



# ON PAR

## Sally Hillier Wins 2017 Ladies Handicap Championship



Sally Hillier defeated the runner up, Glenda McDonald 4/3 in the final of the Ladies Handicap Championship on Tuesday 28 March.

This event is similar to the Thirlstane Cup where 8 players qualify and then play match play in a knockout event over three weeks until there is only one left.

Sally makes a welcome return to golf after an absence of a few years and is wasting no time in returning to her original form.

Congratulations to all who competed and well done Sally.

Glenda is on the left and Sally is on the right.

## Drummond Golf Sponsored Golf Day



It was great to see Jason Russell from Drummond Golf Launceston coming to play on our course for his very first visit. Drummond Golf sponsored the 2 Ball Better Ball comp on Saturday 25 March. It was a shotgun start and an excellent field of 67 players turned out on what was a great day for golf. Jason was most impressed with the course and said as members we should all be very proud of what we have. He said it was an absolute credit to all those involved in looking after the course. Jason, who plays off 0.1 shot 73 off the stick which is pretty darn good for someone who hadn't seen our track before. The day was won by bandits Tony Dick and Jim Booton with a score of 47 points.

As always, Captain Webby entertained the assembled crowd with his laid back style and it was great for the sponsor to see



a full clubhouse during the presentation.

Before making your next golf product purchase make sure you contact Jason at the Launceston store. Drummond have a national price guarantee that they will beat any price from a recognised supplier including on-line golf shops and Jason's service is second



to none. Jason is also offering free delivery to our members as of 1 June when he officially takes over the business from Bill Husband.

## Summer Cup Trophy Presentation



The Captain took the opportunity on Saturday 25 March to present the Summer Cup trophy to this year's winners David Dunham and Jason Heatley. They are still trying to work out whether it is a pawn from a giant chess set, a pepper grinder or something completely different. David was trying to work out where the batteries went.

The win still hasn't wiped the smile off their faces a month and a half after they played the final.

Well done boys.

## Pennant 2017

The Mens and Womens pennant season is now well underway with two matches having been played. The Thirlstane Men have a Div 4 and a Div 6 team with both winning at home at the start of the season but getting beaten away in the second round. First week results for the men were

Div 4

**Thirlstane 5 d Ulverstone 2:** D Richardson 2/1 d M Saeed, G Janke 7/5 d D Johnstone, A Webb 5/3 d R Cook, R Timmerman It H Barker 2up, M Clarke 2up d G Ramsdale, M Atkinson 21<sup>st</sup> d J Brett, D Monteiro It M Hubbard 4/3.

Div 6

**Thirlstane 4 d Smithton 3:** S Wootton 3/2 d J Willmot, D Holland It T Kay 2/1, R Clarke 7/6 d D Edwards, J Heatley 5/4 d K Hood, M Connelly 2up d S Willmot, G Osbourne It A Philpott 5/4, S Vickers It W Woods 19<sup>th</sup>.

### 2nd week results

Div 4

**Stanley 5 d Thirlstane 2:** S Smith 2/1 d D Smith, T Kadow 4/3 d R Timmerman, B Smith 1up d A Webb, M Kay It T Maxwell 1up, J Lakin It G Janke 4/3, K Olsson 1up d M Clarke, B Woodward

2/1 d M Atkinson

Div 6

**Penguin 5 d Thirstane 2:** K Fler It S Wootton 1up, H Maine 3/2 d D Monteiro, S West It R Lewis 2/1, T Easton 5/4 d M Connelly, Z Williams 2/1 d J Heatley, M Beamish 4/2 d G Osbourne, B Wells 1up d S Vickers.

Ladder – Penguin 2-9, Sheffield 1-7, Thirstane 1-6, Smithton 0-6.

### **Div 1 Ladies First Week Results**

Smithton def Thirstane 4 - 1

L Sumpton It J Poke 2/1, S Atkins It J Dixon 2/1, K Hall It W Beatie 8/6, K Mitchelson def T Brooks 2/1, W Smith It R Walker w/o

### **Second Week Results**

Thirstane drew with Devonport 2.5 - 2.5

S Sykes drew L Thorn, L Sumpton It J Donahue 2up, S Atkins It R Emmerton 3/1, K Hall def W Beaton 4/3, W Smith def H Plaister 4/2

## **Your Subs are now overdue**

If you haven't paid your subs yet, they are now overdue. All members are reminded that if you are un-financial you are not eligible to play in club competitions until your subs are paid.

We still have one full member that we have not identified who paid his (or her) subs by direct deposit into the Club's account without recording their name with the deposit. If you paid your subs in **early** March and you have not received a receipt, please let either Tony or Hank know so we can process this payment.

There seems to be some confusion about the extra \$5.50 fee indicated on the invoice. That only applies if you pay your subs in full by Bpay. It does not apply if you do an electronic funds transfer direct to the Club's account or if you pay by cheque or cash.

## **Committee Positions Becoming Vacant**

Now is the time to consider if you think you can make a real contribution to the Club. All but one of the positions on the committee become vacant as the 16th May 2017, the date of the Annual General Meeting. If you wish to stand for any of the positions including President, Vice President, Deputy Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Captain or two of the three ordinary committee positions, you should submit your nomination form to the Secretary by the 6th of May.

The names of the nominations received will be posted on the notice board in the lead up to the AGM. Nomination forms can be obtained from the Secretary at any time either in hard copy or by email. Blank forms will also be posted on the notice board.

## **Major Rule Changes for 2019**

The R and A and the USGA have released a draft of the new set of golf rules which have been designed to modernise the rules and make them easier to understand and apply. The new rules are currently in a consultation and feedback phase and are set to commence in 2019.

According to the golfing bodies, the rules needed to be made easier to understand and the underlying factor is also to speed up the game.

Highlights of the new rules have been summarised on the golf [link.org](http://link.org) website as follows:

- Elimination or reduction of “ball moved” penalties: There will be no penalty for accidentally moving a ball on the putting green or in searching for a ball; and a player is not responsible for causing a ball to move unless it is “virtually certain” that he or she did so. (This is now a local rule at this Club. Refer to Page 8 of this Newsletter).
- Relaxed putting green rules: There will be no penalty if a ball played from the putting green hits an unattended flagstick in the hole; players may putt without having the flagstick attended or removed. Players may repair spike marks and other damage made by shoes, animal damage and other damage on the putting green and there is no penalty for merely touching the line of putt.
- Relaxed rules for “penalty areas” (currently called “water hazards”): Red and yellow-marked penalty areas may cover areas of desert, jungle, lava rock, etc., in addition to areas of water; expanded use of red penalty areas where lateral relief is allowed; and there will be no penalty for moving loose impediments or touching the ground or water in a penalty area.
- Relaxed bunker rules: There will be no penalty for moving loose impediments in a bunker or for generally touching the sand with a hand or club. A limited set of restrictions (such as not grounding the club right next to the ball) is kept to preserve the challenge of playing from the sand; however, an extra relief option is added for an unplayable ball in a bunker, allowing the ball to be played from outside the bunker with a two-stroke penalty.
- Relying on player integrity: A player’s “reasonable judgment” when estimating or measuring a spot, point, line, area or distance will be upheld, even if video evidence later shows it to be wrong; and elimination of announcement procedures when lifting a ball to identify it or to see if it is damaged.
- Pace-of-play support: Reduced time for searching for a lost ball (from five minutes to three); affirmative encouragement of “ready golf” in stroke play; recommending that players take no more than 40 seconds to play a stroke and other changes intended to help with pace of play.
- Simplified way of taking relief: A new procedure for taking relief by dropping a ball in and playing it from a specific relief area; relaxed procedures for dropping a ball, allowing the ball to be dropped from just above the ground or any growing thing or other object on the ground.

The extent of all of the rule changes can be found on the R&A and Golf Australia websites. The rules are currently only in draft form and the organisations invite anyone to make submissions or suggestions relating to the proposed changes. Submissions can be made direct to R&A through their website or members may choose to make their suggestions through their respective Clubs.

## Pace of Play

Last month’s newsletter provided an overview of Ready Golf from Chapter 2 of the Pace of Play

Manual released by the R&A last year. This month we continue the review and provide an overview of Chapter 3 of the manual that deals with course management (as it relates to our course).

*Much time can be lost searching for balls which can be frustrating for players. Such time can be reduced by*

- *making it easier to play the ball onto the fairway by increasing fairway widths*
- *ensuring, where possible, that players can carry any rough in front of the tee and reach the fairway*
- *extending the width of the first cut of rough so that balls that initially land on the fairway are less likely to run through the first cut into deeper rough*
- *generally reducing the severity of the rough where it may be difficult to find a ball*
- *reducing the height of the grass around greens to make chip shots easier to play or to enable players to putt from off the green will reduce the time it takes to play.*

*If trees are a feature of the course and it is common for errant shots to come to rest among trees, it is preferable if the ground beneath the trees is maintained in such a way that a ball can easily be found and a recovery shot on to the fairway is possible.*

*Similarly where a water hazard provides an intrinsic challenge on a hole an edit is likely to receive a large number of golf balls, resulting in a player having to take relief under penalty, it will assist with the pace of play if the player then has a reasonable place to make his next stroke from. If the relief under the Rules has players dropping in thick rough or in otherwise very difficult positions on a regular basis, this will have a negative impact on pace of play. In such situations, consideration should be given to improving the relief areas or, if this is not practical, providing dropping zones as additional options under the Rules.*

*On the putting greens, generally the more putts that a player takes to hole out, the longer the round will take.*

*Pace of play will be adversely impacted when greens have severe slopes, are running at a quick pace and the holes are cut near the slopes.*

*It is more important for greens to be smooth and true than fast. It is generally accepted that the faster the greens are, the harder it is for less skilled players to putt.*

*Firmness of the greens should also be a consideration. Soft, overwatered greens are in no way being promoted. However, very firm greens do provide a stiff challenge for the majority of players in terms of holding the green with approach shots.*

The complete Pace of Play Manual can be found on the R&A website or through the Golf Australia website.

Chapter 3 of the Manual that deals with the course set up as outlined above has now been approved by the Committee and adopted by the Course Superintendent as the guidelines for setting up our course.

## From the Committee

### *Solar Power*

The Committee is considering the installation of solar power which has the potential of saving the Club approx \$4000.00 per annum in power charges after the initial cost which will take approx 3.6 years to pay for itself. Because the initial outlay is significant (around \$19 000.00) enquiries are underway to determine if we might be eligible for any grants to offset the costs.

The unit being considered will include battery storage of the power generated but not used during the day so that the surplus power can be used at night.

### *Land leased to Adjoining Land Owner*

A 10 year agreement has been signed with an adjoining land owner to rent a small parcel of land from the Club. The land has been subject to a previous agreement for the past ten years and is situated on the western side of the new 4th/13th tee bed between that area and Muddy Creek (Panatana Rivulet).

The agreement allows the leasee to use the land to run stock or the like and it precludes anyone from claiming any right to the land from the owner simply because they have been using it for a long time.

The land is not intended for use by the Club in the foreseeable future.

### *ANZ Community Partner Program*

The Club has been approached by the ANZ Bank to enter into a Community Partnership arrangement with them that could have some significant financial benefits for the Club. If a member of the Club or their extended family takes out a loan from the ANZ Bank for the purchase of a home, land, investment property or other investment, the Bank will give the Club a small percentage of the value of the loan as a 'spotters fee' at absolutely no cost to the borrower providing they ask that the Club receives a benefit. Obviously the greater the loan, the more significant the benefit and the Club has been told it could be as much as \$20 000.00 per annum.

There is no cost to the Club to be part of this program, nor is there any hidden costs to the borrower. It is simply a matter of the Bank securing a loan and giving back to the community in which it invests.

So if you are now or ever in the market for a housing or investment loan, give the ANZ a call, squeeze the best deal you can from them and help out the Club at the same time. If you want further information about this program, give the Club Secretary, Hank Timmerman a call.

### *Permanent Leaderboard Screen*

The committee have approved the acquisition of a large screen TV to be mounted above the bar so a leaderboard can be displayed for handicapped events. Your scores will be up on the screen as soon as you put your cards in.

## *EFTPOS*

The committee is currently moving towards acquiring EFTPOS facilities for the Club. Enquiries are being made with the Port Sorell Community Bank, one of our major sponsors, to transfer one of the Club accounts to that institution so that EFTPOS and credit card facilities can be established. The members have spoken and the committee have listened.

## *Coffee Vending Machine*

It was reported in the February newsletter that a coffee vending machine was on the way after the Ladies committee put forward a proposal to the general committee. The Ladies committee have reviewed their position regarding the acquisition of the machine and have elected not to proceed due to the perceived financial unviability of the proposal.

## *Pull Cart Hire Carts*



The Club will be purchasing 5 standard Club pull carts for hire to members and visitors similar to the one pictured.

The pull carts will be hired out for \$5 per game. The top cradle of the cart is removable and will be provided on payment of the hire fee. The carts are not useable without the top cradle which should prevent theft.

Members will have noticed that there has been a steady decline of the carts that some members have donated to the Club to lend to visiting players. They were obviously worth taking home by some unscrupulous visitors.

## **Veterans**

---

### *Thirlstane v Launceston Annual Challenge*

The Vets played the second round of their annual two game challenge competition against the Launceston Golf Club at Thirlstane on Wednesday 22 March. After setting themselves a formidable challenge, having been convincingly defeated by Launceston at their home Club 3 weeks before (Launceston 389 to Thirlstane 346 - a 43 point deficit), Thirlstane came out fighting and turned the tables around on their home turf. Thirlstane scored 377 to Launceston's 317. So overall, Thirlstane won the challenge by 17 points. The scores are calculated by adding the best ten scores of each team.

### *Roster for clean-up duties on Wednesdays.*

Due to the poor response for a call for volunteers for clean up duties on Wednesdays, President Rob advises that all vets may be included in a roster to undertake those duties. With all involved, you might only be asked to do it once or twice a year. Surely that's not too much to ask?

### *Veterans Annual General Meeting*

The Vets AGM will be held on Wednesday 12 April, following their regular Wednesday game. All Veterans are invited to attend.

## Ladies

---

The Thirlstane Ladies have been invited to hold the annual NW Gala day at Thirlstane in October this year. This is the first time there has been departure from an 18 hole course for this event and is considered an honour for Thirlstane. The event normally attracts around 80 players so it will be a big day for the Club.

## Match Committee

---

### *New Local Rule - Ball Accidentally Moved on the Green*

The Match Committee have introduced a new local rule to commence on Saturday 1 April regarding the accidental movement of a ball on the green. A notice has been placed on the window of the starter's box advising members of the rule and some notices have also been placed in the Club house. The rule has been introduced as a local rule on the recommendation of the R and A and USGA who have introduced the local rule in all major events from 1 January 2017. They have advised that it will become a general rule of golf from 2019.

*"Rules 18-2, 18-3 and 20-1 are modified as follows:*

*When a player's ball lies on the putting green, there is no penalty if the ball or ball-marker is accidentally moved by the player, his partner, his opponent, or any of their caddies or equipment.*

*The moved ball or ball-marker must be replaced as provided in Rules 18-2, 18-3 and 20-1.*

*This Local Rule applies only when the player's ball or ball-marker lies on the putting green and any movement is accidental.*

*Note: If it is determined that a player's ball on the putting green was moved as a result of wind, water or some other natural cause such as the effects of gravity, the ball must be played as it lies from its new location. A ball-marker moved in such circumstances is replaced."*

### *Tee Marker Placement*

The poor placement of tee markers has been an issue on both the mens and the womens tees. The ground staff have been provided with the R & A guidelines for course set-up and a follow up meeting with the Captain and the staff responsible for setting up the course will hopefully resolve this ongoing issue.

## New members

The following new members were approved at the last committee meeting

Tony Simpson from Shearwater - Full member (Ex Wynyard Golf Club)

Ray Perry from Devonport - Full member (Ex Devonport Golf Club)

Perry Daley from Launceston - Social Member

Nick Brown from Sassafra - Social member

We welcome those new members to the Club and hope their association with us is long and enjoyable.

## Rule around Penalty Drop for Unplayable Ball

Many players are confused about where they can drop a ball should they deem it to be unplayable. Rule 28 states:

The player may deem his ball unplayable at any place on the course, except when the ball is in a water hazard. The player is the sole judge as to whether his ball is unplayable.

If the player deems his ball to be unplayable, he must, under penalty of one stroke:

- a. Play a ball as near as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played (see Rule 20-5); or
- b. Drop a ball behind the point where the ball lay, keeping that point directly between the hole and the spot on which the ball is dropped, with no limit to how far behind that point the ball may be dropped; or
- c. Drop a ball within two club-lengths of the spot where the ball lay, but not nearer the hole.

If the unplayable ball is in a bunker, the player may proceed under Clause a, b or c. If he elects to proceed under Clause b or c, a ball must be dropped in the bunker.

When proceeding under this Rule, the player may lift and clean his ball or substitute a ball.

Penalty for Breach of Rule:

Match play - Loss of hole; Stroke play - Two strokes.

The key point here is if you chose to drop a ball within two club lengths, that measurement is taken **from where the ball is lying when it is deemed to be unplayable, not two club lengths from nearest point of relief**

## Golden Circle Winners - March 2017

4 March	11 March	18 March	25 March
\$30 K W Jones	\$30 W Smith	\$30 L Boyd	\$30 Goo/Ruth
\$20 J Blenkhorn	\$20 L Smith	\$20 N Clarke	\$20 P Skirving
\$10 P Timmerman	\$10 S & B Smith	\$10 Lyn Beveridge	\$10 B Sienesi

## Laugh For the Month

You can make a lot of money in this game. Just ask my ex- wives. Both of them are so rich that neither of their husbands work. – Lee Trevino