



**NATIONAL SENIOR ADVISORY GROUP
MEETING – MONDAY 11 MAY 2009
BRIBIE ISLAND GOLF CLUB**

MEETING SUMMARY

Present: Ian Read – Chairman (GA), Bill Banks (ACT), Les Browne (NSW), Pat Giles (VIC) via phone, Tony Mazzone (SA), Carmel Smith (Qld)

In attendance: Therese Ritter (GA) via phone

Apologies: Bruce Kelly (TAS), Bob Howe (WA), Brian Pepper (NT)

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes from the meeting of 7 November 2008 were approved.

2. BUSINESS ARISING

2.1 Women's Senior Golf

It was advised that the GA Championships Committee had agreed to the recommendations from the previous meeting. Les Browne advised the first Women's NSW Senior Order of Merit had just concluded and was very successful.

A decision was sought regarding the inclusion of the 2009 WA Women's Senior Secondary Event on the Ranking System given that it is currently only open to players aged 65 years and over. It was agreed the event not be included this year as all players eligible for the Ranking System were not eligible for the event, but that it would be considered for next year if the age was reduced to 55 years and over. Therese Ritter to liaise with WGWA.

2.2 Australian Men's Senior Match Play Championship

13th Beach Golf Club (Vic) confirmed it would host the Championship in 2010 and 2011 in the last week of October.

The allocation of points for the 2009 Championship in respect to the Ranking System was discussed and confirmed. In summary, it will be given a Level 6 weighting, and all players will be allocated a finish position of 1-32. This allocation will be trialled; and then reviewed after the 2009 Championship.

A condition will be included in the 2009 Championship stating that players are not permitted to withdraw once they lose their Championship match (unless on the production of a medical certificate or due to exceptional circumstances). If a player withdraws without sufficient reason, they will be allocated '999' on the Ranking System, and their entry will not be accepted into the following year's Australian Senior Amateur.

2.3 Senior Events – Declining Numbers

There was discussion regarding the declining number of participants in senior events, which was primarily attributed to the increasing number of events. As the events are State and Club Tournaments, GA is not essentially in a position to query the number of events, however States should be aware of the increasing number and seemingly the subsequent affect.

2.4 Sanctuary Cove Trophy - Format

The Mulpha sponsorship expires after 2009, and discussions are in place with Mulpha regarding future sponsorship. NZ Golf has initiated the possibility of playing the Sanctuary Cove Trophy in conjunction with the Trans Tasman Cup, which would include a women's senior team, but would reduce the number of players in the team to 4 players. NSAG did not feel it was appropriate to make a commitment to the proposed suggestion, but queried GA's position on the event should there be no sponsor. NSAG recommends [1] the GA

Championships Committee consider the event's future should there be no sponsor, and consider the addition of a women's 6-person team should the event remain in its current format.

2.5 Accommodation Packages

Pat Giles advised that the recent negotiations with the Chifley Group had now ceased, but NRMA Travel and Accommodation would entertain a proposal for an accommodation/car rental deal for Senior Ranking Events. It was agreed Pat Giles would forward information about the proposal to the GA Commercial Area.

2.6 USGA Senior Match Play Championship Exemptions

Advice had been received from the USGA that an exemption into the US Senior Match Play Championship was not possible. Ian Read advised this could be re-visited in the future. It was also confirmed that an application had been submitted to the R&A regarding an exemption for the Australian Senior Amateur Champion into the British Senior Amateur.

3. NEW BUSINESS

3.1 New Zealand Senior Amateur Championship – Player Funding

To comply with the Rules of Amateur Status, the winner and runner up of the Australian Senior Amateur Championship must use their funds for expenses to the New Zealand Senior Amateur Championship – they cannot be used for any other event. Bill Banks queried whether this sum could be increased, particularly if the recipient was from a non-eastern seaboard state, however Ian Read advised this was not possible due to budgetary considerations.

Bill Banks asked if GA would consider approaching the ASC or the Department of Health to request funding for the development of senior golf. Moving forward, GA's National Development Manager will manage this process.

3.2 Australian Men's Senior Ranking System

NSAG recommends [2] the GA Championships Committee consider a condition requiring a Ranking Event have a minimum number of players of a certain standard for the event to remain a Ranking Event. It also recommends a condition be included that requires that a player compete in two Ranking Events in the last four months prior to 31 October to be eligible to be declared the winner.

NSAG expressed dissatisfaction regarding the inclusion of "Open (Professional)" events in the Men's Senior Ranking System. It was also agreed to liaise with Golf Tasmania to request it consider increasing its handicap limit for the Tasmanian Senior Open.

The weightings of the State and Secondary Events were discussed as it was felt there was not sufficient difference in points between the two types of events – this will be deferred until the next meeting.

3.3 Clarification of Age for "Super Seniors"

It was agreed that for a player to be eligible to win the "Super Senior" category of the Ranking System, they must turn 65 years of age prior to the first day of play of the last Ranking Event.

3.4 Australian Senior Amateur Championship

NSAG was concerned that the price of the Presentation Dinner was becoming expensive. For 2010 onwards, the price will be \$45.00, with players to purchase their own drinks.

Bill Banks asked if the handicap limit could be increased. It was advised that the handicap limit changes each year depending on where the event is held, and consideration needs to be taken in determining the limit to avoid having to ballot out too many players, and to prevent large administration workloads as a result of refunds to balloted players.

4. NEXT MEETING DATE

During the Australian Men's Senior Match Play Championship.