

Minutes of Half Yearly Zoom Meeting 12 June 2020

Meeting started 10.00am

Attendance:

Ballina – John Swan and Rick Rutten
Byron Bay – Doug Trigg and David Rutherford
Casino – John Weaver and Jim Dean
Club Banora – Dave Wallis
Coolangatta Tweed – Roy Stephen and Grant Evans
Coraki – Rick Vass and John Watts
Grafton – Jeff Hackett and Graeme Smith
Iluka – Jeoff Turner (No Video)
Lismore – Ian Leake, John Lowe (Pres NRVGA) and Dennis Thomson
Maclean – Bob Harvey and Peter Hamilton
Mullumbimby – Wayne Rogers and Neil Farquhar
Murwillumbah – Gary Fidler, John Belshaw and Ray Kent (Sec / Treas NRVGA)
Ocean Shores – Peter Keirnan, Michael Cook (V/Pres NRVGA) and Bill Nichols
Pottsville – Paul McGavin
Yamba – Greg Starr (V/Pres NRVGA)
Councillors NSWVGA – John Daley and Peter Taylor

Apologies:

Eric Taylor – Woodenbong
John Frederiksen – Woodburn Evans Head
Peter Schipanski – Kyogle
Barry Little – Kyogle
Reg Wallis (Patron) – Byron Bay
Ross Lever – Coolangatta Tweed Heads

Before Meeting proceeded, President John Lowe asked for the names of any Veteran Members who have passed away since our last meeting.

It is with sadness and respect we offer our collective condolences to the families, friends and fellow Vet Members and Clubs of the following Vet Members ...

Coraki: John Craven, Neal watt, Earl Scurr
Mullumbimby: Bob Armstrong
Grafton: Trevor Gleeson
Club Banora: Stuart Melling
Murwillumbah: John Kennaugh

On a happier note: We pass on our best wishes for a speedy recovery to new member, Lionel Benhain, (Mullumbimby) who has now come out of a coma following a serious car accident on the way to golf.

Correspondence: (Inward)

- Letter and Cheque from NSWVGA for Grass Roots Level support – Richard Doyle (NSWVGA Councillor in Charge)
- Letter from Maclean Vets – Re: Protocols for Presentation at Veteran Open Days – Prizes and Ball Rundown
- Letter from St Dossiter (NSWVGA Councillor in Charge) – Re: New Website going live.

(Outward)

- Affiliation Fees on 10 occasions for Members Fees Due

Moved: Ray Kent ... Seconded: Jeff Hackett ... Carried

Reports: (All Reports emailed to all Zoom Participants prior to Meeting)

President's Report: Presented and moved by John Lowe, *Seconded – Dave Wallis ... Carried*

Secretary's Report: Presented and moved by Ray Kent

Discussion of report ...

- NSWVGA now have two Websites:
- nswvga.com.au is their new Public Website with all information relevant to the Affiliated Clubs and Members
- nswvga.net.au is their Administration Site, only accessible by Password. This is for Group Secretaries and Tournament Directors
- No NSWVGA Handbooks any more – everything on Website
- \$25.00 Voucher Cards will be posted to Clubs. This is part of NSWVGA's Grass Roots Level Scheme which affords money back to Clubs based on each 50 Veteran membership or part thereof. The number of Vouchers each NRVGA Club would receive was outlined in my Report.
- Veteran Open Days and NRVGA Championship 2020 was discussed. Defer to General Business. In the light of present restrictions, these Events would not be able to occur. But we do not know what and how Restrictions easing could affect us.
- There are 2014 Veteran members in NRVGA. \$10,040.00 has been paid to NSWVGA
- Special "Thanks" to all Club Secretaries sending through new Membership regularly, as this makes my job of registering these with NSWVGA much easier and hassle free.
- Clubs with new Member Registrations are asked to hold off till 1 July before sending these through with payment, as their Membership, from this date, is deemed current through to September 2021. (NSWVGA Policy N^o7 – Affiliation Payments)
Seconded John Daley ... Carried

- **Councillors's Report:** John Daly presented his report on behalf of Peter Taylor and NSWVGA.
- John emphasised the fact that both he and Peter represented NRVGA first, and if there were matters that any Club wanted to raise with NSWVGA, all they had to do was put this in writing to Ray Kent (Group 14 Secretary) and that they would raise the issue with NSWVGA (Next Meeting – September)
- The New Website – Up and Running – easy to access and far more user friendly.
- Weeks of Golf have been put on hold due to restrictions and won't allow the running of Weeks Of Golf as they are usually run until such restrictions are lifted.
- NSWVGA have a motion on their books that they still provide the Week of Golf Dollar Trophy Prize Contribution to those Clubs that had to CANCEL due to the Coronavirus Restrictions. This to be voted upon at the next meeting.

- Peter Taylor added that 218 Affiliated Clubs, throughout NSW have benefited from the Grassroots Payment Scheme. There are 15,200+ registered Members and this scheme has distributed just over \$10,000 back to Affiliated Clubs.
Seconded Peter Taylor (NSWVGA) ... Carried

Notices of Motion:

- 1. "That Delegates approve the expenditure of \$259.89 for set-up of Zoom Meeting – Pro Licence (one years) for the purpose of holding Meetings by Video Conferencing"
Moved Ray Kent, Seconded Wayne Rogers ... Carried after discussion
This subscription belongs to the NRVGA and if Affiliated Clubs required a Zoom Meeting to bring Members together in these times, please get in touch with Ray, and he will set it up.
- 2. "That the host Club for each NRVGA Veteran Open Day advertise on the Nomination Form, a realistic Stableford Points Ball Rundown to cover at least 25% - 30% of the Field, and that these Balls be handed out when Cards are in"
Moved Bob Harvey (Maclean Vets)
 - This produced plenty of discussion amongst the Delegates with first a Motion being put against the original Motion (*John Watt – Coraki*) and then being **withdrawn** when the following Motion was put ...
 - "That NRVGA put out a Guideline to all Clubs, that the Ball Rundown be established, **based on a realistic percentage of the Field, (25%-30%). This is to be based on scores being returned in that competition.** Furthermore, any Veteran returning a score to receive a Prize or Ball in the Ball Rundown, but unable to stay for Presentation, that their Prize or Ball be sent home via a representative of their Club who is present at the Presentation".
Moved Michael Cook (Ocean Shores), Seconded John Watt (Coraki) ... Carried
- 3. Motion 3 was not needed to be put as it was covered in the above new motion.
- 4. Motions 4 and 5 were withdrawn, after discussion, to be replaced with a NRVGA Guideline for Prizes and Nearest the Pin Awards ...
 - The Guideline to read "That NRVGA requests all Clubs to have at least 4 Balls for Nearest the Pin Awards, or Sponsor Prizes, and that appropriate 'Dollar Value' Prizes be given for the top 4 or 5 places in each competition. This could be exceeded at the Host's Club discretion".

General Business:

- **Corona Virus effect** on NRVGA. It certainly changed the way that Veterans could access Golf. This varied from Club to Club, with some Clubs 'closing' completely in the beginning. Once Guidelines were established in NSW for Clubs able to offer Golf to Members, and meet all criteria that was demanded, some Veteran Competitions resumed at a local level. Other Veteran Groups just played within the Competition parameters that the Club organised. While others didn't resume Golf Play until NSW Restrictions eased.

- **NSWVGA Response to Covid 19** was that All Weeks of Golf were cancelled up until 4 September and the decision would be reviewed should NSW Government ease restrictions. (Posted 9 May 2020)
 - *While PM Scott Morrison's report on his exit strategy out of lockdown on Friday 8 May 2020 gave some hope of sport returning to "normal" within the next three months, there needs to be several changes to the current restrictions in NSW before the NSWVGA Week of Golf Programme resumes. These are: (in no particular order)*
 - *Caravan Parks will need to be fully operational.*
 - *Golf Clubs, (Club Houses) will need to be open and functioning to the point where they can accommodate the number of players expected at these events.*
 - *Golf Course staff should have time to prepare courses for visitors.*
 - *Golfers need to be able to play in groups of 4.*
 - *Travel will need to be unlimited, especially for over 70s.*

Until these restrictions are eased to the point where CEOs and Boards of Directors of Golf Clubs are confident a Week of Golf event is safe and viable the Programme cannot resume. Therefore, NSWVGA Executive Council wishes to advise that until the current restrictions are lifted and Golf Clubs are prepared to accept Weeks of Golf, its position remains unchanged.

All Weeks of Golf for the 6 Clubs in the NRVGA have been cancelled.

- **NRVGA Website** is being regularly updated. These minutes will be posted as soon as they are finished with any relevant Guidelines as determined by this meeting added.
- **Veteran Open Days** to be cancelled in the near future were Mullumbimby (13 July), Ocean Shores (23 July), Kyogle (4 August), Club Banora (10 August), Coraki (25 August) and Lismore (8 September) both said doubtful, cancelled Coolangatta Tweed Heads (17 September), Grafton (28 September) would act on a wait-and-see proposal, Woodburn Evans Head was unknown at this stage. Pottsville (20 October) said that if circumstances in late October allowed the holding of a Veteran Open Day, they would quite welcome allowing another 'bigger' Club to take this date (20 October) to provide the opportunity of a Veteran Open Day to proceed with larger numbers. This would be kept in mind, so if a larger Club felt that they could avail themselves of this offer, once the future is known, could they please send an email to the Secretary, Ray Kent for confirmation with Pottsville.
- **Championships** (Casino @ 2 November) at this stage, too early to call. John Weaver was asked to consult his team and Club and get back at the earliest opportunity, if they were willing and able to hold the Championships.
- **An alternative proposal** was put forward by Greg Starr (Yamba)
 - This was based on playing the Championships in Three Divisions on Three different Courses.
 - Division 1 – H/c 0-18 at Casino
 - Division 2 – H/c 19-27 at Yamba
 - Division 3 – H/c 28+ at "a Course yet named"
 - A limit of 50-60 players would be allowed to nominate
- **Another suggestion regarding a 4BBB Championship**, put forward by Wayne Rogers (Mullumbimby) was that each Club could nominate a number of 2-person teams equal to

the number of Vouchers that they receive from NSWVGA ... see Page 2 of Agenda for exact numbers that each Club can nominate under this idea.

- **This all depends on what happens in the next couple of months** and we await what Casino comes back to us about their position with the Championships this year. This will have to be left to your Executive to make a decision and then inform the Affiliated Clubs.
- **Discussion** occurred around price at next year's Veteran Open Days. This is an ongoing issue as costs are going up at Clubs and Caterers are putting their prices up as well.
- There are a couple of options available ...
 1. Cost of the Day could be put up, to say \$35.00. This might reduce the number of Vets who nominate to play
 2. Cost could be lowered without offering a lunch, to say \$20.00. This probably goes against the expectation of Vet Open Days by participants. Camaraderie is a big aspect of these Days
- **Further discussion** continued and it was decided to survey each Club so as to gather information that can be brought to the AGM. Secretary Ray will send out a Questionnaire to all Clubs to collect costing data that each Club has to juggle in order to put on a Veteran Open Day, with the current Entry Cost of \$30.00 per player.
- **A final decision** on Cost of 2021 Veteran Open Days will be determined by the Delegates at 2020 AGM, based on the information received from the survey.

With no more General Business, the Meeting was Closed at 11.30am

Next Meeting: Friday 06 November 2020 at Byron Bay starting at 9.30am

Stay Safe and enjoy the Golf that you are playing at the moment.
Hopefully we will see each other on a Golf Course soon.

Ray Kent ... Secretary (NRVGA)

PS. Please see attached Survey.

Fill in and return via email to Ray Kent ... rken4251@bigpond.net.au