



**NATIONAL SENIOR ADVISORY GROUP
MEETING – FRIDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2008
VIA PHONE CONFERENCE**

MEETING SUMMARY

Present: Ian Read – Chairman (GA), Bill Banks (ACT), Les Browne (NSW), Pat Giles (VIC), Carmel Smith (Qld),

In attendance: Therese Ritter (GA)

Apologies: Tony Mazzone (SA), Bob Howe (WA), Bruce Kelly (TAS) and Brian Pepper (NT)

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes from the meeting of 24 April 2008 were approved.

2. BUSINESS ARISING

2.1 Australian Men's Senior Championship - Future Venues

It was confirmed that Bribie Island Golf Club will host the 2009 Championship from 12-14 May 2009.

Royal Canberra Golf Club has agreed to host the 2010 Championship from Wednesday 28 – Friday 30 April. The event will commence on the Wednesday as the Anzac Day Public Holiday falls on the Monday and the club wished to keep its course open to Members on that day. A combination of all three 9 holes will be used. Bill Banks requested that sufficient carts would be available as some would be made available for the Members (there are 16 carts in total).

It was suggested the 2010 ACT Senior Amateur be played at a similar time.

2.2 Women's Senior Golf

Australian Women's Senior Amateur Championship – Format:

The responses from the survey indicated a preference amongst the players to retain the match play format, although the State Associations would not be unhappy about moving towards stroke play. After discussion it was agreed that the event is well supported at this time and changing to stroke play would more than likely have a detrimental impact on the event. NSAG recommends [1] retaining the match play format at this time.

Report – Future of Women's Senior Golf:

The results of the survey were tabled, and NSAG recommends [2] the following:

1. Play the Australian Women's Mid Amateur in conjunction with the Men's Mid Amateur
2. Leave the Australian Women's Senior Amateur at its current time (ie not align it with the Men's Senior Amateur)
3. The draw for the Australian Women's Senior Amateur to be based round travelling companions (as opposed to a seeded draw)
4. Retain the 22.4 handicap limit
5. Consider a flight for 70+ for 2010 if numbers warrant it
6. Include a Handicap and Age column on the score board
7. Move forward with the Australian Senior Women's Ranking System

The recommendations will be presented to the next meeting of the Golf Australia Championships Committee.

"Lizard" Trophy:

NSAG was advised that the Championships Committee agreed to replace the "Lizard" Trophy with a new trophy (all names have been engraved on the new Trophy).

2.3 Australian Men's Senior Match Play Championship:Format:

Ian Read advised the 2009 Championship would consist of 32 players, with an additional 8 players in a Super Senior Category. The Super Seniors will be divided into two pools of four players, and after playing round robin, the winners of each pool will contest the Final. A field of 40 players will assist the event financially.

The majority of NSAG felt the Championship may be better supported once ranking points were allocated. It was agreed the Committee Members would provide recommendations regarding how these points could be awarded at the next meeting.

Pat Giles queried players withdrawing from the event once they are knocked out of the main Championship. The Committee agreed this was a breach of the conditions of the Championship. The conditions will be tightened for 2009 whereby players must commit to the entire five days (unless exceptional circumstances apply). It was also agreed that if a player withdrew without a sufficient reason, he would receive no ranking points, however it would be counted as a divisor.

Future Dates and Venues:

The Committee was advised that Barwon Heads Golf Club had been invited to host the event from 19-23 October 2009. From 2010 onwards, the event will be held in the last week of October (the VGA is happy to move its Senior Championship to earlier in the month).

Discussion surrounded future venues, and whether Barwon Heads Golf Club and the players, would be comfortable with making the club the "permanent home" of the Championship. Pat Giles felt the club would be happy with this arrangement, and the Committee believed the players would also be happy with the venue.

2.4 Australian Senior Ranking Systems

The Committee had reviewed the new conditions for the Australian Men's Senior Ranking System which are consistent with the other Australian Amateur Ranking Systems. There was concern that the Australian Men's Senior Amateur did not receive sufficient points comparatively to the State Senior Amateurs. Ian Read advised that a further weighting table of 180 points had been introduced which would be allocated to the Australian Men's and Women's Senior Amateurs.

The procedure should an event be shortened was also tabled. This is:

- An event reduced from 72 to 54 holes – no change
- An event reduced from 54 to 36 holes – no change
- An event reduced from 72 to 36 holes – weight reduced by 1 points table
- An event reduced to 18 holes – weight reduced to Table 1 (ie 70 points)

These will be adopted for all Australian Ranking Systems.

The three place getters of the Australian Men's Senior Ranking System will receive a Gold, Silver and Bronze Medallion. It was agreed the place getters of the Super Seniors (65 and over) will also receive a gold, silver and bronze medallion.

Bill Banks was concerned about a decline in the number of competitors in this year's senior events (more so the club level events). He felt this was a result of the draw pairings – the lower markers were all paired together rather than in past years where a low marker, mid range marker and higher marker had been paired together. He also felt it was due to there now being too many events, and hence new events were diluting the existing events. The Committee agreed with these comments. NSAG will meet in the days prior to the 2009 Australian Men's Senior Amateur in Qld, to specifically discuss this issue.

2.5 Senior Team Events

Asia-Pacific Senior Amateur:

NSAG was advised the Asia-Pacific Team was now a six man team.

Sanctuary Cove Cup:

A letter received by Sanctuary Cove Golf Club advised that one of the Captain's picks must be a member of Sanctuary Cove Golf Club. NSAG had received advice that this was not correct, but recommended that the Captain be Phil Billings. As the Captain had two picks, NSAG was happy if he wished to select a member of Sanctuary Cove Golf Club. Therese Ritter to reply.

Ian Read advised that a Queensland senior National Referee would be in attendance.

Selection Criteria:

The selection for the 2009 Senior Teams would remain as per 2008 (see GA Website). The ADF Match is scheduled to be held from 16-17 March at The National Golf Club. There is a chance that a female player may be in the ADF Team, and hence, moving forward Golf Australia should consider including women in this team.

2.6 Accommodation Packages

Pat Giles advised that he is in negotiations with the Chifley Group who sponsors the PGA to obtain 50% off the rack rate. It is hoped this will be available to all senior golfers, and possibly Golf Australia generally.

2.7 USGA Senior Match Play Championship Exemptions

The USGA was meeting in October to consider all exemptions, however at this time there has been no advice from them.

3. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To Be Confirmed.