

# 2015 South Australian Golf Industry Awards Night

Saturday 17 October 2015

## SCRIPT

### Ben Hook (MC)

I would like to invite **Andrew Gay** (President of the Golf Management Australia SA Division) and Award Sponsor **Tim Colling** (State Account Manager - Golf for Schweppes) to come forward to present the **(GMA SA)** award for:

### DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO GOLF CLUB MANAGEMENT

#### Andrew Gay

In September I attended the Golf Management Australia biennial conference along with over 200 Golf Club managers from around Australia and was surprised by the number of new General Managers who were attending their first conference. This was further highlighted when I started reviewing some stats on length of tenure for GM's which showed the current average tenure of a Golf Club manager is just 5 years. There of course are a number of reasons for this including financial pressure on clubs, poor candidate selection and inexperienced committees and boards.

So when it recently came to my attention that a respected Adelaide General Manager had this year achieved 30 years' service at the one golf club the GMA SA Executive decided we needed to acknowledge this achievement which reflects well both on the individual and the Clubs culture.

Dean Stanton was appointed as Secretary (title subsequently changed to General Manager) in April 1985 being formerly employed as Secretary of the Bordertown Golf Club.

When he arrived at Tea Tree Gully Golf Club in 1985 women members were known as Associates, there was a special membership category for the Clergy, full membership cost \$420 and the Club assets were valued at \$583,000.

Today their assets total \$3.1 million, however unfortunately for their members Dean has not been able to maintain subscription rates at the 1985 level.

During Dean's tenure at Tea Tree Gully he has overseen many changes. Some of the major projects which he has managed are:-

- Major additions and alterations to the clubhouse which cost \$1million;
- Installation of a new watering system, incorporating current technology, at a cost of \$750,000;
- The construction of one of the first ASR systems. The development and installation of that system involved consultation with the Tea Tree Gully Council, the Water Catchment Board and the Environment Protection Agency.
- Construction of a new Workshop and associated facilities which meet current occupational, health and safety standards and environmental requirements;
- Establishment of a storage facilities for club members' ride on golf carts;
- Construction of a new Driving Range incorporating under cover hitting bays;
- Replacement of the Clubhouse air conditioning system;

- Significant changes to the course configuration to improve playing conditions and to prevent damage to properties adjacent to the golf course.

He was a leading force behind the introduction of "Club Advantage" which has provided significant benefits to the members of this and the other golf clubs involved.

He is a strong promoter of junior golf and recent initiatives by both Dean and other club members have seen a welcome increase in junior membership.

Similarly to most General Managers of golf clubs he works far in excess of the "40 hour week". His working day usually commences at 7:00am and he seldom leaves his office before 6:30pm. Dean was also instrumental in employing Ivan Tanner as Golf Course Superintendent in June 1985 a role Ivan still holds today. There certainly wouldn't be many (if any) golf clubs in Australia with 60 years of combined service between these two key positions.

Dean is highly regarded by his peers and is always willing to assist others by passing on knowledge gained through over 30 years as General Manager of a large and successful golf club.

He has been an active member of GMSA since 1982. He fully supports the aims and objectives of Golf Management Australia and regularly attends the GMA conferences seeking to continually expand his knowledge and professional development.

Dean is held in high regard by the staff and members of the Tea Tree Gully Golf Club for his administrative and personal skills. Over the 30 years he has shown loyalty and leadership to both the Tea Tree Gully Golf Club and to the South Australian golfing community.

It is therefore my privilege to invite Dean to the stage to accept this award for his Distinguished Service to Golf Club Management.

### **Dean Stanton - Tea Tree Golf Club**