

## GOLF NSW LIMITED

Minutes of the *Meeting of the COUNCIL*  
held at Kogarah Golf Club, 19 Marsh Street, Arncliffe  
on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2011 at 10.00am

**In Attendance:** **Directors:** Chris Allen (Chairman), Sue Fabian (Deputy Chairman), John Waanders (Chairman Finance), Carolyn Bloch, Jean Moran, Darrell Watts, Alan Harrison, Lynne Ritchie and Frank Gal

Council members in attendance – see attached

**Others:** Sandra Gillies (Chair - Women's Match Committee)

**Staff:** Greg Mills, Nicky Bethwaite, Graeme Phillipson, Mitsie Kent and Cherie Allan

**Apologies:** Council members' apologies – see attached

### **1. Introduction & Welcome:**

Chairman, Chris Allen opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance including first timers John Benn and Peter Mackay as well as two alternate delegates in Marilyn Wright representing WGI and Anthony Brown from the ACT Monaro DGA.

The Chairman's opening remarks included the positive and negative feedback that had been received regarding the latest round of proposed changes to the handicapping system which are due to be implemented on 21 September 2011.

News from Golf VIC confirmed that the VGA and WGC had accomplished their goal of amalgamating in April 2011 and have appointed a new CEO from outside the industry who is due to commence his employment in September. Bronwyn Young, the former CEO of WGV has already departed the new entity and David Greenhill was unsure as to his future at this time, but would stay on in an acting capacity at least until the new CEO has settled in. Venues for the two NSW Opens have been finalised with Newcastle Golf Club to host the Men's Open for the next 3 years, whilst Oatlands Golf Club have agreed to host the Women's Open for this year.

Positive feedback was also recorded for the new website, which is encouraging news given the size of the project that was undertaken to deliver our major communication strategy.

Regarding the High Performance program and NSWIS. Numerous meetings and many discussions have taken place in recent months to ascertain whether we are getting value for money for the investment that is being made each year. An evaluation of the current process is well underway, but there is a belief that we most probably should be changing direction with the program as we need to identify and work with the talented athletes at a younger age. However, this matter remains a work in progress.

### **2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2011 were so moved for adoption by Tony Steele and seconded by Ian Fraser with one change required in item 8-10 - Ray Wilson had not passed away as recorded.

### **3. Business Arising:** 3-1

#### Action Items from Previous Meeting

- Chris Allen reported that Golf Australia's budget for their HP program had been \$1.1m with \$812k coming from the Australian Sports Commission.

- GA's Handicapping & CR Sub-Committee has been reformed and comprises representatives from across the country who had their first meeting in Perth in late June. (See 5-3)
- Management Manual – Greg Mills advised another update will be introduced shortly.
- Clubs NSWs opposition to the Federal Government's mandatory pre-commitment and maximum ATM withdrawal legislation is on-going.
- Entries for the 2011 NSW Golf Foundation –Women's Committee Day at The Lakes is fully subscribed with Men's Committee Day to be held at Concord is well advanced which is a good start for the inaugural year. Both events will be staged on July 14.
- The NSW Golf Foundation has approved \$5k grant to Mudgee Golf Club to repair flood damage. A special mention was made of Diane Lindsay from NSW Golf Club who organised a raffle to also assist Mudgee to recover from the floods. The bewildered Mudgee suffered a double whammy when it's clubhouse was totally destroyed by fire. Temporary facilities have been set up in the old squash courts building whilst it waits for their insurance to be processed.
- Forbes Golf Club also has no clubhouse with the Forbes Sporting Club supporting them, but it is 2km away from the golf course which makes patronage at both venues difficult.
- Checklist for Women's DGAs – the CEO indicated that there is no requirement these DGAs to be registered for GST. Therefore, a checklist as to how to register for GST was of no value. Having an ABN is obviously required for all incorporated entities. Regardless, details regarding these matters can be found online at <https://abr.gov.au>

#### **4. Staff Update:**

- 4-1 Graeme Phillipson advised that he was at the final interview stage in the search for an additional member of staff for his Golf Department team to replace Adam Dransfield who has been seconded to support the Course Rating team and to manage the big job of logging all the data as each course was rated. All will be advised as to who the successful appointee is once finalised.

#### **5. Administration and Programs:**

##### **5-1 Finance Report**

Chairman of Finance, John Waanders presented a brief verbal summary of the status of the company's finances noting a small net profit was projected for the financial year just ended. However, the precise amount will not be known until the auditing process has been completed.

##### **5-2 Affiliation Fees**

Clubs were mailed their affiliation fee notices for the 2011-2012 year in May, with payment required by the end of August.

##### **5-3 Handicapping and Course Rating Committee Report by Lynne Ritchie**

- It was mentioned that there are many course rating entries not yet on the web as the recording and calculation sheet provided by GA was proven to be unreliable or inconsistent, but it will produce an estimated slope index if required;
- Regarding the rating of sand greens is concerned, GA is still waiting for further feedback from the USGA;

- GA Handicap Committee –The Board confirmed Moya Shepherd would be the NSW representative. It was also noted that this committee is not a policy making group.
- A survey regarding handicapping was sent out to all clubs by GA to ascertain feedback and progress to date re the changes to the calculation method. It was noted Northern Rivers DGA did not receive any surveys;
- The issue of clubs not notifying Golf NSW when their contact details change is making life difficult to properly and reliably provide those clubs with information;
- Golf Australia has not made an announcement re adjustment for daily course ratings as yet - the matter is still pending;
- Golf Australia has confirmed its intention to delay the full introduction of the new Slope based Handicapping system until April 2013. This delay is blamed on the time it will take for GolfLink and the Tier 3 providers to implement the required software changes. The Golf NSW Board will challenge this timeframe with GA which was supported by Council; and
- Approximately 260 courses have now been completed in NSW. If alterations to courses are carried out within 12 months of the rating being finalised, the course may need to be re-rated with costs covered by Golf NSW.

**5-4 Men’s and Women’s Match Committee Reports by Sandra Gillies and Les Browne**

- A verbal report was provided by both Men’s and Women’s Match Committee Chairs.
- The soon to be introduced – Autoscore scorecard system was noted as it is a much faster and accurate option improving the way we administer and conduct tournaments.

**5-5 High Performance Review**

- A HP Committee is to be formed to set future guidelines in place for our elite golfer program with a GA style tiered model program favoured at this stage which will align with Golf Australia HP Program.

**5-6 Rules & Amateur Status Committee Report by Frank Gal**

- A verbal report was given by Frank Gal based on his written submission in the meeting papers.
- Club level rules seminars and exams have been experienced by many players.
- Mixed group information sessions are being considered for country and metropolitan clubs where club captains would benefit tremendously.

**5-7 Audit & Risk Committee Report by Alan Harrison**

Quarterly A&R Committee meetings are now being held to put an internal control framework in place and to ensure we comply with our legal and regulatory obligations, etc.

**6. New Communications, Initiatives, and Directions:**

**6-1 Website**

Please contact Nicky Bethwaite if you are experiencing difficulties when attempting to log-in to the secure section of the website.

- The new database management system should be in place by year end

- Club General Managers or Secretaries have been requested to disburse all correspondence and information such as Club Connect and other emails in particular from Golf NSW because the information frequently relates to different sections or people within the club. Virtually all such information sent to clubs can be found on the website in the club's secure section;
- Drop Zone – Council members who wish to have relevant DGA or Club information distributed via Drop Zone should contact Nicky Bethwaite; and
- Consideration is currently being given to adding Honour Boards to the Golf NSW website.

#### 6-2 Strategic & Business Plans

The CEO spoke about the Strategic and Business Plans which are both fluid documents. The latest draft of the Business Plan will be presented to the Board for consideration later this week together with connecting Staff Performance Review documentation.

#### 6-3 OneGolf

A further reminder about the benefits of the OneGolf tournament and handicapping management system was provided to Council Members. Autoscore was also mentioned as an add-on option.

#### 6-4 Board representative visit to Orange

There were two separate sessions held with no agenda - questions were asked relevant to that district. If other DGA's are interested please contact Greg Mills for possible dates.

#### 6-5 Come and Try Day

The proposal is to stage this as an annual promotion hopefully to attract attention to the benefits of being a club member staging it around the state during the same week each year. Golf Australia is looking at making this a national program to increase interest in the game with club membership being the bottom line. The Newcastle DGA report indicates how they are running their day to attract more members.

### 7. Group Networking:

Les Browne spoke about the Men's Country Championships concept for 2012. Les suggested there be a total of six male players to represent each district. Balance of field (120) by entry/handicap using a ballot if required. A shotgun start on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning should be the method to ensure all players have the maximum flexibility to get to and from the event. This concept to be discussed further at the next Men's Match Committee Meeting.

### 8. Governance and the Council:

#### 8-1 Election Process – Sue Fabian

- Membership of clubs with Golf NSW. The Constitution now requires country clubs to be members directly with Golf NSW as opposed to via their DGA as was previously the case. This cannot happen by default. Clubs must confirm their intentions to accept such membership in writing. Assistance is sought from male country council members to ask those clubs in their DGA who haven't formerly accepted membership of Golf NSW, to do so ASAP;
- On a similar note, 50% of clubs have not resigned from WGNSW. Those remaining clubs and members will be voting shortly to approve cancellation of the company's registration, as it no longer has any assets;
- A reminder that nominations as a Council Member close on 27 July. Closing date for voting is 4:00pm on Monday 22 August;

- The nomination of Directors opens on Friday 29 July. There are four positions open for election. (The current Directors whose positions fall vacant are Jean Moran, Sue Fabian, John Waanders and Carolyn Bloch). They have all indicated they will be seeking re-election. Director nominations close on 26 August. Should a ballot be required to determine the four new Directors, a postal ballot will close at 4.00pm on October 4 or Council Members can vote in person up until at the start of the AGM at 6:00pm on October 6.
- A sitting Council Member can stand as a Director, but if elected, they would be compelled to resign as a Councillor and the Board would fill the vacancy so left.

8-2 New Metropolitan Zones – Inaugural Meetings

Metropolitan zone meetings – Golf NSW to organise meetings by local zones

8-3 NSW Golf Foundation Update

The Grant application forms are currently being revamped and Guidelines drawn up.

**9. General Business:**

9-1 Indigenous Golf

Dubbo Golf Club will host the Indigenous Golf Championships again for the next 2 years and Golf NSW will hopefully be more involved and assist with the promotion and advertising of the event.

Greg Mills thanked Mitsie Kent being a catalyst regarding connecting with the Indigenous Golf Championships.

- Alan Harrison and Grant Harding played golf with a young indigenous boy, Ellery Harris using 5 different clubs. Srixon golf clubs were presented to Ellery at his school with his family, tribal elders, and school peers in attendance. There are 40,000 indigenous kids in NSW.
- Grant Harding travelled to QLD in May to help the flood victims with support from the Golf Foundation with transport costs. The Sand Greens tournament winner at Hay gave a disadvantaged child his golf bag prize. A great promotion for country golf.
- Golf NSW to become closer to men's and women's vet groups and build better relationships. This will give maximum benefits for both organisations.

9-2 NSW Open/s

A one year arrangement has been made with Oatlands in late January 2012 for the Women's NSW Open and a three year deal with Newcastle Golf Club for the Men's NSW Open for 17-20 November 2011. This Men's Open coincides with the Presidents Cup week.

9-3 Ideas for District Pennant by Bob Soper

Country pennant competitions are difficult to run when clubs are so far apart. Ideas from other clubs who may have done this previously to be put on the website. The district reports are also a way of spreading information and ideas.

9-4 General Business

- Club memberships – there are issues with numbers declining. The presentation Greg Mills made to Illawarra on this topic is available on the website. The Murray DGA made a video to promote their DGA which was run during the meeting;
- Agenda items can be sent to Golf NSW at any time for the next meeting;

- Australian Open – TRP Sports are looking for volunteers with a note sent to all clubs re this invitation. Golf NSW also require volunteers for the Men's and Women's Opens. Please advise if you wish to participate;
- Bruce Nairn expressed concern about the demise of the Interstate Colts matches and other decisions made by GA and their poor communications and hoped these matter may be rectified;
- Jack Newton schools program – The primary aim of the program is to get children interested and then into a club. 300 school teachers have been trained, 20,000 kids have been introduced to the game and the next phase is junior membership of clubs. The challenge is getting girls into playing with a ratio currently sitting at 5/1. Clubs must see the need for this program to be truly effective and even then it is a 2-5 year exercise before we will see significant impact. The JNKG is pleased to advise it was to receive another \$1m into this program courtesy of the Kinghorn Foundation. There are nearly 4,700 schools in NSW with over 100 special needs. Gala days can have immediate results in attracting kids. The JNKG pays for a relief teacher when the golf ambassador is being trained; and
- Discussion took place about doing research as to why girls do not want to take up golf. Women's golf is run mostly on weekdays. Juniors are put with much older players and there is peer pressure for girls who choose to play golf.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 3.20pm.

**Next meeting:** 10.00am Thursday 6 October at Bonnie Doon Golf Club.

**Date:** .....

**Chairman:** .....

## **ACTION ITEMS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES – Council Meeting**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Completed</b>
Actions arising from Council Meeting 13 July 2011				
Business Plan	Advise Council members about where we are heading	GM		
Club Management Manual	Send memo to clubs regarding CMM "updates"	GM		
Council Members	Suggestions on how to reduce numbers on Council	All Council members		
WG Resignations	Send email to clubs to resign from WGNSW	NB		Done
Running Matches	Match Committees need to produce something to help club captains run matches.	GP		
Member Delegates	Metropolitan clubs to be followed up by Golf NSW. Country clubs to be done by male councillors.	NB		
Metropolitan zone meetings	Golf NSW to organise meetings by local zones (30 clubs each).	NB		Done
District Pennants	Compare notes on how everyone deals with certain situations. Put on the website – ideas/problems, together with ideas for agenda topics.	NB		
Junior Golf	Do research as to why girls do not want to take up golf.	NB		

**Present:**

\* DGA = District Golf Association

\* GA = Golf Association

\* GC = Golf Club

Trevor Bartley (Zone C - Windsor GC)	John Benn (Zone A – Chatswood GC)
Colleen Bennett (Far South Coast & Tablelands)	Marcia Box (Western District Ladies GA)
Diane Boulton (North & North West District Ladies)	Peter Brien (Western DGA)
Janet Bracken (Central Southern GA)	Val Bronson (Zone B - Woolooware)
Les Browne (Zone A - Long Reef GC)	Gary Bryant (Mid North Coast DGA)
Tony Busch (Blue Mountains DGA)	Deanne Deitz (Newcastle Hunter District Ladies GA)
David Byfield (Riverina DGA)	Ian Elliott (Central Coast DGA)
Paul Cortaville (Newcastle DGA)	Jan Frater (New England DGA)
John Dunkin (Zone C - Cabramatta GC)	Robert Griffiths (Illawarra DGA)
Ian Fraser (Zone B - The Coast GC)	Judy Harris (Zone C - Richmond GC)
Jim Glenday (Zone C - Georges River GC)	Jeannie Henry (Zone A -Avondale GC)
Grant Harding (South West DGA)	Elsa Hocking (Zone B - /Bankstown GC)
Julie Jenkins (South West Ladies GA)	Reg Johnston (Zone C - Parramatta GC)
Olwyn Johnstone (Zone A - Bayview GC)	Julie Jones (Zone A - Northbridge GC)
Greg Kellett (Central North DGA)	Margaret Koeninger (Zone A - Cammeray GC)
Brian Lanz (New England DGA)	Diana Lindsay (Zone B - New South Wales GC)
John Lock (Zone C - Carnarvon GC)	Ken Martin (Western Riverina DGA)
Verelle Miller (Women's Golf Central North Coast)	John Miller (Central Western DGA)
Robyn Newey (Western Districts Ladies GA)	Bruce Nairn OAM (Zone B - Bexley GC)
Jann Pearson (Zone A - Mona Vale GC)	Margaret O'Donnell (Newcastle Hunter District)
Jill Roach (Zone B - Woolooware GC)	Ellen Rae (Central Coast Women's GA)
Robert Scarr (Hunter River DGA)	Lynne Robson (Zone A - Wakehurst GC)
Jane Searle (Zone C - Parramatta GC)	Robert Scott (Zone B - Bankstown GC)
Colin Smith (Zone B - Botany GC)	Joy Slater (Women's Golf Northern Rivers)
Denis Spillane (Zone C - Fox Hills GC)	Robert Soper (Far South Coast DGA)
Paul Thomas (Lachlan Valley DGA)	Tony Steele (Zone A - Oatlands GC)
Aileen Whiticker (Riverina Ladies GA)	Jo-Ellen Thorpe (Zone C - Wallacia-Panthers GC)
Margaret Ashton (Zone A - Muirfield GC)	
Ray Bellamy (Lower North Coast DGA)	
<b>Peter Mackay (Mid North Coast DGA Rep)</b>	
<b>Marilyn Wright (Women's Golf Illawarra rep)</b>	
<b>Anthony Brown (ACT-Monaro DGA rep)</b>	

**Apologies:**

David Coulton (NWDGA)

Stuart Cox (Metro Zone B)

Sue Brooks (BMDLGA)

Jim Jackson (ACT-Monaro)

Yvonne Day (Camden Zone C)

Ian Armour (Northern Rivers DGA)

Tony Briers (MDGA)

Lynne Townsend (WGI)

