ross Herbert International Teams Trophy: each overseas governing body may nominate two men and two women

### 1.6 **Australian School Teams Championship:**

Management had held discussions with various State Associations and the GA Junior Golf Advisory Board, and following these discussions, the advice was that the National Final was crucial to the continuation of the event. A paper was tabled with a recommendation to stage the event from 2010 as a participation event (ie Stableford event) as opposed to an elite Championship (ie Scratch event) as that may attract more teams and fund the National Final. The majority of the Committee preferred the participation/less elite format, however further investigation will be carried out regarding this option. A report will be tabled for the next meeting.

### 1.7 **GA Senior Team v NZ Senior Team – Sanctuary Cove Cup:**

A letter from Sanctuary Cove Golf Club was tabled regarding the 2009 event. Whilst the support of Sanctuary Cove is sincerely appreciated, the following was determined:

- The Committee was satisfied for the use of "Proudly Supported by Golf Australia".
- The final two places (in the team) to be announced by the Team Captain Sanctuary Cove Golf Club together with that of the Team Captain at the conclusion of the selection period.
- It does not seem practical to hold a position in the team until after the Australian Men's Senior Amateur (which is the week prior to the event). The entire team to be selected following the NSW Senior Amateur Championship.
- Golf Queensland or a GA National Referee will conduct the event on behalf of Golf Australia.

The previous meeting agreed Golf Australia will conduct the event, however the exact details for the event after 2009 are to be determined.

### 1.8 **Compensation for Host Clubs:**

GA has received advice from two clubs in Tasmania that they would be happy to host the 2010 Australian Girls' Amateur Championship and Interstate Teams Matches, however due to financial constraints have requested a course compensation fee. Discussion surrounded whether GA should compensate clubs financially. In this instance, Golf Tasmania will contact the two clubs to attempt to come to a resolution, or alternatively another club will be invited to host the Championships.

### 1.9 **Australian Open – Sponsorship Update:**

The Chairman of GA provided an update regarding naming rights and hole sponsorship for the 2008 Men's Open. Other means of funding both the Men's and Women's Opens were also discussed.

## 2. **NEW BUSINESS:**

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### 2.1 **Peter Buscall – Pro-am Proposal:**

The Committee was advised of a response to Peter Buscall regarding his proposal of a National Pro-Am (similar to that played at Pebble Beach) and that at this time it is not feasible.

## 2.2 GA National Championships – Eligibility of Suspended Player:

The NSWGA sought advice regarding Golf Australia's acceptance of a player into a National Championship who has been barred from competing in State events by a State Association. The Committee agreed that in principle Golf Australia would support the State and not permit the player to compete, however David Cherry and Ian Read will investigate this principle further and it may be dependant on the reason(s) for the suspension. There was also a suggestion to provide national guidelines regarding the duration of a suspension.

## 2.3 Age of Players for Junior Championships:

The Junior Golf Advisory Board had asked for the Committee's recommendation regarding the age of golfers to compete in junior events (ie under 18, under 19, under 21). The Junior Golf Advisory Board has now been disbanded, however it was determined that Golf Australia would table the matter at the meeting of International Golfing Unions next year for its thoughts given that there is no international standard, however in the meantime, under 18 would remain.

## 2.4 Clare Higson Trophy – Condition to Determine Ties:

Currently, both teams are declared joint winners if they are tied following the conclusion of the Clare Higson Trophy. For the purpose of determining which team will be the Oceania Team to contest the World Junior Championships only, a tie condition is required. The Committee recommended the following procedure in the case of a tie:

*In the case of the same number of games won, the winner will be determined by the number of singles matches won, if still a tie, the number of holes won in the singles matches, and if still a tie the number of holes won in the foursomes matches.*

Peter Knight will present this recommendation to NZ Golf.

## 2.5 Player Benefits at National Championships:

Due to budgetary constraints, the Committee was asked its suggestions as to which player benefits should be given priority. It was agreed fruit, bottled water, complimentary pull buggies and practice balls should not be supplied. Players should be supplied with food only at Welcome and Presentation Functions and would purchase drinks.

## 2.6 World Pairs Trophy:

Golf SA had requested that the World Pairs Trophy (an event previously conducted by WGA), which was last won by members of Kooyonga GC and Long Island GC, be held by the two golf clubs alternatively. The Committee agreed that all disbanded trophies will now be housed at the National Sports Museum at the MCG.

## 2.7 Australian Amateur Championship – Player Bios on the Scratch Players Website:

The US Scratch Players Website had asked if Golf Australia would permit providing a link from the Australian Amateur Championship section of the GA website to the Player Profile section of its website. The Committee agreed to this request.

## 2.8 Golf Australia Calendars:

i) Use of Moonah Links Golf Club: The Chair advised that Golf Australia had the opportunity to stage National Championships at Moonah Links Golf Club over the coming years and asked the Committee for its endorsement for the Chairman of Golf Australia to essentially have control in determining which events would be staged at Moonah Links GC. The Committee agreed to this request.

ii) 2009 and 2010 Calendars: The calendars were tabled and Golf Qld will submit its recommendation to GA for clubs to host the 2010 Australian Men's, Women's and Colts Interstate Teams Matches.

WAGA had expressed concern at the date of the Australian Men's and Colts Interstate Teams Matches as it coincided with one of its major events. For the Committee's information, "the AGU had determined that for 2006 and beyond the Interstate Teams Matches shall be scheduled to commence on the Monday that is two weeks prior to

the final day of the Federal Amateur Championship". Discussion surrounded moving these events to the week earlier and it was agreed further investigation was required prior to changing the date.

Brian Lasky asked the Committee to consider liaising with States and clubs as to the possibility of altering the dates of the Australian Championships and National Ranking Events (ie Australian Amateur, Riversdale Cup, Lake Macquarie Amateur, etc) to have less time in between the events and play them back to back. This suggestion was made as a result of talking to several players. As many of these events are not conducted by the State Associations, it was agreed this process would require a collective approach by Golf Australia and the States. Further investigation will be carried out.

- iii) Timing of the Australian Men's Mid Amateur Championship: The Australian Men's Mid Amateur Championship is currently played on the third Tuesday-Thursday in January. At times this coincides with the Men's Lake Macquarie Amateur and the NSWGA had asked whether the Mid Amateur could be moved to an alternate date. The Committee determined that due to the very small number of players this would affect, the current date will remain.

### **2.9 Australian Interstate Teams Matches - Player of the Series:**

The Committee was asked to consider the possibility of introducing a Player of the Series Award into the Australian Interstate Teams Matches. The Committee agreed this should not be introduced.

### **2.10 Australian Men's Senior Match Play Championship:**

The National Senior Advisory Group will discuss the event at its next meeting in November.

## **3. GENERAL BUSINESS:**

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### **Handa Open:**

The Handa Open was discussed and the future of the Australian Senior Open needs further clarification.

## **4. 2009 COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

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The Committee agreed to alter the current Charter to require that each State re-nominates a representative to the Committee each year. Each State will be asked to put forward a representative, and if two representatives are nominated, the GA Board will determine the representative. The current Championships Committee will remain in place until 31 December 2008.

## **5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

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The next meeting will be held in Melbourne in March or April 2009.

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**ACTION SHEET**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
1.	<b>Australian Amateur Championship – Review of Exemption Categories</b> Include revised conditions in 2009 entry form and promote to overseas National Governing Bodies	Therese Ritter
2.	<b>Order of Merit Competition</b> Distribute information to State Associations and confirm the specific Australian Amateur Ranking Events	Therese Ritter
3.	<b>Ross Herbert National and International Teams Trophies</b> Include events in 2009 Australian Amateur Championships entry form and promote to State Associations and overseas National Governing Bodies	Therese Ritter
4.	<b>Australian School Teams National Championship</b> Further investigate the format	Ian Read and Therese Ritter
5.	<b>Sanctuary Cove Cup</b> Advise Sanctuary Cove GC of GA's determinations for 2009	Therese Ritter
6.	<b>Eligibility of Suspended Players</b> Further investigation and it may be dependent on the reason for the suspension	David Cherry and Ian Read
7.	<b>Age of Players for Junior Championships</b> Obtain the thoughts of international golfing unions at the International Meeting in 2009	John Buckley
8.	<b>Clare Higson – Condition to Determine a Tie</b> Obtain the approval of the GA recommendation from NZ Golf	Peter Knight
9.	<b>World Pairs Trophy</b> To retain in Australian Sports Museum – advise Golf SA	Therese Ritter
10.	<b>Australian Amateur Championship – Player Bios on the Scratch Players Website</b> Advise US Scratch Players that the request was approved	Peter Knight
11.	<b>Calendars</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Investigate the dates for the Australian Men's, Women's and Colts Interstate Teams Matches</li> <li>➤ Investigate altering dates for the National Ranking Events</li> <li>➤ Advise NSWGA of the retention of the current date for the Australian Men's Mid Amateur Championship</li> </ul>	Therese Ritter  Therese Ritter Therese Ritter
12.	<b>Charter and 2009 Committee</b> Revise the current Charter and call for nominations for the 2009 Committee	Therese Ritter