



HAPPY NEW YEAR

and enjoy your golf in 2016

~~Mark Atkinson Trophy~~ THIRLSTANE CUP 2015



The Thirlstane Cup for 2015 has been run and won. Congratulations to our Captain, Mark Atkinson for a very convincing win, beating Graeme (Ossie) Osbourne 6/5 in the final round. One could be excused for thinking it was the Mark Atkinson Cup as this was the third time he has won this event in the past four years. Match play obviously suits him.

The contest was an exciting one in the quarter finals with Mark beating Dean Smith 3/2, Terry Griffiths getting over John Skidmore 3 up, Ossie winning over Peter Preece 2 up and Tony Ryan wearing Andy Williams down, 1 up. The semi final saw Mark win over Terry 6/5, and Ossie beating Tony Ryan 1 up on the 20th hole.

Congratulations to all players for a great contest.

Vale - Jack Hill Richardson



Long standing member Jack Richardson passed away on December 7th. He was 86. Jack joined the Golf Club about 45 years ago when it was the Shearwater Golf Club and was on the general committee when the Club moved to Thirlstane. No doubt Jack had every faith in the future success of the new golf club agreeing to be a guarantor for the substantial loan taken out by the Club at the time. Jack served in the positions of both Junior and Senior Vice President in the early eighties in what was seen as both an exciting and tumultuous time for the Club. He also served as Vice Captain for the Veterans for a period.

Jack and his first wife Nancy were both Foundation Members. Nancy sadly passed away in 1983.

Whilst his prowess as a golfer may not have seen Jack win any major tournaments, he did achieve three aces within thirteen years, at Thirlstane. That puts him in an elite list. The holes in one were scored on 28/5/1997, 20/4/2002 and 6/11/2010 and just to prove that water never worried Jack they were all scored on the 6th/15th.

Another trophy Jack won was Wendy his second wife, who he met at the Golf Club in 1987. Wendy is one our our long time loyal Lady Members. The committee and members express their sincere condolences to Wendy and the Richardson family.

In lieu of flowers the Thirlstane Golf Club donated to the Cancer Council of Tasmania as per the family request. Rest in Peace Jack.

2015 Veterans Results

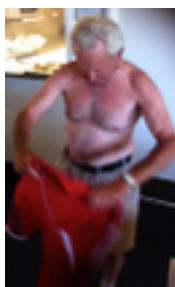
The results of the trophy winners for the Veterans Group for 2015 were announced on the last Saturday event of the calendar year which was the Christmas Hamper day, sponsored by the Veterans Group.



The Veteran of the Year Trophy, which has been sponsored by Rowley Perkins for well over 20 years was John Blenkhorn with 556 and runner up was Frank McConnon with 568. This competition along with the putting is based on the best total nett score over the 12 rounds of the monthly Medal, Stroke and Putting Competition. The putting was won by Carl Brown with 227 putts. Runner up was Frank McConnon with 228.

The Perfect Card competition, a round of which is held each month, is based on the best score for each hole achieved over the twelve rounds. The winner with 48 nett was Loyal Eastley. The runner up was Frank Kelly

with 50 nett.

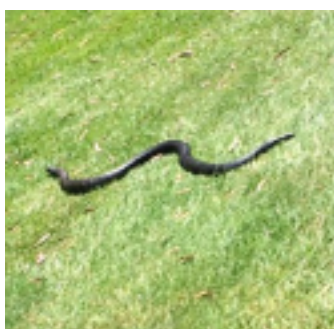


The 2015 Veteran Champion 36 hole event was won by Frank McConnon with 135 nett. The runner up was Geoff Norris with 136.

The Golf Medal Winner for 2014 (which is decided in February of the following year) was John Blenkhorn who couldn't wait to don the winning shirt.



Snakes are about - Be Careful



Quite a few snakes have been seen around the course in the past couple of months and this warm weather will ensure that they will be about for quite some time yet. This healthy 1 metre plus tiger snake was seen sliding across the fourth fairway in the middle of the day during a vets competition.

If your ball landed near one, would you get a drop?

Yes. Decision 1-4/10 highlights the options for a player when faced with a dangerous situation such as the ball coming to rest near a live snake. A ball may be dropped without penalty within one club length of and no nearer the hole than the nearest spot that is not dangerous. That doesn't mean one club length from the snake, but a distance where the golfer feels more comfortable taking the shot in agreement with the marker.

What's Happening Here?



Is this an audition for Mary Poppins or maybe a unique way of trying to catch whitebait? Maybe she is just thirsty and getting herself a drink. Could it be an oversize ball scoop? Your guess is as good as mine. If you recognise her why not ask her?

PLEASE REPAIR YOUR DIVOTS AND PITCH MARKS

New Members

Several new members have joined our Club recently. We often see a new face and wonder who



they are so by way of introduction three recently joined members from left to right are David “Dangles” Dunham, Kevin “KJ” Jones and Angus Yeates. Dangles and KJ were spotted playing socially at our course at least once a week so it was suggested that they should join. Now with handicaps they are proving a force to be reckoned with and have joined the vets as well.

Angus is a new junior member who has never held a handicap but he will be one to watch out for. He joined the vets comp to get a card in last week and was given a provisional handicap of 36 for scoring purposes. When he came in with 50 points the Captain immediately realised some talent there.

Welcome gentlemen, it's great to have you on board.

From the Committee

Drop Zone behind 7th green?

The committee considered a recommendation from the match committee that a drop zone be made behind the seventh green if a ball goes in to the lateral water hazard behind the green in order to speed up play. The general committee ruled that the normal rules of golf should apply and that players already have several options in accordance with the rules. For members who are unsure of their options, the rules relating to lateral water hazards will be outlined later in this newsletter.

Sponsorship Proposal

The general committee approved a sponsorship proposal submitted by the sponsorship sub-committee which includes four sponsorship levels to put to prospective sponsors. The entry level sponsorship deal for \$300 allows sponsorship of one event and in return the sponsor is given prominent advertising in various forms on the day. The sponsor is also given up to four spots in the competition. The next level for \$700 also provides for signage and advertising for 12 months as well as 12 vouchers for 18 holes of social golf. The third level for \$1800 also provides for a full membership of the Club for 12 months. The highest Corporate level for \$3500 also provides for

a corporate day with exclusive full use of the course on a non competition day and two full memberships for 12 months

Other options may be tailored to suit but the proposal provides a solid basis on which to approach sponsors providing them and the Club with a win/win situation.

Lady Members Report

The Ladies committee forwarded a cheque for \$2000 to the general committee. They have also ordered the new chairs and the general committee accepted their proposal to sell a quantity of the old chairs to the Sassafras Primary School for \$5.00 per chair.

They also advised that they have decided to move their Chick 'O Walk competition to February in an endeavour to obtain increased participation.

Veterans

The Veterans reported that the annual Veterans Tournament will be held over two days on Wednesday 20 and Thursday 21 of January 2016. This event is open to Veterans from throughout Northern Tasmania and Thirlstane is always very popular. It is expected that up to 90 players will attend the event on each of the two days.

Annual Subscriptions

There will be no increase in annual subscriptions in 2016. Members are reminded of earlier committee decisions relating to subscription including the methods of payment and no 6 monthly memberships. Payment will only be accepted either direct by cash, cheque or direct deposit up front by 30 March 2016 or through Pricaps by Bpay either in full or by monthly instalments in advance. Ad hoc payments will not be accepted.

Invoices should be received by mid February.

Call for Volunteer Assistance

As a result of John Mitchell deciding to discontinue his volunteer services, the committee requested that members be canvassed to determine the level of interest in assisting in helping behind the bar and other associated duties throughout the week from 3 to 6 pm. They recognise the valuable work that John has carried out over many years and also the continued great work done by current volunteers including Phil Richardson who runs the bar all day every Sunday and Alex McDonald and Colin Williamson who run the bar on Wednesday afternoons to cater for the Veterans as well as Rohan and Leonie Clarke, Tony Dick and Michelle Cruse and Pat Timmerman who assist Rodger with ad hoc functions held at the Club. Other members also assist from time to time, however in order to maximise the financial benefits of green fees and social players, the committee believe the manning of the bar especially during daylight savings between 3 & 6 will provide an added benefit to the players as well as the Club.

An email was sent out to all members on the email list and a very small number replied indicating that they could assist. Any member who is not on the email list and who may be interested in assisting for a couple of hours a week, fortnight or month is asked to let Hank Timmerman know so that a list can be compiled, a meeting held and a plan developed to move forward.

Weekly Column in the Advocate Newspaper

Glen Foster advised all NW Clubs that due to his many commitments he is no longer in a position to continue writing the golf column in the newspaper each week so unless someone else wishes to take it on, the column will no longer continue, effective immediately.

Succession Plan Special Meeting

A special meeting of the general committee will be held on January 12 to discuss the development of a succession plan for the Club.

The Club currently enjoys the services of the volunteer ground staff for which all members are no doubt very grateful and many other Clubs are extremely envious of, however a plan must be developed in the event that current arrangements change. Gary Oliver has already advised that he intends to retire in May this year after more than eight years of invaluable voluntary service which will leave a considerable hole that will need to be filled one way or another.

The development of a succession plan now will hopefully assist in smoothing out any transition that may be necessary in the future.

Do I get a Drop - Lateral Water Hazards

A water hazard is a hazard marked with yellow markers. A lateral water hazard is a water hazard marked with red markers. The rule relating to Water Hazards is Rule 26 and for a full explanation regarding relief from a water hazard including a lateral water hazard members should familiarise themselves with that rule.

LATERAL WATER HAZARDS	LATERAL WATER HAZARDS
<p>A "lateral water hazard" is a water hazard or part of a water hazard so situated that it is not possible or is impracticable to drop a ball behind the water hazard.</p> <p>YOU HAVE 5 OPTIONS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Play the ball where it lies without penalty. 1 2. Drop a ball behind the hazard along a line formed by the hole and the point where the ball last entered the hazard (A) , penalty one stroke. 2 3. Use the stroke and distance option by playing your next stroke from the spot where the original ball was struck, penalty one stroke. 3 4. Drop within 2 club-lengths of point A, no nearer the hole, one stroke penalty (yellow area left side of river). 4 5. Drop within 2 club-lengths of point B, no nearer the hole, one stroke penalty (yellow area right side of river). 5 	
LATERAL WATER HAZARDS ARE DEFINED BY RED STAKES OR LINES.	

In brief though, if your ball is in a water hazard, lateral or otherwise, you may play the ball as it lies as your first option. If it is not possible to play your ball, or you cannot find your ball in the hazard (you must know or be virtually certain that your ball ended up in the hazard) you may play another shot under penalty of stroke and distance from as near as possible as your last shot, or drop a ball behind the water hazard keeping the point at which the original ball last crossed the margin of the water hazard directly between the hole and the spot on which the ball is dropped, with no limit to how far behind the water hazard the hole may be dropped; or as an additional option relating only to lateral (red markers) hazards, drop a ball outside the water hazard within two club lengths of and not nearer the hole than (i) the point where the original ball last crossed the margin of the lateral water hazard or (ii) a point on the opposite margin of the water hazard equidistant from the hole.

Laugh For The Month

At St. Peter's Catholic Church in Adelaide , they have weekly husbands' marriage seminars.

At the session last week, the priest asked Giuseppe, who said he was approaching his 50th wedding anniversary, to take a few minutes and share some insight into how he had managed to stay married to the same woman all these years.

Giuseppe replied to the assembled husbands, 'Wella, I'va tried to treat her nicea, spenda da money on her, but besta of all is, I tooka her to Italy for the **25th** anniversary!'

The priest responded, 'Giuseppe, you are an amazing inspiration to all the husbands here! Please tell us what you are planning for your wife for your **50th** anniversary?'

Giuseppe proudly replied, "**I gonna go picka her up.**"