

6.3 Women's Match Report

J. Moran

July 2013

At the last Council Meeting I alluded to the difficulties of securing courses for many of our women's tournaments. This is an issue for both men's and women's events. We have seen that by combining some men's and women's events that Clubs look more favourably on our requests to use their course. One recent example has seen the NSW Amateur event for 2014 be provided with approval for the women to play on the Wednesday and the Sunday. As a stand-alone event, the women have had a day of rest on the Wednesday, which in many Clubs is traditionally men's day. Holding the events together, or in the same region at similar times, also provides greater promotional opportunities and the obvious advantages of better use of our resources eg staffing and volunteers.

We have already made other moves in this direction with the combining of the Men's and Women's Foursomes at Magenta Shores Golf Club on the Central Coast in April this year. This is a particularly good example as the Foursomes do not attract very large fields but by running the two events side by side we had increased numbers which gave us more bargaining power in our negotiations with golf clubs. Similarly, the Women's Mid Amateur, which is a relatively new event for us, is still struggling to produce significant fields. By combining it with the Men's Mid Amateur as we did this year at Nelson Bay in April, we can buy ourselves time to build up the competition.

Another event that we feel would benefit from this approach is the Women's NSW Seniors Tournament. This has been an event that has been stagnating a little and failing to attract new players. However there are issues here in combining the two, as the format of the two events is different. Whereas the men's tournament runs over three days, the women's tournament runs over four days and involves two days of qualifying stroke play and two days of match play. Without doubt the match play is a great part of the tournament but it also means that it exacerbates the difficulties we have in securing courses as we must book a course for part of an extra two days in order to accommodate the event. We have looked at different options to allow us to include a matchplay component but within a reduced time frame and could not come up with a solution. We might have put this in the "too hard box" had it not been for a proposal from the Orange Council offering financial support and help to run the Women's NSW Seniors in conjunction with the Men's in 2015. It was the impetus we needed to bite the bullet and change the format. As a result at the last Women's Match Meeting it was resolved that the event would change to a three day stroke format, similar to the men's event. In doing so we were aware that some players would not be happy with this change. The Match Committee feels that it must take a long term view to ensure the viability of the competition into the future. We must attract a wider range of mature age, elite golfers and we hope that this will be the way to do it.

Another move that will come into play next year is the development of a Weekend Metropolitan Pennant for women. This is not a replacement for the Friday Pennant already in existence but is to be in addition. It reflects the reality that many women golfers work and are simply unable to take time off mid week for a game of golf. Juniors will also be able to play without taking time off school. We feel that as a responsible organisation we should not be encouraging this practise. Details are currently being formulated and will be publicised as soon as they are finalised.

As always we continue to review our conditions of play for various events. We made a number of small changes aimed at making the conditions consistent with other like competitions, or to clarify or enlarge upon the meaning of current conditions. In regard to the Women's Golf NSW Medal Competition, Women Captains will have more leeway in deciding what to do when bad weather occurs on a medal day. Full details will be given of any changes to events when they come into effect next year.

As pointed out in my previous report to the Council, the Women's Match Committee is a strategic planning group. The tournaments that we run must reflect the changing world in which we live. We must constantly review and keep on top of current trends in order to try and anticipate how we can best take advantage of them. I am sure that we will not get this right every time but it is better to be pro-active and make mistakes than to let events overtake us and leave us behind.

Women's Events:

Women's Foursomes Championship

Held at Magenta Shores Golf Club in April

Winners: Tess MacDonald & Doey Choi Pennant Hills Golf Club and Concord Golf Club

Autumn Meeting (Canberra Week)

Held in the ACT in May at a variety of clubs over the week. This is an event open to all women golfers and offers the opportunity to play competition golf at some great courses and also to take advantage of the many attractions of Canberra. Our numbers were down this year and we only ran two divisions instead of three. There are often many reasons for reduced participant numbers but we are confident that this year it was largely due to a clash with another tournament.

Winners: Paige Stubbs Pennant Hills Golf Club

NSW Women's Mid Amateur

held at Nelson Bay Golf Club in the Hunter District in conjunction with the Men's Mid Amateur. A very small but competitive field.

Winner: Gemma Dooley - NSW Golf Club

NSW Mixed Weekend

This was held in June in conjunction with Mudgee Golf Club, with the intention of Mudgee taking over the organisation in the future. The weekend was very successful, marred only by the rain. Marcia Box and her Committee are to be commended on raising over \$2,000 worth of sponsorship and running an excellent event. Participants not only enjoyed the golf but were treated to wine tastings and samples of local produce. The area offers much to the golfing tourist and I would recommend the weekend to everybody.

Winners Saturday: Glenn and Alison Baker of Mudgee Golf Club

Winners Sunday: Lea Shapiera, Pip Shapiera, Peter Morris and Jenny Morris of Wakehurst Golf Club

Women's Senior Championships

Held at Manly Golf Club in Sydney on their new re-designed and challenging course. Competition was strong, despite some poor weather conditions. Deirdre Brander defeated seven times champion, Sylvia Donohoe in the semis and went onto tough it out against Jackie Morgan. A well deserved win!

Winner: Deirdre Brander - Newcastle Golf Club

A full list of results can be found on the Golf NSW website.

Coming events:

Pewter Plate - July 22nd at Manly

NSW Mixed Foursomes - 4th August at Shelly Beach Golf Club

Bronze Medallian - 16th September at Wakehurst Golf Club

Coronation Medal - 17th September at Ryde Parramatta Golf Club

Women's Mountain Meeting - 14th-17th October - various

Women's Sand Greens Tournament 19th & 20th October – at Hay Golf Club

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Metropolitan and District Finals of KENO Mixed Fourball Championship at various courses, with the State Final October 10-13 at Bonville Golf Resort
Metropolitan and District Finals of Women's Fourball Classic

Jean Moran
Chair of Women's Match