

An open letter to members of NSWVGA

Recently I was asked to address the issue of the “excessive” increase in the affiliation fee and to provide more information on the initiatives which were addressed at seminars around the state in June.

The following is an extract of that response.

“The first issue I would like to address is the “excessive” increase of 66%. The affiliation fee has not been adjusted since 2006 and, had it increased in that time by 5% per year, it would now be \$8.40 so the \$2 increase over 12 years seems reasonable. I must also add that the increase does not commence until October 2018.

Secondly, the initiatives discussed at the seminars were as follows.

1. Establish a Natural Disaster Welfare Fund to assist Veterans’ clubs that have suffered a natural disaster affecting the playing of the game of golf on their courses. In the minutes of the AGM held on 1st November you will read that we have already allocated \$500 to Warren Veterans to assist in fund raising to rehabilitate their course after severe flooding. Who knows where the next disaster will occur and how many of the small, already struggling clubs are going to be affected? If your Veterans club is in a similar position to Warren you may apply to us for consideration for support. We at NSWVGA Executive like to think that the members of NSWVGA would be willing to assist any club so affected.
2. During 2017 we took steps to equalize the value of the vouchers, played for at Weeks of Golf throughout the state, for both men and women. While players at weeks of golf pay a levy of \$2 the Financial report at the AGM shows that there is a deficit of approximately \$8000 compared to \$5000 in 2016. We commenced this initiative in 2017 to remove an obvious bias against women players.
3. In 2016 the NSWVGA Medal was introduced to be played for in each Group, the format to be decided by the Match Committee/Captain of the Group. The aim of this initiative was to give those players who chose not to travel, the opportunity to play in a prestigious event within the local clubs/groups. For that event we provided a medal and a \$50 voucher to the winner in each participating group. We plan to expand this competition in the future, probably 2019, not only with additional medals/vouchers but to incorporate a State Final series. For those players representing groups where long distance travel is involved we plan to subsidise that travel.
4. A further initiative to be introduced, again for those players at local level, is a 4BBB state wide event. There are no details available yet but it definitely in our plans.
5. Finally, to match the 4BBB event, a mixed event is in the pipeline. Again, it is aimed at players at the local level so the non travelling golfers can participate in an event designed to encourage participation in NSWVGA events.

In summary, I hope that members can see that it is our aim to promote golfing activities throughout the state so that all members have the opportunity to gain benefit without having to travel far and wide, all for an extra \$2, and a total cost of less than a schooner for the year. Rest assured we are, through these initiatives, trying to encourage veteran golfers in NSW to become more involved at the local level. I hope you agree with our plans for the future of Veterans golf in NSW.”

Ian Vidler

President NSWVGA