

USGA Handicapping Forum at Golf NSW

Golf NSW hosted Kevin O'Connor, USGA Head of Handicapping, at a forum organised by Golf Australia on 15th, 16th and 17th March. He also attended meetings in Queensland and Victoria during his visit to Australia.

While Mr O'Connor was in Australia, he presented a cheque for \$75,000 from the USGA to go towards Golf Australia's Flood Relief Appeal.

His visit was arranged at the request of Golf Australia and is part of the review process of the Handicapping System, of which we all eagerly await the outcome.

Attention - Women's Club and Grade Captains

Metropolitan Grade Players - Handicap Note:

'A players handicap for the 2011 Grade Competition will be as at Tuesday 6.00pm, prior to the Match.'

This has been added to the 2011 Conditions of Play, Item 9-1. Go to:

http://wgnsw.org.au/uploads/res/1144_7129.pdf

STIEGER AND DEWHURST CROWNED AMATEUR CHAMPIONS

Srixon Australian Men's Amateur Championship

Men's Final

Matthew Stieger (NSW) def Ben Campbell (NZ) 1up

New South Welshman Matt Stieger clinched his first Srixon Australian Amateur Championship with victory over New Zealand's Ben Campbell at Victoria Golf Club.

"I'm definitely on a high," Stieger said. "Dad was crying when I spoke to him on the phone – he was ecstatic."

For Stieger it marks an extraordinary few months including winning the Tasmanian Open, joining the National Squad and now winning the Amateur and but said he was determined to keep his feet on the ground.

"Golf is a funny game. One day you can go out and shoot six under, the next day six over. You can never get too far ahead of yourself, you've got to do more practice to keeping getting better and that's where my mindset is and it's working for me," the St Michael's Golf Club member said.

The match was a thrilling affair and Stieger took the advantage with a birdie on the 17th hole. It was Campbell's second consecutive Srixon Australian Amateur final.

Stieger said he was going to take a brief break before getting ready for his next events.

"I'll put the clubs down for a week after playing so much golf without a break and relax and prepare for Mandurah, Keperra and the other events I'm playing."

In winning the championship, Stieger earns exemptions into the 2011 Australian Open and 2011 British Amateur Championship.

Srixon Australian Women's Amateur Championship

Women's Final

Ashlee Dewhurst (TAS) def Minjee Lee (WA) 38th

Tasmanian Ashlee Dewhurst won her first Srixon Australian Amateur Championship on the 38th hole in a pulsating match with WA's Minjee Lee at Victoria Golf Club.

"It's overwhelming, I still can't believe it," Dewhurst said. "This is the biggest thing I've ever won."

For Lee, who is just 14, there will be many more chances and Dewhurst said her putting got her over the line.

"I made a fair few clutch putts out there and I felt sorry for Minjee when I sometimes didn't hit it that well but made the putts," Dewhurst, a Royal Hobart member, said. Dewhurst, who was 1 up going down the 18th, three putted to lose the hole and sent the match to extra holes. She birdied the 37th and then had a par on the 38th to complete the victory.

"After I beat Lydia Ko in the quarter finals, I really started to think that I could win the tournament," Dewhurst.

"Normally I don't play that well on courses that have a bit of a links feel to them but it seemed to work out pretty well this week."

Dewhurst gains an exemption into the 2012 Women's Australian Open with her victory.

Age for Junior Tournaments to be 18 years

It has been decided that Golf NSW Junior events will be for players under 18 years of age, effective immediately. JNJG events will also be under 18 years, from October. Clubs can, of course, administer their events at whatever age they determine is appropriate.

This decision has been made for a number of reasons, primarily because the other states have remained as under 18 years and there have been some issues with alcohol consumption at under 19 years events.

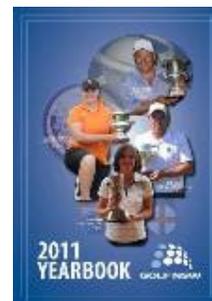
The relevance of under 24 years in today's golfing climate is also under review and Clubs will receive a survey to complete shortly in this regard.

2011 Yearbook

The 2011 Yearbook is in the mail to those who have placed orders. If you haven't received it by mid next week, please give Wynter Hines a call on 02 9505 9105. It is also available on-line on the website via Publications at www.golfnsw.org.

Copies for Council Members, District Secretaries, Life and Honorary Members will be mailed with the April Bulk Mail in approximately two weeks.

If you would like to order a copy and have not yet done so, please find an order form via the Publications section of our website.



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 April

Women's NSW Senior Amateur, Cromer

2 – 5 May

Women's Autumn Meeting, various courses in the ACT

16-17 & 19-20 May

Women's 72-hole Championship, The Lakes

16 – 17 May

Women's Mid Amateur Championship & Club Champions (Div 1), The Lakes

16 – 17 May

Women's Margery McWilliam Qualifying & Club Champions (Div 2), The Lakes

22 – 24 May

Women's Match Play – NSW State Championships & Margery McWilliam Bowl, The Australian

Mixed

25 – 26 June

Northern Weekend Tournament, Pacific Dunes

7 August

NSW Mixed Foursome Championship, New Brighton

2011 Women's NSW Senior Championship kicks off Monday at Cromer Golf Club

A field of 60 of the state's best women senior amateur golfers will converge in Sydney next week to contest the 2011 Women's NSW Senior Championship being held at Cromer Golf Club on 28, 29, 31 March and 1 April 2011. The event is also the final event of the 2010 / 2011 Women's NSW Senior Order Of Merit.

The Championship will be played over 36-holes qualifying rounds (Monday & Tuesday), with the eight best scratch scores qualifying for the Senior Championship Match play (Thursday & Friday). Draws for rounds one and two are available online. Match play draws will be conducted after the 36-hole stroke play. For players who do not qualify in the Senior Championship Match Play, there is also match play broken down by age category.

The presentation of the Women's NSW Senior Order of Merit and 36-hole stroke trophies will be at the completion of play on Tuesday 29 March 2011. Trophies for the 2011 Women's NSW Senior Championship will be presented on the last day of play, Friday 1 April 2011. Both presentations will take place at Cromer Golf Club.

2011 Men's NSW Mid Amateur Championship – ENTRIES NOW OPEN

The 2011 Men's NSW Mid-Amateur Championship is being held at Cypress Lakes Golf Club on Thursday 19 and Friday 20 May, 2011. The Championship is open to male amateurs who are between 30-55 years, with a handicap of 9.4 and under. It is stroke play over two rounds of 18 holes.

Entries are now open - \$100 via hard copy, or \$90 online. Entry fee includes registration in NSW Mid-Amateur Vardon and use of motorised cart on both days. To enter, or for more information, log onto www.golfnsw.org.

Harding completes 100 hole mission!

Further to the report in the last Drop Zone regarding South West DGA Councillor Grant Harding's Queensland Flood Relief Appeal, please read on:

The Young Witness – Megan Pigram

23 March 2011

THERE is no doubt the Young community can rally together to support any worthy cause and last Friday's 100 holes in one day golf challenge completed by Grant Harding proved just that.

Harding accepted \$1451 in donations on the course alone as well as \$520 in donations prior to the event.

That means Harding has nearly doubled his anticipated amount.

"I was hoping for \$1000 so I am just over the moon and stoked at how much we have raised," he said.

"Especially with all the fundraisers that are going on in town at the moment, it is just brilliant."

To add to the excitement of how much has already been raised, Harding received a phone call yesterday morning from a member of **Golf NSW** who said he would like to donate \$500 worth of gyprock to the cause.

Harding hit off at 7am last Friday morning and according to his tradesmen friends he had to slow down to meet the scheduled finish time.

"The challenge went to plan 100 per cent and I must thank everyone who assisted me on the day," Harding said.

The hardest part of the challenge in Harding's eyes was maintaining focus for the duration of the day.

"Concentration was by far the hardest part."

And as for the holes in one?

"I got none of those, but I did get 15 birdies and a few big scores but it's probably best we don't mention them," he said.

Despite the big scores he may have received, during the course of the day, Harding only lost one ball.

Flood relief team, coordinator Paul Gembles said he was blown away at Grant's dedication to the cause.

"I think everyone should take a leaf out of Grant's book – the man just keeps on giving, it's great," Gembles said.

"What he achieved last Friday is great."

We have always found the Irish a bit odd. They refuse to be English.
Winston Churchill

Hazards attract. Fairways repel.
