

- **Committee Information Sessions**

We have now completed 14 of the 20 planned country sessions. Since the last Council meeting, sessions have been conducted at Bermagui, Shellharbour Links, Coffs Harbour and Taree. Further sessions are in the planning stage for Singleton and Tamworth during December (subject to confirmation). Sessions will also be conducted for Metropolitan Zone A clubs at two venues (possibly Pennant Hills and Wakehurst) during November.

- **Club Level Rules Accreditation**

Over 400 people have attended seminars throughout the state during 2013 with over 120 sitting the on-line exams. The exam process is ongoing with attendees allowed a few weeks after the seminar to complete the exam. Thus far, 80% have passed, which is a significant improvement over previous years. This is partly due, however, to a decrease in the pass mark for the 50 question exam from 40 to 35.

It is pleasing that over 17% of those sitting the exam achieved the distinction level pass of 45+ correct answers.

- **State Level**

Twenty three keen people attended the state level seminar conducted at Elanora Country Club on 8/9 September.

Twenty have thus far completed both the written and practical examinations, with twelve passing (60%). Three who narrowly failed at the first attempt are to complete a supplementary exam by mid October, so the pass rate may increase. This is also an improvement over previous years and is most likely due to the extended practical components of the course and that the written exam was conducted some two weeks after the seminar, which significantly eased the stress levels of attendees on the final day.

- **Referees**

Many clubs have difficulty providing officials with sufficient knowledge to resolve rules issues during pennant competitions and major club events (e.g. Vardon or Jean Derrin). Golf NSW will make state accredited personnel available, on request, to provide assistance to clubs at such events. Where practicable, this service will also be available to districts and country clubs if an accredited official can be sourced.

- **2014/15 Decisions**

The new Decisions Book will be available from about December and clubs and districts are encouraged to procure copies for their respective match committees. The books are available economically and quickly from various on-line sites such as Amazon .com.

Expect further clarification in the new decisions on issues such as the use of smart phones and the well publicised penalty imposed on Tiger Woods under Rule 18-2b during the BMW Championship in September.

Frank Gal

Chair,

Rules and Amateur Status Committee