

AUSTRALIAN SENIORS ORDER OF MERIT PLAYERS TEAM vs ADFGA
TALLWOODS INTERNATIONAL GOLF CLUB (NSW)

The inaugural ADFGA match against an Australian Seniors Order of Merit (ASOOM) Players Team was held at Tallwoods International Golf Club (Hallidays Point, Forster NSW) on Monday-Tuesday 8-9 October 2007.

The ADFGA players selected for this event were:

COL Tony Wallace	DWMFA Canberra ACT	ADFGA Captain
FLTLT Daryl Bell	DLSA-AF Canberra ACT	ADFGA Vice Captain
LEUT Darryl Whitehead	JP2048 Canberra ACT	
WO2 Kim Johansen	1FDREGT Enoggera QLD	
SGT Derek Brown	MSA Williamtown NSW	
SGT Peter Chambers	AASPO Oakey QLD	
SGT Greg Fraser	382ECSS Amberley QLD	
CPL David Eley	6RAR Enoggera QLD	
CPL Peter Reinke	44WG Tindal NT	
LCPL David Schwartz	20STAREGT Enoggera QLD	
LCPL Lennon Thurtell	SASR Perth WA	
SPR Mark Armstrong	1RR Sydney NSW	
AC Lee Oliver	3SQN Williamtown NSW	
WGCDR Trevor Owens	CSU Amberley QLD	Team Manager

The players all gathered at Tallwoods on Sunday 7 October 2007 for a practice round. Tallwoods is a resort style championship course that has an impressive mix of holes that test all players ability with their shot making. The greens are generally large and undulating with some very interesting pin positions available to test one's abilities, and because of the size of the greens, can see 2-3 clubs difference for approach shots depending on pin position.

Monday dawned picture perfect and the contest began in ideal conditions. Within 4-5 holes, the six 4BBB matches were all quite close and as the round progressed through the 9th hole, the ADF team had its nose just in front. Mid-way through the back nine, the ADF had retained the upper hand with the final result being 4 matches to 2 in to the ADF. A solid win was recorded by the ADFGA Captain, COL Tony Wallace, and his partner, SGT Derek Brown, with the remaining wins all being comfortable.

Over lunch, the afternoon Foursomes were discussed with clear signals being sent by the ASOOM side that the afternoon would be a different contest. True to their word, the ASOOM players dug a little deeper under the challenging format and after 12 holes, the ASOOM team were ahead on matches. Several games remained very close throughout the back nine with three of the six matches eventually going down to the wire at the 18th hole. ASOOM triumphed by four matches to two, with the scores tied at six matches each at the end of the day's two rounds.

SGT Greg Fraser and CPL Peter Reinke combined well under the difficult Foursomes format to secure a very strong win. However, WO2 Kim Johansen and CPL David Eley were outclassed by two of NSW golf's finest veterans (Geoff Everett and Les Browne) with a noteworthy occasion being that Geoff Everett (NSW) secured a win having just completed 50 years of continuous selection for NSW representative golf. This is indeed a great record of which many can only dream.

Both teams enjoyed a sumptuous formal dinner at the Tallwoods Club that evening with the teams for the Tuesday Singles Matchplay announced before being seated. This allowed the opponents to sit together for the dinner and the sledging then began in earnest. A great night was enjoyed by all with many players pacing themselves on the fine wine and cool beverages being served. The camaraderie developed by this clever seating plan was quite evident with “game on” being the catchcry for the next day.

Tuesday also dawned fine with a little cloud after some overnight rain that had freshened the course. The players were all fired up and looked like a pack of boy scouts eager to head off on a hike. The 12 x Singles matches were then underway without delay.

After six holes, the final result already looked like being a very close affair with the ASOOM side maybe just in front. By the 12th hole, the ADF had edged ahead and a close finish was assured. As predicted the final result saw the No 1 and 2 matches going down the 18th hole with each side holding five (5) points for the Singles. With virtually all other players from both teams lining the 18th green, and with Geoff Everett lodging a regulation par to secure a win, the overall result came down to a 12 foot putt from ASOOM QLD’s Ian Read.

History will show that Ian’s putt did not find the bottom of the cup, which resulted in him losing his match to LEUT Darryl Whitehead and a 6/6 result for the Singles. This resulted in a tied contest overall and a fitting end to a great inaugural outing between the two parties. This augers well for the return match to be held at Royal Queensland in May 2008.

All of the ADF players were visibly committed to playing their best golf during this event with some solid wins recorded in the three rounds played. AC Lee Oliver (RAAF Williamtown) remained undefeated for the ADF side, and despite his “stylish” presence in his black Plus 4s, Lee has a long and promising future in ADF golf.

As with the NSWGA, VGA and QGU matches already being played by ADF players over many years, the ASOOM event will now feature annually for the ADFGA to field a Combined Services Team. The ADFGA is indeed privileged to have these State and Australian level amateur golfing bodies on side, and it allows ADF players to test their skills against some of Australia’s best amateur golfers. This is an opportunity that the ADFGA will continue to foster for the benefit of ADF golf and its golfing personnel.

The full match results are listed below.

Original Signed
Trevor Owens
Wing Commander

Team Manager

11 October 2007

ADFGA	4	Four Ball	ASOOM	2
Darryl Whitehead Lee Oliver	4/2	Defeated	Norm Way Nigel Goodall	
David Schwartz Daryl Bell	3/2	Defeated	Alan Evans Michael Maher	
Lennon Thurtell Peter Chambers	3/2	Defeated	Ian Read Geoff Burke	
Greg Fraser Peter Reinke		Lost to	Richard Froebel Graeme MacDonald	5/4
Kim Johansen David Eley		Lost to	Les Browne Jim Gilchrist	3/2
Derek Brown Tony Wallace	4/3	Defeated	Geoff Everett Pat Giles	
ADFGA	2	Foursomes	ASOOM	4
Darryl Whitehead David Schwartz		Lost to	Norm Way Graeme MacDonald	3/2
Greg Fraser Peter Reinke	4/3	Defeated	Alan Evans Geoff Burke	
Lennon Thurtell Peter Chambers		Lost to	Ian Read Nigel Goodall	2/1
Daryl Bell Mark Armstrong		Lost to	Michael Maher Geoff Everett	1 Up
Derek Brown Lee Oliver	1 Up	Defeated	Richard Froebel Jim Gilchrist	
Kim Johansen David Eley		Lost to	Les Browne Pat Giles	5/4
ADFGA	6	Singles	AUSOOM	6
Darryl Whitehead	1 Up	Defeated	Ian Read	
David Schwartz		Lost to	Geoff Everett	1 Up
Greg Fraser		Lost to	Norm Way	6/5
Lennon Thurtell	5/4	Defeated	Alan Evans	
Daryl Bell	3/2	Defeated	Les Browne	
Peter Chambers		Halved With	Nigel Goodall	
Lee Oliver		Halved With	Jim Gilchrist	
Tony Wallace		Lost to	Pat Giles	3/1
Kim Johansen	2/1	Defeated	Michael Maher	
Peter Reinke	2/1	Defeated	Graeme MacDonald	
Derek Brown		Lost to	Geoff Burke	6/4
Mark Armstrong		Lost to	Richard Froebel	5/4
ADFGA	12	Tied	AUSOOM	12