



(Sat 29 Oct 2011)

Induction speech by state President of the GMA & General Manager of Royal Adelaide Golf Club - **Andrew Gay**.

Andrew Gay:

Ladies and Gentlemen it gives me great pleasure to announce the next inductee to the SA Golf Industry Hall of Fame is:

John Crosby OAM

John Crosby has been a Member of the Royal Adelaide Golf Club for 28 years, a Member of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, Royal Melbourne Golf Club, Links Lady Bay and life member of The Vines Golf Club at Reynella.

Whilst still playing off a handicap of 10 and playing in a number of Pennant matches and winning many trophies at Royal Adelaide and elsewhere it's his contribution to Golf Administration at a state and national level that we are celebrating tonight.

John joined Marino golf club when the new course was established in 1965. He was elected to their committee in 1974 after serving time as a co-opted member. He was elected Captain in 1975 and appointed a delegate to SAGA in the same year. In 1976 John began a 6 year term as president at Marino. He was heavily involved with much of the development work at Marino, the purchase of additional property, funding etc. Marino Golf Club has gone on to become a very successful club now called The Vines Golf Club at Reynella and John was awarded Life Membership for services to the Club, state and national Golf.

Elected Vice President of South Australian Golf Association in 1978, John was elected President of SAGA in 1982 and served in this role until 1986. He has served on several sub committees and was Chairman of South Australian Open and Chairman of Selectors for SAGA. He was also Chairman of the South Australian Sports Advisory Council in 1984 and 1985. During his time on the SAGA Committee he was a prime mover for the South Australian Golf Association's move to a full time secretariat and the purchase its own premises in the early 1980's a major step forward for golf in South Australia.

When John was chairman of the State Selectors he was surprised by the Ad Hoc nature that National teams were selected so initiated a 72 hole event for elite golfers called the SAGA Invitational in 1985 to give the leading amateur golfers in Australia the opportunity to compete against one another. Additional events followed in other States included Lake Macquarie and Riverside giving Amateurs golfers similar opportunities.

John secured the first SAGA Invitational sponsors Adrian Brien Ford & TAA and the event was played at Royal Adelaide, its spiritual home. The inaugural winner was Brett Ogle. The event was renamed the Golf SA Amateur Classic in 2009 and now forms part of the Golf Australia national trial event series.

John became a delegate to the Australian Golf Union in 1979 where he remained until 1987. During this time he was Chairman of the Australian Open Committee working closely for the first time with the PGA in bringing together all interested parties to ensure the Australian Open became a financially viable tournament. He was also Chairman of Selectors for Australian golf teams and in 1986 became President of the Australian Golf Union. John drove the formation of the Australian Golf Union Foundation and the purchase of premises for the secretariat and golf museum. He also chaired the Constitution Review Committee.

In 2000 John was awarded an Australian Sports Medal for service to Golf.

In 1997 John was elected to the Committee at Royal Adelaide Golf Club and was Captain from 2002 to 2004. During his time on the committee the Club hosted a very successful Australian Open several Jacobs Creek Championships and underwent a major back of house upgrade. John was also a Director on the SA Water Board and through this connection was instrumental in getting Royal Adelaide, Grange and Glenelg working together to investigate combined funding for a Stormwater catchment and reuse scheme. To the three of us this could possibly be one of the most important steps we have undertaken giving us permanent access to high quality, sustainable water.

John was awarded an Order of Australia Medal in 2002 for services to Commerce and Industry and I am sure his skills as a Director, Chairman and successful businessman combined with his passion and enthusiasm for Golf gave him the necessary skills to instil some of that wisdom into golf, taking the administration of the game to a new level both locally and nationally.

Ladies and Gentlemen, **John Crosby.**