

## Men's Match Report for Council Meeting 21 December 2012

### Events since last Meeting

#### **2011 Golf NSW Vardon Trophy**

The 2011 Vardon Trophy has concluded with the top 10 positions dominated by Golf Australia national squad and Golf NSW High Performance program members. Brett Drewitt (68.35) and Matt Stieger (68.84) confirmed their standings as two of the State's finest young golfers with consistently low scores to take out the top two positions. The top four, who all had a scoring average under 70, was rounded out by Daniel Bringolf and Lincoln Tighe. The Mid Amateur section was won by Colin Galagher (74.09) and the Junior Vardon went to Ricky Kato (Bonnie Doon).

#### **2012 NSW Medal & 2011 Champion of Champions – Mona Vale & Long Reef**

A good field of 260, which include leading interstate and overseas players, tee'd off for their first round of 18-holes, the field split between Long Reef and Mona Vale Golf Club's. Those in the afternoon groups were fortunate to experience some dry weather, while those teeing off in the morning were challenged significantly by wind and rain.

Day two saw slightly better conditions with the 36 holes were completed without the need to delay play, which is a credit to both Mona Vale and Long Reef and their ability to cope with the wet weather.

The winner of the 2011 Champion of Champions event was Morriset's David Morgan who followed up his 2 under round of 70 at Mona Vale with a one over round of 72 at Long Reef.

With heavy overnight rain Mona Vale was under two meters of water and no possibility of play. As such the Medal was reduced to 36 holes with the top 32 to compete in the Amateur Match Play.

A par 3 hole at Mona Vale was prepared for the play off for the NSW Medal. Congratulations to Englishman Neil Raymond who defeated Brett Drewitt (Long Reef), both players finished their 36-holes on 144.

#### **2012 NSW Amateur Championship - Elanora**

Even with the wet the course was in magnificent condition. Number one seed and NSW Medalist Neil Raymond (Corhampton GC, UK) was knocked out in the first round by 32nd seed Matt Stieger (St Michaels). Stieger also won his second match, seeing him through to the quarter finals. Others successfully through to the quarter finals were Callan O'Reilly (Pennant Hills), Daniel Pearce (Yarra Yarra), Michael Lambert (NSW), Brett Drewitt (Long Reef), Ricky Kato (Bonnie Doon), Jake Higginbottom (The Australian) and Reeve Whitson (Mourne GC, Ireland). Going right down to the 18th, Callan O'Reilly made a three foot putt to win his match against Matt Stieger, 1up. Michael Lambert defeated Daniel Pearce 3/1, while Brett Drewitt won his match 2/1 against Ricky Kato. Jake Higginbottom knocked out the last international in the tournament, Ireland's Reeve Whitson, winning comfortably 4/3.

In the semis Drewitt defeated the talented Higginbottom and Lambert won on the 19th in an exciting finish against O'Reilly.

The 36 hole final was an extremely tight match, eventually coming right down to the wire. At dormi 3 it looked like Drewitt had it in the bag. However some solid play from Lambert saw him take both the 34th and 35th hole. With a good crowd following the pair, it was down to the 36th hole of the match. Both players played it well off the tee then played reasonable shots onto the green. Lambert's long putt landed just a few feet from the hole. Drewitt's long first putt finishing slightly further adrift. In a tense final shot, Drewitt holed the putt, securing him the victory.

It was a sweet reward for Drewitt, who finished runner up last week in the NSW Medal in a playoff. He was understandably thrilled with the victory, and in his thank you speech praised the quality of the courses, which were just outstanding.

### **Men's Senior Foursomes Medal - The Coast**

The spectacular views tested the concentration of many pairs but Greg Stanford and Stefan Albinski (Mona Vale) focused for a one over 71 to take the title. The Over 65 went to Darcy Cluff and Tony Gresham (Pennant Hills).

### **Greater Building Society Lake Macquarie International – Belmont**

Over 250 entries were received which included the top players from around Australia together with players from England, Ireland, Germany, NZ and US. The event is second only to the Australian Amateur in Australia and rated in the top 30 Amateur events worldwide.

The course was in fine condition as was the weather for the first 3 days, and the scores reflected this. Germany's recently crowned Australian Champion led into the final round at 14 under. Closely followed by Queensland's Daniel Nisbet and NZ's Vaughn McCall, who shot a course record 63 in round 3. Locals Jake Higginbottom and Callan O'Rielly were only a few shots back.

The final day produced some strong winds which destroyed many of the golfers. Nisbet put together a good 71 (total -15) to take out the event by 3 shots from a strong finishing Cameron Smith (Qld). O'Rielly was best of the locals on 10 under.

### **Family Bowl – Cabramatta**

The field of only 25 pairs was disappointing as the event was gaining popularity. The course was excellent and hospitable. May need to consider going back to an 'out of town' venue where players can have a weekend away.

Winners were locals Garry and Cameron Glenday with 45 points

### **2012 NSW Seniors Championship – Lynwood**

With the catastrophic forecast of rain and floods in the Hawkesbury region there looked to be little chance of completing the event. Lynwood CC has only been in existence for 3 years so they did not know how the course would cope. However we were very fortunate and only part of day 2 experienced significant rain and the event had no delays.

The 190 players were impressed with the course and the hospitality of the Club which provided no cost practice rounds, complimentary practice balls and the Dinner was excellent value for the \$35.

There is a mixture of old and new faces at the top of the leader board after round 1. Robert Steele (Kooinda Waters) had the round of his life to shoot 71 in hot and humid conditions he joined Australian Senior Amateur Champion Stefan Albinski (Mona Vale) and Bill Banks (Royal Canberra) on this mark. Pennant Hills' Scott Richardson and Cabramatta's Jim Malkus shot even par rounds of 72. Defending Champion Peter King (Windaroo Lakes) shot 74 today to remain in striking distance.

King stormed into contention late on day 2, ripping through the front nine in four under par before being slowed by the afternoon's heavy rains on the back nine. His second round of 72 places him two strokes behind and in second position. It also set up a show down between he and Albinski on 144. Rounding out the top four are Rodney Dale (147) and Richard Greville (149).

We didn't think we would be playing on Day 3 as the prediction was for Warragamba to overflow flooding the Hawkesbury area. We were spared and the day progressed well. Albinski went to a 3 shot lead with 5 to go but bogied 14 to Kings birdie. Then on 15 Albinski called a penalty on himself when he claimed the ball moved after address, thus taking double bogie. This put King in front but he doubled the 16<sup>th</sup>. Dale in the meantime played par golf and hitting off 17 there was a 3 way tie. Which extended to the difficult 18<sup>th</sup>. Dale and King missed the green but Albinski played a wonderful shot to the front edge. Both King and Dale scrambled their pars and Albinski only needed to 2 put to tie. Amazingly he missed his 3ft second put. Thus there was a play off which King won with a regulation par the secure back to back titles.

## **Metropolitan Major Pennants**

Currently under way with finalist determined on week of this meeting. Report at the meeting.

## **Up Coming Events**

- 21-22 Apr – Sand Greens Fourball – Coonamble
- 22 Apr – NSW Foursomes Championship – Cronulla
  - This includes a new event – NSW Club Foursomes Champion of Champions
- 6 – 8 May – Mid Amateur Championship – Magenta Shores
- 2 – 3 June - Golf NSW v ACT Monaro DGA & Newcastle DGA v Illawarra DGA

## **Other Items**

- Junior Championship and Junior Pennant – to discuss at meeting
- Issues arising from Men's Match held on morning of meeting