



Captain's Corner Newsletter

Welcome to all our new members that joined in 2026 and thank you to all those that continue to support SVGA. Your encouragement and help to the committee and volunteers is really appreciated.

Member Feedback Survey coming soon in 2026 – We'd Appreciate Your Input

As part of our commitment to providing enjoyable and well-organised golfing experiences, we'll soon be inviting you to share your thoughts in a short member survey. It should take only 10–15 minutes to complete and will help us:

- Learn more about your golfing preferences and expectations.
- Enhance the way we manage our weekly games and events.
- Ensure we're offering a great variety of courses at fair prices.
- Plan future domestic and international tours that appeal to our members.

Your feedback is invaluable in helping us continue to deliver the best possible golfing experience for everyone

Reminder on Cancellations – Three ways

To cancel your game:

A - Up to 5pm the night before- via website

<https://svga.1golf.com.au/members/>

B - 5pm – 10pm night before by phoning the Captain or text with your name and Tee time (NO EMAILS please!)

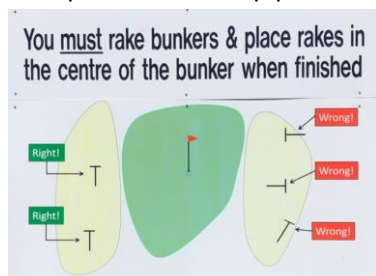
C - Game Day - calling the starters desk on 0483 294 587 if unanswered please leave a message.

Please DO NOT call the Captain on game day as he may not be playing or away

Remember - if you can't play remove your name from the waitlist

Course care & bunkers Reminder – The first few games of 2026 has again highlighted that some (public included) are not taking care in repairing the bunkers after playing your shot. Please rake your divot and your foot prints + any others you find – Thanks! This also applies to repairing divots anywhere on the course. There is nothing worse than finding your ball in a divot either in the bunker or fairway.

Rakes in Bunkers - As a rule of thumb this is how you should place the rake in a bunker. Some courses have different rules e.g. white painted T near the bunker for the rake placement or a pipe for the rake to be rake placement or a pipe for the rake to be inserted



Picture courtesy of Dunheved GC

Feb March & April 2026

Upcoming Games

Tues 3 rd Feb	Eastlake SGS	Book Wed 26 Jan @ 7pm
Tues 10 th Feb	Liverpool Oak Pt	Book Mon 2 Feb @ 7pm
Mon 16 th Feb	N Ryde	Book Mon 8 Feb @ 7pm
Mon 23 rd Feb	Bayview	Book Sun 15 Feb @ 7pm
2 nd -3 rd Mar	Hunter Valley	Sold out
Mon 9 th Mar	The Coast	Book Sun 1 Mar @ 7pm
Tues 10th Mar	AGM N Ryde GC	10.30am all welcome
Thurs 19 th Mar	Killara	Book Wed 11 Mar @ 7pm
Mon 23 rd Mar	St Michaels	Book Sun 15 Mar @ 7pm
Tues 31 st Mar	Lynwood	Book Mon 23 Mar @ 7pm
Thurs 9 th Apr	Bonnie Doon	Book Wed 1 Apr @ 7pm
Tues 14 th Apr	Penrith	Book Mon 6 Apr @ 7pm
Tues 21 st Apr	Mona Vale	Book Mon 13 Mar @ 7pm
Tues 28 th Apr	Dunheved	Book Mon 20 Mar @ 7pm

Reminder on early arrival for Shot Gun Starts – SGS Please make sure you arrive if possible 40 mins prior to the start time i.e. 0720 for a 0800 SGS

All other 2 Tee starts – please arrive no later than 20 mins before your allotted Tee time. Remember to pay as advertised (Pro Shop or starter's desk) then register for any rules e.g. play as it lies and collect any prizes.

Some feedback received from members on speed of play!

The committee always encourages feedback not matter how bad it may be!!

- Arrive at the Tee box 8 mins before your Tee time
- Ready Golf
- If in a cart – get out and walk don't wait to be driven to your ball
- Do not leave your cart in front of the Green
- Lost balls – 2 players look for the lost ball whilst the others play their shots
- Looking for the lost ball - 3 mins is 3 mins not 5, 6 or 7!
- If in doubt hit a provisional
- If you are behind – send 2 who have putted out to the next Tee

Rules Quiz – Source <https://www.randa.org/quiz/level/quiz-expert>

Q 1 A strong gust of wind caused a player's ball to move on the putting green before they had a chance to mark and lift it. The player must replace the ball back on the original spot?

Correct or Incorrect - What is the ruling?

Q 2 In a match, a player's ball is stuck in a bush. The bush itself is growing from an area of ground under repair but the ball is hanging outside of the ground under repair. The player takes free relief using the spot on the ground directly under where the ball lies to measure out the relief area. The player drops the ball in the right way and plays their next stroke.

Correct or Incorrect - What is the ruling?

Q 3 Your ball comes to rest in a greenside bunker. In making the backswing for the stroke, you touch a leaf in the bunker with your club.

Should you be penalised - What is the ruling?

Answers at the bottom of page 2

2025 Champion of Champions

Monday 8th December, the annual C of C was held at Stonecutters with a total of 84 players entered from the A, B & C grade winners from the preceding 12 months.

1st Thomas Y 41pts
2nd - Tim HOLLAND -40pts
3rd - Terry STEVENS - 38 pts C/B

The C of C trophy
presented to Thomas Yi
by the 2024 winner
Hoe Khor



Members using paper cards

A recent issue with a member using a paper card not having his score recorded post game at Stonecutters, has highlighted some steps that members need to take into account to ensure a score is entered.

- Post-game, ***please do not just dump your card*** on the desk with the laptop
- Seek out a committee member
- You will be directed to the DOF (member responsible for finalising & uploaded results) if available **or**
- If the DOF is unavailable make sure you go through your card with the committee member to ensure that the card is legible, a name is on the card and all scores have been entered

Drummond Golf

Drummond Golf has reinstated the lifetime membership offer to new SVGA members, including those that have joined in the last 2 years. The membership offer is only \$15, via a bulk membership application to Drummond, hence the discount. Any SVGA member that has joined in the last 2 years will be sent an email with the Drummond application. If you want to become a member please return the application to captain.svga@gmail.com Once the membership process has been completed the member will be advised.

Great Scores

Stephen Branch 42 points A grade Ryde Parramatta
Neil McLaren 42pts B grade Eastlake with an amazing 27points on the back 9!!!!

Handicap Grade review

A few members have queried the handicap grades that SVGA use.

The last review took place in early 2024; therefore it was time for a review using the data from 2025. The aim is achieve 33.3% spread in each grade. Unfortunately with the range of courses we play, the variable slope and course ratings this not always achievable. Across the 43 x 3 grade games, no tours, a total 4765 rounds the following figures have showed we will stay with the current handicap grades.

Grades	Rounds		Distribution
1-15	1480		0.311
16-21	1726		0.362
22-54	1559		0.327

Apple Phone measure App <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/measure/id1383426740>

How to Use the Measure App

Open the App: Locate the pre-installed app on an iPhone or iPad.

Initialize: Move the device around to help it understand the, "lay of the land".

Measure: Tap the plus (+) symbol to place a starting point, move the camera, and tap again to get a measurement.

QUIZ ANSWERS **Rules Quiz** – Source <https://www.randa.org/quiz/level/quiz-intermediate>

Q Incorrect - See [Rule 9.3](#). As the ball had not been yet been marked, lifted and replaced on the green, the ball must be played from its new spot

Q 2 Correct If a tree is rooted in ground under repair and a player's ball is in a branch of that tree, the ball is in ground under repair even if the branch extends outside the defined area.

If the player decides to take free relief under [Rule 16.1](#) and the spot on the ground directly under where the ball lies in the tree is outside the ground under repair, the reference point for determining the relief area and taking relief is that spot on the ground.

But if the spot on the ground directly under where the ball lies in the tree is in the ground under repair (or other interference exists at that spot such as the player will be standing in the condition), that spot should be used as a reference to find the nearest point of complete relief.

Q 3 No penalty - Before playing a ball in a bunker, a player may remove loose impediments and movable obstructions. (See [Rule 12.2a](#))