

## **APPA GENERAL MEETING 2015**

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2014/15**

#### **The Board**

The APPA Board met formally once during the year – in May 2015 at Wagga Wagga at which time the AGM was also held. The Board met informally once in Feb 2015 during the ACT Championships. In addition the Board transacted via electronic mail continuously throughout the year.

Phil Shaw-Dennis was appointed President. Marie Hutchison resigned as Treasurer with Charlie Hutchison resigning as President and taking up the role of Treasurer. However, to the present time the Board has been unable to fill the position of Secretary but has somehow managed to share the load.

#### **The Rules of Association**

There were proposed changes to these rules which are currently in draft form drawn up by Tim Terrell for which the Board has not formally signed off but agreed with in principal. These changes would represent the provision to give “Recognised Entities” direct representation on the APPA Board without altering the position of State Associations in relation to APPA.

In essence they cover:

- Removal of reference to Registered members
- Make Accredited Players the main form individual form of membership to APPA
- Given Recognised Entities the right to nominate one member to the APPA Board
- Maintenance of the right of State Associations to each nominate one member to the APPA Board

The process was documented in draft form by Tim Terrell and approved by the President.

These changes were made to ensure that all entities and State Associations were represented on the Board so as to avoid any decisions that would be perceived to be individually self motivated. Instead it would encourage and promote a universal voice towards the same goal.

## **International Scenario**

There has been minimal interaction with FIPPA during the year. Personally, the FIPPA web site has been the medium through which the information flow has transpired. No personal contact has been made with FIPPA to discuss any topics of significance other than to ensure we maintain our communication links to achieve our overall objectives.

## **Clubs and Courses**

It has not been smooth sailing for the majority of our Entities during the year.

**Canberra International** – The decision to proceed with the motel and it's consequent disruption to the course was expected. However, the issues associated with the redesign of the course and it's availability has hit a few stumbling blocks along the way. The members and players have been extremely patient, albeit frustrated at the time taken to get it up and running. At present it appears that the issues relating to the driving range nets are in the process of being finalised which would in turn provide the impetus to open up the redesigned holes very soon.

**Wiradjuri** – John and Dawn King have now accepted the APPA policies and rules and regulations as an Entity. The running of three events in the form of the Club Championships, The NSW Championships and The Australian Open all in 2015 is testimony to this fact.

**Waverley** – Given the course is owned and operated by The President of APPA, there would be no bias in the comment that, 2015 has been status quo to others that have preceded it. There has been a conscious effort to affiliate itself with Golf Australia, a move that would enable more resources provided for the growth of the game. To this end, Waverley has signed up for The 'My Golf' and 'Play Golf' programmes that encompass 6 to 8 week training courses

for Juniors and Adult beginners respectively. The results have been extremely encouraging to-date.

Waverley has also approached two other courses in Vic (Heathmont and Geelong) both of whom have not shown too much interest in affiliating and participating in events etc. The process will continue with optimism that there will be a change of heart from at least one if not both courses.

**Valley View** – Sadly, the only Entity represented in SA have resigned from APPA. The reasons for this occurrence is simply the difficulty in attempting to marry their designated modus operandi with that of APPA overall.

**Terry Hills** – While Terry Hills continues to be a recognised entity formally, the participation and operation of APPA events are not encouraged as much as is expected. Consequently, there is a dearth of overall participation at this course.

## **APPA Competitions**

This year has seen a positive come out of the competition scene. Entities were encouraged to add a “Masters” Championship to the calendar, an event that the APPA Board recognised as a ranking event. The purpose of this was to simply provide more players the opportunity to play a recognised event on their home course and alleviate the problem associated with travel to other states to do so. Waverley has historically held this as an in-house event and this year Canberra International added it to their calendar. It is hoped that from 2016 onwards the other Entities follow suit.

APPA has played it's role in encouraging entities to run a “Masters” event by excluding the APPA fee for this recognised event and in addition providing financial assistance towards the Awards for the event.

As Stated earlier, Wagga held the three events this year, with Waverley holding the Masters and Vic State Championships and Canberra international The ACT Championships and Masters.

While the growth in events is a significant step forward, it has contributed to a reduction of travel across states to participate. It is hoped that this trend will

improve in the future with further encouragement for participation for all players across the APPA spectrum.

## **National Ranking System**

At the time of writing this report a new proposed ranking System was put forward for discussion during the year. Suffice to say that it created healthy debate on the subject with a combination of proposals and suggestions following the original proposal.

The 2015 APPA Board will decide which of the suggested method would be the optimal result for all concerned. If a decision cannot be reached as a majority, the existing Ranking System will continue to operate. Either way there will be a written announcement that will be put on the APPA web site immediately following the final decision on the subject.

The APPA Board thanks all the contributors (of which there were many) who have made the effort with the objective of seeing our great game develop further.

## **What's Next?**

As this concludes my first year as President, I can categorically say that I have relished the challenges placed before us and the manner in which we are dealing with them in a unified manner. APPA continues to play it's role as best it can given the available resources.

It is in my opinion that this great game and sport can only be developed further with the involvement of the major golfing bodies that govern the game of golf around the world. There is absolutely no reason why Pitch and Putt cannot become the T20 of golf in most ways as it has all the ingredients to do so. While there are too many variables to discuss the pros and cons here, suffice to say that this game has produced Pitch and Putt players who would probably never be good golfers as T20 has produced players who will never be test cricketers. I will leave you with that thought.

Australia has been too slow to react to this incredible opportunity that is Pitch and Putt. It is this lack of progress that has encouraged me personally to spend some time in the Asian region, an area that is showing a lot more interest in this game due to its availability to the masses and it's advantage of optimal usage of valuable real estate. Perhaps, we will wake up to the opportunity that is Australasia which is where this game and sport could go places. Will keep you informed of the progress.

Wish you all the best for 2016 and beyond.

***Phil Shaw-Dennis***

***November 2015***