



Lower North Coast District Golf Association Newsletter ... December 2017

Welcome! This newsletter from your LNC Committee is designed to keep you informed of what we as the district committee “are up to” as we work toward making your district association more and more relevant to your needs as affiliated golf clubs.

During 2017 the LNC DGA undertook a survey of all member golf clubs and that completed survey was distributed during November. We are now in a position to let you know what steps are underway and what we are thinking in relation to issues still under consideration.

First, the positive actions for clubs ... NOW!

1. **Sponsorship for a Club Event.** The Committee have decided to offer one \$250 sponsorship to an ordinary club event to each of our eleven member clubs! All you have to do is (1) let us know what Saturday event you have chosen and the date it is to be run (2) assure us that it will be advertised to your members as the “LNC Sponsored [type of event]” and (3) invite an LNC committee member to your event presentation on the day.
2. **Junior Development.** The Committee is in the process of readjusting the budget presented at our November meeting to allow for a far more substantial commitment to junior development (1) in support of junior development at club level and (2) in developing a programme for juniors to allow them to compete at the district level: (a) a junior pennants competition; (b) a calendar to expose all club juniors to what’s available throughout the district; (c) on Order of Merit scheme involving the junior opens at all clubs; (d) access to scholarships for near elite and elite juniors; (e) organising an annual junior boys camp on a weekend in association with a club’s junior open; (f) establish a JNJG style “Juniors on the Move” programme for the district; and (g) working with clubs to establish an shortened fully rated junior course at their course to encourage more club based junior competition. To kick things off we do need all clubs to provide Howard Burrows the district JDO with the names and GL numbers of all juniors with AGU handicaps.
3. **Club Forum.** Each of our three-monthly delegates meetings will have a sizable chunk of time devoted to what we loosely call a club forum: it will be designed to all member clubs to share information about development at club level and to ask questions from other delegates on golfing issues they may be considering.

Next, other matters under consideration:

Transparency. We are determined that all member clubs will know of and understand the selection processes for all teams that represent the district including, of course, the basis on which selection is made. What we need captains to do is respond as soon as they are able to with the names and GL numbers of all those golfers at their club who they think would (a) like to represent the district in stroke and match play, and (b) are willing to make a commitment to a particular date and stick to it. Names and numbers to secretary Geoff Vial please!

District Buddy System. We would like to facilitate a district “buddy system” roughly along the lines of the scheme run by Golf NSW across the state though perhaps rather less formally so. Maybe this will be drawn from the delegates golf forum mentioned above, maybe it is left to individual clubs to work out a relationship. We are determined that what district support can be provided to clubs with a need for information contact or just simply personal support will be provided and hope that member clubs will both put their hands up between meeting to seek support and that other clubs will be prepared to respond in a positive and helpful way.

Support for Nine-Hole Courses. Long on our agenda this is a matter we are determined to work on during the year. It may be something that be kicked off in our first “forum” discussion in February; it may be something we can work towards in a series of one-on-one discussions.

A District LNC Development Plan. For the first time in a long while we have a useful working budget, one that has already been adjusted to provide substantially for the future of our game through district junior development. Our discussion during the year at committee and delegates meeting level will, we hope, lay the foundations for a more comprehensive plan relating to other activity that will contribute directly to member club health and vitality.