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NEW SOUTH WALES SUPER SENIOR GOLF ASSOCIATION (Inc)

## Captain's Report for the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held at Asquith Golf Club on Friday 24<sup>TH</sup> July 2020

The past year has been one of two distinctly different halves. The 2019 Pennant commenced on the 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019 with 59 teams entered into 9 Divisions. 4 new Clubs, Bardwell Valley, Kogarah, Pacific Dunes and Woolooware were welcomed into the fold. Sadly, we saw the demise of the Morisset Club with many members joining Clubs close by with Toronto, and Waratah embracing the former Morisset members. There were six 7 team Divisions, two 6 team Divisions and one 5 team Division from the Lower North Coast that competed in the 2019 Pennant. The Pennant commenced one week earlier than the previous year to allow Clubs more flexibility in nominating their hosting days based around the Renovations, which a lot of Clubs undertake towards the end of August. This has proved to be beneficial to all Clubs and the earlier start will take place in the 2020 Pennant. Overall, the weather during the Divisional Rounds proved to be most helpful with the only exception being the last round in the middle of September.

This year the nine Divisional winners and the Runners up in each Division qualified for the knockout section, the Finals, to determine the winner of the 2019 Pennant. Bankstown, a runner up in Division 3 created the upset of the second round of the Finals when they eliminated the winner of Division 8, Belmont from the draw. The remaining Division winners were able to proceed to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Round where some close games eventuated. Castle Hill won against Bankstown 5/3, The Lakes had a narrow win over Magenta Shores 5/3, with Forster Tuncurry, the current Champions defeated Port Kembla 5.5 to 2.5. Monash and Castle Hill met in one semifinal at Twin Creeks while Forster Tuncurry played The Lakes at Nelson Bay. From these games the final was to be contested by the reigning Champions Forster Tuncurry and Castle Hill, for the first time at the testing Pacific Dunes course at Medowie. The final produced a nail-biting affair going right down to the wire. At the completion of all matches each team had won 4 matches, the winner decided on a countback with Forster Tuncurry proving victorious.

Our thanks must go to the following Clubs for their hosting an extra round caused by the 6 team Divisions. They were Wyong, Kooindah Waters and Gosford. It would be remiss of me if mention was not made of the many Clubs that hosted the Final series of games, many of which were at very short notice. Our sincere thanks go to the following clubs.

Bankstown, Charlestown, Stonecutters Ridge, Asquith, Roseville, Carnarvon, Belmont, Waratah, Cumberland, Ryde Parramatta, Monash, Wyong, Twin Creeks, Nelson Bay and Pacific Dunes.

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Much work in the off season was done to communicate with teams in the South Coast region. Clubs in the Southern Highlands were visited as well as Clubs along the South Coast including The Links Shell Cove, Nowra, Worrigee, St. George's Basin and Shoalhaven Heads. Entries for the 2020 Pennant which closed in March 2020, came to 63, a record with 4 new Clubs entering namely Dunheved, Tallwoods, Kew, St. George's Basin. However, trouble was brewing on the horizon for not only Golf but for the whole country in the shape of Covid 19. Our Super Senior Championship was the first casualty, due to be played in May but had to be cancelled because of restrictions of large gatherings. The Committee is hoping that it may be reconvened in November this year. Then the Virus turned its attention to the 2020 Pennant with first The Grange, then Glenmore Valley and Woolooware dropping out. This meant St. George's Basin were asked to join a Sydney Division which they reluctantly declined but will enter next year. The most recent withdrawal was Kew Golf Club thus reducing the total entries to 58, one less than 2019. We are still confident that the 2020 Super Senior Pennant will commence on the week beginning 3<sup>rd</sup> August.

Our thanks must go to our two Major Sponsors, Golf NSW and ICON Cancer Centre. Their continued support has been invaluable over the past year and we look forward to their continued support in the years ahead.

Amongst the people I wish to thank for their effort this past year are all the Convenors and Host Club Officials of the various Divisions. Without these people giving up their valuable time to see that the Pennant games run smoothly we would not have such a successful and well-run Pennant.

The Committee met during the year 7 times for some 23 hours with the following attendances. M. Gallagher 7, S. Farr 7, S. Pryor 7 P. Legge, 6, B. McPherson 6, B. Cummins 4, B. Ewert 4, I would like to thank the Committee who have given up their time to attend meetings face to face and by Zoom online, act as convenors and helped to run the Final Series. Special mention is made of Stephen Farr, our Treasurer, who has been a tower of strength and support to me during the past twelve months. His report will be presented at the A.G.M. Thank you Farry!

Last, I would like to remind you all of our website that is our most effective means of communication in our Association. Most of the time the information you seek is on the site and often does not necessitate a phone call or email to me or one of the Committee. I look forward to the upcoming Pennant and ask all players to be vigilant in their battle against Covid 19.

Martin Gallagher Captain/Website Manager 24<sup>th</sup> July 2020