



tee time

December 2015

NEWSLETTER OF THE WELLINGTON GOLF REFEREES ASSOCIATION INC.

After a lengthy break your association is finally in contact again and wishing its members the very best for the festive season and 2016.



Farewell Julia

You are probably aware that the newsletter has for many years been produced by Julia Murphy, but we are sorry to report that Julia was forced to retire from the association due to failing health earlier this year and is now in retirement in Whanganui. Our thoughts are with her at this time, and we thank Julia for her participation over the years both on and off the golf course. Her duties included the creation and management of a database of our members and the tuition side of activities, and a history of our organisation. She is sorely missed.

Shortage of Officials

We have had a reasonably quiet year on the officiating side of our activities, assisting mainly at events on the Wellington Golf calendar. As usual these have been attended by our few active member rules officials and it would be greatly appreciated if others could add their names to the roster for 2016. There will be both Wellington District and National events in our region in the early part of 2016 and people with Club level qualification who may be interested in furthering their activity in officiating should contact any member of our committee for details. In 2016 the Interclub competition will be spread over two venues which will mean that we are desperately short of rules officials. Unless others are prepared to assist, we will have to tell Wellington Golf that we cannot fulfill their requirements.

Rules Qualifications

For those wishing to undertake the first stage of qualification, an evening course will be run at Shandon Golf Club in 2016. The proposed dates are Feb 22, Mar 21, Apr 18, with a written examination on May 2. Presentation of badges to successful students on May 23. The evenings consist of progressive instruction on the content of the rule book, with a take home paper for completion and mail-in for marking, with review at the next meeting.

Application forms for this course will shortly be sent to your clubs who should already be able to supply you with the 2016 rule book with the changes which will take effect from January 1. The cost for the 2016 tuition course will be \$30 for new applicants and \$25 for refresher students, this covering the cost of postage etc., and one year's membership subscription to the WGRA.

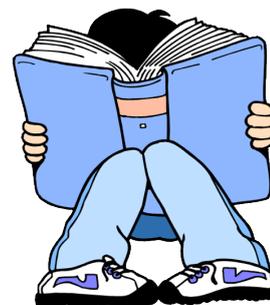
If there are sufficient applicants for the course from the Kapiti region, a local venue could possibly be arranged to avoid the need for travel.

The usual "next step" for those wishing to progress beyond club level qualification is to attend an event and accompany a qualified rules official, acting as a "buddy" to pick up the rudiments of the job. We have found this practical side of learning to be better than simple book learning, as it involves contact with the players themselves at a time when they are seeking help under real situations. After a few buddying sessions the student's progress is reviewed and, if favourable, a District level badge will be awarded. There is no formal examination at this stage.

The third stage of advanced qualification to National level, which entitles a rules official to participate at major events within New Zealand and overseas, is run by NZGolf with written papers and a final examination. This is a test of a high standard but successful students will be offered the opportunity to officiate at events such as the NZ Open. Women's Open and other events run by NZ Golf and even beyond our shores.

New Pocket Rule Book

By now most of you will have picked up your new pocket rule book which has been available at your club for a couple of weeks (and, of course, have read it!). The main changes in this revision which applies from 1 January 2016 are covered in pages 13 – 15 and are not momentous but may have significance if you are officiating or even in your regular play. We will not recount them in this newsletter but commend you to read them and understand the changes.



Representatives from the R&A recently visited Auckland where it was revealed that as a work in progress, a new simplified book of rules is being prepared, hopefully for release in 2018. Items such as water hazards – both the red and yellow marked types – will enjoy a combined single treatment; no longer will there be the need to have the pin attended for a stroke on the green; placing a ball instead of dropping it in relief situations; and other changes designed to speed up play. Can't wait!

Ponder this: -

How many golfers, who watched on TV the recent Women's Dubai Masters, where there appeared to be a singular lack of rules officials on course, saw the following sequence of events involving Swedish player Nanna Mansen?

On hole 8 in the third round this young lady hit her tee shot left into a sandy "waste area" and went forward with her playing companions to look for her ball. After several minutes she announced she would go back and play a provisional ball while the others continued searching. After playing a second ball and possibly within the five minutes allowed under the rules (but more likely not) the others found her original ball. She picked up her "provisional" and on reaching the original, declared it unplayable and took the appropriate relief with a one stroke penalty and continued the hole, taking two more to reach the green, then two putts to record a six for the hole. On to the 9th tee, completed the round and submitted her card, countersigned by a former world No.1.

QUESTION – Were her actions on the 8th within the rules? If not, why not? (and would I be asking if they were). What, if any, penalty should have been imposed by the tournament committee? Answer at the end of this newsletter.

Association Fees

As a parting thought, but bearing in mind your Association does have costs necessarily incurred in officiating at various events throughout the year, a number of you have not yet paid your annual membership fee of \$15. We do not send out invoices to save on postage but we do invite payment in our autumn newsletter.

There are two methods of payment either by direct credit or by cheque. It would be appreciated if those of you who have not made payment could arrange to do so please.

Direct credit can be made to:

ANZ, Petone – 06 0581 0056220 00

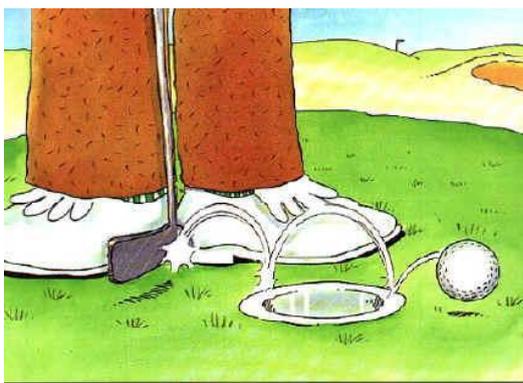
Or send your cheque to:

Murray Radford
Treasurer – WGRA
P O Box 126
Wellington 6140



AGM

Our next Annual General meeting is scheduled for Wednesday March 30, 2016 at the Shandon Golf Club rooms in Petone at 7:30pm. We are looking forward to seeing you there.



**There is no shot so simple that
it can't be messed up.**

Answer to Ponder this: -

Miss Mansen firstly breached rule 27-2a when she returned to the tee to play her provisional, so that ball became her ball in play. When she picked it up and played the original she played a wrong ball, 15-3b, and as she did not correct this error by replacing and playing the "provisional" and accepting whatever penalty applied, she should be disqualified under that same rule for not completing the hole with the ball in play, thus submitting an incorrect card.

One would have thought the more experienced players in her group would have known that!

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