

Minutes of A.P.P.A. General Meeting

Friday 1st May, 2015

Wiradjuri Pitch & Putt (Wagga Wagga)

1. **Phil Shaw-Dennis, as President, opened the meeting at 2.55pm.**
2. **Present:** Tim Terrell, Tony Heinrich, Charlie Hutchison, Marie Hutchison, John King, Dawn King, Lionel Fisher.
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting were not presented.**
4. **Financial Statements:**

Charlie presented the financial statement showing a balance of \$4326.78 which was accepted by Phil and seconded by Tim.
5. **Board Membership and Structure:**

The debate surrounding the current structure of the Board was based on achieving the most productive result for all concerned. The exit of the S.A.P.P.A. (South Australian Pitch and Putt Association) was the catalyst for this debate. The existence of P.P.A.C.T. (Pitch and Putt ACT) was questioned given there was only one course now in Canberra, but it was agreed that we would continue to let sleeping dogs lie for the moment and review the situation a year down the track.

It was further agreed that Tim Terrell would review the process towards operating under an Entity Based (Direct Representation) while maintaining the current PPACT, which he stated was the most likely scenario notwithstanding any constitutional hiccups that may restrict the same. A decision would be made formally at the next AGM.

The current position of Secretary is still vacant and to this end Phil Shaw-Dennis stated that he is still seeking nominations from Melbourne as it would be prudent for the President and Secretary to operate out of the same location for productivity reasons.

The position of Special Adviser that is held by Dawn King was questioned given Wiradjuri's perceived involvement (has been clarified now). John King confirmed that Dawn would continue in that role.

The interesting news was that Charlie Hutchison informed the meeting that Mark Darcy, a long time Canberra member will be moving to Geelong in Victoria and would be ascertaining the suitability of the Pitch and Putt course in Newtown Geelong to affiliate with APPA in the near future.

6. **APPA Website and Newsletter:**

The continuity and format of the items were discussed following Judith Henderson's concerns that our website and newsletter were stagnant and not being appropriately updated to reflect what APPA or any entity is doing and questioned the viability of having both. To this end it was agreed that APPA would continue with the website and the newsletter as follows:

The Website is to reflect all current content that includes Events, Ranking, Results etc which Tim will continue to update Judy with. It was also agreed that every entity will on a Bi-Monthly basis present an updated news page of their newsworthy items and email it to Judy for inclusion as an additional page on the website. This is to be done by the 25th of the month (commencing May 2015) and will include 'No News' if that were the case. Each entity is to nominate the responsible person to email the info to Judy. The Newsletter in its current format will continue but only on a six monthly or annual basis?

7. **Wiradjuri Affiliation Update:**

John King has agreed to continue Wiradjuri's affiliation with APPA after having explained the situation of APPA status and objectives to him. As a result it is confirmed that the NSW Open for 2015 will be held at Wiradjuri on the weekend of August 15th and 16th and the Australian International Open 2015 will also be held at Wiradjuri on the weekend of November 14th and 15th.

8. **National Ranking System:**

The discussions surrounding the proposed amendments to the current ranking system by Phil continued with Tim presenting a detailed comparison based on the 2014 results (existing points based versus the proposed average based) which showed some marked differences that highlighted the need to look into the proposed system further before any decisions could be made. Charlie made valid comments on his take on the proposed system with different scenarios that would affect different

players. It was agreed that Tim would continue to process the detail and that all entities to continue to get feedback from their members, rather than we as a board form our own opinions, and use that feedback to determine an outcome before the 2016 season.

9. **Other Business:**

A) **Golf Australia Governance** – Phil has continued his interaction with Golf Australia and reported that there has been a shift in Golf Australia’s thinking towards utilising Pitch and Putt Courses to enhance participation in the industry as a whole. Phil indicated that his proposal towards making Pitch and Putt the T20 of golf was in general a good idea but would take a fair bit of work and resources to make headway. Phil also indicated he has continued to stay constantly in touch with GA and its programmes. At the present time Waverley has affiliated itself with the Golf Australia “My Golf” and “Playgolf” programmes designed for junior and beginners respectively and has reported immediate success for new players and continued links with GA. Waverley has also agreed to link up with GA for the proposed ‘Swing golf’ programme for ladies to be launched in Aug/Sept this year. Phil has asked John King (Wiradjuri) and Charlie (Canberra) to indicate to him if the courses would be prepared to do the same and Phil would connect them with GA.

Additionally, contact has been made by Phil with a Mr. Rod Morri who is a senior member and reporter for the Golf Australia magazine. This intro was made by Warren Gray of Canberra. Rod has discussed at length via an informal phone interview with Phil about the pros and cons of Pitch and Putt’s role in increasing participation rates for golf in Australia. Phil indicated that Rod would incorporate this in the Golf Australia magazine which is running a story on the subject soon. Ron also indicated to Phil that he needed reminding of our November 2015 Australian Open at Wiradjuri (which Phil said he would) and Rod would endeavour to have a photo shoot of the event and back it up in that month’s issue of the magazine. John indicated that he would look forward to this at his course.

B) Masters Fee Payments:

There appeared to be a misunderstanding at the last board meeting with regard to the Fee structure for the Masters' events to be held at each course. The board originally agreed that there would be no APPA fee from each entity and that APPA would contribute \$150 towards awards for the event to encourage more participation and better returns for the entities. It was documented as 'no entry fee' in error and the board agreed that the original board decision would stand.

10. Closure:

There being no other further business the meeting closed at 4.30pm

Phil Shaw-Dennis

President
A.P.P.A

Tony Heinrich

Public Officer