



ON PAR

The Course is WET



It is not often that the course is closed because of too much rain, but following the significant flooding events that occurred on the Coast two weeks ago, quite a bit more heavy rain has fallen making the course, including the greens and bunkers almost unplayable.

The picture above shows how much water flowed through and around the small dam at the side of the fourth tee. Panatana Creek became a lake behind the dam.

The rain has also caused some minor damage to parts of the course with the gravel path over the new bridge to 'Comfy Corner' behind the eighth tee bed being washed out.

Many thanks to the members who assisted in cleaning up the course following the storms event.

The course was so wet and boggy in parts that avoiding the wet areas especially in ride on carts is virtually impossible so the decision was made last week to prohibit the use of ride on carts until

the conditions improve.

The committee recognises that the decision to prohibit the use of ride on carts will inconvenience some golfers which is regrettable but for the sake of preserving the course the affected members' support and understanding is greatly appreciated.

Great result for Mike Rataj and sister Lynda

by Mike Rataj

Last October member Mike Rataj and his sister, Lynda Lowe were fortunate enough to win a Tasmanian qualifying round at Greens Beach to compete in the RACA Amateur Pairs Golf Championship played at Royal Pines Championship Golf Course in Queensland over 2 days on 30 & 31 May 2016.

The trip was all expenses paid including airfares, accomodation, some meals and drinks plus 2 days competition on the Gold and Green Championship courses at Royal Pines.



77 pairs from across Australia including the Northern Territory and WA competed. It was an extremely well run and professionally organised event which was a real treat to be a part of.

Unfortunately Lynda hurt her arm 2 strokes into a practice round on Sunday and could not compete, however the organisers agreed to let her husband Peter play, however as the maximum male handicap allowed was 27 and Peter plays off 33 at Greens Beach they were up against it from the outset. Unfazed they played the 1st day scoring 55 points (37 and 18), then on Tuesday 58 points (31 and 27) and by no means disgraced themselves.

As an indication of how tough the course is the overall average of 154 players was approximately 23 points per round, with the 5 Tasmanian teams combining to finish 3rd overall with an average 23 points, the winners SA, had 24.

Mike finished 4 points off the leading Individual B grade score and could have had anything except for a run of only 4 points from 6 holes halfway through his second round.

It really was a fantastic experience all round and Mike encourages anyone to try and qualify at any of the Tasmanian rounds this year, there are many repeat qualifiers who chase a position year after year, he will certainly be trying.

Settling in to their new home

In case you have been wondering how Chris & Sue Boyes are going, Hank and Pat Timmerman caught up with them a few weeks ago in their new home at Rosebud on the Mornington Peninsula in Victoria. They are enjoying their new home and being close to family, but of course they miss their old golf club friends from Thirlstane. Chris and Sue have been too busy to play



much golf recently and they are still in a quandary as to where to join. Not surprisingly as the Mornington Peninsula is a golfer's paradise where you can be spoilt for choice.

So if you are ever travelling over that way and you get a chance, let Chris and Sue know you are there and organise a catch up. They would love to see you.

The quiet achiever

Everyone knows that this Golf Club wouldn't survive without the power of work done by the volunteers and there are some who work tirelessly in the background to make sure that there are as few glitches as possible on competition days as well as the days in between.

One such member is **Tony Vaughan** who spends countless hours on the computer, both at the Club as well as at home and keeps the match committee and the general committee well informed about technical issues that have some effect on the Club.

As well as maintaining the membership records, Tony is constantly liaising with our third party data base provider, Slice and has established a wealth of knowledge about the system. He not only happily shares his knowledge with other users but also writes and constantly changes training manuals to ensure that those who use the system are kept up to date with the changes.



Tony also ensures that when competition results are entered into the system for the more unusual golfing events, such as teams scores, he is usually there for the duration to see that the data has been entered correctly and the scores are not corrupted. Without members like Tony, we would probably be still in the dark ages instead of being right up there in the forefront with the technology.

The committee requested that members be made aware work done by Tony and they are grateful of his continued assistance.

The Fixtures Books have (finally) Arrived

The Fixtures Books are now available for members. The books will be labelled with member's names and can be collected from the Club from Saturday.

Many members are dissatisfied with the current delay in the publishing of the fixtures books which is understandable. The Match Committee have recommended that in future the books should be available from 1 April and the new committee details be supplied when they become available as a stick on page to the book.

From the Committee

The yellow (and purple) second tee markers are back.

Following a recommendation from the Match Committee and continued requests by the Veterans, the General Committee has re-instated the use of the second tee markers for both the Men and Ladies. At this time of the year the tee beds can become quite wet and muddy and that had a significant influence on the Committee's decision.

Local Rule Rescinded - Free drop off sand divot.

Following a visit from a Golf Tasmania official during a recent pennant final, the Club was advised that the local rule allowing a drop if your ball stops on a sand divot was contrary to the general Rules of Golf and was therefore not allowed. Committees are allowed to establish Local Rules for local abnormal conditions if they are consistent with the General Rules of Golf otherwise the ball must be played as it lies. The Match Committee has rescinded the Local Rule.

Local Rule Rescinded - Fresh Earthworks on 7th & 8th to be treated as GUR

The Match Committee has also rescinded the local Rule regarding the earthworks on the 7th and 8th fairways and through the green. Those areas have now recovered and the GUR is no longer applicable.

Regular (Monthly) working Bees

The Committee agreed to a suggestion of having regular working bees to undertake specific projects around the course. The working bees will be held at least monthly on the first Thursday of each month. A Notice will be placed on the Notice board in the spike bar advising members of the working bee, the project or projects to be tackled and will request that available members put their name on the list. The number of members putting their hand up to volunteer will determine which and how many projects can be undertaken each month as well as how long each project might take.

The notice will specify starting times and equipment required if you have it (e.g. rakes, trailers, etc.) and the Ladies have suggested that they could cater for lunch for the members on the working bee days.

Once this is up and running, members may have suggestions for specific projects which should be discussed with a committee member and depending on costs and priorities will be considered

by the committee.

This Club has a wealth of experience/expertise amongst its members and many members have some time available to get projects done. It makes sense to tap in to that resource pool.

We have all been guilty at some stage of saying something like, "I wonder when THEY are going to fix this or do something about that?". It is unrealistic to expect our regular volunteers to undertake new project works or extraordinary maintenance as they are too busy maintaining our course in the excellent condition it is presented in for our benefit.

All members will now have a regular opportunity to assist in ensuring that the Thirlstane Golf Course maintains its reputation as one of the premier nine hole courses in the State.

Match Committee

Course Etiquette

The Match committee raised concern about the level of noise on the course on occasions with groups shouting across fairways to other groups as well as players loudly abusing themselves to the annoyance of other golfers. Slow play was also discussed.

Members are asked to be considerate of all players on the course and to make sure they keep up with the group in front, or if they can't, then at least let the group behind through.

Gimme Bin

Many members may not be aware of the Gimme Bin. The Gimme Bin consisted of a bucket of golf balls, starting with two balls, that was given to a player who put their shot on either of the two par three holes to within 300mm (a foot) of the hole and were unbeaten on that shot. If there was no gimme bin claim one week, the ball pool increased by two balls per week until it was next won.

The Match Committee have decided to discontinue the gimme bin as there are now other novelty prizes that have replaced it.

Change back to Divisions from Grades for Medal & Putting competitions.

The Match Committee have determined that from 1 July, all competitions except for the Club Championships will revert to Divisions with Division 1 being handicaps 0 - 15, Division 2 being 16 - 20 and Division 3 being 21 to 45.

Most would be aware that monthly medal events have recently been played in Grades with A Grade 0 - 12, B Grade 13 - 19 and C Grade 19 - 36.

The change has been made to even up the divisions within the competition. Division 3 has been extended to 45 to accommodate a Lady member who may have a handicap above 36.

Shot Gun Starts During Winter on Saturdays

The Match Committee decided to trial shotgun starts for Saturday comps during the winter to gauge members' reaction. Games can often be delayed during the winter because of heavy frosts which then causes the field to finish too late in the day.

The first trial occurred last Saturday for the Speedy Tyres sponsored event and general feedback so far indicates it is a winner. It certainly is great for the sponsors to come in to the club house and see the majority of players there for the presentation.

The Match Committee welcomes feedback from all members and will be changing some other upcoming sponsored events to shotgun starts this winter.

Purple Pepper Sponsorship



The Purple Pepper Pizza Cafe at Port Sorell have provided a novel sponsorship to the Club. They will donate a \$20 voucher on all Medal and Putting days for the member who wins the putting on the day. This will apply to the Ladies, Veterans and Members competitions every month. It will be known as the Purple Pepper Putting Pizza Prize.

Mark and Janine make one of the best pizzas on the Coast but that's not all, they also serve other great take-away foods including some of the best fish and chips around. Give them a try even if you don't get to win the putting. You won't be disappointed plus you will be supporting one of our great sponsors.

Lady Members

The lamington drive ay on 26 May went extremely well with 310 dozen laminations being made and sold resulting in \$1400 being raised for the Club. A Fantastic effort by all involved. Well done.

The Ladies President recorded her thanks on behalf of the Club to Paul Baggott for undertaking the cleaning of the range hood and associated filters and fans in preparation for inspection by the Health Inspector.

The Ladies committee also presented a cheque to the general committee for \$2000.00 general funds raised.

Veterans

Veteran committee member Mik Danos undertook to replace the matting at the back of the practice nets with shade cloth which has given a real lift to the aesthetics of the practice nets. The committee acknowledge the work completed by Mik and thank him for his efforts.

Membership Committee

The membership committee reported a total of thirty members outstanding with their subscriptions, the majority being full members. None of the members are regular competition players and it is not unusually for that number of players to drop off each year. Generally the Club picks up a similar number throughout the year keeping member numbers relatively static.

Members are reminded that should subscriptions remain outstanding by June 30, they will be removed from the member register.

Sick List

Sam Upton is currently not enjoying the best of health which has confined him to home. Whilst he may not be physically up to a game of golf, he is certainly up for a chat either through a visit to his home or a phone call. If you want his contact details, contact the Secretary.

Doug Blenkhorn is also on the sick list undergoing treatment for cancer. It was great to see Doug at the Course last week although he is not up for a game at the moment. Doug is also up for a chat so again if you would like to contact him and you want his contact details, please contact the Secretary.

The President and Committee acknowledges the difficult times both members are going through at the moment and wishes them all the best.

New Members

The Committee approved two new membership applications for the following:

Grant McDonald of Squeaking Point - Full Member

Lance Davey of Port Sorell - Full Member

The Club welcomes both prospective members and trust they have a long enjoyable association with the Club.

Club Mens Foursome Championships

Don't forget to select your partner of the Club Foursomes Championships to be held on Saturday 23 July 2016. The sheet is on the board. It will be a seed draw with your combined handicaps dived by 2.

Golden Circle Winners - June 2016

4 June	11 June	18 June	25 June
\$30 A Wild	\$30 M Blythe	\$30 L Baggott	\$30 T Ryan
\$20 R Rainbird	\$20 Brian Richardson	\$20 K Dixon	\$20 D French
\$10 R Eadie	\$10 T Ryan	\$10 J Dyke	\$10 D Holland
	\$50 J Booten		

Laugh For The Month

No doubt we can all name someone capable of writing this book.

Dear Friends,

I have written a book and am quite proud of the results and, in order to market the publication, I'm asking friends and family to spread the news about this essential read.

This book on golf gives the reader valuable playing tips and insider information that I have gained through my 30+ years of golfing experience.

Highlights include:

- Chapter 1) How to Properly Line Up Your Fourth Putt
- Chapter 2) How to Hit a Maxfli ball from the Rough When You Just Hit a Titleist from the Tee
- Chapter 3) How to Get More Distance off the Shank
- Chapter 4) When to Give the Curator the Finger
- Chapter 5) Proper Excuses for Drinking Beer Before 9:00 a.m
- Chapter 6) How to Find That Ball That Everyone Else Saw Go in the Water
- Chapter 7) How to Relax When You Are Hitting Three off the Tee
- Chapter 8) How to Relax When You Are Hitting Five off the Tee
- Chapter 9) When to Suggest Major Swing Corrections to Your Opponent