



# ISPS HANDA AUSTRALIAN OPEN

## ***Insight from behind the Scenes with Championship Director Trevor Herden***

The 2011 ISPS HANDA Women's Australian Open provided great excitement and performance from players but the weather also contributed to some significant challenges to the club and organisers.

At approximately 5pm on the Friday I decided to suspend play due to dangerous conditions with a major electrical storm cell heading in Commonwealth's direction.

All players and spectators left the course almost immediately. Lightning and thunder surrounded the course and at 6.15 pm play was abandoned for the day.

Players were advised that play was scheduled to resume at 7.30am the next morning. At approximately 7.15pm that evening the rain began.

On that Friday evening, some 125 mm of rain fell on Commonwealth between 7.30pm Friday and 4 am Saturday. The course was completely flooded with bunkers not only washed out but also holding upwards of 300mm of water.

The next morning at 5.30 am the superintendent advised me that the bunkers were a major issue for us, with no fewer than seven bunkers requiring significant attention.

The fairways and greens were dry, which was amazing considering the amount of water that had rained on the course overnight.

We resumed play at 10:30 am on Saturday and thanks to the huge effort by the course staff we were able to get back on schedule for Sunday's final round.

The international field this year was certainly the strongest of the Championship's history to date with four of the world's top 20 playing.