



NEWSLETTER FOR GEELONG DISTRICT VETERAN GOLFERS ASSOCIATION INC

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

The past year has gone by quickly, especially the last six months since I was elected President at the AGM. Two new faces joined the committee in July (Ray Drady and Garry Downes) and are welcome additions to the team. My personal thanks are extended to retiring members Peter Williams and Phil Daniels whose input, particularly to fund raising, are most appreciated.

Congratulations to all fixture event winners and especially to those who were successful in the GDVGA Championship, the Jack Morris Memorial Trophy and the 4BBB event. I wish them well when they represent our district in the VVGA Teams and 4BBB Championship in 2015.

Another successful Pennant season concluded in April which saw a new Club name added to the Premiers Shield as winners when BarwonValley took out the final against Torquay.

Captain Brian has finalized next year's fixture list and has formulated a programme that departs from the past venue order so that our games are played where possible at the time of the year when courses present at their best. Several par events have also been included to add some variety.

At the time of writing, Committee is finalizing a submission to host the 2016 VVGA State Championship in our district. I am hopeful that VVGA approval will be forthcoming.

Finally, I wish all members and their families a very joyous Christmas and New Year and look forward to catching up with you all in 2015.

Good Golfing
John Eddington

2015 FIXTURES

The fixture list for 2015 has been finalised and the fixture cards are printed. We have made a few changes to the order in which fixtures are played to try to get on to courses when they are likely to be at their best. This means that the 2015 fixture begins at The Sands in January rather than at East Geelong and there are other changes through the year. Subscriptions are due now and can be paid at any time.

GUESS WHO WON THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP?

Played at Stawell Golf Club in October, the VVGA State Championship was again won by our own Ross McFarlane, his 6th win and 5th in a row. It is disappointing to note that only 32 players contested the Championship out of a total membership of around 4000. Perhaps we can change that trend if we are successful in attracting the championship to Geelong District in 2016.

2015 GDVGA PENNANT

The Pennant fixture list has been finalised and cards are available now. 15 teams were entered this year and they have been split into two divisions. Division 1 will consist of 8 teams and this will mean that 7 of the 8 teams will get to play on their home course. The unlucky team this year will be Barwon Valley. Division 2 will have 7 teams which means that there will be no home field advantage with each team getting a bye when the fixture is played at their course.

Eligibility criteria remain the same for 2015 which means that every player must be financial prior to playing their first game of pennant and must have played a minimum of 5 games from our regular 2014 fixture list.

Barwon Valley will be looking to retain the trophy that they won last year and we expect some fierce but as always friendly rivalry. We hope that everybody has an enjoyable pennant season. Remember this is as much about forging new and building on existing friendships gained through the GDVGA as it is about winning the trophy.

FEES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

For the umpteenth year in a row the Committee has decided to keep the joining fee at \$10 and annual subscriptions for 2015 at \$25 with a reduction to \$15 for new members joining after 1 July 2015.

Although many of the clubs have increased their charges to us for 2015, the Committee has decided that the cost of games to the members will remain the same as last year.



TRIANGULAR CHALLENGE

On a miserable rainy Monday in November, a hardy band of 38 GDVGA members ventured to Melton Valley for the annual match against Ballarat and North West Districts. For the first time in living memory, Geelong had the largest contingent of players with North West having 32 and Ballarat 31.

Play got under way at 9:30 as scheduled, although some from Ballarat were late as they were told it was a 10:30 start. The first storm with thunder and lightning hit after 4 holes and the rest of the day was on and off rain and conditions in places got very muddy. The greens were very slow which caused some consternation and the course generally was not in as good a condition as it was a couple of years ago.

Highlights of the day included a magnificent 44 points from Les Hutchinson from Queen's Park, which was the highest score on the day. With an average of 34 points coming from the top 75% of our players, GDVGA were victors. Brian Hazell, Captain, accepted the shield on behalf of GDVGA and announced that the fixture next year will be at Portarlinton when Geelong is the host district.



TROPHY VALUES INCREASED

The Committee has been aware for some time that there has not been any increase in the value of the vouchers awarded to winners and runners up for several years. Following a review of our financial situation it has been decided that we can justify an increase in the value of trophies. With effect from the first game in 2015, winners will receive a voucher for \$40 (increased from \$30) and runners up will receive \$20 (increased from \$15).

OVER 80 AND NOT SUPERSTITIOUS? A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY.

Every year, Torquay Golf Club hosts the Ken Sizer Memorial Trophy for Super Veterans, both men and women. The event is open to all golfers aged 80 and above on the date of the competition with men playing stroke and women playing stableford. There is no entry fee and all super veterans are welcome to enter. The competition will take place on Friday 13th March 2015 and entry forms will be available from Torquay Golf Club. Entry forms will also be available at GDVGA games in February and March 2015.



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM THE CAPTAIN

This being my first Christmas report as Captain of the GDVGA, let me say what an honour it is to hold such a position. I would like to thank the members and especially the GDVGA Committee for all their guidance which I could not do without. Vice Captain, Alan Chapman is a constant source of information and I value his assistance greatly.

There have been some fantastic results throughout the year and my congratulations go to all those players.

The Pennant season was another tough battle and congratulations go to Barwon Valley who defeated a determined Torquay by 3.5 games to 1.5. At the end of the season, a pennant dinner was held at East Geelong where the members of the winning team were presented with their flags and trophy watched by around 75 envious fellow competitors and guests.

In closing I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year and I hope to see you all again next year for an even better programme. In the meantime drive safely, enjoy the break and remember don't drink and drive and we will see you at The Sands on 12th January for the opening event in 2015.

Yours in golf
Brian Hazell