



**CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
MEETING – FRIDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2008
VIA PHONE**

SUMMARY

Present: David Cherry, (Chair and GA), Ian Read (GA), Alison Holden (GA), Don Cameron (Golf TAS), Sue Fabian (WGNSW), Brian Lasky (VGA), Tony Rollins (Golf Qld), and Gordon Scott (Golf SA)

Apology: Jan Plaisted (WGWA) & Trevor Herden (GA)

In attendance: Peter Knight (GA) & Therese Ritter (GA)

The meeting summary of 8 October 2008 was approved.

1. BUSINESS ARISING:

1.1 Australian School Teams Championship – Format Options:

Therese Ritter advised that she is meeting with the new Golf Secretary of School Sport Australia in the coming weeks to investigate the possibility of working together in relation to the Championship. The number of entries received for the Championship this year is disappointing at this stage. An update on discussions with School Sport Australia will follow at the next meeting.

1.2 Date of the Interstate Men's Women's and Colts Interstate Teams Matches:

The Committee was advised that there were no official objections from States to commence the Interstate Teams Matches three weeks prior to the last day of the Federal Open Amateur. This timing will commence for the 2010 events onwards. Ian Read advised this date should also be considered in the broader review of the entire "open men's and women's calendar".

1.3 Altering Dates of the Australian Amateur Championship and Ranking Events to be Played Adjacently:

Ian Read advised that the consensus of the players was to play events in 3-4 week blocks, rather than one week on, one week off, etc. If it was considered to move the Australian Amateur to follow on from the Men's Riversdale Cup, this date may potentially conflict with the NZ Open (Men's).

It was agreed that Management would review the open men's and women's calendars and consider which events could potentially be moved to result in events being played in 3-4 week blocks.

1.4 Australian Men's Mid Amateur Championship:

- i The Committee was asked to consider playing the Men's and Women's Mid Amateur Championships in conjunction, and was advised that the players in both Championships are in favour of this. The Committee agreed with this recommendation from 2010 onwards.
- ii Views were sought in regards to making The National Golf Club the "home" of the event – or for the next two to three years. The Committee felt this would be suitable while the events were being established.
- iii An alternate date was also sought due to the current date clashing with the Men's and Women's Lake Macquarie Amateurs. Management will ascertain proposed dates.

- iv Management asked the Committee to clarify the entry fee for the Women's Mid Amateur (the current Women's entry fee is \$85 and the Men's is \$150). There was agreement that the fee should be the same for men and women in time, however this should be a gradual increase. For 2010 the Women's Mid Amateur fee will be increased to \$120, and the \$150 fee for the Men's Mid Amateur will be retained. Alison Holden strongly recommended including a Net Event in the Women's Mid Amateur.

2. NEW BUSINESS:

2.1 Recommendations from NSAG – Women's Senior Golf:

- i The Committee agreed to retain to match play format, however Ian Read suggested the format be continually reviewed.
- ii The following recommendations from NSAG were tabled and approved:
- Play the Women's Mid Amateur in conjunction with the Men's Mid Amateur
 - Retain the current date for the Women's Senior Amateur (ie last Monday in October)
 - Retain the 22.4 handicap limit
 - Consider a flight for 70+ years if numbers warrant it after 2009
 - Retain the Interstate Stroke Teams Event
- Ian Read recommended that the scheduling of the event be continually monitored with a view to playing it in conjunction with the Men's Senior Amateur, possibly from 2011.
- iii Barwon Heads Golf Club was not in a position to host the 2009 Australian Men's Senior Match Play Championship, and it will be held at 13th Beach Golf Club. Discussion followed regarding future venues and dates, and it was agreed to approach 13th Beach Golf Club to host the event for three years. Brian Lasky confirmed that the VGA was happy to move the Victorian Men's Senior Amateur to the third week in October from 2010 onwards, to allow the Australian Men's Senior Match Play Championship be played in the fourth week of October.

2.2 2010 and 2011 Calendars:

The 2010 Calendar was tabled, with the majority of venues and dates confirmed.

The 2011 Calendar was tabled with suggested venues. Committee Members were asked to confirm that the suggested venues in their state were appropriate.

2.3 Australian Women's Amateur Championship – Entry Fee:

The current fee for the Women's Amateur is \$165 and for the Men's Amateur \$220. The Committee discussed whether both fees should be the same. There was hesitation in increasing the women's fee, and it was agreed to retain the \$165 fee for the Women's Amateur.

2.4 Men's Australian Open – Regional Qualifying Events:

- i An e-mail from WAGA was tabled asking the Committee to consider that there be a minimum number of entrants for each Regional Qualifier before it is played (if this minimum number is not reached, those entrants progress to Final Qualifying). The Committee agreed to continue to play all Regional Qualifying events irrespective of the number of entrants for 2009, and to review the issue for 2010.
- ii The VGA asked Golf Australia to consider compensating State Associations financially for conducting Regional Qualifying Events, particularly when accommodation and significant travel is involved. The VGA took the view that it ought to maintain the standards that should be expected of a National Open, and hence felt it was important for a VGA official from Melbourne to attend the Wodonga Qualifier. Therese Ritter advised that Trevor Herden and Stephen Pitt did not think it was necessary for a Melbourne Official to attend the event, and therefore, those costs would need to be

absorbed by the VGA if it felt it was necessary for a Melbourne Official to attend. Brian Lasky was satisfied that if Golf Australia did not expect a Melbourne Official to attend the Wodonga Qualifier, then this would not occur in the future. In correspondence to States, Golf Australia will circulate its minimum requirements for Regional Qualifying, particularly in relation to host clubs and/or State Regional Delegates being empowered to officiate if necessary.

2.5 Australian Amateur Ranking Events – Amended Guidelines:

Amended guidelines for the Australian Amateur Ranking Events were tabled. The amendment specifically related to the Nominated Player's own State to pay their daily expenses (rather than the Host State) from 2010 onwards. These guidelines were approved.

Point 4 of the guidelines will also be amended to clarify that if a player misses the cut, it is the prerogative of the Host State to determine whether the player will stay for the duration or return home (whichever is more financially viable for the Host State). Should the player decide to stay without the Host State's consent, the Host State will not be liable for any of the player's expenses.

2.6 Australian Interstate Teams Matches – Eligibility Criteria:

In order to clarify a player's eligibility for representing a particular state, specifically given that players are now moving interstate more frequently, two revised eligibility options were recommended by the High Performance Advisory Group.

The Committee agreed the following eligibility condition would apply for 2009 onwards (the exact wording to be formulated by Management).

1. *For a period of 12 months, any athlete moving interstate will only be eligible to compete for their original state.*
2. *At any time after the 12 month period the athlete may elect to compete for their new state of residence, or continue to play for their original state. Any change of representation must be documented by written notification to GA and a player may only change state once (unless exceptional circumstances apply).*

2.7 Trans-Gender Policy:

Golf Qld brought to the Committee's attention a situation in Qld regarding a trans-gender golfer. Golf Australia covered the issue in its Member Protection Policy, however it is not very specific. It was agreed Management would compile a draft policy for approval by the Committee, based on the following principles:

Any person who identifies as a member of the opposite sex by living as a member of the opposite sex, is entitled to hold an Australian Women's or Men's Handicap respectively, and are eligible to compete in Handicap Competitions. For Scratch Championships (eg Australian Amateur Ranking Events, Club Championships, etc), the IOC guidelines will apply.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS:

The Dunes Medal:

David Cherry advised that Duncan Andrews had approached him to request Golf Australia assist in funding National/AIS Squad Members to The Dunes Medal. It was agreed Golf Australia would not assist Clubs/States in regards to funding Australian Amateur Ranking Events.

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

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

**CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
MEETING – FRIDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2008
VIA PHONE**

ACTION SHEET

Item	Action	Responsibility
1.	Australian School Teams Championship Meet with Golf Secretary of SSA and advise any outcomes	Therese Ritter
2.	Altering Dates of the Australian Amateur Championship and Ranking Events to be Played Adjacently Review of open men's and women's calendars	Therese Ritter
3.	Australian Mid Amateur Championships Ascertain a suitable date and liaise with The National GC regarding hosting possibilities for the next three years	Therese Ritter
4.	Australian Men's Senior Match Play Championship Approach 13 th Beach Golf Club to host for the next three years; confirm with VGA that it is happy for it to be played in last week of October	Therese Ritter
5.	2011 Calendar Committee members to confirm suggested venues	All Committee Members
6.	Australian Open Regional Qualifying Reply to WAGA's request	Therese Ritter
7.	Australian Amateur Ranking Event Guidelines Amend the guidelines	Therese Ritter
8.	Australian Interstate Teams Matches – Eligibility Criteria Amend conditions of play	Therese Ritter
9.	Trans Gender Policy Draft new policy	Therese Ritter & Alex McGillivray
10.	The Dunes Medal – Golf Australia Funding Advise Duncan Andrews that GA funding is not available	David Cherry