

Royal Tara Golf Club

Survey of Male Members October 2017

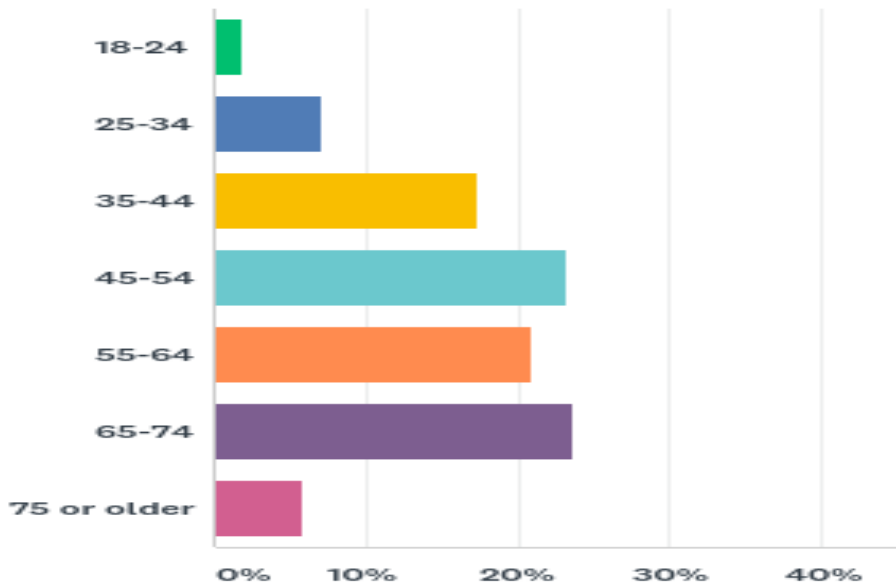
This survey was undertaken to help guide the Men’s Committee in planning competitions for 2018 with the aim of having competitions that best suit the members having regard to age, handicap level and time available to play golf. The survey was undertaken via survey Monkey with the option of completing a hard copy questionnaire if required. The survey was undertaken in October 2017.

The Respondents

There were 225 responses which represents a response rate of 43%.

Figure 1 outlines the age profile of those who responded to the survey. Overall just over a quarter (26%) were aged 44 years or less with 30% aged 65 or older.

Figure 1. Age profile of those who responded



How long a member of Royal Tara

Table 1 outlines how long respondents have been members of Royal Tara. As seen in the table, 20% have been members for less than five years with 37% members for 20 years or more.

| Table 1. How long those who responded have been members of Royal Tara | No (%) |
|---|------------|
| Less than 5 Years | 45 (20%) |
| 5 - 9 years | 40 (18%) |
| 10 - 14 years | 29 (13%) |
| 15 - 19 years | 27 (12%) |
| 20 years or more | 84 (37%) |
| TOTAL | 225 (100%) |

Handicap range

Table 2 outlines the handicap ranges and as seen only 15% have a handicap less than ten and 71% have a handicap great than 14. Whilst only 15% of the respondents had single figure handicaps this is representative of the 529 male members of which 16% have handicaps of less than 10.

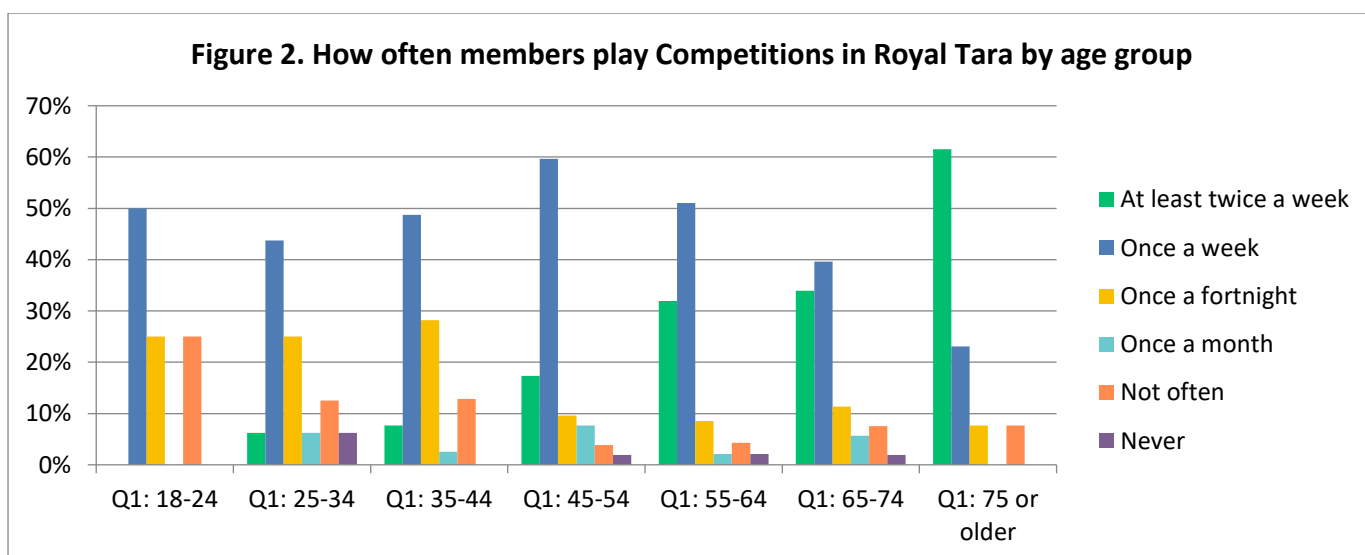
| Table 2. Handicap range of the respondents | No (%) |
|---|---------------|
| Less than 10 | 33 (15%) |
| Between 10 and 14 | 65 (29%) |
| Between 15 and 19 | 61 (27%) |
| Over 20 | 65 (44%) |
| TOTAL | 224 |

How often respondents play competitions

As seen in Table 3, almost three quarters play competitions (72%) at least once a week.

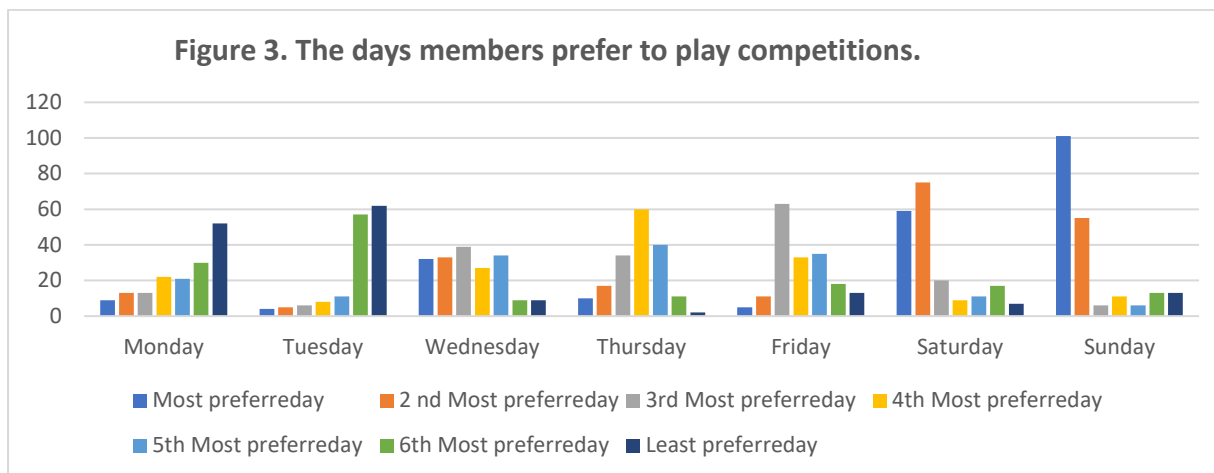
| Table 3. How often the respondents play golf competitions in Royal Tara | No (%) | % |
|--|---------------|----------|
| At least twice a week | 54 | 24% |
| Once a week | 108 | 48% |
| Once a fortnight | 32 | 14% |
| Once a month | 10 | 4% |
| Not often | 17 | 8% |
| Never | 4 | 2% |
| TOTAL | 225 | 100% |

Figure 2 outlines the frequency of play by age group. As seen in the figure older golfers play competitions more often.



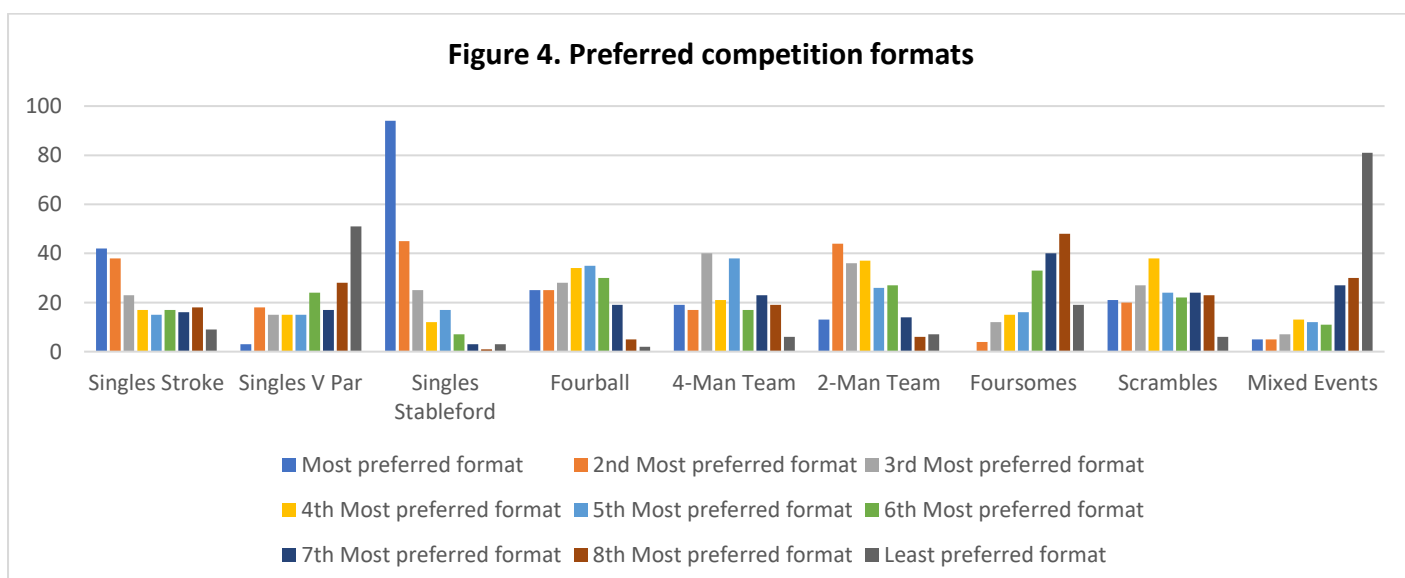
Preferred days to play competitions

Members were asked to give their preference in respect of what are their favourite days to play competitions. As seen in the Figure 3, Sunday is the most popular day to play golf followed closely by Saturday. The popularity of Saturday is of importance given the small number who play competitions on Saturdays based on data from the BRS (less than 40 players on average on a normal Saturday). The least popular days for competitions are Mondays and Tuesdays.



Most popular competition formats

Members were asked to rank a list of competition formats in order of preference from 1-9. Their responses are summarised in Figure 4. Singles stableford, followed by singles stroke competitions are clearly the most popular. The least popular competition formats were mixed events, foursomes and singles v par competitions. Two-man, four-man, fourballs and scrambles are all more or less equally popular.



The following figures show the preferred options by handicap and age.

Preferred competitions by handicap

Figure 5. Preferred competition format for those with handicaps less than 10.

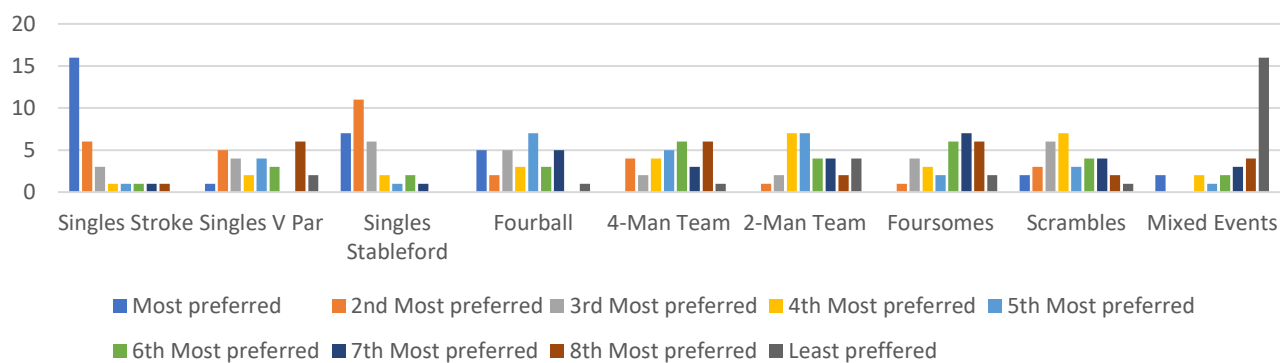


Figure 6. Preferred competition formats for handicaps 10-19

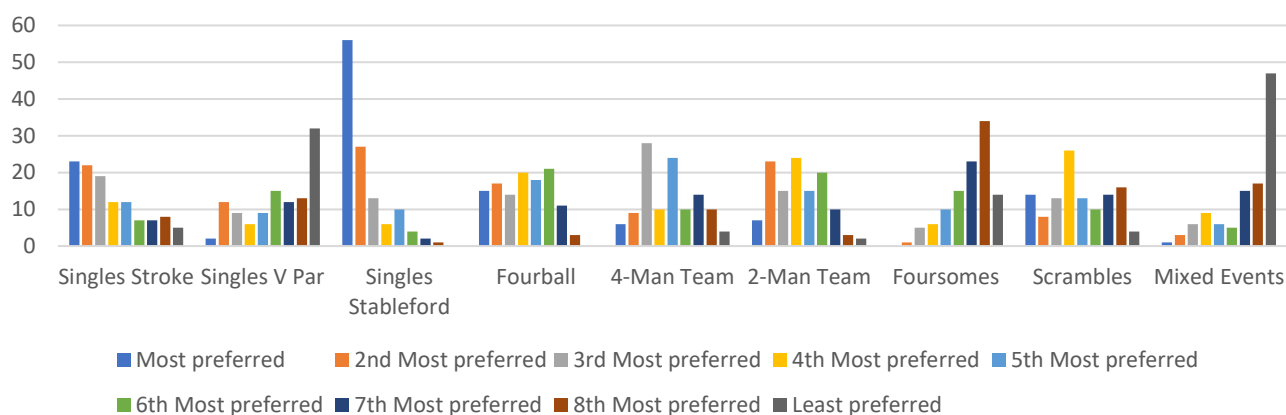
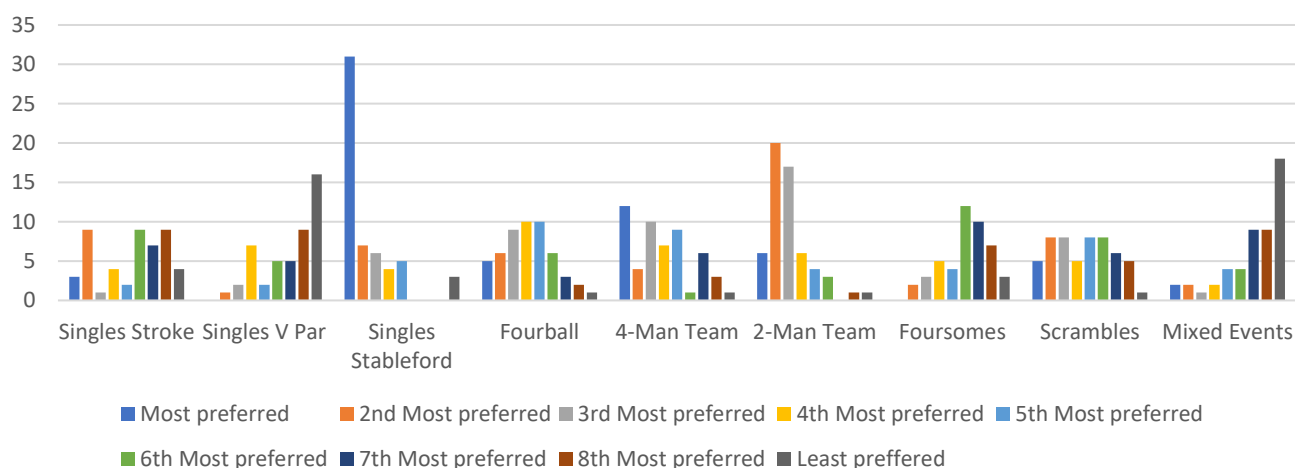


Figure 7. Preferred competition format for those with handicaps of 20 or more



Preferred competitions by age

Figure 8. Preferred competition format for those aged less than 45

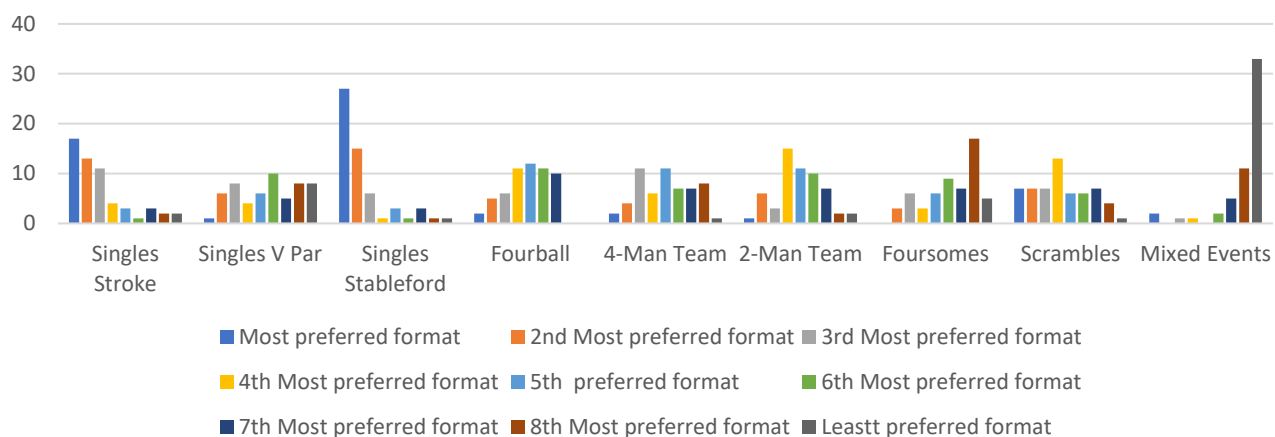


Figure 9. Preferred competition format for those aged 45 to 64

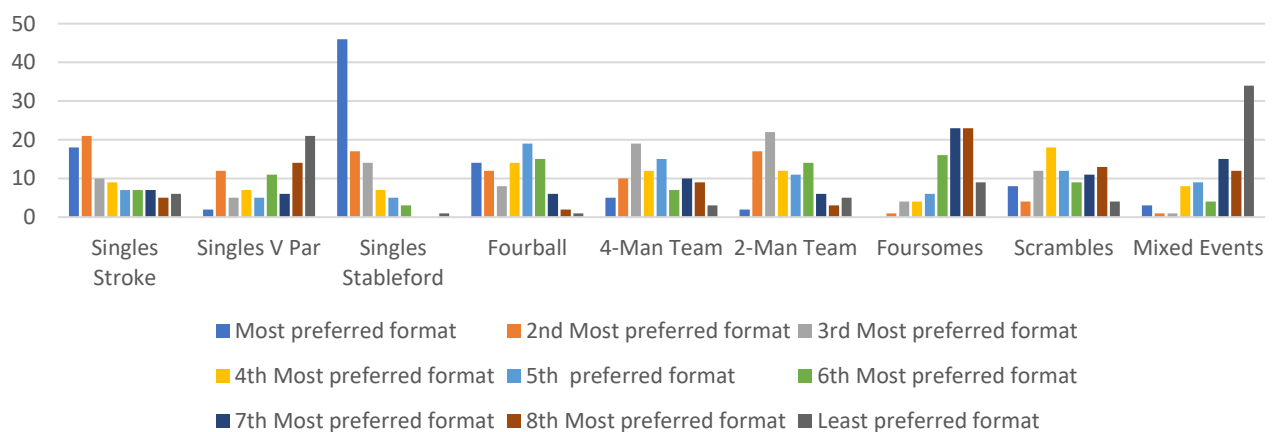
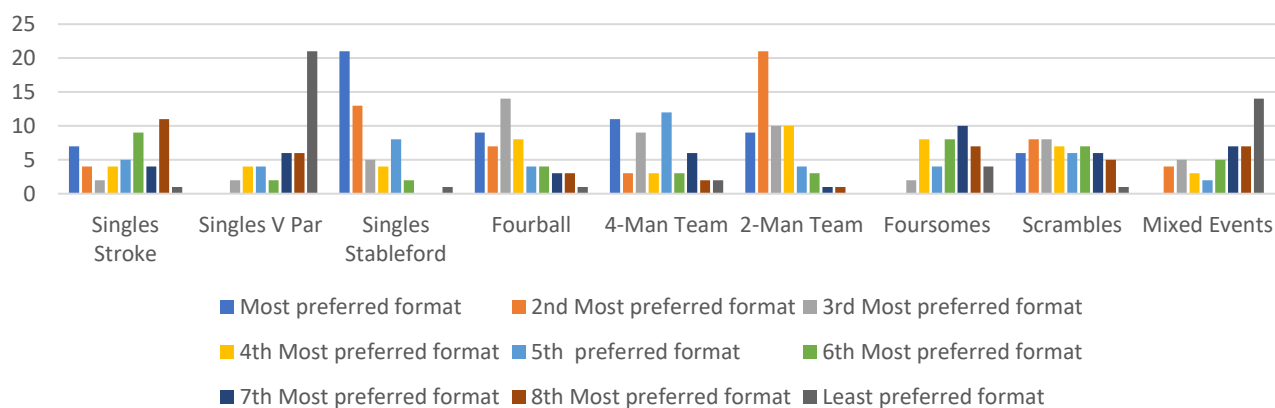


Figure 10. Preferred competition formats for those aged 65 and over



Nine – hole competitions

Almost two-thirds (63%) stated that they would be interested in nine-hole competitions and one third (37%) stated that they would not be interested.

A total of 153 respondents indicated which days and times would be preferred for nine-hole competitions. These are listed in Table 4. The most popular times are evenings in the summer with the least popular days being Tuesdays and Mondays.

| | No | % |
|-----------------------------------|----|-----|
| Evening (Summer time only) | 85 | 56% |
| Friday | 49 | 32% |
| Afternoons | 47 | 31% |
| Any day | 42 | 27% |
| Saturday | 31 | 20% |
| Mornings | 31 | 20% |
| Wednesday | 28 | 18% |
| Thursday | 27 | 18% |
| Monday | 21 | 14% |
| Tuesday | 16 | 10% |

Competition fees

Members were asked what they thought about competition fees and three-quarters (74%) thought they were about right with one quarter (24%) stating thought they were too high. Only 2% thought they were too low.

Use of Practice Range

Table 5 outlines the frequency with which the respondents use the practice range. A third (35%) use the range at least once a week with 12% stating they rarely or never use the range.

| | No | % |
|---|-----|------|
| More than once a week | 24 | 11% |
| Once a week | 54 | 24% |
| Once a fortnight | 38 | 17% |
| Once a month | 33 | 15% |
| Very occasionally | 48 | 21% |
| I never or rarely use the Practice Range | 28 | 12% |
| TOTAL | 225 | 100% |

What would make members play more competitions.

In the survey members were asked if there was anything that would make them play more competitions. Almost half of the respondents (47%) stated that there were things that would encourage them to play more competitions. The commonest answers are listed in Table 6. The two commonest answers were more short course competitions (9, 12, 14 hole) and better prizes.

| Table 6. What would encourage me to play more | No |
|--|-----------|
| Nine hole or short course competitions | 26 |
| Better prizes | 14 |
| More singles | 6 |
| Speed up play | 6 |
| Competitions for high handicap or older persons | 5 |
| More four -man events | 4 |
| Less two- man teams | 4 |

Acknowledgement

We wish to thank Anne Randles for her assistance in setting up the questionnaire on SurveyMonkey and Declan O'Brien for his help in the administration of the survey