



(Sat 29 Oct 2011)

Induction speech by Mr Chris Whitford (former Chair of Golf SA)

Chris Whitford:

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

### **Bob Tuohy**

A young Bob Tuohy lived opposite Glenelg Golf Club which he joined as a junior member in 1952 at the age of 12.

He quickly established himself as one of Adelaide's best Amateurs, built around an amazing short game.

His Amateur Career highlights include -

- A club champion and pennant player at Glenelg Golf Club
- SA State representative
- Twice winner of the SA Amateur Championship
- SA Champions of Club Champions
- Two PGA titles as an Amateur (Ampol Classic in Newcastle & Cranbourne) and the leading Amateur in a further 4 professional events

At the age of 19 he moved to Sydney where he worked for Dunlop Sports under the supervision of multiple tennis Grand Slam winner Adrian Quist.

Bob turned professional on the advice of Peter Thomson - who arranged for Tuohy and New Zealand's Bob Charles to tour Britain in 1961. With limited playing opportunities in Australia - Bob based himself in Durban up until 1969 - playing the South African circuit and commuting to Europe for the northern summer. Bob played 7 British Opens making the cut on 5 occasions.

The 1970's saw Tuohy concentrate on playing in Australia, New Zealand, South-East Asia and Japan.

Bob finished a very successful tournament career winning over a dozen tournaments in eight different countries. While not a big man, Tuohy combined a compact swing, with a razor-sharp short game to become a formidable competitor.

His Australian professional victories include the:

- WA Open
- WA PGA Championship

- SA PGA Championship
- Victorian PGA Championship
- NSW Open
- Coffs Harbor Open
- PGA Foursomes Championship

While international victories include the:

NZ PGA Championship  
 Dunlop Masters (South Africa)  
 Transvaal Open  
 Scottish Invitational  
 Kenya Classic  
 Osaka Classic  
 Fiji Open

He was also runner up in 26 PGA Tour Tournaments.

His ability to win Amateur titles at home as a young man and professional titles abroad mark him in the highest echelon of our home grown golfers.

By late 1974 Bob had succumbed to a nagging lower back injury, sustained while playing the customary 45 weeks per year.

Out of the blue West Lakes property developer Brian Martin approached Tuohy and asked if he wanted to run a golf tournament. Tuohy agreed - organising the West Lakes Classic won by Bob Shearer at The Grange Golf Club in 1975. The experience was an eye-opener for Tuohy, who lost money on the venture. He vowed to give it another go and "squared the ledger" in 1976 - where he was to famously offer a sponsors invitation to a young Greg Norman who went on to record his first professional victory.

Another player to capture a first professional victory in one of Bob's tournaments was Swede Annika Sorenstam, who Tuohy lured to Adelaide for the Women's Australian Open Championship .

Tuohy has had a successful career as a tournament promoter and his company Tuohy Associates, now trading as TA Golf, has been responsible for many of the premier golf events in Australia and New Zealand. TA Golf enjoys high respect across the golfing industry in Australia and internationally.

One of the company's most significant achievements was to secure US LPGA co-sanction status for the Australian Ladies Masters, a status no other official US LPGA Tour event outside of the United States enjoyed at the time.

Tuohy has now managed well over 100 Tour Events.

Bob has also been recognized by being awarded:

- Honorary Membership of PGA Tour (1996) for services to Tournament Golf.
- An Australian Sporting Achievement Award (2000)
- And Life Membership of the PGA of Australia (2009)

Ladies and Gentlemen, **Bob Tuohy.**