

NALG Australia Delegates Meeting 2019

Meeting held at the Royal Hobart Golf Club, 19 November 2019 commencing at 2:45 pm with 20 members in attendance:

Secretariat

Executive Chairman	Bob Murphy
Vice Chairman	Phil Hart
Secretary/Treasurer	Sid Farrell
Captain	Langdon Emery

Division Delegates

ACT	John Longmire, Cheryl Gorham
New South Wales	Bruce Richardson, Rex Langthorne
Northern Rivers	Barry Clark, Neil Garrett
Queensland	Peter Robson, Jeff Hogan
Riverina	John Broster, Colin Holdsworth
South Australia	Phil Othams, Peter Crawford
Tasmania	Brian Bannister, Kerry Christie
Victoria	Trevor Golding, Bryan Lynch

Opening address

Bob Murphy opened the meeting with an obituary to past Executive Chairman John Steley who had passed on the 12th of October 2019. This was followed by a few moments silence prior to commencing the meeting.

Item 1 - Apologies

No apologies

Item 2 - Minutes of 2018 Meeting

Motion that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the 2018 delegates meeting
Moved: Langdon Emery, Seconded: John Broster; Carried

Item 3 - Business arising from the minutes

Bob Murphy reported that the various division calendars of events had been posted on the national website

Item 4 - Correspondence

The following correspondence was listed for reference for items dealt with later in the meeting:

In

- i. Letter from Bert Adams re 2018 Council Resolution re Doug Bachli Shield
- ii. Letter from Bert Adams re Len Nettlefold Shield
- iii. Trevor Golding re financial support for Johanna Wylie to attend 2019 World Championships
- iv. Letter from President Riverina Division re naming A Grade Championship event after Doug Bachli

Out

- i. Executive Chairman email response to Bert Adams re Doug Bachli Cup and Len Nettlefold Shield
- ii. Executive Chairman response to Trevor Golding re Johanna Wylie
- iii. Executive Chairman email response to President Riverina Division committing to include substance of correspondence as agenda item at 2019 Council Meeting
- iv. Secretary re Division capitation payments 2018/2019
- v. Executive Chairman - NALGA National Newsletters (6 Newsletters)
- vi. Executive Chairman – Inside Golf Article submissions (5 submissions)

Item 5 - Treasurer's Report

The Secretary/Treasurer presented the financial statements for 2018-19 noting that current balances in the two accounts at the time of the meeting was \$20,152.

Discussion:

Rex Langthorne questioned that if we had this amount available what were we proposing to spend the money on, noting that in previous years the Executive Council had decided to no longer support funding of junior members and leaving this to the discretion of the divisions.

John Broster commented that the not-for-profit status of the Council would be affected if the amount exceeded the limit set by the ATO. Bob Murphy noted that as the Council is not incorporated this should not apply and the funds were available to the divisions for specific initiatives, such as the awareness program.

Motion that the Secretary/Treasurer's report be accepted:

Moved: Brian Lynch; Seconded: Bruce Richardson; Carried

Item 6 - Auditor's Report

- i. The audited report was received and a motion made that it be accepted
Moved: Trevor Golding; Seconded: Langdon Emery; Carried

- ii. Appointment of Auditor

Trevor Golding offered to undertake the audit the accounts

Moved: Langdon Emery; Seconded: Brian Lynch; Carried

Item 7 - Business arising from Treasurer's report

The Secretary/Treasurer outlined his paper proposing amendments to the constitution to reflect the use of electronic funds transfer facilities now available in the Council's Bank accounts. Following a brief discussion the motion was made that: The amendments to the constitution as presented in the Secretary/Treasurer's paper be approved:

Moved: Sid Farrell; Seconded: Jeff Hogan; Carried

Item 8 - Chairman's Report

The Executive Chairman presented his report for 2018-19 stating that the main goal was to improve communication between the national Executive, NALG Divisions and individual members of NALGA through:

- National newsletters, 6 have been sent out to over 550 email addresses with 55% on average being opened;

- The National website, which has proven effective in communicating both nationally and internationally
- The National Facebook page, where posted newsletters can be directly linked to new members joining up
- InsideGolf magazine, which has the largest golf circulation in Australia and has been very supportive by publishing all five submissions made this year

The overall effect of these initiatives has seen our membership increase for only the second time in 20 years, with the big increase being in Riverina numbers – congratulations were extended to President Col Holdsworth and his Committee on this success. Congratulations were also extended to Johanna Whyllie on winning her second World Championship in Germany.

Item 9 - Captain's Report

The Captain advised that there was nothing to report for this meeting

Item 10 – Review of National Championship Prizes

Doug Bachli Award

John Broster outlined the recommendation of the Riverina Committee explaining that the award was to be made for the A Grade Men's Gross winner and is intended to be the name of the award and did not require a separate trophy.

A question was raised whether something similar should be done to commemorate John Steley and agreed that this should be deferred until next year's meeting.

The motion was that the A Grade Men's Gross winner be named the Doug Bachli Award

Moved: John Broster; Seconded: Colin Holdsworth; Carried

Item 11 – 2019 and 2020 World Championships

2019 Championships - It was reported the 2019 championships had been successful with Johanna Whyllie winning her second world WALG championship and the Australian team coming third in the Doug Crosby Cup Team Event. The article in InsideGolf magazine covering Johanna Whyllie's win had also been well received.

2020 Championships – A registration form and information on the 2020 championships are available on the National and Victorian Division websites. The hosts have reported there has been a lot of interest with over hundred entered already. John Longmire advised that there had been numerous reports of problems with entering the event. It was raised whether there was a NALGA contact for 2020 championships. Following a brief discussion John Longmire volunteered to be the contact for members wishing to register for the 2020 world championships and that this would be published on the National website.

Item 12 – 2019 National Championships

The Executive Chairman formally thanked Tasmania Division for hosting and running these championships, adding that he would also do this in his address at the presentation dinner.

Brian Bannister reported that he had had positive feedback regarding the need to reduce the championships to a 54-hole event and separate stableford event, following the cancellation of the first day due to poor weather conditions. He felt that the event had been well supported and thanked everyone for attending.

The Executive Chairman posed the question whether the use of one course might be an issue. The consensus was that it was an excellent idea and that either 1 or 2 courses would make the task of organising and running the championships much simpler.

Item 13 – Future National Championships

- i. 2020 Riverina – Colin Holdsworth reported that arrangements for next year's championships were progressing extremely well and that the organising committee was confident of presenting an excellent event. Key points to note were:
 - The championships will be held on the 36-hole Tocumwal Golf Club playing the Presidents, Captains and composite courses
 - The event will be held at the same time as this year's championships
 - A shot gun start will be used on each day with an official in a cart to guide players to their starting holes
 - They had received an \$8,000 in sponsorships for the event
 - A hole-in-one prize of a VW Golf is on offer on the last day
 - A complementary practice round is available for all registrants
 - There is plenty of accommodation available, but book early as it is a busy time of year for the region
 - Full information on the event will be on the divisions web site
- ii. 2021 Northern Rivers – Neil Garrett reported that planning for the 2021 championships was progressing well. They have arranged for the event to be held at Coolangatta Tweed Heads Golf Club using both the River Course and West Course. He questioned whether the event needed to be held as late as this year and was advised that the timing was at the discretion of the host division.

Item 14 – Sick List

It was reported that Keith Marshal (Victoria Division) was now able to play golf and is in good spirits.

Item 15 – General Business

i. Awareness Raising Plan Update

The Chairman provided an update on the Awareness Plan strategies reminding divisions that funding was still available for initiatives to raise awareness of NALGA or increasing membership. Submissions should be made through the Secretary/Treasurer. Current initiatives implemented by divisions are reported elsewhere in the minutes and the effectiveness is reflected by the improvement in membership numbers noted in the Chairman's report.

ii. **Norfolk Island Event**

John Longmire reported that there is some initial work being done looking at promoting golf on Norfolk Island. He sees this as a possible opportunity for NALGA members and friends playing golf on Norfolk Island in 2021, perhaps as an Australia- New Zealand challenge.

While this is very much a work in progress, the idea is not to run a tournament as such, but play some golf, and explore the island. Norfolk Tourism is keen to explore possibilities and the Golf Pro is a Leftie, whose father was a Queensland division member.

Consensus of the discussions was that Norfolk Island was a fairly expensive destination and could not be considered as a venue for a major NALGA tournament we should monitor the concept and look how we might promote and support it.

iii. **Reports from Divisions**

Tasmania – Brian Bannister, Numbers are steady, have been holding monthly competitions, celebrating Bill Mace’s 50 year membership, personal note that hosting these championships has been an eye opening experience to the amount of work involved and previous hosts needed a pat on the back for their efforts.

Victoria – Brian Lynch, major event for the year was a lefty/righty day at Mandalay Golf Club held in March that had 42 participants, handed out membership forms but have not received much of a response, has been a struggle to attract new members as people want to play on name courses but not pay green fees.

New South Wales – Rex Langhorne, hold 8 to 9 events a year ranging from Newcastle to Mollymook, which average about 30 players (LH and RH), has been a challenge to get participants for week days so next year will focus on weekend events and using a marketing person (Craig McHatten) to introduce a program using Facebook to attract younger golfers and increase membership. Bob Murphy to talk to Craig McHatten re National Facebook. Also considering having a “free day” event in which friends introduced by a member play for free.

Riverina – Colin Holdsworth, explained how the division doubled its membership over the past 12 months by directly promoting NALGA to left handed golfers in all the clubs in the region. Involved producing a brochure, which was given to lefties on the first tee at each club, and then signing them up. Vic division has also produced a similar brochure and Riverina can provide the details to other divisions if interested. Bob Murphy suggested that this should be facilitated through the Secretary/Treasurer.

Northern Rivers – Neil Garrett, Has used “couples day” on Sundays playing in the respective clubs daily events. Thought the brochure produced by Riverina was an excellent idea.

ACT – John Longmire, this year’s championships had about 36 players, which was down on the 65 that played at Royal Canberra last year demonstrating the attraction of premium courses. Will probably only hold about 4 or 5 events this coming year and look to hold more on Sundays to try to attract more members. Bob Murphy also mentioned the “Race to Nationals” initiative being used by ACT. This uses points allocated based on participation, performance and introducing new members with the cost of a left-hander’s entry to the NALGA National Championships awarded to the winner.

Queensland – Jeff Hogan, the division’s championship will be held in February 2020 and also looking to hold a challenge event with Northern Rivers division at Tweed Heads. Believes that members enjoy playing the better courses but as these are costly considering subsidising costs and offering food to attract more players.

In closing, the Chairman stated that there were several ideas being explored and that it really was a matter of what works for your division and what doesn’t. However, the one clear factor is that it is up to each of us to increase the awareness of NALGA to other left handed golfers and to feel we are able to recruit new members.

iv. Other Business

Membership subscriptions – Bob Murphy, Divisions charge different membership fees and wondered if there was any benefit in having a standard fee across all divisions.

General discussion established that each division based their fees on the costs associated with holding events and the extent to which these needed to be subsidised to attract participants.

It was agreed that this issue be raised within the divisions and to be further discussed at next year’s council meeting

Juniors – The issue of the age of junior members to be eligible to play in National and World championships was raised and whether it needed to be considered again. The consensus was that a resolution should be made at the next council meeting.

AYM Golf Tours – Bob Murphy, reported that had recently experienced a Tour to China with Sheri Yu and AYM Golf, which he said was a unique experience that he could unreservedly recommend. AYM tours have a sponsorship deal with NALGA that provides 10% discount to members and a payment of \$200 into our bank account.

Social Golf Australia – Bob Murphy, Met the CEO of Social Golf Australia, which is an Australian golf service provider offering official golf handicaps for \$95 around Australia and official golf events with results on GOLF Link. Has 4,000 members and suggestion is to provide link on our website as a possible avenue to attracting more members to NALGA. Bob will explore this further.

Championship format – Neil Garrett, proposing to use stroke and stableford parallel events used in the Tasmanian championships for the 2021 event hosted by Northern Rivers; John Broster advised that the championships hosted Riverina in 2020 will be stroke only.

Left handed ladies – Cheryl Gorham, during the current championships left-handed ladies have been grouped with right-handed players. Preferred that this did not occur. Brian Bannister advised that this had happened due to the number of lady players and the arrangements for players in golf carts using a shotgun start. It was noted that, as guideline, left-handed players should be grouped together where possible.

Tournament guidelines – Peter Crawford, the issue of applying a maximum score policy for stroke rounds in the championships was discussed with the consensus being that it should not be used and that no maximum score should apply to stroke rounds. A separate discussion on tournament guidelines agreed that where possible, the leading players on the final day should be seeded.

The Chairman thanked all delegates and executive committee members for attending the meeting and their efforts in supporting their respective divisions, saying that the success of NALGA relies on the enthusiasm and cooperation of all involved. He specifically requested that they provide him with:

1. Regular updates to their membership including email addresses,
2. Event calendars for the next year,
3. Submissions for any initiatives they would like funded

The meeting was declared closed at 4:00 pm