

WELLINGTON GOLF REFEREES ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL PRESIDENTS REPORT 2017

Officers:

President: Bill Stratford
Vice President: Brian Richmond
Secretary/Treasurer: Michael Phelan
Committee: Bryan Futter, Murray Radford, Terry Gardiner, Kathy Goodman,
Steve Weir - (Nominee of Wellington Golf Inc;)

As always I would like to acknowledge and thank the members of my executive committee especially those new members who joined us last year, taking on the jobs of secretary and treasurer, which enabled others of us to spread the workload around. A special thanks also to Terry Gardiner for his work in reintroducing our Tee Time Newsletter

Also a big thank you to all our Tournament Referees officiating in all conditions over the last 12 months. The WGRA had to withdraw our services from the Otaki Cup for the 2016 season due to the changes WGI made to the interclub format. As WGI has gone back to the original format this year (2017) we have again been able to support and officiate at the Otaki Cup elimination rounds.

I also want to make a special thanks to Murray Radford who after 15 years plus on the executive committee has indicated that he will not be seeking re-election on the executive committee. Murray has been involved in all aspects on the committee, in running Rules Courses including many practical courses for clubs, attending overseas seminars and officiating at all levels nationally. Murray's expertise is not being lost to us entirely as he has indicated his availability to officiate when and as required.

It is with sadness that I have to advise of the passing of two of our team of active tournament referees this year, being Eddie Deonarain from the Karori GC and Ian Gordon from the Carterton GC. Ian travelled over to the Wellington area to officiate on numerous occasions which showed his dedication to being an active referee. Eddie was also very active in the beginning and was one of life's characters and well respected by those who worked alongside him. He loved attending Rules Courses and I know he would have liked to have joined us more often out on the course, however, his well being did limit and prevent that somewhat. To both Eddie's and Ian's families I would like on behalf of the WGRA to extend our deepest sympathies to them all.

Again we are looking to increase our number/s of Tournament Referees as we do struggle to meet our commitments to Wellington and NZ Golf. In saying that, we have managed to recruit two men and one lady under training with another prospect indicating he would like to join the team.

Many of you will have become aware of the Information just released from the Royal and Ancient together with USGA regarding proposed extensive changes to the Rules of Golf which they intend to be introduced worldwide in January 2019. This will be a subject for the new WGRA committee to discuss at our first meeting after our 2017 AGM, which may affect our 2017/18 annual Rules Courses. Be assured we will advise all financial members of any decisions that may be of concern to you and other golfers wanting to attend a WGRA Rules Course.

Once again many thanks to everyone, including all our Life and Financial members who continue to support the WGRA operations.

Regards, Bill Stratford President WGRA bill.raynor@clear.net.nz

Phone 04 5285080