

## Player's Meeting – Australian GC Open 10 May 2013

Player's raised the following issues:

### (a) Cost

- some players felt entry fees are now too high, and prize money should be reduced to allow this since prize money doesn't matter to most players
- Tony Hall noted that first place for the Aust AC Open Singles has been \$1,000 for 20 years, although ACA has not increased it to allow for inflation. Tony stressed that ACA aims to break even, rather than make a profit from each tournament. Typically these events cost around \$8,500 to run (\$2k court hire, \$800 referees' lunches & coffee/tea, \$3k for TM & TR, \$1.8k prizes). ACA would in fact like to pay referees but this would drive entry fees up further. ACA budgets on 35 players so will actually make a loss for the 2013 event.
- some players noted that \$212 is worth it for the big event experience – it is not just a standard country tournament. The cost of accommodation far outweighs the entry fee(s)

### (b) Format

- most players were unhappy with the triple round robin, but opinion was divided whether the issue was playing 18 games in 3 days. Several players had left, refusing to play in the Plate on the grounds that there were too many games. These were mainly local players from Melbourne; and the players who had travelled to the event from outside Melbourne wanted as much play as possible
- a major concern was playing the same people three times, and there was a clear preference for larger blocks, or playing across blocks, to ameliorate this
- some player's advocated bo3 instead, but most players felt this would reduce the total number of games available for the best or the worst players
- adding an extra day wasn't popular, given the cost of accommodation; although some argued that players should then choose whether playing both Doubles & Singles
- some players wanted more play in the Plate events
- others want to mix up each days opponents (ie not the same pattern if multiple round robins)

### (c) Re-Draw

- players understood that ACA Tournaments had set up the draw(s) based on entries, and that this should not be changed "on the run"
- however players preferred that it had been re-done in 2013, in light of the significance of who had actually withdrawn

### (d) Conditions

- players felt strongly that published Tournament Conditions should not change just before an event
- it was accepted that some changes could be made in light of what is actually happening (eg Brian Reither banning 5 minute warm-ups before games to keep the event moving)

- Elizabeth Fleming also noted that some things needed to be corrected, if not correct in the Program (eg when players could ask for hoops to be checked during a game)

**(e) Management**

- players felt Brian Reither et al had it under control
- put the date & time for the Players' Meeting in the Program, but then be flexible according to actual circumstances

**(f) Referees**

- players felt most referees were “fantastic”, and that most were trying to do a good job
- the concern was that referees should follow the games, and not chat together (and especially when loudly enough to distract players). This also tends to mean they miss errors, and aren't sure of what is actually happening
- players were relaxed whether referees were Supervisory or On Call, as long as someone was available when required
- effort should be made to provide meaningful feedback to each referee after the event as part of “quality control” (now mandated as part of the accreditation procedures?)

**(g) Venue for GC Opens**

- this event currently rotates venues, based on bids from States to hold it
- players felt it shouldn't always be at the same venue; but understood it has tended to gravitate to VCC (Cairnlea) since it is convenient to run this event at a 12 court venue
- players felt States should be more pro-active bidding for this event, especially since VCC is usually bitter in May.

**(h) Social**

- players felt that tournaments were about mixing socially & catching up with each other, not just playing croquet. Suggestions include a BBQ at Ashley Gardens or a Quiz Night – anything, provided it was communicated to everyone
- there was mixed feeling about whose responsibility it was to organise this (ie part of the Tournament program, or up to participants to arrange something)