

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2013 has been a busy year and started with the closure of the Southern Cross pitch & putt venue on the 31st of January. This was extremely disappointing and despite the strenuous efforts of the Southern Cross Pitch & Putt Club management to stop it, the Southern Cross Club management was determined to close it down - a very sad loss to the pitch & putt community and in particular to the Southern Cross Woden Pitch & Putt club members. It was the most beautiful course in Australia. Woden members have now amalgamated with CIGC and their attendance and support has transposed CIGC into a very strong club.

In February the ACT Championships were held and were a great success drawing contestants from Waverly and Wagga.

April saw the inaugural Interclub Challenge being held in Wagga. This event, although different from the original concept put forward by Brendon Underwood (an inter-club teams event), was hotly contested between CIGC, Waverly and Wagga with Waverly being the eventual winners. The event proved successful and is to be held again at Wagga in April 2014. The purpose of this event is to have an annual challenge between clubs at which APPA will present the ranking awards for the previous year.

May was the month where SA held their open which was well attended by CIGC and Wagga. The SA Pitch & Putt association headed by Peter O'Dare ran a well organized event which was enjoyed by both the locals and the interstate competitors. Their course was in good condition but is apparently undergoing improvements over the next two years which has seen SA put in a bid to hold the 2016 Australian International Open.

The World stroke play was held in July at Galicia, Spain. This event saw participation by four Australians- James Rogerson, Jack Kalis, Helen Angel and Marie Hutchison (by invitation). Anthony Kalis accompanied his son Jack and proved a most important member of the contingent by keeping cold water up to the team during play as the weather conditions were extremely hot. James Rogerson ended up second in the competition (after having led with a few holes to go) to an Irish player. Congratulations and well done to James whilst Helen and Jack had their first taste of international competition.

Wagga hosted the NSW Championships in August and was well supported by CIGC and Waverly. The Wagga course was in the best condition I have ever seen it and John and Dawn King are to be commended for the efforts they have put in to achieve this. The event ran smoothly and the Wagga people looked after their visitors as per normal. In other words, it was a pleasure to be there.

The Victorian Championships were held in October and again, like Wagga, their course was in the best condition I have ever seen it and congratulations are in order

for the hard work Phil Shaw-Dennis has put into it. The event was its usual success and attracted good support from the ACT and Wagga and a representative from SA.

The Australian International Open was held at CIGC in the ACT and CIGC did itself proud by running a very smooth event. There were 68 competitors including contestants from Waverly, Wagga, South Australia and Switzerland.

A very big thank you is extended to Richard and Judith Henderson for the professional manner in which they have set up and maintained the APPA website and to Judith for the maintenance and improvements of the APPA newsletter.

Overall, APPA has enjoyed a fairly settled year and I think has managed to lift its profile somewhat. The ACH has settled down and appears to be working although we did have some drama over the maximum handicap allowable. This was due apparently to myself when I previously argued in the case of an individual who in my estimation (being a long standing player) had a genuine 22 handicap. The maximum allowable by the ACH was less than this but after discussion the individual was a higher handicap. Inadvertently the outcome of this was that the maximum handicap was removed completely. The situation has been resolved at the last board meeting where a maximum handicap of 27 has been agreed to.

Thank you to the board for their support throughout the year and I look forward to working with you in the coming year.

Charles Hutchison

President
A.P.P.A.