



# tee time

March 2020

NEWSLETTER OF THE WELLINGTON GOLF REFEREES ASSOCIATION INC.

## Rules Courses

The WGRA will run Rules courses again this year. Rather than the 'one night per week over four weeks' format, we intend to run both a Level 1 course and a Level 2 course over one day each. The Level 1 is for those who simply want a deeper understanding of the rules.

**INTERESTED IN DOING SOME OFFICIATING?** The Level 2 course is aimed at those who might consider becoming rules officials.

### Dates:

Level 1 Course: Sunday 26 April 2020

Level 2 Course: Sunday 7 June 2020 (tbc)

The venue for the courses will be Boulcott's Farm Heritage Golf Club Inc.

Flyers inviting applications for the courses will be distributed to Clubs shortly.

## Rules Clarifications

The Golf Rules 2019 are reviewed quarterly, and official clarifications issued by the governing authorities (the R&A and USGA). The latest clarifications were issued in January 2020, and the next review is scheduled for April.

**Backstopping.** The January 2020 review includes a new clarification on 'backstopping'. There is no breach of the Rules if a player leaves a ball on a green in a position to help another player whose ball is lying off the green *provided* there is no agreement between the players. However, the authorities recognise that the practice has the potential to advantage some players over the rest of the field. They therefore make the point

that all players share the responsibility for protecting the field, so that where there is the potential for backstopping, both players should ensure that the ball on the green is marked and lifted.

## Course Marking Issue



The WGRA was asked for advice on course marking at Te Marua Golf Club recently. One of the issues was the placing

of OOB markers on the right side of the 7<sup>th</sup> hole. For mowing purposes, the markers were placed in from the rough, and fairly adjacent to the green. The issue was that balls could lie perfectly playable and close to the green, but technically OOB. Worse, they were often out of view from the fairway. The solution? To mark all long, uncut rough as a 'Red Penalty Area'. That way the stakes could be moved into the rough and players would have a choice of playing their ball as it lies or dropping out for one penalty stroke.

## Eight Shot Penalty? Ouch!

You have to feel a little sorry for Russell Henley who suffered the indignity of an eight-shot penalty in the Mayakoba Classic late last year, causing him to miss the cut. It was for breaching the 'one-ball' rule (often used in professional tournaments) which requires the use of a single

brand and type of ball throughout a round.



Apparently

unbeknownst to Henley, a new type of Titleist ball had been added to his usual stash of ProV1x's. Henley later deduced that he had used the intruder ball on four holes and was assessed a two-stroke penalty for each hole.

### Ten Shot Penalty? OK...

Not to be outdone, Marcel Siem found himself penalised 10 strokes after lifting, cleaning and placing his ball on five holes during the first round of the Open de France last October. The problem? Preferred lies had not been authorised. Siem disqualified himself for the rest of the tournament.

### 58 Shot Penalty – Now We're Talking!



Joking aside, it's astonishing that Lee Ann Walker's repeated

violation of Rule 10.2b, by having her caddie align her putts throughout her first round of the Senior LPGA Championship last October, was not picked up earlier. It wasn't until the fifth hole of her second round that another caddie pointed out the violation. Since there is no limit to the number of penalty strokes in this situation, Walker had to add 42 to her first round score (which boosted it to 127) and 16 to her second round tally (which took it to 90 at the end of the round). If it was any comfort, it was later calculated that she would have missed the cut anyway.

### Penalised for Not Taking a Mulligan? It Happened



It was good to see Jesper Parnevik in the news again, although perhaps for the wrong reason.

On a short tap-in par putt during the last

round of the Senior PGA SAS Championship last year, Parnevik's ball looped round the cup and hit him on the foot. He simply tapped the ball into the cup and put down his bogey. Accidental deflections are no longer penalised, right? Not so fast! Rule 11.1b Exception 2 says that when a ball played from the putting green accidentally hits any person, animal or movable obstruction including another ball in motion, the stroke is cancelled and must be replayed.

Parnevik was assessed a two-stroke penalty for playing from a wrong place.

This seems to be a rule that can potentially catch out Rules Officials. Even the officials at this particular professional tournament weren't sure and had to consult the USGA. A lesson for us all: there's no shame in asking if we're unsure.

### Are Range Balls Conforming?



A question from one of our Club Rules Officials came up recently: a playing partner wanted to play a range ball so that it didn't go too far(!)

Can a range ball be used in competition? A range ball may be able to be used, provided it is on the conforming list. I checked, and in the case of the common or garden Srixon yellow range ball, it isn't. So, unless the ball can be found on the Conforming Ball list on the R&A site, it can't be used in competition.

## Water on Greens: What can Players Do?

Winter is not too far away. Last winter during a



WGI event, several greens became flooded and the question

arose, can players remove excess water? Of course, under Rule 8.1 they cannot if it would improve their 'conditions affecting the stroke' (CATS). However, under the Committee Procedures section of the Official Guide to the Rules, committees may, when necessary, get the help of players to clear temporary water. But it has to be specifically authorised by the Committee. In the case in point, WGI did indeed authorise the players to help squeegee the greens.

## Pros DQ'd for Running Out of Balls

At least on two occasions last year, golf professionals were DQ'd after running out of golf balls. Frenchman Clement Berado suffered the fate in a European Tour event in Spain. By all accounts he was having a miserable round (10 over through 15 holes), and it came as no surprise that he eventually ran out of balls and couldn't continue his round. Then last November, English pro Eddie Pepperell also emptied his golf bag's pockets. At the Turkish Airlines Open, he put four or five balls (neither he nor his playing partners were sure of the exact number) into the water on his 13<sup>th</sup> hole and promptly retired from the tournament. Of course, under the Rules, there is nothing to prevent a player borrowing balls from others on

the course. In these cases though, neither player was inclined to prolong their suffering.

## Golf is HARD: David Duval at the 2019 Open



Former World No 1 and 2001 Open champion David Duval had a hole to forget at last

year's Open. He was assessed to have scored a 14 on the par 5 7<sup>th</sup> hole during the first round. Following two lost balls in the rough, Duval then played a wrong ball from the rough and had to return to the tee to start again when his third ball also could not be found. Golf is not an easy game! Oh, yes, he missed the cut.

## WGRA News

### David Murie Passing

Sadly, long-time WGRA president and Life Member David Murie passed away in Wellington in mid-December. He is remembered as a hard-working rules man who officiated at both district and national events. Although his health prevented him refereeing in recent years, he remained interested and kept in touch with Rules developments. He will be missed by those of us who were fortunate enough to know him.

### FOR YOUR DIARY: WGRA AGM

Please note that the WGRA AGM will be held at:

**7pm Tuesday 24 March 2020 at  
Boulcott's Farm Heritage Golf Club**

All members are most welcome to attend.

## Rules Questions or Incidents

If you have any questions on anything to do with the Rules of Golf, any observations or comments, or rules incidents to share, please do send them to Terry Gardiner at [gardfam77@gmail.com](mailto:gardfam77@gmail.com)

### **WGRA Executive 2020**

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