



NEWSLETTER FOR GEELONG DISTRICT VETERAN GOLFERS ASSOCIATION INC

VVGA CHAMPIONSHIP

As many will be aware, your Committee recently submitted a bid to host the VVGA State Championship at The Sands in 2016. We have now received confirmation that the VVGA Committee approved our submission and the State Championship and VVGA Annual General Meeting will be held at The Sands on Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th October 2016.

A small steering committee has been formed to oversee the planning of the event which has to run within very strict guidelines laid down by the VVGA. The State Championship is a stroke event played over 2 days and entry is limited to players with a handicap of 16 and under. In addition there are Stableford events run at the same time for players of any handicap. Your Committee hopes that many of our players will wish to participate in these events.

FIXTURE LIST CHANGES

Would all players please note the following:

The game at Ocean Grove on Monday June 15th will now be a Stableford event, not Par as noted in the fixture list. Remember also that this will be a strictly limited field owing to the restrictions placed on a 12 hole course.

The inter district game between Geelong and Corangamite on Monday 1st June is a shotgun start at 9:30am not 10:00am. We would like to have 70 players make the trip to Colac for this game so please support your district.

GDVGA WEBSITE

As a result of changes being made to the Clifton Springs Golf Club website, the Committee has taken the decision to move the GDVGA website to another host. The GDVGA information can now be found on the GDGA website.

Go to golfgeelong.org.au/GDVGAhome to go straight to our Home page and follow the links from there. Please pass this information to other members.

GDVGA CHAMPIONSHIP

Most of you will be aware that we now hold a District Championship every year and we make a point of playing the two rounds at different clubs each year to avoid any suggestion of home club bias. This year the Championship will be held at East Geelong and Torquay. The first round at East Geelong is on March 30th and, as always at this venue, it will be played in two shotgun starts the first at 7:30am and the second at 12:30pm.

The early game is always fully booked so you should try to be flexible with your options if you want to be guaranteed a game. The maximum field for each game at East Geelong is 64 players. If the event is oversubscribed it may be necessary to rearrange the 1st Round of the Championship to another following event to ensure that all those who want to play can be accommodated.

PENNANT UPDATE

After the first five rounds of the season it is still too early to tell who is going to make the finals but there have been some close matches and some blow outs already. At the time of writing this article, Anglesea leads Division 1 and Clifton Springs 2 leads Division 2. There are still several teams in both Divisions who can make the finals so nothing is yet decided. In a curious twist of fate, many of the teams still in with a shout of making the finals have yet to play each other so there is more excitement to come. Good luck to all teams.

OVERSUBSCRIPTION FOR GAMES

The events surrounding last December's Christmas break up game and the requirement to reduce numbers of participants continues to provoke discussion and argument. It is appropriate therefore, to address some of the issues and keep members advised of what actions were taken and why.

Most of you will be aware that your Committee will, whenever possible, make space available for any players who wish to participate in an event and the Captain and Vice Captain spend many hours during the week before every game planning the draw and dealing with withdrawals, late entrants and trying to accommodate special requests.

When the situation first occurred, it was concluded that the fairest way to allocate places in an oversubscribed event was to award places in the same ratio as each club had members in the GDVGA. That format has been adopted on each of the vary rare occasions that we have had to limit numbers. In light of the reaction to last Christmas's game it may be appropriate for us to look at other ways to reduce numbers when that is necessary. Options such as awarding places on a sliding scale where those who play most games during the season get first priority are up for discussion. The games most likely to be affected in 2015 are the November 9th game against North West and Ballarat Districts at Portarlington where we are unlikely to be able to take more than 40 or 50 players and the Christmas game, again at Portarlington.

HISTORY OF VETERANS PENNANT

We were recently given access to a folder of correspondence regarding the foundation of Veterans Pennant. The idea was first put forward in 1997 by Ocean Grove Golf Club through their long term member and still an active GDVGA member, Peter Lewis. It was interesting to note from the file that the then Committee of the GDVGA declined to get involved in the setting up and running of the first competition because they were "fully involved in running the regular fixture list." It is also interesting to note that, at the time, it was believed that this would be the first time in Victoria and possibly in the whole of Australia that a Veterans Pennant competition had been organised.

The idea was widely accepted within the district and well supported with only a couple of clubs not being involved in some way, mostly due to them not having enough veteran members to field a team. The first competition took place in 1998 and ran from March to June with a presentation dinner for around 70 people at Buckleys in Breakwater at the end. The first final was played at Lonsdale between, fittingly, Ocean Grove and Clifton Springs with Clifton Springs running out the inaugural winners.

With many thanks to Peter Lewis for giving us access to this important history of our organisation. It would be good to get some more history of the GDVGA which appears to have been founded in 1972. If anybody has any historical information please let Alan Chapman or John Eddington know.

MOOSIC TO MY EARS

With a nod of thanks to the Cheeky Cow café in Ocean Grove:

What do you get if you lie under a cow? A pat on the head.

Why did the cow cross the road? To get to the udder side.

DON'T YOU JUST LOVE IT?

The room was full of pregnant women with their husbands. The instructor said, "Ladies, remember that exercise is good for you. Walking is especially beneficial. It strengthens the pelvic muscles and will make delivery that much easier. Just pace yourself, make plenty of stops and try to stay on a soft surface like grass or a path."

"Gentlemen, remember -- you're in this together. It wouldn't hurt you to go walking with her. In fact, that shared experience would be good for you both."

The room suddenly became very quiet as the men absorbed this information. After a few moments a man at the back of the room slowly raised his hand.

"Yes?" said the Instructor.

"I was just wondering if it would be all right if she carries a golf bag while we walk?"