

McKENZIE WINS 2021 VISION AUSTRALIA NSW BLIND GOLF OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP & 2021 ISPS HANDA AUSTRALIAN BLIND GOLF OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

Liverpool Golf Club again hosted the 2021 Vision Australia NSW Blind Golf Open Championship and 2021 ISPS HANDA Australian Blind Golf Open Championship for Blind and Low Vision golfers, both tournaments were played over two rounds each on Monday 31 January & Tuesday 1 February (NSW Open) and Thursday 2 & Friday 4 February (Australian Open).

Paul McKenzie with caddie/guide Leonie Fraser, playing on a handicap of 14 (NSW Open) and 13 (Australian Open), mastered the challenging conditions best to shoot a Net total of 144 and Gross total of 172 for the 2 rounds (NSW Open) and a Net total of 163 and Gross total of 189 for the 2 rounds (Australian Open). Paul, who is gradually losing his eyesight and has only been a member of Blind Golf NSW for a little over 2 years is also a member of Yowani Golf Club in the ACT. His association with Blind Golf has assisted him in coming to terms with his eyesight condition, being able to liaise with people with similar eyesight conditions.

Paul McKenzie and Darren Solly have both been selected to represent Australia as part of the Rest of The World Team to play in 2022 Vision Cup (similar to the Ryder Cup) vs The Americas Team at TPS Sawgrass in September this year.

Main sponsors Vision Australia awarded trophies for all winners and sight categories and was represented by Rolf Geerlings and expressed that attending the Championships and Presentation had renewed his passion for the game which had waned due to his loss of eyesight and was contemplating joining Blind Golf NSW, after being inspired by the efforts of the golfers who participated in the events. Special thanks also goes to ISPS HANDA, and Srixon for their sponsorship of this events and also those hard working caddie/guides.

Blind Golf NSW wishes to acknowledge the International Blind Golf Association, Blind Golf Australia and Liverpool Golf Club for hosting the two Championships. Their attention to detail made it easy for the players, caddie/guides and officials to enjoy the tournament given the extreme weather conditions during the NSW Open.

If this article has encouraged you to find out more about Blind Golf or are interested in becoming involved as a player, caddie/guide or sponsor, please visit www.Blindgolf.com.au, our Facebook Pages at Blind Golf NSW & Blind Golf Australia or email blindgolfnsw@gmail.com or secbga@gmail.com

2021 Vision Australia NSW Blind Golf Open Championship Tournament Summary:

Net Winner (NSW Vision Australia Open Champion): Paul McKenzie (ACT)

Net Runner Up: Daren Solly (QLD)

Gross Winner: Mark Eschbank (NSW)

Sight Category Winners:

B3 Champion: Andrew Patterson (VIC)

B3 Runner Up: Dean Reid (VIC)

B2 Champion: Gary Sargent (NSW)

B2 Runner Up: Graham Coulton (NSW)

B1 Champion: David Blyth (VIC)

B1 Runner Up: Doug Sloan (VIC)

Putting Champion: Paul McKenzie

2021 ISPS HANDA Australia Blind Golf Open Championship Tournament Summary:

Net Winner (ISPS HANDA Australian Open Champion): Paul McKenzie (ACT)

Net Runner Up: Dean Reid (VIC)

Gross Winner: Paul McKenzie (ACT)

Sight Category Winners:

B3 Net Champion: Paul McKenzie (ACT)

B3 Gross Champion: Paul McKenzie (ACT)

B2 Net Champion: Darren Solly (QLD)

B2 Gross Champion: Darren Solly (QLD)

B1 Net Champion: Glenn Niciejewski (QLD)

B1 Gross Champion: Glenn Niciejewski (QLD)