

MEDIA RELEASE – 13 September 2023

Email: info@deafgolfaustralia.com.au

2023 Australian Deaf Golf Championships



Womens Champion Chantell Greaves (NSW), Mens Champion Jack Besley (VIC), Senior Mens Champion Mark Aird (QLD)

A RECORD number of 51 deaf and hard of hearing golfers including two international golfers from the USA and New Zealand competed at the **26th Australian Deaf Golf Championships** at the Gold Coast RACV Royal Pines complex 28-30 August 2023. The 54 hole event was keenly contested in 5 categories : Mens, Womens, Senior Mens, Senior Womens and Veteran.

The Royal Pines course played to perfect weather conditions over three days. It was considered the most enjoyable and successful Championships since the 1st Championships were inaugurated in Perth 53 years ago. Deaf Golf Australia (DGA) together with the host state Deaf Golf Queensland were delighted with all aspects of the tournament.

The Men's category was keenly contested with **Jack Besley** from Southern GC Vic winning with scores of 73,75,78 (226). Runner up was **Andrew Honeysett** from Kogarah GC NSW. Third placed was **Luke Ellis** Pymble GC NSW.

New South Wales women provided a close finish with **Chantell Greaves** Dunedoo GC NSW achieving scores of 91,85,90 (266), **Debbie Bynes** from Port Kembla GC NSW runner up and **Laura Burns** SGA Vic in third place.

Senior men's category had a record number of 21 entries competing in this category with the winner being **Mark Aird** from Oxley GC Qld with his scores of 80,83,83 (246). Runner up was **Craig Douglas** from Wallacia GC NSW and in 3rd place **Jason Baird** from Murray Downs GC Vic.



NDSC under Deaf Sports Australia ABN 18 006 071 147

Established 1969. Affiliated with World Deaf Golf Federation

It was the first time Veteran Men's (65+) category was contested at the Championships and had 6 golfers. Western Australia took out the honours in this new category. **Tony Klimek** Western Australia GC with scores 92,102,95 (289) and runner up was **Greg Strachan** Whaleback GC WA.

New South Wales was the winning state team achieving 2 best scores each day from 5 team members: Luke Ellis (captain) Andrew Honeysett, Grant Thomson, Daniel O'Halloran and Anthony Hinton.

The tournament was also the qualifying event for Australian golfers for team representation to the 14th World Deaf Golf Championships which will be hosted at the same venue in a year's time – from 24th to 29th August 2024. A key requirement for qualification is that the golfer must meet International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD) entry requirement which includes a minimum of 55 decibel hearing loss in the best ear and certified by an audiologist.

DGA invites deaf and hard of hearing junior golfers under 18 years of age to play the Junior Boys (18.4 and under) and Junior Girls (30.4 and under) categories at the World Deaf Golf Championships at Royal Pines next year.

DGA wishes to thank Drummond Golf for its great support by donating prize vouchers and Deaf Golf Queensland members for helping to ensure the smooth running of the 3-day event.

Deaf Golf Australia will now focus on hosting the August 2024 international 6-day event that has been several years in planning. All Australian deaf and hard of hearing golfers and the deaf community look forward to welcoming international golfers at RACV Royal Pines. Volunteers are invited to help run the event by emailing info@2024wdgc.com

Full scores can be viewed on www.deafgolfaustralia.com.au