

MINUTES OF NHDLGA GENERAL MEETING HELD AT MEREWETHER GOLF CLUB ON MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022 at 9.30am

Welcome: Opened

Attendance

Committee: President Val Smith, Captain Dom Kelly, V President Margaret Pearson, Junior Promotions Officer Philippa Kearney, Secretary Robyn Winter, Assist. Secretary Rosanna Rossi, Treasurer Sue Randall, Life Member Lorraine O'Connor.

Clubs: Per attendance book - Belmont, Beresfield, Charlestown, Kurri, Maitland, Merewether, Muree, Newcastle, Nelson Bay, Pacific Dunes, Shortland Waters, Toronto, Tanilba Bay, Waratah,

Apologies

Committee: Communications Officer Linda Overend, Committee Member Colleen French, Life Member Beryl Tobin

Clubs: Hawks Nest, Horizons, Karuah, Sugar Valley, Viney Creek, Murrurundi

Minutes from Previous Meeting 19th April 2021

Proposed: **Tanilba Bay**
Carried

Seconded: **Beresfield**

Business Arising from Previous Minutes
Nil

Correspondence

Inwards Mail:

Club Flyers, Club Contact Details' Other District Flyers, Wendy Wilkinson (Inside Golf), Pennant Contact List updates

Outwards Mail: Club Flyers, Other District Flyers, Committees Day Flyer, Pennant Draws, AGM Minutes and Reports, Updated Club Open Days, General Meeting Dates for 2022, Annual Report to GNSW, Wendy Wilkinson. Pennants COP, Pennants Contact List.

Reports:

1. Captain's Report

I would like to welcome everyone back to the 2022 golfing season. I hope the year continues on relatively trouble free, but I dare not expect too much as we all know how quickly things can go pear shaped with the COVID virus still ever present. Last year was a long year with a number of events completed but also a further number of events having to be cancelled late in the year with no chance for them to be rescheduled.

The NewCoast Cup

Our final event for 2021 was the NewCoast Cup which was held in early December on the Central Coast at Magenta Shores GC on Saturday 4th & Shelly Beach GC on Sunday 5th. This was the second time this event was run & our hosts from the CCWGA did a terrific job in

securing the courses at a bargain price & keeping us informed of all the requirements they were requested to ask of all of our team to keep them safe & to ensure the event could still go ahead. The delay in being able to confirm if we could go ahead due to lockdowns, caused a few anxious moments about the uniform & if we could get them done in time. I am happy to say our Team looked great & represented our District extremely well, demonstrating great sportsmanship, skill & camaraderie. I would like to thank them all for giving up their weekend to participate & to give a special mention to my two reserves- Carol Knox & Patsy Fielding, for stepping into the team when a couple of the starting team became unavailable. It was an honour to be a part of this team & work with them all to get such a pleasing result. A sincere thank you to Val our President, our supporters & caddies for their support & for being a part of such a special two days.

We faced a very motivated & talented Central Coast team & it was good to see such a number of very young & talented girls participating & I know that they will only get better. Playing the Central Coast on their home turf was a huge challenge, & the first day of foursomes match play finishing 3 all, was a great result.

The second day of singles matchplay presented a great number of exciting contests, with a good number of them going to the 18th hole. The last match featured the top two seeded players of Stacie McDonald & Yvonne Boardman which finished all square after 18 holes & left the two teams all tied. A decision between myself & fellow Captain-Jude Tarran then requested that these two players continue back down the first hole in a sudden death playoff to break the tie. This resulted in our team victorious by the narrowest of margins. Stacie had a birdie & Yvonne a par. The final point score was the NHDLGA with 9.5 points to the CCWGA with 8.5 points & retention of the Cup. It should be an exciting contest in 2022.

Committee's Day

Committee's Day will be held at Shortland Waters GC on Monday 21st February with a great field of 102 players. A decision by the committee to assist all clubs by offering 2 free entries was well received. We thought it was a way we could show you our appreciation in advance of all the hard work you will do in the upcoming months. Thank you to Sue Randall for all her organising of the carts & entries to help us make the day run smoothly & hopefully Covid free.

Pennants

The Pennant season is due to begin on Monday 14th March for a quite a revamped competition. There will be 3 divisions in the Scratch Pennant & a newly named Bronze Pennant in 2 divisions- Northern & Southern. Both competitions will have a final contest to determine the winner of each division's pennant.

The Weekend Pennant competition is continuing on without any real changes except for the order of play. It will be in line with the other two competitions. Play will be in GA order lowest to highest.

The top two teams from the Scratch competition in each division & the top team from each division in the Bronze competition will meet to decide who is the winner in 2022. The intended dates are on the draws. There will be only 1 wash out date for both competitions. Once used, there will be no other washout dates available.

I hope that you are excited & looking forward to the changes that are being implemented & I hope the finals encourage the clubs involved, to get behind their team by turning up to support their players.

The committee has met & discussed in detail the Pennant COP & they have been sent out to you all for viewing prior to this meeting.

The draws have been on the website & I would ask that you make note of a number of time variations for some rounds.

In the Scratch divisions, as many as possible of the starting times as I could get have been pushed back to 8.30am as requested. But take note of the ones that are still at 8.00am. I have highlighted these times.

Division 3 has the most variations in times & I do apologise for the early time of 7.30am in round 4 at Charlestown. After discussions with the pro shop, they had concerns about how slow & the amount of time matches were taking to complete & were only prepared to have tee off from 7.30am that day. The first round at Pacific Dunes is later for the reason that they had a 7.30 start or an 11am start, so I opted for the later one.

The Bronze Pennant rounds will commence a couple of weeks later on the 28th March, as there are fewer rounds & to hopefully finish all together with the Scratch competition in preparation for the finals.

Other Items

* The **Beryl Tobin Trophy** is to commence again this year after having to be cancelled last year. The committee has decided to waive the \$5.00 fee from each club for registering for this event & will cover this cost ourselves.

* The **District Medal** had to be cancelled last year & the committee has decided not to have some of last year's winners transfer to this year's playoff. We didn't have many clubs enter so decided that all money would be refunded & we would start again in 2022.

* The **2021 Club Champions** will be able to be a part of the Champion of Champions Day in 2022.

* Recently GNSW held the NSW Champion of Champions event down at Manly GC & I would like to congratulate **Stacie McDonald** from Merewether GC for finishing 3rd. This was an excellent result.

* All our District events have been booked for 2022 & I would like to thank Robyn Winter for getting this done.

* Robyn is also updating the Pennant contacts list & it should be finalised soon. If you haven't sent in your details, could you do so asap so it can be sent out to our clubs. My apologies to any of you that received an email from me with the Pennant COP by mistake on Saturday. I was working off the old list & wanted to get it out asap before this meeting.

I wish you all well in the upcoming golfing season & hope things run as smoothly as possible.

Proposed: **Pacific Dunes**

Seconded: **Maitland**

Carried

2. Treasurer's Report

The year-to-date result, as at the 31st January 2022, shows a loss of (\$5,363.32), however, during this period we've provided grants to affiliated clubs for a total of \$8K.

Our reconciled trading account balance at 31st of January was \$13,529.06 and our term deposit balance was \$30,000.

The only event to be held since the last meeting, which was the AGM, is the Newcastle Cup. Costs in relation to this amount to \$1,772 with the cost of the caps still to be received. Except for green fees of \$360 the remainder was for the cost of shirts and the embroidery of logos for both shirts and caps. As this has been a considerable outlay, it has been decided that the shirts and caps will be used for several years before replacement and a couple of additional shirts will be purchased, if possible, to accommodate sizing in the event of any movement in the team moving forward.

Committee Day is set down for Monday 21st February at Shortland Waters and all entry fees and cart fees have been collected in full. We have received entries from 16 of the 20 affiliated clubs with 102 players entered. That is a very pleasing response. I'm sure it will be a very successful tournament to start this year's calendar.

Looking forward to your continued support this year, when hopefully our golfing calendar will return to normality.

Proposed: **Toronto**

Seconded: **Charlestown**

Carried

General Business

1. Junior Report – Philippa Kearney updated the meeting on several junior fixtures that took place last year, noting the success of several participants. In order to have access to a better database of junior girls in the District she asked of all the clubs if they could contact her (her email and mobile phone number to be made available) with details of any juniors they may have at their club.
2. Inside Golf – Rosanna updated the meeting of the fact that there's a local person, Wendy Wilkinson, as the Newcastle, Hunter Valley & Central Coast representative, so if any club has news worthy items they're encouraged to submit them to Wendy. She also noted that unless there were any objections or requests for privacy from individuals, that the District would from time to time submit its own articles and photos for publication.
3. Grants Acquittal – Rosanna updated the meeting that an Acquittal Report had been finalised and would be sent out to those clubs who'd received Grant funding. It's a 2-page form and will need to be returned by 30/11/22. The District will then evaluate these to ascertain providing further funding next year.

- **Charlestown** asked the question as to what types of things were approved for funding. Rosanna replied that successful applications met the conditions guidelines, which had a central theme of running programs/classes/clinics to attract new members.

- **Kurri** informed the meeting of their program of their *Welcome To Golf Program* and how overwhelmed they were to the responses received to participate, which has resulted in their running an extra course to that which they'd initially publicised, additional funding for which was met by their club towards the running costs.

- **Nelson Bay** informed the meeting that they've started a *Bay Buddies Program*, noting that 18 of their 23 participants have got their handicaps through to play competition golf. More events to be held this year, along with feasibility of setting up a crèche facility to accommodate younger women.
- **Merewether** informed the meeting that they've also been inundated by the responses to their *Get Into Golf Invitation Program*. Capacity was for 12 participants, so first clinic was held in November and a second clinic to accommodate another 10 participants, started in February. 4 women from the first clinic have signed up with the Minors.
- **Toronto** informed the meeting that they've started their program, with the expectation of around 10 scheduled to turn up, but were pleasantly surprised to have 23 turn up for the first of their 6 week program.
- **Shortland Waters** informed the meeting that they'd run a clinic last year in April with 80 women attending. They've commenced a new program, initially scheduled for October 21, but now commencing this month. Have had 30 join the club.
- **Pacific Dunes** informed the meeting that they'd started their first session two weeks ago, thinking they'd get 6 to attend, but have had 18 ladies who turned up.

4. Report from Linda Overend – Communications Officer (read by Val)

NHDLGA is taking steps to update our website. With the changes in technology over the past several years and more and more people working from smart phones and tablets, it's time for our website to get a 'refresh'.

Why are we updating the current website?

1. Primarily because we're encountering more and more compatibility issues when people try to use the website and register for events especially when these actions are on smart phones/tablets
2. We're very limited on the size of documents and photos
3. We have ever increasing problems with the on-line forms and the reliability of the information being passed to the district.

So... where are we then:

We're in the process of contracting an IT company to work with us to make the new website a reality in 2022. Here's a summary of requirements for the new website but remember, we don't know, what we don't know so please, if you have ideas for the website, or have experienced any problems, please let us know so we can resolve them in this upgrade.

The new website must:

1. Perform across devices Apple and Android/ Mac and PC
2. Must have easy to use, on-line entry forms
3. Enable us to build Photo gallery for events
4. Must allow multiple photos on a single 'page' or for an event
5. Allow news articles with or without a photo
6. Calendar of events instead of the by club listing we currently use

- a. Link calendar events to flyers and registrations
7. Provide links to our Facebook

If you have any information to pass on, please contact Linda Overend our Communications Officer.

Other Business

Belmont – queried the allocation of points for Pennants. Dom noted this new arrangement was to make it more competitive across the field. It was noted that the new set up may not suit everyone, however this year will see it trialled and await the outcome.

The meeting was informed of change of venue for future meetings from August, including the AGM, when Merewether's clubhouse is to be demolished, to Shortland Waters Golf Club.

Val discussed the Committee Golf day next Monday (21/2/22) and noted that the sponsoring of 2 players from each committee was the District's acknowledgement of the hard work undertaken by the committee members.

Nelson Bay asked what other clubs' position was regarding limiting handicaps to 54 or 45. Responses were mixed where some clubs set 45 as their maximum while others 54. Dom noted that for all District pennants events was a limit set. It was agreed that it's a club-by-club decision.

Nelson Bay asked if the District were organising a Mixed Foursomes event. Dom noted that there was no discussions regarding this, only similar event was a masters event run by Golf NSW that was referred to by Newcastle delegate.

Next General Meeting: Monday 27th June 2022
Meeting closed: 10.25 am