



ON PAR

Cheers to Tony Coates



Our one-armed golfing legend, Tony Coates left our shores last week and returned to Western Australia to live.

Tony has been inspirational at our Club for the past three years which included a term on the Committee where he made some very valuable contributions towards improving the Club.

As a single figure handicapper he was one of our best and most consistent players and he was always willing to assist anyone that asked him to improve their game.

Tony, we wish you all the best for the future and if you ever come back here to live our door is always open to you.

Gourmet Dinners Very Popular

The Club has been very fortunate to gain a skilled new Country Member Gina Philp who not only plays golf but is a gourmet chef with her own business she runs from Evandale.

Gina has already put on two dinner nights at the Club and the third will be on February 24. Numbers are limited and the previous two dinners have been fully booked, so if you want to experience some beautifully cooked meals, don't miss out, put your name on the list, invite your friends and enjoy a convivial night at the Club. The cost for two courses is \$30 per head which must be paid when you book.

The only ones disappointed are the ones who miss out.



2017 Thirlstane Cup Winner



The 2017 winner of the Thirlstane Cup is Graham (Ossie) Osbourne who beat Warren Snashall in the grand final round 2/1

The competition is played over four weeks commencing with a qualifying single stableford round from which 16 players with the best scores are selected to go on and play a four round knockout match play event.

The winner gets bragging rights and their name on the honour board in perpetuity.

Congratulations Ossie on a hard fought win.

Christmas Hamper Day - 17 Dec 2016

The Christmas Hamper day, sponsored by the Thirlstane Vets is always a popular event with 88 in the field and hampers going to the best team and mixed team scores in the Irish stableford medley event. The best part of the day, like most golf days, is the camaraderie shared in the Clubhouse at the end of the game.



Holy Smoke



Pick the sheepish looking one and you can almost guess what happened on the hill at the side of the fourth tee. Tony is receiving a few tips from our self appointed fire safety officer on how to keep a fire under control.

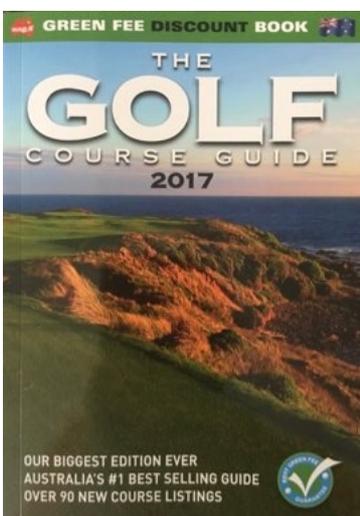
Legacy Day

A very successful Legacy Day competition was held at the Club on January 15. The single stableford event attracted over 80 players from far and wide and whilst the final amount of money raised was not known on the day, Legacy were well pleased with the overall event. So too were several members of our Club who were major winners of the day including the overall legacy Shield winner 'honest' John Skidmore with 46 points. Neil Esther, the oldest male player on the day won the AIF Cup for returned service personnel with 38 points. That was the third time Neil has won that trophy. The Ex-Services Shield was won by Suzzane Sykes (Navy) with 35 points. In all of the 16 prizes on offer, 13 were won by Thirlstane Golf Club members. The day was perfect, the breakfast and lunch put on by the Legacy and RSL volunteers was magnificent and everyone was happy.



There were accolades galore about the condition of our course, a credit to Rodger and the boys who continue to do a great job in presenting this jewel on the Coast.

Make sure you book in for next year. Congratulations to Dean Hanson and his team from the Devonport RSL for organising the event on behalf of Legacy.



Golf Course Guide 2017

For those who like to play on different courses either in Tassie or on the Mainland, this book is a bargain at \$30 a copy. The Club has a limited supply and copies can be purchased over the bar. There are some excellent green fee discounts listed and the cost of the guide can be re-couped in just one game.

If you intend going on a golfing holiday anytime this year, this guide is a no-brainer travel companion.

Mitchelson Shield - 29 January 2017



Our Club Patrons, Don and Audrey Mitchelson enjoyed seeing so many members turn out for the day's event, a Mixed Canadian Foursome that they have been sponsoring for well over thirty years.

Don turned 96 years old on Monday 30 January and is still going strong. Happy Birthday Don.

Winning the event this year was Mother and Son team, Leonie and Kodie Clarke with a 66.5 nett .

Dennis French and Pat Archer were runners up in Div 1 with 68 net.

Scott and Sue Westlake won Div 2 with 67.5 nett.

There were over 50 players in the field.



Rakes in Bunkers

Rakes in bunkers is always problematic for many golf courses with some players being confused about the proper rake in bunker etiquette. For our course the general rule is for the rake to be left in the bunker, near the point of entry in the flattest section so there is less likelihood of a ball being stopped on a slope inside the bunker.

The RandA recommend that rakes should be left outside of the bunkers in a position where they are least likely to interfere with the movement of the ball.

To adopt that approach means considerably more work for our volunteer ground staff who would have to move the rakes in the course of mowing.

Cigarette Butts

Please do not leave cigarette butts either on the course or in the sand buckets. There are bins at almost every tee. Once extinguished the butts should be placed in the bins. A smoking ban on the course might be considered if players continue to throw their butts around the course.

Upcoming Events

The 2017 Captain and President's day is happening this Sunday the 5th of February. This is a mixed Canadian Foursome event. The sheet is on the board.

The Thirlstane Open is on 18 February. Gary and Wendy Beaton sponsor this popular event. Make sure you get your name on the sheet.

Working Bee - Thursday 9 February 2017

The next working bee will concentrate on cleaning up some of the stumps protruding around the course. An excavator will be used to remove them and extra hands will be required to tidy up where the stumps were. Other maintenance jobs which are ongoing might also be carried out,

depending on numbers. Please consider giving some of your free time to the Club to help out.

As you can see, the fruits of everyone's labour is very evident when you look at the overall presentation of the course. There aren't too many better looking than ours.

A bonus for those attending the working bees has been and will continue to be the great lunches prepared by some of our volunteer lady members led by our President's wife Lynne Dutton.



Birdie on the Practice Fairway

Everyone is usually pretty happy with a birdie in golf but when the birdie is scored on the practice fairway and the victim is an unfortunate magpie it doesn't really count. We can't tell you the name of the person responsible because it is illegal to kill a protected species. So be careful Phil.



Hire Carts



If you hire a cart please remember that they do not belong to the Club but are privately owned by Keith Ives. Whilst he has allowed the Club to hire out the carts we ask that when you are finished with them, you return them in the same state of cleanliness as when you took it out. Also please let Rodger know if there has been any accidental damage caused. Recently a cart was returned in a terrible state.

We do not have anyone employed to clean the carts so we ask that the hirer assists by ensuring the cart is returned in a clean and tidy condition.

News from the Vets

The 2016 Veteran of the Year is Greg Boyd who had the best net score over 8 games throughout the year of 568 which works out to be an average of 71 nett for each game. That shows excellent consistency throughout the year for an A grade player who has been playing off between 8 and 12 throughout the year. Well done Greg.

Greg was also the Gold Medal winner for 2015/16 and will no doubt be a strong contender when defending his title this month in the 2016/17 Gold Medal play off.

The Gold Medal play-off is between the players in all Divisions who have won a monthly medal in the previous 12 months.

Greg also won the putting of the year, again taken over 8 games (you have to play at least eight medal competitions throughout the year to qualify). His putting score was 219 or just over 27 putts per game on average.

The perfect card winner of the year was Loyal Eastley who is no stranger to the winners circle, he won the competition with 52 points (on count back).

For those not familiar with the concept, a stableford competition called the perfect card (or eclectic) is played each month and your best scores for each hole are recorded over the twelve month period. Again you have to play at least 8 of the games to qualify.

Veterans Tournament 2017

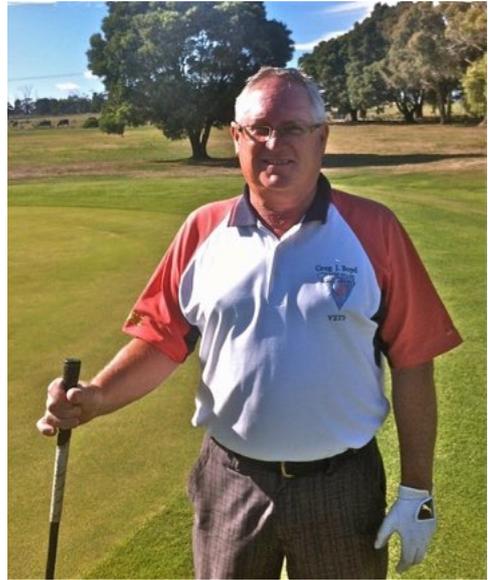
The Vets held their annual Open Veterans tournament on 18 & 19 January with each day bringing more than 80 players onto the course from across Northern Tasmania.

The Wednesday competition overall winner was our very own Colin Williamson with 41 points. The winner on Thursday was Ian Tobin from the Penguin Vets with 40 points.

The course was presented in magnificent condition, as has become the norm and spades of compliments were paid to those responsible for its presentation.

The half time meal was also fantastic with three of the Vets members, Ossie Osbourne, Tony Ryan and Andy Williams giving up their opportunity to play in the comp so they could cater for about 90 people each day. They also received some assistance from Rob Beveridge on one day and Leonie Clarke on the following day. The Veterans Group committee are indebted to the boys for undertaking such a huge task which they did without any tempers being flared or knives being thrown. A fantastic job fellas, well done.

Many other veteran members also pitched in, undertaking various tasks from starters, spotters, markers and bar workers and a big thank you goes out to all involved.



From the Committee

Course Management

For a number of years, the ground staff have been working under the written direction of the committee regarding the length the grass should be cut from the fairway to the rough. Such specific direction can be problematic during the season when the grass grows faster, or the course is so wet that on occasions the machinery is unable to access all areas of the course.

The Course Superintendent Rodger Paice has now been given some latitude and discretion to ensure that the course is presented in such a manner that it does not unfairly contribute to the slow pace of play.

The Royal and Ancient published a Pace of Play Manual in 2016 which is directed at players, match organisers and those responsible for the course management in order to improve the Pace of Play, which after conducting a worldwide survey, they determined was the number one complaint of all golfers - slow play.

For those interested, the manual can be accessed on the web via the Golf Australia website and a copy of the chapters relevant to the course management is available on the general committee noticeboard.

No doubt players will have already noticed the difference.

The chapters relevant to players ensuring that they don't hold up play will be published for the guidance of members throughout the year in this newsletter.

Green Fees

The Committee passed a motion at the last meeting to reduce green fees from \$20 to \$10 after 4pm during daylight savings and after 3pm during Eastern Standard Time.

A considerable reduction in the number of green fees players has been noted over the past 12 months.

Members' Rights

Members of this Club are protected by our Member Protection Policy which was invoked several years ago and is freely available on our Club website.

The policy provides for all members to be treated with respect and dignity. When it comes to those members who put their heart and sole into the Club for little, if any recompense, the last thing they need is to cop abuse about the course condition.

There is an accepted procedure for making complaints about any matter with which you disagree and that is to put your concerns or complaints in writing to the committee, in a respectful manner so that they can be addressed appropriately.

It is the responsibility of the committee to ensure that everyone has the right to be heard and that all members abide by our Member Protection Policy. Members should expect nothing less.

New Printer/Copier/Scanner

The Club has purchased a new printer/copier/scanner to replace the old photocopier, fax and printers. The new printer will be more cost effective providing it is used for Club business only. If anyone has any problems with the new printer, please let the Secretary know.

Bobcat for Hire

Scott Westlake has entered into an agreement with the Club to allow the Club to utilise his skills on his Bobcat for work around the Club providing the machine can be stored at the Club. The agreement is on a cost neutral basis. The machine is a skid steer loader with several attachments that will no doubt be tested around the course on various projects.

Match Committee

Club Championships 2017

The Match Committee have determined that this year's Club Championship 54 hole event will be played over 3 consecutive Saturday's in October, playing 18 holes each day, rather than 2 x 27 hole days, the latter proving to be not so popular with members.

Purple Pepper Pizza Putting Prize Pulled

Unfortunately the above prize won't be available this year as the current owners of the business want to sell up and go grey nomadding.

The pizzas are being replaced with a penny purse putting prize which can be used for practice putting as well as keeping your small change in. Ask Tony Dick to show you his.

Chicken Run on Alternative Tees

Future Chicken Run competitions on Fridays will be played from alternate tees each week. The Match Committee have determined that if the date is an even number, the Chicken Run will be off the white markers and when the date is an odd number the chicken run will be played off the yellow markers.

Handicapping for Ambrose Events

The Match Committee have decided that in all future ambrose events played at this Club, the handicaps of each member of the team will be added together and divided by the number of players in the team. This should give a team of players with higher handicaps a better chance of being competitive against a team of low handicappers.

Reciprocal Rights Players

The Match Committee have recommended to the General Committee that there be no restrictions placed on members from Clubs with reciprocal rights with our Club to win competitions except for major competitions such as an honour board event that are otherwise member only games.

Eligibility for Novelty Prizes

The Match Committee determined that any person who has paid their competition fee is eligible

to win any of the novelty prizes such as NTP & long drives even if those players do not complete the round for whatever reason. The committee apologises to those persons who, in the past were deemed to be ineligible because they did not finish.

Ladies Committee

Funds raised for Club

The Ladies committee handed over a cheque for \$3000 to add to the general funds of the Club. That is in addition to the cheque for \$2000 they handed over in September and November and another \$2000 they gave in June. The funds raised by the Lady Members throughout the year prove that they punch well above their weight when you consider that there are less than 40 Lady Members in the Club and only about half that number play golf regularly.

The President and Committee recognises the fantastic efforts of the Lady Members. The Club is grateful for the terrific contribution they continue to make.

Coffee Vending Machine

The Ladies Committee has successfully lobbied the General Committee for a coffee vending machine to be installed in the Clubhouse.

For those of you who like a barista style coffee, you will soon be able to enjoy one at the Club.

The urn will still be available of those who prefer instant coffee and tea.

New Members

Kathy Snook who lives in NSW but spends time in Tassie each summer was approved as a Country Member in December.

In January two Full Member applications were approved from Dave Mathew from Shearwater and Les Honess who has recently moved to Shearwater from King Island.

Les (pictured right) has wasted no time fitting in, turning up for his first working bee two days after his first game at the Club.

Welcome to the Club.



Course Development Committee

Work on the new 12th tee bed is almost complete. The irrigation has been installed and the bed has been sown down. If all goes well we could be playing on it in about 2 months.

The sub-committee Chair, Peter Bonney was very pleased with the turnout of volunteers who assisted with the irrigation and general tidy up around the new tee bed and wants to thank all who assisted for their support.

President Bevis thanked Peter for his work and leadership in progressing the developments to fruition. Not only has Peter put in a considerable amount of his own time, as have all the other

sub-committee members and others, but he has also used his own farm equipment at no cost to the Club, saying he was only too pleased to donate his time and service to the Club.

The committee has been approved to develop another alternative tee bed on the 4th.

An attempt was made to burn the hill down onto other side of the dam at the 4th as previously mentioned but unfortunately that didn't work.

The hill will be levelled and tees built as indicated in the diagram that was placed on the notice board in December.

It is intended to remove the old dead fork tree on the left hand side of the fairway once work is complete.

Members on Sick List

Dale Jenkins is still on the sick list following his heart surgery two months ago. He is finding it difficult to get around at this time so he would welcome any visits or phone calls from members.

Golden Circle

26 Nov	3 Dec	17 Dec
\$30 R Beveridge	\$30 R Clarke	\$400 R (Foxy) Levett
\$20 N Esther	\$20 D Hanson	\$200 Helen Jones
\$10 M Moore	\$10 G Eastall/Ruth Emmerton	\$100 Pat Timmerman
		\$50 Paul Baggott & Brett Hall

The Golden Circle for 2017 will commence in March. Please see Leonie Clarke to be included.

For those unfamiliar with Golden Circle, it runs over 40 weeks at a total cost of \$40.00 for each participating member. You may pay the \$40.00 upfront or pay \$10.00 instalments throughout the year. If you win any of the weekly prizes and haven't paid, that money will be paid off what you owe.

There are weekly prizes of \$30.00, \$20.00 and \$10.00 and also \$50.00 and \$100.00 jackpots throughout the year.

You have to be in it to win it.

Footy Tipping

Mike Smith and Brett Hall have been organising the Footy Tipping Margin for several years now and they are happy to continue to do so. Their work and your contributions have raised \$26,500.00 for the Club since its inception 10 years ago. That's a hell of a job fellas. Nice work.

Laugh For The Month

Paul said to the dentist, "Doc, I'm in a hurry. I have two mates sitting out in my car waiting for us to go play golf, so forget about the anaesthetic, I don't have time for the gums to get numb. I just want you to pull the tooth, and be done with it! We have a 10:00AM tee time at the best golf course in town (Thirlstane of course) and it's 9:30 already...I don't have time to wait for the anaesthetic to work!"

The dentist thought to himself, "Well, well, at last a golfer with real balls!!"

So the dentist asks him, "Which tooth is it sir?"

The man turned to his wife Linda and said, "Open your mouth honey, and show the doctor."