

District Reports for April 2013 Council Meeting

ZONE A REPORT

Minutes from a meeting of Zone A golf clubs, Avondale Golf Club, Tuesday 12 March 2013 at 7.30pm

Present

44 attendees representing 21 Zone A golf clubs as per the attendance record.

1 Welcome and Introduction

Mr Les Browne welcomed attendees and thanked them for their Zone support. He also thanked Avondale Golf Club for hosting the evening. Welcome extended to special guests Mr Chris Allen, Chairman GNSW and Mr Stuart Fraser, CEO GNSW. Mr Browne outlined forward golfing events/programs being conducted by GNSW.

2 Challenges and Opportunities for 2013 and beyond – Mr Stuart Fraser

a) Club Support and Development Program

A new combined golf initiative will support clubs experiencing operational and financial challenges through a range of management, benchmarking, club health programs including the planned introduction of a club development officer support to assist clubs seeking operational support. Strategic planning workshops will be conducted noting the potential to secure government funding for an 'all of sport' development program.

b) Re-launch of My Golf Program

GNSW will work with the PGA and Golf Australian to undertake a national junior golf development program focusing on 5-12 year old new golfers. The program is planned for launch in August 2013 and could include gift packs, close liaison with school authorities and involvement with golf professionals at club level. The overall promotion seeks to provide a defined pathway for junior golf development over the long term. Certain measures have been implemented by the GNSW Match Committee to tighten player participation in Major Pennants..

c) Governance and structural review

A governance review is being undertaken for GNSW by Sport Business Partners over a four month review process. This follows similar reviews conducted by GA and Golf Victoria.

A workshop for Council members planned for the 23 April Council meeting will address such topics as governance and delivery, databases and member channels, issues associated with growing the game, club viability, golf investment and the marketing and visibility of golf.

d) Mandatory director training

Mr Fraser briefly commented on the proposed Registered Clubs Amendment (Training) Regulation 2013 legislation being implemented by the NSW Government.

3 DSR, slope and handicap changes

Mrs Jann Pearson advised the new systems will commence in September 2013 following notification of changes to clubs in June 2012. A Certificate of Rating will be forwarded to all clubs, noting the need for clubs to advise competition players which course rating was being played on a particular day. The Professional and the course superintendent need to closely liaise to determine the rating allocated for each competition.

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4 EPA – NSW legislation

Mr Fraser and Mr Allen commented on recent ongoing action by the state EPA to prosecute certain golf clubs regarding the inappropriate use of chemicals and pesticides on golf courses.

5 Open forum – club cost and operational pressures

A range of questions from the floor included green fee relativity for 9-hole play, the application of club entrance fees and potential to conduct dual competitions within designated stroke play rounds. Possible regional amalgamations were being reviewed. Another Zone A meeting would be considered in 2013.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Mr Les Browne
Meeting Chair
12 March 2013

Should you wish to receive a full copy of the Zone A Minutes please email Wynter Hines on wynter.hines@golfnsw.org or visit the Golf NSW website Council Login Section.

ZONE B REPORT

Report – Kareela Golf Club

The early months of 2013 saw the departure of popular club Pro, Shaun O'Toole, who found the constant travel from his home near Albion Park debilitating. Shaun is now the Pro at Kiama. His is replaced by Glen Dick, formerly of Bonnie Doon, who has already impressed many members with both his friendliness, efficiency and coaching prowess. Glen should be a perfect fit for Kareela, a club that has made its junior membership a priority as it looks to the future.

On the subject of junior membership, one of the club's most promising young juniors, Anna McHugh, has qualified to play in the Australian Girls National Championship in Perth. Anna was also a member of the club's Encourage Shield State Champion team in 2011, and has won numerous events at JNJC tournaments. The club is facing increased competition following opening of a new course in the Shire, and has introduced many progressive ideas to foster its membership and build revenue for the course. The past two months have seen some 20 new members join, and the introduction of a lady's competition once a month on a Saturday shows promise of good response (and a fillip to revenue).

Norm Jones - Club Captain

ZONE C

WINDSOR

The ladies have adopted a method of encouraging new members, and those on handicaps of 40+. For all stroke rounds, the ladies play a stableford event. This takes the pressure off them, keeps the fields moving

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and gives them an incentive, as they can still win an event. As they feel more confident, they can then progress to playing stroke events.

WALLACIA

The charity day held late last year raised in excess of \$5000 for cancer research at Nepean Hospital. The format of Champagne and strawberries after the game is something that is well received, and the numbers attending prove this.

PENRITH

After 5 long hard years, Penrith Ladies have won their first Metropolitan Grade Pennant. Some years it was very difficult to even field a team-begging longer handicap markers to play so they could fill positions and not forfeit. Expenses associated with travel, lunches and outfitting the team also took its toll-however it has now paid off and been worth the effort.

On a sad note, we lost our oldest playing member- Beatrice Corradin, aged 86. Betty originally was a member of Dunheved Golf Club, RAAF Kingswood and finally in 1991 joined Penrith-much to our delight. Betty was well known throughout the district. Betty was a very competitive player throughout her golfing career, a stickler for the rules, and our "fastest player", very supportive of all club events and members. Betty had only 3 to 4 clubs plus a putter in her bag-having any more would make it too heavy. In 5 of the last 6 years, Betty took out a place in our championships-which proves you don't need all those clubs!!!!!! We took our "Winning Pennant" to show Betty the week before she passed away- she was over the moon!!!!!!

CAMDEN LAKESIDE

Camden Lakeside is holding its 'GOLF FOR GIRLS' clinic on Monday 22nd April. The brochure and entry form can be found on the GOLFNSW website link.

RIVERSIDE OAKS

Riverside Oaks has been holding "Ladies Open Days" for the past 12 months. The numbers have not been wonderful, but in February the event swelled from 5 teams of 4 to 13 teams of 4, which is a huge jump in numbers. The prizes awarded are so generous, and the staff in the pro-shop look after the ladies so well. The next Open Day is Wednesday May 22nd. There is wonderful accommodation for anyone who has to travel any distance.

GOLF IN GENERAL

The men have been holding their Major Pennants and it is wonderful to see so many teams improving, and going up in divisions for next year. In particular, we mention Antill Park, Wallacia and Richmond. It is worth noting that Antill Park maybe small, but still manages to field a great Pennant Team, and Wallacia and Richmond are two clubs that have been struggling financially over the years, and gone through amalgamation. It just shows that you can't squash team spirit or competitive sport, and this is what keeps clubs alive. Stonecutters Ridge has had favourable comments about their course and clubhouse, and everyone who comes to play there, says they wish to return.

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HAWKESBURY CLUBS

There are some exciting things happening in the Hawkesbury. Richmond Golf Club is still waiting on the final proceedings of amalgamation with The Richmond Club- however, everything is moving in the right direction. Committees have been formed, with representation of Men, Ladies and Vets all attending monthly meetings, and this is proving very successful. In fact, Richmond Golf Club is finding that the Charity Golf Day Events that combine-men and women, are proving very successful.

There is a huge Tourism event that is showcasing the Hawkesbury not only in Australia, but worldwide. This involves the following clubs-Richmond, Lynwood, Stonecutters Ridge and Riverside Oaks. The promotional video goes something like this: Australia reveals it's Best Kept Secret- Hawkesbury NSW-the slogan used is NSW- Naturally Something Wonderful. It then continues on with that theme and introduces- Golf in Hawkesbury NSW- Naturally Something Wonderful. This is a wonderful concept, that has been put together by Kimberley Talbot, CEO of the Richmond Club in conjunction with the local Golf Clubs and businesses, and hopefully the results will indeed be –Naturally Something Wonderful for not only the Hawkesbury but the surrounding areas, and indeed for NSW in general.

On behalf of all the Zone C Councillors and players we wish everyone a very successful season-on and off the golf course.

JUDY HARRIS

DISTRICIT BLUE MOUNTAINS REPORT (Women's)

The year has got off to a good start with the district Pennants, the weather has been good the course are in excellent condition and the games have been played in good sportsmanship.

The annual Blue Mountain Tournament was held at the Oberon course as usual the hospitality was second to none. Players come from Cobar, Cowra, Cootamundra, Dunedoo, Penrith, Shelly Beach, Walgett and local clubs Lithgow Katoomba, Wentworth Falls, Leura, Portland, Springwood and Oberon. All the handicaps divisions were catered for, from those who have been playing for years to ladies who were playing their first event away from home. We extend our thanks to Jean Moran who came to Oberon representing Golf NSW.

The Open Western Cup and Blue Mountains Closed Championship won by Kerry Davis Penrith/Wfall. Wentworth Falls Country Club is celebrating their Centenary in 2013 with celebrations commencing on Friday 5th April we wish them well and for the next 100 years.

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BLUE MOUNTAINS DGA

Membership

District affiliation fee information for 2013 shows a further decrease in playing memberships, the Association at its last AGM as a one off, reduced its DGA affiliation fee to \$1 per male member this was to assist clubs in some small way with affiliation fee commitments.

We have lost two clubs from the district, Kurrajong Hills was closed down and put on the market before Xmas, Grose River closes down at the end of June 2013 and is also on the market.

Portland GC has closed off nine of its eighteen holes to assist in reducing course maintenance costs, and I understand there are two other clubs which are really struggling making ends meet.

State Men & Mixed 4B Champs

Good to see sense prevailed on the proposed \$5 entry charge for these events when most of the heavy lifting is being done by the districts and zones, participation I believe would have been severely affected if the proposal proceeded.

BMDGA Pennants

Our 2013 district pennant series finished on 24th March with a play off for the No.1 Pennant between Lithgow and Wentworth Falls. Congratulations to the following clubs on their success in the 2013 BMDGA Pennant Series.

Senior Pennant – LITHGOW, **Junior Pennant** – SPRINGWOOD, **Masters** – WENTWORTH FALLS, **Kortum Shield Pennant** – SPRINGWOOD, **“A” Reserve Pennant** – SPRINGWOOD.

Blue Mountains Golf Week

The 2013 Blue Mountains Week of Golf ended Friday 22nd March. The weather was a lot kinder to us this year, again numbers about the same as last year, the Kogarah GC contingent of some thirty players certainly make the basis of each competition day, we also have groups from Muree, Crookwell, Kurri, Waringah and Morriset Golf Clubs, support from our local club players is also necessary for a successful tournament.

The 2014 tournament is scheduled for the last full week of March at the following courses, Springwood, Blackheath, Wentworth Falls, Katoomba, Leura and Lithgow.

If you are looking for a week of golf in the beautiful Blue Mountains let me know and you will be sent the entry details.

The BMDGA sincerely thanks all participating clubs who showed hospitality to our visitors to the Blue Mountains.

Junior Golf

We will be conducting two Junior Opens this year, Springwood is 14th April and Lithgow 28th April, the BMDGA sponsors each tournament with \$500 each year.

Tony Busch

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FAR SOUTH COAST DGA

Some significant changes for FSCDGA in 2013.

The District Captain for the past 15 (or, maybe 17 – even he's not sure) years – John 'TC' Gardner (please do not ask what the 'TC' stands for) – has retired, indicating he has a yen for some travel (maybe going to Japan?). This came as a shock as it had been anticipated that he would remain the District Captain for ever. The 2nd significant change is the retirement after 10 years of District JPO Ron Carney. Ron had built up the junior coaching camp held annually in the October school holidays and established a District Development Squad which has seen a number of Far South Coast juniors go into either Professional Traineeships or move to Sydney clubs to play top level pennant.

Replacement for both these men is Peter Weire. Peter has taken on a big job, and one of his first moves has been to organise the establishment of a FSCD Golf Expo. It will run first for the Southern Conference clubs – and be located at Pambula-Merimbula club. If successful it will then be run for the Northern Conference clubs at Club Catalina.

The aim of this Expo is to promote club membership. All clubs in each region will be invited set up a booth at the host club to advertise the facilities they offer to members. Pros will be encouraged to provide free clinics on the day in various aspects of the game. Equipment suppliers will be encouraged to be present on the day. There will, obviously, be the obligatory sausage sizzle. Reports on the success, or otherwise, of this initiative will be made to Council meetings later this year.

A final matter of significance. Commencing this year, Club Catalina (in co-operation with Batemans Bay RSL & Legacy) will host what is expected to become a major event during ANZAC celebrations in years to come. The event is known as the Defence Services Shield – it will actually be 4 Shields – one for each branch of the services – Army, Navy, & Air Force – and a major one overall. There are both individual and team components of this event. The initial date is Monday 22 April. That date is designed to tie the event to both Legacy and Anzac Day commemorations, and to act as a memorial to the Late Major-General Allan Stretton. Funds raised on this day go to Legacy. Entries are welcome from anywhere and enquiries should be made from the Catalina Golf Shop (02-44724386).

Bob Soper. FSCDGA Councillor.

FSC&TGA

The 75th Anniversary of the FSC&TGA was held at the Mollymook Golf Course March 20 21 and 22 and attracted over 200 entrants each day. The Tournament format for this year was a shotgun start for the two days of single stroke play on the Wednesday and Thursday, with both morning and afternoon sessions each day.

With the guidance of Barry West, Troon Golf, the shotgun format was a great success and we cannot praise highly enough the assistance given to us by all at Mollymook, from the staff, to the committee and the fantastic band of volunteers.

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The course itself was presented in excellent condition and proved to be a great test, not only of golf, but of character with a lot of players finding the course quite challenging.

A 75th Anniversary Booklet detailing our history along with reports from each club was given to all players along with a momento ball marker. The FSC&TGA sincerely thank Golf NSW for their continued support and were proud to have Mrs Sue Fabian attend our Tournament as the Golf NSW representative.

Most clubs in our area are managing to keep their heads above water, although some better than others. The ever increasing challenge of attracting new players and subsequently new members to our game sees many clubs struggling.

The Pennant season is under way for this year with a few changes, in particular this year on the Tablelands. The Jindabyne Club, under the control of Department of Sport and Recreation have imposed a fee for all matches scheduled to be played at the course. This has led to a restructure of the draw and has resulted in the Jindabyne Course not being used at all.

General discussion still centres around the introduction of the Slope Handicap system and when this may be implemented. Another area of concern to most is the Anchor System with the majority of players querying why it is "twelve month based."

Colleen Bennett
COUNCILLOR
FSC&TGA

CSGA DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

We finished 2012 with our fun Gala Day at RMC raising \$650 for the Stroke Foundation. We then commenced 2013 with our Opening Day at Murrumbidgee Country Club, trialing a shotgun start which proved a success. The following were our District Champions: Division 1 – Lauren Stensrud (QBYN), Division 2 – Pam Hislop (RCGC) and Division 3 – Rosemary Downing (BOW). The overall Nett Winner was Stephanie Whiteway (BOW) with a nice 69Nett.

In January the CSGA fully sponsored our four best Juniors, ranging in age from 13-16 years to the Lake Macquarie Amateur. All the girls were single figure markers and represented well with relatively good scores and made us all proud with their sportsmanship and commitment. It was a first for all competing at such a high level and they all benefited by the experience.

Grace Hallinan (RCGC) certainly showed the experience gained at Lake Macquarie, as she then went on to win the Summer Foursomes with Xanthe Macklinshaw (Eastlakes). They managed to defeat defending champions, Jacqui Morgan and Jenny Roberts 3/2 in the final matchplay.

February saw our new website, csga.asn.au come on line. It has been a couple of years in development and we have had very good responses re the outcome. One area that is ongoing is collecting our long history from 1928. **If anyone has stories or photos we would be most appreciative.**

Along with the website, we have taken to running our events with MiTournament. We were amazed when Opening Day came along that so many took the option up to enter on line. Also the event management was a huge success and managed to get results out in a reasonable time considering we had our "L" plates on for the day.

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The Womens Australian Open held at Royal Canberra in February was a huge success with large crowds and a very high level of competition. It was the first time the Australian Open had been a ranking event for the USLPGA, so consequently we had the largest number of highest ranking golfers ever seen in Australia. J I Shin was a worthy winner, and all the volunteers appreciated her presence at the final appreciation meal and drinks. Her amazing chip in on the 14th will be remembered by many.

Liz Smyth
CSGA District Councillor

LACHLAN VALLEY DGA

The majority of clubs have now resumed annual competitions after one of the hottest Summer periods in history.

Numerous clubs have reported losing trees and shrubs to the heatwave conditions in January and with a lack of rainfall over the Summer period all clubs are hoping for more generous conditions in Autumn.

Parkes and Forbes Golf Clubs contested the Central West Golf Associations Pennants series and enjoyed considerable success with Parkes reaching the semi-finals of 3 of the 4 divisions and eventually winning the Division 2 title while Forbes reached the semi-finals in two divisions.

Forbes, Parkes and Grenfell Golf Clubs are all conducting Junior Golf programmes with endorsement and assistance from the Jack Newton Junior Golf Foundation and it is hoped that more clubs undertake these programmes.

The Parkes Golf Club is still being taken to task by a lady member for discrimination and if she gets her way the implications will have a severe and lasting impression on Golf not only in Parkes but all over the world.

Paul Thomas - President

NORTHERN RIVERS DISTRICT GOLF ASSOCIATION

The Coraki pairing of Matt McLean and Nathan Streckfuss, playing off a combined handicap of 3, scored a convincing win in the Northern Rivers District Golf Association Foursomes Championship played over 27 holes at Iluka Golf Club on Sunday 10th March. McLean and Streckfuss who played solid golf throughout the day struck an impressive 73 for the morning 18 holes followed by 37 for the afternoon 9 holes to take the title by 5 shots in a three-way countback from Ballina's Stuart Broadhurst and Shaun Rose, Byron Bay's Matt Crandell and Michael Anderson and the Lismore Workers pairing of Mark Strong and Steve Morrissey. The NRDGA's new webpage is up and running at <http://www.nrdga.com.au/> The new page is user friendly and provides lots of information about our clubs, current news, competitions and results.

The National Association of Left Handed Golfers of Australia will be holding their 48th National Left Handed Golf Championships from 13th – 18th October at Ballina, Byron Bay, Casino and Ocean Shores Golf Clubs

Ian Armour - President

MURRAY DISTRICT GOLF ASSOCIATION

The beginning of the year always involves the organization of events and activities within the district. Handicap Pennant has been revamped to ensure a strong but sociable competition and MDGA events have had the dates and venues confirmed.

The MDGA congratulates GolfNSW and Howlong Country Golf Club on the success of the recent NSW Seniors Championships. The event showcased the best aspects of golf and from all accounts was enjoyed by all players. MDGA executive members had an opportunity over the course of the championships to have positive discussions with GolfNSW representatives on ways in which to promote junior golf in our district.

The district has concerns re the distance and the financial outlay incurred sending a team to the NSW Country Championships, which will again be held in Muswellbrook in 2013. Negative player feedback last year has also contributed to the MDGA examining the practicality of participating in the event this year.

Whilst the MDGA website has proven helpful in getting information to members the executive committee believes that a more direct form of communication will have greater benefits, particularly when it comes to increasing involvement of members in MDGA and other district events. Subsequently a newsletter has been developed and has been sent out to all clubs highlighting the happenings in our district. The MDGA executive committee encourages feedback, suggestions and comments from members.

HUNTER RIVER DGA

Baker – Trinder Shield - A strong Hunter Junior boys' team was selected to travel to Moree on 23/24 March to contest the Baker – Trinder Shield.

The annual event is a round robin tournament played between North West, Central North, Western, and Hunter District Golf Association's and is designed to give our junior boys valuable match play experience.

Arriving at Moree on the Friday the boys were keen to head to the course for a practice round and were excited with the demanding layout and to find the course in such excellent condition. The boys were really looking forward to the competition ahead.

Over the next two days some excellent golf was played by all the boys with some of the less fancied boys recording good wins over their much lower handicapped opponents. On the Sunday the two undefeated teams, Central North and Hunter, faced each other with the winner to claim the Baker-Trinder Shield. At the half way mark there were some very close matches and the result could have gone either way, there were some nervous boys in both teams, not to mention the officials, in the end Hunter prevailed and claimed the Shield for another year.

Our congratulations to all the boys who took part over the weekend, they are a credit to themselves and the game of golf.

Our thanks to the district officials for organising their teams, to Moree Golf Club for their hospitality and to Matthew McGuire, Moree Professional, for the excellent job he done in organising the weekend.

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The Baker – Trinder Shield was initiated by Jim Baker and Al Trinder in 1985 and has been played annually every year since. Some of Australia's best amateur and professional golfer cut their teeth at this tournament and we look forward to continuing this tradition for many years to come.

Bob Scarr

NHDLGA DISTRICT REPORT

The year has not started the best for our District. We are much depleted in numbers on the District Committee which has caused frustration and over load in work for the few still there. Due to serious health issues and circumstances beyond our control running NHDLGA has had some very difficult times.

The District is at present having the Hunter Region wanting to resign from HHDLGA and amalgamate with the HRDA Men. This has seen clubs reacting some favourably and some very angry at this proposal. The Hunter Region has 16 clubs that will be affected. The boundary will be the same as the HRDA Men's. If or when this proposal goes ahead this new District will be an amalgamated identity. The HHDLGA Committee are disappointed but this Hunter District could be one of many that will eventually decide to amalgamate.

Scratch Pennants are being played at present followed by 4 Zones of Grade Pennants. Pennants seem to take up a big slab of our calendar. Tournaments have not been well attended to date for no other reason other than golfers are no longer travelling. Our District Tournament this year is to be held on the beautiful Hawks Nest course in May so hopefully the fields will be good and the ladies enjoy 3 days of great golf and friendship.

On finishing this I would just like to say Maggie has been very unwell fighting Lymphoma with chemo treatment. She has still 2 more treatments. If she makes this meeting you will see she is inspirational how she handles her situation.

Dee and Maggie

SOUTH WEST

Since our last meeting, South West held their Annual Meeting, and this resulted in a new committee. Pres. Julie Jenkins, Vice Pres, Helen Pitts, Jill Graham, Leanne Slater, Ruth Forster. Sec, Marsha Phillips, Treas. Judy Finkle.

Not Much Golf over Christmas and the New Year, But into action now. The first meeting of 2013 was held on the 4th March at Cootamundra, I attended both the match committee and the general meeting and gave a brief report. The Scratch Teams events for South West will be held on the 1st of May at Arian Park. All Tournaments are scheduled for 2013. The Annual South West Tournament will be on Fri 11, Sat 12th. Sun 13th of Oct 2013 at Harden. Pennants will again be played in 2013, these will be played on Sundays and there are eight teams competing.

Pat Croker

WESTERN DISTRICTS LADIES

A lot of Western Districts clubs have not resumed after their summer break but most will resume by early April. Although some clubs have had welcome rain there are still a lot of clubs out west in drought.

Western Districts Annual Tournament

Western Districts tournament will be held at West Wyalong on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 21st, 22nd, 23rd May 2013. Invitation to all and we would love to see as many players as possible to enjoy a great week of golf and entertainment. Please check on website for details.

Far West Bowl

The Far West Bowl will be held at Nyngan on Saturday and Sunday 6th & 7th July. This is always a great event with plenty of fun.

Bogan Gate

Bogan Gate has revamped their club with an amalgamation with the men, the club is very social and the mixed events every month work extremely well. They are looking at a great year for the club, the course is looking good again after our high temperatures through Jan/Feb. All our up-keep is done by men and the ladies by volunteer labour.

Mudgee

At long last Mudgee will have their new clubhouse – almost completed and hope to move in by end of April. Mudgee members can't wait.

Mudgee Golf Club held their annual Celebrity Classic and from this our juniors, after helping on the day, benefitted by approximately \$ 2,000 which will help with tuition and bus trips etc.

Our new Junior Golf Competition held over 4, 6 and 9 holes commenced Sunday 17th March.

This was very successful with over 20 players attending.

Mudgee will be hosting the Golf NSW Mixed Weekend on June 1st and 2nd. This will be the first major event in our new clubhouse so we would welcome you all to enjoy this great weekend with us. Two days of golf and a dinner on Saturday night – for more information and entry form refer to Golf NSW website.

Cobar

Cobar is suffering very much from the drought conditions; they are only able to water the course on a very restricted basis.

A lot of the grass in some places on fairways has completely disappeared and it could be very much regarded as a bit of a dust bowl.

We have had enormous amount of run on the course over the past several months last season which has resulted in players overall, reducing their handicaps considerably.

WDLGA District Coaching

With the support of Golf NSW District Funding Grants WD clubs have been holding Beginner Coaching Clinics to promote and encourage new membership during 2012/13. Clinics for this year have been held at Cowra, Grenfell and Coonamble - Caragabal is planned for April. Resident Local professional Steve Cains at

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Cowra ran a series of clinics that led to a number of new members joining Cowra Golf Club. The other clinics were lead by WDLGA JPO Sharon Nott and with the enthusiasm shown by the supporting lady golfers everyone had an enjoyable introduction to golf with words of "I will be back for a game next Friday" on a number of lips. Also on their lips were Posture, Stance and Alignment.

Forbes

Forbes has reopened after a couple of years of upheaval. They are now known as Golf and Sportsman's Hotel.

The Frank Spice Forbes Junior Classic tees off on Sunday April 14th. Jack Newton will be present

Coonabarabran

Coonabarabran ran a charity golf day playing with 1 golfer and 3 or 4 non golfers including some of the Blazaid volunteers for the Mayor's Bush Fire Appeal. They raised \$ 5,300 which was a tremendous effort

Marcia Box & Robyn Newey - District Councillors

WOMEN'S GOLF NORTHERN RIVERS

Extremely wet weather and associated storms have continued to plague the District and cause financial problems for all clubs. Courses were closed because of flooding and the high water tables being experienced. Fallen trees due to the cyclonic winds have resulted in clean ups that needed to be undertaken in extremely cautious conditions. District clubs are grateful for the help of those volunteers who undertake working bees and assist the green-keeping staff. It will be hard for a lot of the clubs' timetabling to be caught up. The financial cost, loss of revenue, is now being gauged.

The WGNR Veteran's Championship was held in conjunction with the annual Veteran's Tournament at Casino. Fog created havoc for those travelling on the day but it lifted and the sun shone through with vengeance, extremely hot and humid. 85 ladies ventured onto the course, which was in good condition and dry. As many ladies had hardly played this year and were "rusty", the scores were not as good as they normally would have been. Val Marsh from Ocean Shores won the Championship, with Anne Jackson from Ballina runner up.

During March a Women's Golf Development camp was conducted over a weekend at the Sport and Recreation complex, Lennox Head. From novices to experienced players, 22 ladies from all over the District braved the weather and blocked roads to attend. Donna Southam from Newcastle was the head coach and she had her troubles with cancelled flights. We were lucky to have a large indoor area to use on the Saturday and the rain stopped on the Sunday allowing us to use all outdoor facilities at the Ballina Golf Club and Ballina Practice Range. We continue to get nothing but positive feedback from those attending, they appreciate being coached by lady professionals. Whilst they appreciate being shown the technicalities of the game they find that they understand more about what they should be doing and take a lot away when Donna teaches the working of the "mind games". It is good to hear that the players are far more positive and reporting the successes they are having in achieving their goals, in particular reducing handicaps.

We would like to thank Sue Fabian and Frank Gal for coming up and conducting a Rules Seminar which was attended by 117 men and women. Feedback was good; there was confirmation of the changes from last

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year and clarification of some individual and club concerns. The meeting was open to both men and women and was in the morning. Despite poor road conditions the number attending was excellent and far exceeded our expectations.

Hopefully weather conditions will improve and the golfing calendar will soon get back to normal.

Joy Slater - District Councillor

WESTERN RIVERINA DISTRICT REPORT

WRDGA is back into golfing mode following the summer recess at a number of the clubs. A long dry summer has been followed by heavy falls of rain if you happened to be under the right cloud and in some cases it provided extensive water hazards.

The first Club Tournament will be held at Finley on 7 April and in conjunction the first round of the J B Lugsdin shield will be played. Griffith is the current holder of the trophy but they can expect a spirited challenge from a number of Clubs in 2013.

All but one of our courses has now been rated with a visit planned to Tooleybuc shortly. Due to their isolation the rating team may well require a sleepover.

Representatives from the District attended Community Coaching and Teacher Training days held in the Riverina recently. It is unfortunate that we had to have a Territory Manager from Newcastle/Hunter and Central Coast deliver the training when the appointment of one locally could have resulted in less travel and provide ongoing support to those undertaking the training.

Despite all the problems faced by country clubs we are quietly confident of a good year ahead enhanced by an increase in the numbers of juniors playing the game.

Good golfing to all.

Ken Martin – WRDGA

WGCNC

On 18th February we held our first District Meeting for 2013 at Wauchope, when President Jan Swift welcomed Robyn Calvert as our new Secretary following the retirement of Jean Ramsey after several years on the Committee.

Our Committee Day was held at Wauchope on 10th March with 123 players for a Four Person Team Event. This enables Committee members from the CNC district to renew friendships and exchange ideas. Ray Robbins from the JNJG addressed the ladies on the progress of junior golf in our area.

A very successful 2 day junior camp was recently held at Coffs Harbour with 10 girls who had attended a previous camp and for 6 it was their first camp. Many thanks to Catherine Robinson who is working with our junior girls and putting in a great effort. Catherine hopes to have 2 more camps this year.

23 teams have entered for Handicap Pennants (14 in the South and 9 in the North) with the same format as last year.

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Our Senior's Tournament is at Kew Country Club on 7th & 8th May so hope for a good field and fine weather.

Verelle Miller - District Councillor WGCNC

RIVERINA DISTRICT GOLF ASSOCIATION

There has not been much activity with our Sand Green courses during the summer period but with Autumn rains they should be back in action by end of March or early April.

Our very successful Handicap Pennants have again proven popular with all clubs in our District. Eight teams are competing this year and the semi-finals are played on 7th April. Wagga Country Club verses Leeton Golf club in the first semi and Junee Golf Club verses Kapooka Golf Club in the other semi.

Leeton Golf Club hosted their annual Pro-Am Tournament on 16th and 17th March and again was very successful.

Wagga Country Club held a very successful week of golf in March beginning with the JNIG Wagga Masters which attracted over 100 very keen junior golfers from around the district.

The week culminated with the annual Pro-Am tournament held on 20th and 21st March with 80 professionals and 140 amateurs competing. The golf course was in excellent condition and received favourable comments from the players.

Our District Championships will be played at Junee Golf Club on 5th May and hoping for a good number of players as the course is in the best condition it has been for several years.

All our grass green courses are in good condition having received some recent rains. Most sand green courses are preparing for their golfing season and we are hoping weather conditions will be favourable for them.

David Byfield - RDGA Councillor

RIVERINA LGA

RLGA 2013 tournament calendar offers ladies plenty of golf across our region culminating with GNSW's Sandgreen Championships, at Hay, in October.

Season Opening day, 25th March, set the scene for a great year of golf. 110 ladies, playing a fourball format, thoroughly enjoyed Thurgoona's beautiful course, hospitality and the warmer than expected Autumn weather made for plenty run on the fairways. Count backs were required to separate three pairs on 46 points. Deniliquin's, Glenda Campbell and Trish Catt were the successful pair.

Twenty-two teams have registered for our inter-club pennant competition. Matches are scheduled to commence, in all four zones, on Monday 29th April. As usual competition mixed with friendly camaraderie brings out the best golf in all matches.

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There promises to be plenty of friendly rivalry on Thursday 9th May at host club, Wagga Wagga Country, for our Foursomes Championships. Representative teams will be back to Wagga Wagga Country Club in early June for our annual inter-Association match against SWLGA.

In recent times development of junior golf has caused concern and frustration for many in our region. Therefore junior golf was the major agenda item for February's Committee meeting at Lockhart. Howlong's junior MyGolf coordinator, Mrs. Jan Wilson, presented a comprehensive and practical session on the structure and implementation of Howlong's junior program from its initial stage to Howlong being named 2012 My Golf Club of the Year. Other speakers included JNJGF's CEO, Peter Van Wegen and Schools Coordinator, Ross Abbott.

An outcome of February's meeting is a JNJGF designed *Strategic Business Plan 2013-2017*. Based on Howlong's program *The Plan* formalised opportunities for the development and support of junior golf across the Riverina and South West regions. This huge area covers four men's and two ladies' associations, involving 59 golf clubs and with over 8,000 members. The Plan's distribution has been through associations' networks. The next stage is for clubs to introduce the concept to their members and if needed modify aspects to suit their needs.

Junior programs will only develop as golf communities have the structures and personnel to support them. To date a teacher training day has been conducted at Narrandera on 22nd March with 20 teachers participating from Hay to Khancoban and towns in between. Also a Community Coaching day was held on Sunday, 24th March, with six golf club participants. Further training is planned for term 2 or as requested by clubs. It is anticipated that clubs will encourage volunteers to complete the free Community Coaching courses and strengthen links with their local schools to develop sustainable, junior programs.

Margaret Playford

NORTH & NORTH WESTERN DISTRICT LADIES GOLF ASSOCIATION INC

Clubs have once again resumed their 18 hole competitions following Opening Days from late February.

Our District Association Meeting was held at Boggabri March 4th. The Association Handicap Manager reported that we have 726 handicap players registered at the end of 2012. There are 7 junior girls at present. There are 10 single figure players, the largest group, 224 players, is the 19 -27 handicaps. Our Association Junior Girls Championship was played for at Moree and was won by Zoe Curran from Emily Roworth, both girls being Tamworth players.

Our Association Pennant competition commenced March 25th and is split into Two Zones. This year we are continuing with teams of three players which has encouraged some smaller clubs to re-enter the competition. Travel distances involved continue to be very costly with such a large association.

Many clubs expressed their disappointment at the cessation of the 3BBB Classic Team event and would like to have been consulted before it was changed to the 4BBB event. It was felt that a team could include a 36

District Reports for April 2013 Council Meeting

to 45 handicap player in a 3BBB team which would give them experience but this would not be the case in a 4BBB event. Overall the feeling was that more communication would have been appreciated.

The Annual Association Tournament is to be held in Tamworth at the Longyard Golf Course, June 4th, 5th & 6th. Tournament Notices have been mailed out. We look forward to a good number of entries and would gladly welcome any ladies from all District and Metro clubs. The Presentation Dinner will be held at the Longyard Golf 19th Hole Cafe on Wednesday June 5th.

The Annual General Meeting will be held Monday June 3rd.

Di Boulton

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT GOLF ASSOC. INC. (WOMEN)

2013 Committee Members:

Life Members:	Mrs Beryle White & Mrs Deirdri Cuninghame.
President:	Mrs Marlene Ballinger
Hon. Secretary:	Ms Patricia Hall
Hon. Treasurer:	Mrs Janice Egan
Handicap Officer:	Mrs Marie Moule
Junior Prom. Officer:	Mrs Patricia Barry
Asst. Sec/Treas:	Mrs Pip White
Councillor to GNSW:	Mrs Jan Frater

Affiliated Clubs:

Armidale, Deepwater, Delungra, Emmaville, Glen Innes, Guyra, Inverell, Tenterfield, Uralla, Walcha, Warialda.

2012/2013 Winners of main events:

The Northern Cup was held at Guyra during our Annual Tournament and was won by Val Davidson from Tenterfield Annual Tournament 21/22 March 2013 Open and Closed Championships: Val Davidson - Tenterfield.

Foursomes Championship 20 March 2013: Val Davidson - Tenterfield and Elizabeth Hobday - Inverell.

4BBB/Vets Tournament 26 October 2012: Win Fayle Rose Bowl: Lil Faulkner and Rhonda Mellor - Uralla Marie Trim Trophy (Vets): Kay Nash and Pat Hall - Armidale.

Coming District Events:

Bonville 4BBB Classic District Playoff to be held at Armidale on Monday 2nd September 2013.

NEDGA Combined 4BBB/Veterans Event to be held at Glen Innes on Wednesday 25th September 2013.

Patricia Hall - Hon. Secretary

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WOMENS GOLF ILLAWARRA

With most Illawarra clubs continuing competitions through the summer holiday period, the lady golfers have had many opportunities for playing golf. However, the HMAS Creswell Golf Club was forced to close in January and members have joined neighbouring clubs.

In February, WGI held our annual Club Committee Day at Worrigeer Links Golf Course. 87 ladies from club committees played a 9 holes Las Vegas Ambrose (3 person team). We were able to use the 18 tees with a shotgun start. Trivia questions on the tees added to the fun atmosphere of the day. Following the golf, everyone gathered in the clubhouse for open discussion on matters of interest, presentation of prizes and lunch. This is always a very successful and enjoyable day.

Although the numbers of junior girls who wish to participate in golf has decreased, WGI held the District Junior Girls' Championship at Port Kembla Golf Club on a Sunday in March. This was played in conjunction with the Port Kembla Junior Classic. The 2013 Junior Champion is Danni Vasquez who had 86 gross with a handicap 11. A cadet competition over 9 holes was won by 8 years old Selena Bosevski who had 46 gross!

WGI pennant competitions are well underway. Along with the Grade competition of only 4 teams, there are 2 handicap match play competitions. The perfect format for pennant competition is difficult to find and always generates considerable discussion.

For more WGI news, visit our website: www.womensgolfillawarra.com.au

Bev Millard - Competition Secretary

CENTRAL COAST WOMENS GOLF ASSOCIATION

This is the first report that I have submitted since amalgamation and on this occasion I am expressing concern on behalf of our District Committee regarding the changes of course venues for the September Country Week Tournament. The three city courses originally chosen were advertised and in some cases accommodation booked, the feeling of those present at our meeting was that Country Week for 2013 is shifting to the country. Perhaps there is a logical answer???

Our Pennant season is underway with the majority of our clubs fielding a team of 6 players in each of the three divisions. Approximately 200 ladies attended our 2012 Presentation at Wyong Golf Club, a great occasion for all pennant players.

Joan O'Connell chose the combined CCDGA & CCWGA annual committee day at Shelly Beach in January to announce her retirement from golf administration after a long and impressive career spanning some 50 years at various Clubs, District & State level.

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The rain has again played havoc with the beginning of our golfing season at many of the clubs on the Central Coast, huge downpours, in some cases 5 inches of rain in 4 days, a nightmare for ground staff and the golfing fraternity not to mention Club CEO'S trying to make ends meet financially.

Ellen Rae
Councillor - CCWGA

NEDGA

The 2013 golfing year is underway - results from the 2012 Pennants competition were Glen Innes defeating Walcha, this year's event is due to commence in June. Open Club Days held last November at Armidale, Uralla, Glen Innes and Deepwater were all quite successful and this year there have been Open Days at Uralla, Glen Innes and Tenterfield with the smaller clubs having reduced numbers of players but Tenterfield had great numbers again. Club champions have been decided at Armidale-Vanessa Ward and Glen Innes-Janice Egan.

The District Tournament and Open Northern Cup have just been held at Guyra Golf Club with quite good entries. Major results were:- Open Foursomes Champions Elizabeth Hobday Inverell & Val Davidson Tenterfield 85 gross; 36 Hole Open & Closed Champion and "Open Northern Cup" winner Val Davidson 162 gross from Amanda Carr Armidale 165 gross. Division 2 Donna White Guyra 179 gross; Division 3 Julie Walker Guyra 198 gross; 36 Hole Nett winners were Janice Egan Glen Innes 142; Meg Simpson Guyra 143 & Jenny Shiels Guyra 77pts. Trophy winners for Fenwicke Salver-Donna White 135 nett; Mary White Cup - Guyra and the Golden Jubilee Trophy - Armidale and Champion of Club Champions - Amanda Carr Armidale. Board member, Jean Moran, represented GolfNSW and presented the Open Northern Cup and we hope that she enjoyed her visit and our district appreciates this contact with Golf NSW.

This contact was also welcome with the Information Session held at Glen Innes in early March when Sue Fabian and Frank Gal attended, giving our clubs the opportunity to ask and receive information and clarification on a range of golfing matters, thank you again.

Last year the NEDGA wrote to Golf Australia with their concerns about the new handicapping system and received a reply from Simon Magdulski early this year, with some explanations on the changes. However clubs are finding it difficult to understand and explain themselves, let alone to the club members, and GA is still making alterations as of last week. Does GolfNSW know if and when Golf Australia are going to hold their proposed education seminars on the implementation of the new handicap system as there is only some five months to the expected start. Maybe this could be the topic for the July Council meeting!

Jan Frater - NEDGA Councillor

CENTRAL WESTERN DISTRICT GOLF ASSOCIATION REPORT

Through the summer months the Pennants season took over our district with all four division competing. This year we accepted a total of 3 Clubs from outside the district in Dubbo from Western plus Forbes and Parkes from Lachlan. This year was our most successful yet with a total of 37 teams across 4 divisions competing in the event which broke down to 293 individuals participating across all clubs. Duntryleague was successful in divisions 1 and 4 whilst Parkes took out division 2 and Bathurst took out division 3.

Whist still wrangling with the idea of amalgamation with our neighbouring districts to date no progress has been made. We feel this is necessary for long term success as Central Western is providing the energy to run most events over the Mountains with no contribution from our neighbours. This is particularly evident with juniors as we run a WRAS programme that has juniors from Lachlan, Western, Blue Mountains and Central West with no funding coming from our neighbouring DGA's.

I feel that golfing numbers in some areas is strong whilst others are steady or weak. Committees and clubs need to look at flexibly to ensure that membership grows from our time poor lifestyles, and we can turn people that play golf into golfers. This may be a part time membership, sporting membership (1/2 year) or even look at family membership to tie people to a club that matches their needs rather than a money grab.

Junior growth in our DGA is still slow. However on a brighter note one of our Juniors Scott Matheson took out the Pete O'Malley Junior Masters in a play off over Zac Stoltz from the Central Coast in Bathurst recently.

Peter Mitchell

For and on behalf of John Miller

Notes: