Public Course Pennants Round 6 / Sunday 12 March 2023

**Division 1**

At the crack of dawn, when most people were tucked up in bed in the midst of the Mad March long weekend, NAGC’s Div 1 team was on the tee at Regency Park getting the job done to wrap up the home-and-away rounds of this year’s Public Course Pennants competition.

And they are through to the Big Dance… earning a weekend off before a berth in the Grand Final at Echunga on Sunday 26 March… courtesy of a 5-3 win today over third-placed Regency Park.

This time it was the lower order that delivered the goods with John Filmalter at 5 cleaning up 5&4; skipper and partner Shaun Dawson going the distance to finish 1 up. Playing at 7, Steve Darch was in blazing form with a 7&6 win, with Will Phelan comfortably home 4&2. Youngbok Kim, playing at 3, sealed the deal with a 3&2 win.

Alex Martinson, Chantha Kong and Henry Park completed the lineup.

The win kept NAGC at the top of the ladder, closing out the minor round with 13 points from their 4 wins, one halved match and one loss… with 29 games and 108 holes won over the six rounds.

Their opponent in the decider will be the winner of next week’s semi-final between Sandy Creek and Regency Park.

**Division 2**

Conditions further north at Playford Lakes were just as mild, but the wide 9-hole layout was still a challenge which NAGC’s Division 2 side had to tackle head-on to maintain its lead of the Northern division table.

As with Division 1, it was the lower order that delivered again with Frank Kong (1up) and Bob Henley (4&3) stitching up the first pair of matches playing at 8 and 7 respectively. Toby Maddern at 6 and skipper, Anthony Clapp at 5 secured tough wins… Toby 2&1 and Anthony going the distance to win by a single hole. Paul Haines, playing at 4, got his big levers working on those wide open spaces to clean up 6&5.

Alice Cho and Atila Koca both took their matches to the 18th hole but came away empty-handed while Chris Watson battled hard but unsuccessfully against ex-NAGC player, Jamie Clarbull.

NAGC closed out the Division 2 minor round with 15 points from 5 wins and one loss, with winning margins of 27 games and 88 holes over the six matches.

They go to Echunga next Sunday to face North Haven, the second-placed side in the Southern division, who halved their match 4-all at Regency Park today.

**Division 3**

Not the finish to the minor round that our Div 3 team would have wanted.

Some late fade-outs masked how competitive some of the matches actually were, but in the end the record shows it as a win to Playford Lakes with 5 wins, 2 losses and one match squared.

The ever-consistent Ian George recorded a 2&1 win despite conceding 2-strokes to his opponent. Murray O’Neill joined the winners list as well with a 3&1 win making the most of his 2-stroke buffer. The fiercely competitive Dee Bennett squared her match with the help of an 8-stroke advantage against her big-hitting opponent.

Luis Madriz, Luis Plaza, Tom Ryke, Brett Heaven and Peter Mayboroda were unsuccessful.

The result allowed Sandy Creek to take top spot after 6 rounds and the all-important finals berth against the second placed side from the Southern Division, North Haven, which had its clock comprehensively cleaned by Regency Park today 8-0.

Still… a side-by-side comparison of the statistics between NAGC and our arch-rivals at Regency Park show the sides reasonably matched, and let’s not forget the X-factor of a neutral venue at Echunga.

Three from three sides in the semi-finals is a great result. Now we need to get the job done next Sunday and make it three from three in the Grand Finals!

Good luck to all sides.