

Referee Seminar report

The MGA Rules Sub Committee (2016/2017) organised the 2nd Referees' Seminar cum lunch get-together on 4th May 2017 in KGPA. The seminar was well received and a total of 43 referees attended.

General Manager of MGA, En Ishak Md. Isa welcomed the referees with an opening speech and encouraged the referees to continually upgrade themselves in their refereeing duties. The Honorary Secretary of MGA, Dato' Zulkifli also attended and gave a speech of appreciation and encouragement to the referees.

The RSC headed by Chairman CC Boo conducted a 2.5 hour seminar and below is a summary of the topics covered.

- i) CC Boo
 - Mission of Rules Sub Committee
 - Implementation of Ready Golf
 - Discussion on TD/CR reports, course Markings
- ii) Deborah Wong
 - * Brief on Rules Modernisation
- iii) Datin Elaine & Deborah
 - * Brief on Course Demo on Rules Modernisation.

(* Both Datin Elaine & Deborah shared from what they learned during the Teach The Teachers' Seminar conducted recently by R&A in Singapore)

- iv) Harban Singh
 - Revised Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for referees
- v) Fritz Katzengruber
 - Preferred Lies

In view of the expected changes in the Rules of golf taking effect in Jan 2019, CC Boo informed all referees that MGA will cease conducting Level 1 School but a final Level 2 will be conducted sometime end of 2017. In the meantime, referees are encouraged to conduct the Informal Club Presentation (ICP).

After the Question & Answer session, the seminar ended at 5pm. A survey form was distributed during the seminar to obtain feedback from the referees present with regards to several pertinent issues and the following was the results gathered.

1) Question: Should MGA registered referees be required to re-sit for the rules exam in early 2019 to update and keep abreast with the New Rules?

Survey : 85 % agree that referees should re-sit for the exams since the new rules will be drastically different.

2) Question: For those referees who fail the 2019 exam they will still be allowed to referee in MGA events but must pass their re-sit exam before 2019?

Survey: 85% agree

3) Question : Those who fail in their 2nd exam will not be allowed to referee in MGA events from 2020 till they finally pass their new rules Exam?

Survey: 70 % agree

4) Question: Do you think Ready Golf is workable?, comment.

Survey: 95 % agree it's workable and will improve pace of play.

From the survey, the following suggestions were gathered from the referees present.

1) Have more regular updates with such Rules Seminars.

2) To have Road-shows to inform golfers on the new rule changes.

3) Video presentation of new rules to be available in MGA website.

4) Ramesh's idea of "acting" chief referee to be studied.

5) Have more training /tutorials on new changes before 2019.

6) Create a chat group for all referees where they can post questions on rules or share their unique experiences with regards to rulings.

End of Report.

Report prepared by Datin Elaine Kua
