



**CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
MEETING – WEDNESDAY 14 MAY 2008
AT ROYAL SYDNEY GOLF CLUB**

SUMMARY

- Present:** David Cherry, (Chairman - GA), Ian Read (GA), Alison Holden (GA), Sue Fabian (WGNSW), Brian Lasky (VGA), Gordon Scott (Golf SA) and Tony Rollins (Golf Qld)
- In attendance:** Anne Lenagan (Chairman - GA), Trevor Herden (GA), Peter Knight (GA) & Therese Ritter (GA)
- Apologies:** Jan Plaisted (WGWA)
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1. Welcome:

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and was looking forward to the Committee playing an active role in Golf Australia Championship decisions, and providing direction through this Committee to the Board.

2. Australian Interstate Teams Matches:

- i) Eligibility of Team Members: The current condition, determined by the GA Championships Committee in August 2007, states that team members must be Australian Citizens – this is consistent with AOC and other NSO's policies. The previous WGA condition allowed players "in the process of applying for citizenship" to be eligible. Ian Read requested the Committee consider returning to the WGA condition as it was the knock down affect of stopping athletes who have applications and qualifications for Australian citizenship and who are awaiting approval who are prevented from participating in State programs. It certainly should not apply to any athletes who have no intention of becoming Australian citizens. It was agreed that although it may strengthen the field of the Interstate Teams Matches and assist in the development of non-Australian citizens, the current condition would remain but continually be reviewed.
- ii) Practice Conditions: Ian Read asked to review the current condition regarding practice which is currently limited to the Sunday only. It was agreed, subject to course availability, the official practice days would be the Sunday and Friday prior, with practice not permitted on the Monday-Thursday prior. Additionally, a team member of a host club in any category of membership is not subject to these conditions. This will come into effect for the 2008 Matches.
- iii) PGA Members Acting as Caddies and Providing Team Advice: Peter Van Wegen (WGNSW) requested the Committee consider prohibiting PGA Members from caddying or giving advice (as per the previous WGA conditions). It was agreed to retain the current condition which permits PGA Members to caddy and allows only the Team Manager to give advice (who may be a PGA Member).
- iv) Playing Order of Team Members: Discussion occurred regarding the playing order of team members when it is clear players are not played in a position reflecting their ability (ie. playing a clear number 1 player in position 3 or 4). It was agreed this practice is not in the spirit of the competition and although it cannot be a condition of the competition, David Cherry will communicate to the States Golf Australia's position regarding this practice.
- v) Confirmation of Colts Funding: Anne Lenagan advised confirmation of the Colts Funding would be discussed at the May Board meeting. As an alternative, the Committee suggested the Board consider the possibility of ad-hoc funding or flight equalisation. It was also agreed to continually visit the possibility of a Colts-type Interstate Teams Matches for women.

3. **Australian Amateur Championships and Interstate Teams Matches - Scheduling**

Ian Read requested the Committee consider the possibility of playing the Australian Amateur Championships in September and the Australian Interstate Teams Matches in March or April. The AGU had rejected this consideration in the past. It was felt State Team preparation was disrupted by players attending Northern Hemisphere events through June-August. Conversely, by moving the Amateur to September, there was a feeling it may reduce the quality of the fields, and the winners would be forced to wait over six months until the following year to gain benefits of winning the Amateur should he/she play in Northern Hemisphere events. Management will report at the next meeting the possibility of moving the Interstate Teams Matches to April and retaining the March date for the Australian Amateurs.

4. **Australian Stroke Play and Amateur Championships**

- i) Men's Stroke Play Field Size: The Committee agreed to retain the 312 field size for the Men's Stroke Play. David Cherry queried the limitation of the women's field to 84, and it was determined at this time there was not the quality of women players to justify increasing the field size.
- ii) Determination of Entry Fee: The current entry fee of \$220.00 for men and \$165.00 for women will be retained.
- iii) Cut Size for the Men's Stroke Play: Trevor Herden asked the Committee to consider a men's cut size to a maximum of 84 players which would assist host clubs as the final rounds would not require the course for an entire day. The Committee agreed to a cut of 75 plus ties for 2009. It was agreed to attempt to play Round 3 on the course which will not host the match play rounds.
- iv) Review of Exemptions Categories: Management will review the current exemption categories with a view to holding pre-qualifying in each state.

5. **Golf Clubs Hosting National Championships**

Golf Australia currently does not generally pay a course fee to clubs for hosting National Championships, however at times a fee of approximately \$1,000 is paid to cover staff overtime costs. The Committee agreed that in principle it is preferable not to make payments to host clubs, however if a payment was required this would not be any higher than what is paid by the State Association in that state.

It was also noted that Golf Australia will consult with the relevant host State Associations prior to inviting clubs to host a National Championship.

6. **Combining the Boys' and Girls' Australian Amateurs and Interstate Teams Matches**

The Committee agreed that where possible, the Boys' and Girls' Amateurs would be played in the same city and at the current time (second Wednesday in April) with a joint Amateur Presentation/Interstate Teams Matches Opening Ceremony, but with separate Closing Ceremonies for the Interstate Teams Matches (due to the Girls' concluding one day earlier than the Boys').

7. **Golf Australia Order of Merit Competitions**

Ian Read requested the Committee consider the introduction of National Order of Merit Competitions for Boys, Girls, Men, Women and Senior Men. These will be Championships in their own right and be overseen by the Championships Committee and administered by the Championships Team. Management will compile conditions for the Order of Merit Competitions for the next meeting.

8. **WGA Perpetual Trophies**

The existing WGA Perpetual Trophies were tabled. The Committee agreed the following trophies would no longer be presented and would be displayed in the Museum:

- Rene Austin Memorial Cup (Runner up – Australian Amateur)
- Challenge Bowl (Leading Net – Australian Amateur)

- Mollie McLeish & Mona MacLeod Trophies (Rd 1 & 2 Net Winner – Australian Amateur)
- Springbok Trophy * (Scratch Teams Event – Australian Amateur)
- Royal St Georges Spoon (Net Teams Event – Australian Amateur)
- Milltown Cup (Runner up – Girls' Amateur)
- Junior Plate (Net Runner up – Girls' Amateur)
- British Salver and Junior Teams Scratch (Net and Scratch Teams Event – Girls' Amateur)

* The Springbok Trophy will now be used as the Interstate Teams Trophy at the Australian Women's Senior Amateur.

The Committee will determine how to best use the Ross Herbert National and International Trophies previously presented at the Australian Women's Stroke Play.

9. Australian School Teams National Championship

The Committee considered recommendations from the Junior Golf Advisory Board regarding the Australian School Teams Championship. Primary changes included introducing a Net Teams Event in addition to the Scratch Teams Event to increase participation, and to play the National Final in August. The Committee agreed the importance of continuing a Schools Event but was uncertain of the value (in particular, the costs) of a National Final. Management will compile a paper regarding alternate options based around no National Final.

10. Golf Australia National Championship - Calendars

- i) Rota: There was discussion regarding the inclusion of the ACT and NT in the rota for the Boys' Amateur and Interstate Teams Matches. Given the Girls' and Boys' Amateurs and Interstate Teams Matches will be played concurrently and the Territories do not contest the Girls' Interstate, the Territories' inclusion as host states may not be practical. The rota was confirmed with the removal of NT hosting the Boys' Amateur in 2021.
- ii) 2009 Calendar: The calendar was confirmed, with St Michael's Golf Club being invited to host the Australian Men's Senior Match Play Championship.
- iii) 2010 Calendar: The Committee was satisfied with the courses nominated to host the 2010 Championships, however consultation with Golf Tasmania regarding the Boys' and Girls' Championships venues and with Golf Queensland regarding the Interstate Teams Matches venues was required.

11. Recommendations from the National Senior Advisory Group:

- i) 2009 and 2010 Australian Men's Senior Amateur Dates and Venues: The Committee approved the recommendation for Bribie Island Golf Club to host the 2009 Championship, Royal Canberra Golf Club to host the 2010 Championship at the earlier date and for Kooyonga Golf Club to host the 2011 Championship.
- ii) Australian Women's Senior Amateur: A recommendation was tabled to move towards a Medal Women's Senior Amateur in the next 2-3 years, with appropriate communication and promotion, and to establish a Women's Senior Match Play Championship in conjunction with the Men's Senior Match Play Championship. Discussion surrounded the need to change the format. A survey will be distributed with the Australian Women's Senior Amateur entry form, outlining the positives and negatives of moving towards a Medal format.
- iii) "Lizard" Trophy: The recommendation to no longer present the "Lizard" Trophy for the Australian Women's Senior Amateur was approved.
- iv) 2008 Australian Men's Senior Match Play Championship: The recommendation to limit the field to 32 was approved.
- v) Asia-Pacific Senior Amateur Teams Event: The recommendation to revert back to a 6 man team in the Asia-Pacific Senior Amateur was approved. David Cherry will officially table the recommendation at the next APGC meeting.
- vi) Sanctuary Cove Cup: It was noted 2009 was the last year of the arrangement for the Sanctuary Cove Cup to be played at Sanctuary Cove. It was also confirmed that the sponsors were happy for the event to be the Seniors Trans Tasman Event playing for the Sanctuary Cove Cup. The recommendation to conduct a Men's Senior Trans

Tasman Cup was approved. The event will continue to consist of 12 team members and will be conducted separately from the Junior/Open Trans Tasman Cup with a view to including a Women's Senior Trans Tasman Cup in the future. Golf Australia will supply staff to conduct the event, with all other expenses absorbed by the players.

- vii) Australian Senior Teams Selection: The recommendation that the Golf Australia selectors select all Australian Senior Teams (ie Asia-Pacific, ADF and Sanctuary Cove Cup/Trans Tasman), with input from NSAG was approved.
- viii) Golf Australia to Source Accommodation Packages: The recommendation that Golf Australia establish commercial agreements for players' accommodation will be referred to the Board.

12. General Business:

- i) Australian Open Sponsorship: Gordon Scott queried the process for obtaining sponsorship for the Australian Opens. Anne Lenagan advised that Tony Hallam (CEO) negotiated these contracts, but was happy to follow up on any Board Members' connections. If no sponsor is sourced for the 2008 Open, Golf Australia will underwrite it. A timeline regarding the status of the sponsorship will be distributed to states shortly.
- ii) Championship Committee Composition: Gordon Scott sort clarification regarding the Championships Committee's composition. The Charter confirmed that each state may nominate one representative for a two-year term.
- iii) International Championships: Tony Rollins queried the reason for the Championships Committee's input regarding participation in International Championships. David Cherry advised Golf Australia's participation in terms of players and officials to attend International events will be made in conjunction and from recommendations with the High Performance team.
- iv) Committee Papers: Anne Lenagan advised the Agenda and Supporting Papers, as well as Meeting Summaries will be sent to State Representative CEOs as well as Committee Members.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Australian Men's, Women's and Colts Interstate Teams Matches in Sydney in September. Exact date and time to be confirmed.

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ACTION SHEET

Item	Action	Responsibility
1.	<p>Interstate Teams Matches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Practice Condition:</i> Advise Member States of the revised Practice Condition and liaise with the Interstates Teams Matches Host Clubs as to whether they can accommodate a Friday practice round. ➤ <i>PGA Members Acting as Caddies and Giving Advice:</i> Advise Peter Van Wegen that the current condition will be retained ➤ <i>Playing Order of Team Members:</i> Positioning players in positions not reflecting their ability is not in the spirit of the competition. This to be communicated to the States 	<p>Therese Ritter</p> <p>Therese Ritter</p> <p>David Cherry</p>
2.	<p>Australian Amateur C'ships & Interstate Teams Matches - Scheduling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Committee considered the possibility of playing the Australian Amateurs in September and the Australian Interstate Teams Matches in March or April. Management will report at the next meeting the possibility of changing the dates. 	<p>Therese Ritter</p>
3.	<p>Australian Stroke Play and Amateur Championships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Management will review the current exemption categories with a view to holding pre-qualifying in each state 	<p>Therese Ritter</p>
4.	<p>Golf Australia Order of Merit Competitions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Committee to consider the introduction of National Order of Merit Competitions for Boys, Girls, Men, Women and Senior Men. Management will compile conditions for the Order of Merit Competitions for the next meeting. 	<p>Therese Ritter & Peter Knight</p>
5.	<p>Australian School Teams National Championship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Committee agreed the importance of continuing a Schools Event but was uncertain of the value of a National Final. Management will compile a paper regarding alternate options based around no National Final. 	<p>Therese Ritter</p>
6.	<p>Golf Australia National Championship - Calendars</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>2009 Calendar:</i> Calendar confirmed. Management to contact St Michael's Golf Club to host the Australian Men's Senior Match Play Championship. ➤ <i>2010 Calendar:</i> Calendar confirmed. Management to consult Golf Tas regarding the Boys' and Girls' Championships venues and Golf Qld regarding the Interstate Teams Matches venues. 	<p>Trevor Herden /Therese Ritter</p> <p>Therese Ritter</p>
7.	<p>Recommendations from the National Senior Advisory Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Australian Women's Senior Amateur:</i> A survey will be distributed with the Australian Women's Senior Amateur entry form. ➤ <i>Asia-Pacific Senior Amateur Teams Event:</i> Revert back to a 6 man team. Recommendation to be tabled at the next APGC meeting. 	<p>Therese Ritter</p> <p>David Cherry</p>