

Women's Country Meeting- 1-4th September 2014



This year our loved & competent tour director, Peg James, organised 31 lady golfers from the North Coast to travel to Sydney to play the Golf N.S.W. country week tournament. Our "newly blooded" bus driver Tony, from Northland Buses, packed & transported ladies from Coolangatta/Tweed, Grafton, Maclean, Yamba, Woolgoolga, Coffs Harbour & Bellingen to the city. At Bondi Junction we educated Tony with our shopping survival packs, for four days in Sydney. Over the last five years we have enjoyed playing city courses in the northern, eastern & western suburbs. Golf N.S.W. manages each year to find good city courses in different areas for country players to experience. We have come to understand that "good city courses" actually means beautiful courses full of challenges, bunkers, hazards, water & surprises hiding over hills. This year was no different with lots of fun filled challenges for everyone.

The first course played was Bardwell Valley which was aptly named as it really was situated in a valley. The members had worked very hard to prepare the course for us after receiving around 14 inches of rain in the prior two weeks. The bunkers were washed out so it was indeed our pleasure to freely drop from them. The 30cm preferred lies were also welcomed. Low lying parts of the course were still wet & muddy. Most holes were uphill or downhill & some sloped sideways. While the course was not long, it was very tricky with narrow fairways

requiring careful placement of shots. Most errant shots were punished with long grass, trees or hazards. A heavy track & up & down walking made for tired golfers at the end of play. Despite the conditions some of our tour group managed to be in the winner's circle. In division one, Elizabeth Knowles was 18 hole nett runner up, In division two, Kim Moore was 18 hole nett runner up closely followed by Lyn Rowland for third. The members of the club showed us wonderful hospitality greeting us on arrival with a cuppa & bun, and then acting as spotters for our balls on the course. After golf, the chef provided us with a lunch enjoyed by all.

Day Two of the 36 hole event was played at the very picturesque Ryde/Parramatta course. Many fairways seemed to have the "wow factor". Deep water & hazardous rocky ravines prior to greens were the undoing of many players. I started my round on the 8th hole which had a wide, deep, rocky, wet hazard to be crossed on the approach to the green placed slightly to the right. After going into the hazard 4 times, one playing partner managed to bounce her next shot from the hazard to the other side at which time her nerves were shot. I saw a funny sight as I walked towards the 11th green. Jodie Rockliff was waving her arms about in some weird dance ritual & as I was thinking that she was enjoying herself, my playing partner suggested we stop to allow Jodie's group to hit their drives on the 12th across our fairway. It must have been a double warning because Chrissy Danvers then had a 6 shot argument with a bunker on the 12th. The 15th green was obscured from view as we were hitting our second shot over a rise. I chose to sprint up to check what was over the hill to be greeted by a creek curving in from the right onto a large dam in front of the green. It gave Jodie a good laugh looking back to see the look of horror on my face but my playing partners were glad to know what lay ahead. Jodie was seen chatting across fairways & hugging despondent golfers, but was chastised by a very cranky Lyn Dahl for laughing as Lyn's chip on the green rolled back to her & onto a sprinkler head. Imagine what Jodie could achieve if she concentrated on her golf! What goes on tour remains on tour, but we know golfers laugh mercilessly at the mishaps of others. Jo Walters and Gail Knell were spotted resorting to collecting lost balls from the hazards after completely exhausting their own supply. Sue Reguson & Janeen Roberts evoked the sympathy of the rules official, incurring a 2 stroke penalty, for hitting off the first tee instead of the tenth. Play was in quite windy conditions & with many umbrellas up for the odd shower of rain many sticks were seen to blow over. Scores for day two of our adventure were very scary but it's all "relative" and again we had some winners. In division one Kim Wiblen was runner up in the 18 hole nett with Jodie Rockliff following for third.

Presentation for the two days followed golf at Ryde/Parramatta. The 18 hole prizes were awarded, followed by the 36 hole trophies. Jodie Rockliff was runner up for the 36 hole scratch event in division one. Lyn Rowland was runner up for the 36 hole nett event in division two.



Kim Moore, Lyn Rowland,

Liz Knowles Kim Wiblen,

Jodie Rockliff

Our own tour presentation followed on Tuesday "party night". Many girls received a prize but Jodie Rockliff was the tour scratch champ. Kim Wiblen , nett champ, managed to wrestle "The Black Jacket" away from Trish Hill who won it last year. After Trish suited her up, Kim was seen out & about in Sydney wearing it proudly. Thanks again Enid Dougherty for shopping & adding to a great night.



Kim Wiblen

As if Golf N.S.W. thought we might all be a little "precious" after day two, we played foursomes at Beverly Park on Thursday to complete the golfing part of the trip. This was more like a country course with wide fairways & not too much trouble if balls were well struck. It was also a reasonably flat course. Sue Reguson & Jodie Rockliff, last year's foursomes champions, managed to defend their title winning the Vera Rankin Trophy again. Merryl Kyburz & Leanne Clark were runner up to Sue & Jodie in the scratch event. Peg James & Kim Wiblen

won the Nett event. Janeen Roberts & Enid Dougherty were runners up in the division one nett. Trish Hill & Cathy Beach won division two nett.



Sue and Jodie



Leanne and Merryl



Peg and Kim



Cathy and Trish



Enid and Janeen

To complete the city experience, Golf N.S.W. gives a day off golf, on Wednesday, to add some culture to our lives. Many of us hit the city shops followed by "Strictly Ballroom" the musical at the Lyric Theatre. Then we took a ferry ride on the harbour and a bus ride to dinner where we met up with those who had alternate plans. Ros Hemsley never did unroll the exotic carpet she bought to warm her house. After dinner Kim Moore showed a misspent youth at the pub pool table where Ros & Jan Kearsley also enjoyed a quiet challenge.

This was our fifth trip to county week & it was good to catch up with past tour buddies & share a love of golf, many laughs & social interaction. Each course played definitely required different strategic planning.

Lyn Rowland