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History of the N.S.W. Super Senior Golf Association (Inc)

In the beginning: This Pennant Competition for 65 years and over male golfers, was a result of a visit by Barry Ewert from the Morisset Golf Club to the USA in 2001. Senior golfers in the USA played in a handicap competition that was known as the Senior Golfing Society.

On his return to Australia, he talked to Jim Earl about what he had seen. Jim then approached Brian Webster from the Toukley Golf Club about organising a similar competition on the Central Coast. Brian had a meeting with the Captain of Toukley Golf Club and from there 6 Clubs, namely Toukley, Morisset, Tuggerah Lakes (now Shelly Beach), Wyong, Terrigal and Gosford agreed to form a Super Senior Pennant Championship in 2002. Everglades joined the competition in 2003.

2002: The Super Senior Pennant Championship (with no handicaps) started in 2002 with six clubs from the Brisbane Waters District and was won by Morisset GC.

2003: Newcastle joined in 2003 with three clubs making 10 teams, won by Wyong.

2004: Another three clubs joined from Newcastle in 2004, increasing clubs to thirteen, won by Newcastle G.C.

2005: Nineteen clubs from Sydney joined in 2005, making 33 clubs participating in the Pennant Series, played in three areas, namely Sydney with four Divisions, Brisbane Waters one Division of seven clubs and Newcastle one Division of seven clubs. Strathfield GC won the Sydney Division, Morisset GC the Brisbane Waters Division and Newcastle GC the Newcastle Division. Strathfield GC defeated Morisset GC but lost to Newcastle GC in the final played at Wyong.

2006: The format for 2006 was changed to seven Divisions, five in Sydney, one in Brisbane Waters and two in the Newcastle area. Newcastle GC defeated Pennant Hills GC in the final at Tuggerah GC. In 2006 the competition name was changed to Super Senior Pennant. Rules were changed to give a smoother playing format.

2007: Forty-four clubs contested the 2007 Pennant with twenty-seven clubs from Sydney, seven clubs from the Central Coast and ten clubs from Newcastle. The Lakes defeated Monash in the final played at Castle Hill.



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2008: Forty-Four clubs again played in the 2008 Pennant. Sydney with twenty-six clubs, Central Coast seven clubs and eleven clubs from Newcastle. The home and away format was used in Sydney but due to club numbers in the Central Coast and Newcastle the old format was used. Belmont overcame Newcastle to win the Pennant played at Horizons.

2009: Wollongong joined Southern Highlands three clubs in 2009 and played the home and away format. A total of forty-nine clubs (51 teams) contested the Pennant, twenty-seven clubs (28 teams) from Sydney, seven clubs (eight teams) from the Central Coast and eleven clubs from Newcastle. Belmont was again Pennant winners beating Newcastle at Wyong.

2014: At this stage, at the end of the 2014 season some 53 teams had entered the SSP Match Play competition. The final was played at Horizons Golf course between Newcastle Golf Club, finalists in 2013, and new Club to the competition, Forster-Tuncurry. The Forster-Tuncurry Club was successful in its first attempt to win the Pennant. Congratulations to both teams who played the matches in the right spirit.

2015: In 2015 54 teams played in the Pennant in 8 Divisions. 6 Divisions had 7 teams while 2 Divisions had 6 teams. Teams was once again coming from Sydney, Central Coast, Newcastle and the Mid North Coast. At the completion of the Divisional Rounds 16 teams, 8 Divisional Winners and 8 Runners up, were placed into the Playoff Draw. The usual suspects were prevalent, with The Lakes, Wyong, Forster Tuncurry and Nelson Bay making their way into the Semi-finals. By far the biggest upset was the defeat of Forster Tuncurry by the determined Wyong team 5.5 to 2.5. The Lakes accounted for Nelson Bay 5-3 Wyong then went on to play The Lakes in the final at the difficult Monash course. Unfortunately, it was not Wyong's day as they struggled against a team of very experienced Lakes players. Final result being 7-1.

2016; saw 54 teams entered, 6 Division of 7 teams and 2 Divisions of 6 teams. Divisions with 7 teams did not play on their home course but rather hosted the other 6 teams when they had the bye. However, the 2 Division of 6 did play on their home course with no bye present. The playoffs had 16 teams present in the same arrangement as 2015. Come the semi-finals saw the emergence of Cronulla and Camden-Studley into the picture. These two were to have a great battle at the Castle Hill course with Cronulla just edging out their opponents 5-3. The other semi saw Forster Tuncurry defeat The Lakes 5-3.



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The final was played at the well-groomed Shelly Beach course on the Central Coast. Having not met before, it was anyone's guess who would come out on top between Forster-Tuncurry and Cronulla. It wasn't long before a result was forthcoming with Forster Tuncurry not losing a match, their Numbers 1 and 2 squaring after 18 with a final result of 7-1 to the team from the Mid North Coast. Since their entry into the Pennant in 2014 this team have won the trophy twice in the last 3 years. A great effort.

During the 2016 season the name of the Pennant changed significantly And became an incorporated body under the heading of....

"New South Wales Super Senior Golf Association Incorporated". This now establishes us as the only official body responsible for running our competition.

2017: The 2017 Pennant kicked off in late January with a bout of severe heatwave conditions. 56 teams entered for the 16th Super Senior Pennant. Heat exhaustion became a factor throughout February until the rains came in March. 327 mm of Rain in the month of March, recorded at the Sydney Observatory made for a very soggy final few rounds. More bad weather interrupted the Playoffs however credit must be given to the Charlestown team who made it through to the semi-finals from their runner up position in Division 9. This was the first time such a result had been achieved in the history of Super Seniors Pennant.

The four semi-finalists were Forster-Tuncurry playing Charlestown, and The Lakes playing Belmont. As expected, Forster-Tuncurry were too strong and defeated Charlestown 6.5 to 1.5, however the big surprise was created by Belmont who, on a countback under the McPherson Rule defeated The Lakes 15/8.

The final played at the magnificent Newcastle Golf Club proved to be a thriller between Forster Tuncurry and Belmont. After 9 holes games were even then, as expected, the back nine played its' part. Matches were see-sawing all over the Links and coming to 18th hole it was up to the Numbers 1 and 2 players from both sides to determine the winner. Games were even at 3 apiece. Tony Kennings, no:1(FTGC) rammed in a 5-metre putt to square his match, making it 3.5 matches all. Both the Number 2's was on the green in regulation with FTGC some 15 metres from the pin and Belmont some 6 metres away. As it turned out so often in match play putts decided the winner. The FTGC Number 2 3 putted to give the Belmont Club victory and its 4th Super Senior Pennant.

Congratulations to both teams for a real cliff hanger of a final.



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2018: The 17th Super Senior Pennant saw 58 teams split into 9 Divisions of 7 teams where possible. A total of 711 players were registered throughout the Pennant ... a record number. The Lakes and Forster Tuncurry travelled to the beautiful Horizons Golf Resort to contest the 17th Super Senior Pennant Final, on Monday 29th October. The game was blessed with a warm spring day, greens that were receptive to spin and fairways and tees that were in top condition.

The players from the mid North Coast jumped to an early lead and at the halfway mark were ahead 5 matches to 1 with 2 all square. By the 13th things had swung back to The Lakes way slightly with their numbers 1 and 2 both going 2 up with 5 holes to play. An early breakthrough from Gary Cush in winning 6 and 4 then Captain Bob Angus defeating the Lakes Captain Bruce Johnson 5 and 3 saw a tight battle develop. With two holes to play Forster Tuncurry had 3 and a half matches won needing just one more result to go their way. It came right down to the wire with Paul Connell sinking a 1.2 metre putt on the 18th to give Forster Tuncurry victory for the 3rd time in the last 5 years. The official scoresheet of the matches is under RESULTS. Congratulations to both Bob Angus and Bruce Johnson and their teams for a tense battle played in the true spirit of the game.

2019: The weather Gods turned on a magnificent day for the Final at Pacific Dunes, Medowie. With such conditions it was not hard to enjoy the golf on display at a course which was presented in A1 condition. The two teams contesting the 18th Pennant final, Forster Tuncurry & Castle Hill, were the culmination of 59 teams in 9 Divisions, and 823 registered players who played in the 2019 Pennant. It was obvious throughout the day that all players came to respect this golf course from an early stage with its" tight fairways and quick greens running at 11 after being cut and rolled before play got under way. The reigning champions, Forster Tuncurry, went to an early lead on the front nine and by the time the 9th green was reached they were ahead 7 matches to 1 with Bob Angus (7) and Peter Chatillon (8) leading in their matches 4 up and 3 up respectively. Castle Hill's Drew Simonsen providing some hope for the challengers by leading 1 up after 9 from Gary Cush.

Then things changed dramatically. Suddenly Castle Hill were back in it after 12 holes leading by 4 matches to 3 with 1 square. Led by former Australian rep. player Gerry Power who came from 1 down after 9 to 1 up after 12, his teammates must have got a message and they too came to the party. Ian Cochrane (CH) knocked in an 80 metre pitch on the 12th to get back to square while Warren Grant came from 2



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down after 9 to be 1 up after 12 against Tony Reed. Drew Simonsen continued his strong play and after 12 consolidated his 1 up after 9 to 3 up after 12. Tony Kennings from Forster Tuncurry was proving a handful for Castle Hill Captain, Bob White with Tony chalking up an early 5/4 win. Meanwhile the 7's and 8's for Forster Tuncurry, Bob Angus and Peter Chatillon, proved too strong over the remaining holes, both accounting for their opponents, Trevor Amery and Jim Farnham, 4 and 3. Things looked to swinging back to the boys from the Mid North Coast however, Castle Hill were not giving up just yet. Both Gerry and Ian from Castle Hill registered good wins 4/2 and 2/1 over Paul Connell and Mike Jackson to close the gap. Geoff Greenaway from Forster Tuncurry edged out his opponent Tony Pagliaro 2 up in a closely fought match where the margins were no greater than 1 hole until the 18th. The number 4, s were to decide the result of the day at the 18th. With Forster Tuncurry leading 4 matches to 3 these two players came to the 18th with Warren Grant (CH) having his opponent, Tony Reed, dormie 1. The finishing hole, a 461 metre Par 5 with water in the front of the green proved to be a fitting finishing hole. Warren kept his nerve to halve the 18th and thus win 1 up placing the result as a 4 all draw. This then required a countback on the result of holes won by each team. If this was still a draw then the highest seeded team was declared the winner. Countback rules are contained in the Rules of Play, see Rule 8. When tallying up the scores it showed that Forster Tuncurry had scored 15 holes and Castle Hill 10 holes, making Forster Tuncurry Champions again for 2019. It now means that Forster Tuncurry have won 4 of the last 6 Finals, 1 short of the Lakes Club who have won 5 Finals. Congratulations to both teams for a final that was played in the true spirit of the game. The Committee would also like to thank the staff of Pacific Dunes for presenting such a great spectacle on the day.

2020: A year like no other would be an apt description of 2020 with regard to the Super Senior Pennant. Starting with 63 teams when the draw was released Covid 19 quickly took its toll by reducing that number to 54.

As well the Super Senior Championship held at Toukley Golf Club every year since 2012 became another casualty due to the Virus and the restrictions imposed at the time. It will hopefully be held on the 10th May in 2021.

Some quick redraws took place and the Pennant commenced on 3rd August as scheduled. After 2 rounds an NSW Government lockdown was forced upon us from the 19th August to the 30th September. After the lockdown finished the big decision



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was then made to recommence the Pennant on the 6th October. An overwhelming vote of confidence was received from Clubs to continue with the Pennant.

The Divisional Rounds concluded on the 2nd November and the Knockout Finals Series involving the Winners and Runners up of each of the 9 Divisions started on the following week. This section of the Pennant takes place over 5 consecutive weeks with the final due to take place on the 10th December. Last year's finalists, Castle Hill and Forster/Tuncurry slowly threaded their way through the Draw where in the semi-finals Castle Hill accounted for the courageous The Lakes Golf Club Team at Asquith Golf Club while Forster Tuncurry had a convincing win over Cumberland at Horizons Golf Resort.

Thus, the stage was set for a repeat of last year's finalists to engage once more for the decider at The Lakes Golf Club in Sydney on Thursday 10th December.

Finals day Thursday 10th December at The Lakes Golf Club saw a beautiful day, temperature around 27 Degrees with a slight breeze. An early lead of 6/2 after 3 holes was established by the Castle Hill team with Gerry Power and Lindsay Verdon for the Sydney team going 2 and 3 up. Forster Tuncurry, not to be denied fought back to 5/3 after 7 and by the 9th, matches were 4 all. The stage was set for a thrilling finish on the back nine with a southerly buster making itself very prominent by the time players reached the 10th tee. By the 14th Castle Hill had recorded 2 matches in with their opposition in the 1 and 2 positions. It was then left to the 5,6,7, and 8 players to decide who would take home the Pennant and the Shield. Tony Reed (F.T.) continued his consistent play all season with a 2/1 win over Graham Hann (C.H.), while Rob Pedersen (C.H.) whose putting was a stand out on the well-manicured, true greens proved too good for Geoff Proctor (F.T.) 8/7. Castle Hill clinging to 3/2 lead increased their position to 4/2 with a 1 up win to David Andrews over Paul Matthews at the 18th. It was then left to the numbers 7 and 8 to decide who would prevail at the testing 16th hole played into the teeth of the southerly. Ian Cochrane, number 7 for Castle Hill being 2 up hitting off 16 came to the green needing to sink a 1.2 metre putt over his rival Peter Chatillon. Silence prevailed from the many spectators as Ian proceeded to make the putt... as it fell into the cup the Castle Hill boys erupted with cheers for their number 7. Castle Hill had notched 5 matches, with the meter number 8's result being declared halved, although Paul Connell (F.T.) has his opponent dormie 3.



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Players, spectators and Supporters then proceeded to the Banksia Room in the clubhouse for the Presentation where Graeme Phillipson from Golf NSW presented Captain of Castle Hill Bob White with the trophies.

It must be said that all players who participated in the 2020 Pennant were over the age of 65 and considered by NSW Health extremely vulnerable to Covid 19. However, it was shown throughout the Pennant that the virus did not interrupt proceedings and to that the Association would like to thank all those who took part in the 2020 Pennant for their vigilance and responsible behavior shown throughout the year.

Entries for the 2021 Pennant will be sent out on Monday 18th January 2021 via email to all 63 Clubs who originally entered in 2020. They have until the 1st March to have their Form in the Hands of The Association. The Entry form will also be placed on our website for those new clubs that may wish to enter.

2021: Not played due to the devastating effect of Covid 19.

2022:

Past winners of the Pennant are located under ABOUT on the website.

www.superseniorpennant.com