



30 April 2015

To all Australian Golf Clubs,

Subject: Release of GA and R&A Pace of Play Reports

Late last year two surveys were conducted on pace of play. The R&A conducted an international survey of golfers (ie consumers), and GA built on the work of The R&A by commissioning a survey of Australian clubs (ie service providers). The GA survey was conducted by Jeff Blunden of GBAS. Many thanks to all those club officials who assisted with these surveys – it is sincerely appreciated by GA.

The reports of these two surveys have both been released this week and are now available from the following page of the GA website – www.golf.org.au/paceofplayreport

We would also like to make you aware that the new edition of Golf Australia magazine (which is unrelated to GA) hits the newsstands today (Thursday 30 April) and it includes a feature written by editor Brendan James on the GA report. We would encourage club administrators to have a look at this article.

The objectives of The R&A and the GA surveys were to try to establish whether people genuinely feel there is a problem with pace of play, the degree of importance they attach to the problem, what people feel are the causes of the problem, and whether there may be any financial or participation impacts. Previously there has been plenty of anecdotal evidence available on some of these topics and everyone will have their view, however we believe it is important to be proceeding on the basis of accurate and comprehensive data and these surveys have been very helpful in this regard.

When releasing its report earlier this week The R&A commented that “we feel the next step in this process is to engage with our partners throughout the golf industry to look at these findings and invite them to contribute their views to these important discussions”. The R&A is organising a forum later this year where it will invite contributions from a range of organisations in golf on addressing pace of play and explore the key areas of player behaviour, management approaches and golf course issues. This forum will work through the findings of The R&A report of golfers and it will also discuss the GA survey of Australian clubs.

GA looks forward to contributing as much as we can to The R&A forum. We also look forward to working with The R&A to develop integrated international guidance material that will be of assistance to those clubs who are affected by the issue of pace of play.

To best enable us to put all views forward to The R&A forum we will invite any club or other industry entity to email to us (at simonm@golf.org.au) any submission or thoughts it may have that has been provoked by either the GA report or The R&A report, or by discussion of pace of play generally. We will publicise closing dates for submissions once The R&A has announced the timing of its forum.

We hope these reports are of interest. Please contact me should you have any queries or if you wish to make a submission or comment to GA on this issue.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Magdulski
Director – Rules & Handicapping