



AUSTRALIAN PITCH & PUTT AND PAR 3 GOLF ASSOCIATION INC

SECRETARY DAVID WRIGHT
POST 62/35 BONNEY STREET AINSLIE ACT 2602 AUSTRALIA
EMAIL DAVIDWRIGHTAPPA@GMAIL.COM
MOBILE +61 (0)421 054 390

MEDIA RELEASE

GOLFERS DOMINATE AUSTRALIAN PITCH AND PUTT OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Neangar Park Golf Club in Bendigo played host to the Australia Pitch and Putt Golf Championships on their new 9 hole Pitch and Putt Course – the first course developed at a regular golf course that opens its facility to the general public.

The course was only completed and had its official opening last month. Dreadful weather in recent weeks in Victoria had Tournament Director, Phil DeAraugo, worried that it would not be ready in time. Thanks to Neangar's ground staff the course was presented in perfect condition.

The Open field was disappointingly small but with several local regulation golf club champions and two multiple Australian Pitch and Putt Open Champions in James Rogerson (Canberra) and Marc Fischer (Melbourne) contesting the title, the event was bound to be full of interest.

Tis first encounter between Regulation golfers and Pitch and Putt players in an Australian Open Championship resulted in a resounding victory for the 'regulation' golfers who filled the first 6 places. Simon Sheedy from the Maldon Club defeated Tim Daykin of Neangar Park in an exciting play-off to take the 2022 Australian Open Pitch and Putt Championship.

Best Women's Gross went to Jenny Whittaker (Wiradjuri, Wagga Wagga), Men's Best Nett to Brendan Underwood (Waverley) while the Women's Nett and Senior Nett (Mixed) both went to Sue Sutton from Anne Weekley, both representing Neangar Park.

The small field was due in part to the legacy of the pandemic – people being reluctant to travel, the travel distances involved and to the fact that even Neangar Park golfers had not had time to explore the opportunities afforded by Pitch and Putt as a compliment to golf and as a sport in its own right.

An important influence on the outcome was undoubtedly the design of the course which featured very large greens more akin to those found on a golf course rather than those found on a normal pitch and putt course where the greens are rarely of more than 100-120 square metres. It will be interesting to see how the golfers fare on a more traditional Pitch and Putt course. We will have to wait and see if this year's successful golfers will be up for the challenge next year.

Feedback suggests that everyone thoroughly enjoyed the Tournament and a number of golfers will be willing to participate in next year's event. Similarly, all the usual Pitch and Putt contingent will be wanting to come back to Neangar Park in Bendigo at the earliest opportunity.

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