

WELLINGTON GOLF REFEREES ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL PRESIDENTS REPORT 2018

Officers:

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

First and foremost I would like to acknowledge and thank all the members of my executive committee and especially those new members who joined us from the 2017 AGM. I also have a special thanks to Terry who this last twelve months has really re-established our Tee Time which I trust is being well received / enjoyed by our members.

As always a big thanks to all our active tournament referees who go out of their way to front up in both good and adverse weather conditions to support and officiate Wellington Golf and also New Zealand Golf selected National events that are played within the greater Wellington Region.

Unfortunately one of our biggest and ongoing concerns is, whilst many golfers attend the basic Rules of Golf courses we organise/provide, we are not having anyone come forward with the intention to further their referees qualifications to the next level of becoming District Referees and then ultimately becoming an active tournament referee.

This problem has been most noticeable over the last (12) twelve months or more, as age and health issues are slowly taking their toll and restricting the number of our once very active referees, to the extent that at times we find ourselves desperate to get enough referees to fulfil just our bare commitments to Wellington and NZ Golf and especially the Otaki and Duncan Cup series at the beginning of each year.

We really do need new active members otherwise there will come a time in the not too distant future when we may have to seriously make a decision to withdraw our services, due to our inability to support all golf events within the greater Wellington Area.

2019 Rules of Golf Modernisation - Training

As most golfers are becoming aware, the current Rules Of Golf are being revised by the R&A/USGA and once they are all finalised they will be introduced worldwide January 2019. The WGRA decided that due to these proposed rule changes being introduced etc we would put a hold on our annual WGRA Course Training programs rather than running a course with rules that will not apply after January 2019.

So what are we the WGRA doing about the new Rules of Golf Changes? At present we have arranged for one of our new lead trainers (Terry Gardiner) to attend a Seminar in Melbourne in April/May hosted by a combined NZG - R&A/USGA and following this seminar, the WGRA will be in a position to advise a training timetable, which is likely to follow the following sequence and timeframe wherever possible.

WGRA: Train the Trainers
WGRA: Train the Tournament Referee's
WGRA: Club Training before year end?
WGRA: 2019 Commence Annual Rules Courses

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

Regards, Bill Stratford President WGRA:

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