The most prestigious events at the Warracknabeal Golf Club’s Annual Tournament are the men’s and women’s Golden Putter events.

The women’s Nola Clarke Memorial Golden Putter event was held on Friday 2nd September and we were fortunate that the sun came out for a fine day. Players came from 17 clubs in the Wimmera, Mallee and beyond, from Hopetoun to Port Arlington, Serviceton to Birchip.

Nola Clarke was highly regarded golfer both in our club and throughout the state. A single figure handicap player, Nola was club champion on many occasions and was a successful and popular Pennant golf and Wimmera Country Week player. Nola’s husband, Brian, has been sponsoring this event since Nola’s passing in 2013, and the club is very grateful for his support.

The twenty three pairs competed in a 4BBB Versus Par competition. The objective of this game is to have an end score with the most pluses. Every hole played produces a result of a plus, half or minus in relation to a player’s handicap. The partner with the best score on each hole’s is recorded for that pair.

Winners of the event were two Horsham players, Annabelle Plowright (17) and Robyn Watts (21) who finished with a score of +6. They were presented with the highly sought gold putters. The Runner up combination of Warracknabeal player, Kaye Picken (25) and Sheep Hills champion, Casey Phelan (14), also produced a score of +6, but losing to the winners on a countback. During presentations they thanked local member Maree Heenan, who generously sponsors second place prizes. Close behind on +5, were two partnerships. Coming in third place, on a countback, was the combination of Amanda Brownsea (24) from Jeparit and Lyn McKenzie (25) from Rainbow. Fourth place went to Carolyn Purvis ((15) from Horsham and Warracknabeal’s Wendy Hewitt (13).

Two stalwarts of Wimmera golf, ex-Warracknabeal member, Dawn Scott and Joyce Mills travelled to Warracknabeal especially for the presentations, such was their respect for Nola Clarke. Multiple times Warracknabeal club champion, and now Horsham member, 92 year old Dawn Scott spoke of her very fond memories of Nola Clarke. Dawn recalls Nola winning the D grade championship when on a handicap of 36 when Nola first took up golf, many years ago. Nola quickly soared up the ranks over the years to become one of the club’s best ever players.

Warrack Hot Bread was the generous sponsor of the Nearest to the Pins competitions, providing great prizes for the lucky winners. Carolyn Morcom had the best drive onto the green on the 5th hole to take the prize. In fact Carolyn was the only player, man or woman, over the four day tournament to reach the green on the 5th! Well done, Carolyn. NTP on the 7th hole was the Golden Putter winner, Robyn Watts and the NTP on the 13th was won by Chloe Mulraney from Kaniva. The Second Shot on the 9th was claimed by Warracknabeal player Leonie Atkin, the straightest drive was equaled by Tania Dignan from Stawell and Shirley Starbuck of Hopetoun, and the teams’ event prizes went to Carolyn Purvis, Wendy Hewitt, Amanda Brownsea and Lyn McKenzie with a combined score of +10.

After the day’s play, the club house was full of players; the atmosphere was fantastic, full of laughs, stories and players enjoying the fabulous afternoon tea that we are known for. In the day’s presentations Lady President Carolyn Morcom and Captain Wendy Hewitt both thanked the many club members who helped with catering, administration roles, raffles, working bees, preparation of the course, bringing visiting players, staffing the bar, and preparing the clubhouse for this special and very successful day.

Wendy Hewitt,