

2011 Yearbook

The final corrections have been made and the 2011 Yearbook is off to the printers. Delivery to Golf NSW will occur late next week and then the mailout to those who have ordered will commence. The format will be in the standard A4 size, with a protective cover to enable multiple uses in a multitude of environments. Included in the 2011 Yearbook content are:

- Tournament Information – Standard Conditions of Play, Transportation Policy, Code of Conduct, a Summary of Golf NSW Events
- Handicapping & Competition Management – Handicapping & Course Rating, Course & Competition Managements, Local Rules, Amateur Status
- Country Districts Information
- Club Information
- Forms for Holes-in-One, Laurel Wreaths, Merchandise Order Form and various other information.

If you haven't already ordered a copy (\$25 plus \$7 postage), please go to the www.golfnsw.org website and click on Publications for an order form. The Yearbook will also be uploaded to the website shortly.

New website for Golf NSW

Those of you who logged on to the Golf NSW website last weekend will have had a preview of the new website.

To complete the content upload we have temporarily gone offline before the formal launch during the first week of April. Although there was only a glimpse of the new site last week the feedback was almost universally positive in terms of ease of navigation and look.

Stieger moves into National squad

Golf Australia has announced that Matthew Stieger (NSW) has joined the National Squad at Tier 2 level.

Stieger, who represented Australia at the recent Ashes tournament at Elanora Country Club, qualifies for the squad via his current Australian Men's Amateur Ranking System position and his place in the top 100 of the World Amateur Golf Rankings.

His rise in the rankings followed his victory at The Tote Tasmanian Open Championship in late February.

Golf Australia High Performance Director Brad James said he was pleased to welcome Stieger to the squad.

"Matt performed very well at Kingston Beach to win The Tasmanian Open and lift his ranking to qualify for the squad," James said.

"Matt attended our recent National Camp at Moonah Links and it was clear that he is very keen to participate in the squad and work on bringing his game to the next level."

The addition of Stieger brings the current National Squad list to ten players.

Matt also won the 2011 Tasmanian Open. This year's Tasmanian Open was conducted at the Kingston Beach Golf Club from February 24-27.

Stieger shot rounds of 65, 67, 69 and 70 to defeat a class field with a 72-hole total of 271 (-13).

Second place went to fellow New South Welshman Brett Drewitt (Long Reef) on 278 (-6), while England's David Coupland and Daniel Bringolf (AGC) claimed third place on 280 (-4).

These results can be viewed at Golf Tasmania's website www.golftasmania.org.au.

Special Olympics Golf Day

Help Golfers With An Intellectual Disability Represent Australia

In June 2011, 131 athletes with an intellectual disability will represent Australia at the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Athens.

The World Games will be the largest sporting event in the world this year with 7500 athletes from 185 countries competing in 22 sports. This includes seven Australian athletes competing in golf.

As Special Olympics Australia is a tax-exempt charity and receives little government funding, the organisation must fundraise \$10,000 per athlete to get them to the Games.

The NSW Golf Foundation have financially assisted the three NSW golfers and we're hoping you can support their ongoing fundraising efforts.

If you'd like to help the Special Olympics golfers achieve their personal best at the Games, get your friends and head to the Special Olympics Golf Day fundraiser to be held at Koindah Waters Golf Club on the NSW Central Coast on Friday 29 April.

See the website – www.golfnsw.org – for full details.



VALE – Hon. Judge John Cecil McGuire

Golf NSW was saddened to hear of the passing of The Hon. Judge John McGuire on 26th February. The Judge, who has been a proud member of The Australian Golf Club, has also been a very ardent supporter of golf administration in NSW and has acted on behalf of the NSW Golf Association providing advice and guidance on many occasions over the years.

On behalf of golf clubs and golfers across the state we pass our deepest condolences to The Judge's family and friends.

100 holes in a day

Council Member Grant Harding is challenging himself to 100 holes a day – can you help?

As some of you may be aware, I recently was part of a group of 27 tradies from Young and Cootamundra who volunteered for a week in Ipswich after the recent floods. We were supposed to work on 9 homes and we ended up putting 16 needy families back in their homes. So moved were we all, that we have decided to head back in early May, except this time we look like we are heading to the devastation of the town of Grantham. Anyway, the purpose of this letter is to let everyone know that on 18th March I intend to play 100 holes in a day and am asking that if anybody is interested in sponsoring me they can lodge their donation in the following account.

Young Flood Relief Team
South West Slopes Credit Union
BSB 802 367
Account No. 33020
Reference 100 holes of golf

Or a cheque can be made out to the same account and posted to me at:
PO Box 195
Young 2594

If anyone would like a receipt, just let me know and I will sort it out. I and my fellow tradies cannot thank everybody enough who has supported our cause. The beauty of this kind of appeal is that it gets to where it is REALLY needed as opposed to the various government appeals that never reach the people that are in need. i.e. families with young children. The more money that we raise means the more material that we can purchase.

A huge thank you to anyone who sponsors me on this day. I might need to have a rest from golf after this marathon.

Regards
Grant Harding

Coming Events!

Men's

16 – 17 April

Men's NSW Sand Greens Fourball Championship, Hay

19 – 20 May

Men's NSW Mid Amateur Championships, Cypress Lakes

Women's

28 Mar – 1 Apr

Women's NSW Senior Amateur, Cromer

2 – 5 May

Women's Autumn Meeting, various courses in the ACT

Mixed

20 March

Par 3 Medal, Sefton

7 August

NSW Mixed Foursome Championship, Oatlands

Golf never a good walk spoiled

I often wonder what life was like before I started using an iPhone. How I ever survived going through life without being able to do such things as change my Facebook status, update my TAB account, check the weather radar or my stock listings is simply unfathomable.

Amongst all the rubbish that I've managed to download onto my phone over the last few months however, the most fascinating device must be my new pedometer. By simply switching on this ingenious app, and placing the phone in my pocket, I can now monitor vital information such as how far I walk my dog each morning.

I recently took this pedometer usage to its logical conclusion and quietly slipped the phone into my pocket during a round of golf, expecting in many ways that the overall result wouldn't differ vastly from the 5,456 metres listed on the courses scorecard. I was wrong.

Having zigzagged back and forth across fairways, wandered around in circles studying putts and sauntering to and fro in conversation with my playing partners I was amazed to find that I had added another 1.5 kilometres to my days outing with a pedometer reading now exceeding 7,000 metres.

Encouraged by this revelation I subsequently repeated the test on a couple of different courses with remarkably similar results, that being a consistent increase of almost 25 percent in distance on the measured course length. (This is probably quite a good reflection of my 'military' golf style too.)

In 2008, a detailed study at Sweden's Karolinska Institutet found that irrespective of the sex, socioeconomic status and age, golfers show a 40 percent lower death rate in comparison to other people. The study, incorporating some 300,000 participants, concluded that on average golfers could expect a five-year increase in life expectancy.

Along with longevity of participation, social inclusion and many other positive factors, health remains one of golf's greatest selling points - but sadly one that the game's administrators have been slow to utilise in a purely marketing sense in Australia.

When linking golf and health, no better example exists to date than the PGA of America's support of 'Let's Move' – US First Lady Michelle Obama's high profile campaign against childhood obesity.

In South Australia Golf SA has been a long time supporter of the Fiona Pike skin cancer awareness campaign, and other avenues are being explored to position the sport at the forefront of the health debate.

Mark Twain once said 'golf was a good walk spoiled'. When it comes to health, it seems golf is simply a good walk!

Phil Laurie, Communication & Golf Development Manager for Golf SA

*"I especially love driving down a hill directly at a tree and swerving to one side at the last moment.
That's my way to relax."*

Boris Yeltsin, on the joys of driving his golf cart

I used to have a sign over my computer that read OLD DOGS CAN LEARN NEW TRICKS,
but lately I sometimes ask myself how many more new tricks I want to learn.

Wouldn't it be easier just to be outdated?

Ram Dass
