

Secretary Report for NRVGA AGM – Friday 6 November 2020

Annus Horribilus! But Golf did come out a winner in 2020. It is probably the only Sport that was able to continue to be played without the strict isolation that impacted on others.

We were able to hold a very different Half yearly Meeting this year by using Zoom. This worked well, and I would like to thank the Delegates who were involved. It enabled us to hold our Meeting at the height of the Isolation Period. Hopefully, we will not need to have such a Meeting again, but the knowledge that it works is “good news”.

Golf NSW, on their Website, golfnsw.org.au, provides ‘YES’ to almost all the questions asked of our Sport. This advice is dated 21 October 2020. They still advise that Shotgun Starts and Presentations should be avoided and that it remains a Club’s decision as to whether they continue the use of the modified playing conditions. Clubs must have a Covid-19 Safety Plan and Vets must follow what their Club has stated.

Hopefully, by the time our NRVGA Program resumes in 2021 many of these restrictions will have eased, and NRVGA can deliver a full competitive Program.

President, John Lowe has listed the winners, in his Report, of our NRVGA Championships held earlier in the week at Casino. The full results are on our Website. I, too, would like to add my Congratulations to the Winners and Runners-Up and also to Casino Vets for hanging in there to ensure that we finished the year on a positive note. I would also like to thank Mullumbimby and Kyogle for holding their respective Covid-Safe Veteran Open Day to try and restart our Vets Open Day program after 1 July when restrictions were eased. Unfortunately, Lismore and Coraki were set to follow, but NSWHealth put on a six week ‘hold’ on Open Days. Once the long weekend in October was over Woodburn Evans Head was able to hold their Vet Open Day and it paved the way for Casino to hold the Championships.

Congratulations to John Lowe for having “Life Membership” bestowed on him at Lismore veterans. John has worked tirelessly as Secretary of Lismore Vets for many years, ensuring that Lismore Veterans participate in large numbers at the NRVGA Vet Open Days. Well done John, a deserving recipient.

On a sadder note, Eric Taylor is not travelling too well at Woodenbong, and has relinquished all duties at the Club, including the Vets. Ross Allwood has stepped up to try to keep Woodenbong from folding. I would like to discuss their plight in General Business as per Agenda.

Because of restricted opportunities and Events by NSWVGA, Clubs were afforded two Rounds of Gift Vouchers – Grass Roots Level. These were used in various ways by the Clubs and well received. I will be thanking NSWVGA on your behalf in my Group 14 Report to them.

I keep up-to-date Spreadsheets for each Veteran Club detailing exact Veteran Numbers with Names and Golf Link Numbers. It is part of my Role as Group Secretary to keep a Register of

all Veterans in Group 14 and to ensure that they are registered with NSWVGA. This year we start the year with 1911 Veterans. This is 174 veterans down on what we finished with in 2020. There will be new Members join or others renew as the 2021 Program starts in February. I ask all Secretaries to pass on the details of these new and re-joining Members as soon as they happen so that I can fulfil my Role with NSWVGA. It is in your interest that this is done immediately as Registration is required for Insurance purposes. I will supply all Clubs with an updated Spreadsheet List of members in the next few weeks. I would appreciate it if you would use this list for any additions, as it is your Role as Club Secretary to keep your Register of Veterans. Please don't rely on your Club's Office Staff to keep the Records.

There are a couple of items on the Agenda that must be discussed and decisions made.

One is a discussion about the lowering of Veteran Age to 50years. All Group Secretaries have been asked to report back to NSWVGA regarding this item so that they can form a positional response for AVGU.

The other is a decision to be made with the Cost of Veteran Open Days in 2021 Program. I have collected the data from Clubs and collated the information.

These will be part of the General Business following Reports and Election of Officers.

It would be remiss of me in not mentioning the work of your Executive. President John Lowe and Vice Presidents Greg Starr and Michael Cook have always been there to discuss ideas or help solve any problems that we have had during the year. Thank You.

To Peter Hamilton, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for looking over the Financials for 2020 and giving them his tick of approval. I bombarded Peter with all the Financials – Income and Expenditure Spreadsheet, Financial Report, Bank Statements, banking Transactions and Receipts – in thirteen emails. Technology is wonderful. Thanks Peter.

I also 'Thank' Ballina Golf Club for allowing us to hold our AGM here today.

In closing I would like to "Thank" all Secretaries and Contacts for the work they do in ensuring that Veterans enjoy a healthy lifestyle by playing golf and partaking in the camaraderie that Golf offers. To those Secretaries and Executive who are standing down this year from their Volunteer positions, I thank you for your effort and work you have done.

I enjoy working in my Role as Secretary and thank you for entrusting me with it. I look forward to working with the new Secretaries and the returning ones in 2021. Please don't hesitate to contact me if any help is needed.

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