



ON PAR

2017 THIRLSTANE OPEN & QUAICH

This year's Thirlstane Open saw one of the largest fields the event has had for some time with 83 players representing several coastal clubs from Stanley to Deloraine. The conditions were perfect as was the course with the visiting members heaping accolades on the Club for its presentation. The open winner was a young man from Devonport, Joel Lunson with a handicap of just 2 who pared the course off the stick. A terrific effort.

Joel is pictured right with the new perpetual trophy donated by Mark Atkinson of Atkinson Electrical.



The event incorporated the Quaich which was donated by Garry and Wendy Beaton. The Quaich (which is a Scottish drinking vessel) is the perpetual trophy awarded to the best nett winner on the day and that was won by our very own Carl Brown with a fantastic score of nett 63. Now

that's a day out.



There has always been a minimum handicap set for the nett winner and this year the Beatons' set that minimum at 27 so Carl's handicap had to be adjusted by four strokes which still made him the clear leader at 67 nett (adjusted) which just goes to prove that age is certainly no barrier to winning major golf competitions at this Club.

Congratulations to all of the winners, participants and the Club for a very well organised tournament and thank you to all of our sponsors including the major sponsors Atkinson Electrical, Zest P/L and Garry and Wendy Beaton.

2017 Ladies Foursomes Champions



The Ladies Foursomes Championship this year was played on 14 February and was won by Pat Archer & Susie Atkins with a gross score of 143 for 27 holes, seven strokes clear of their nearest rivals. They are pictured left being presented with the perpetual shield by the Ladies Captain, Liz Sumpton.

The best nett was won by Liz Sumpton and Jan Gamble with 114.75 net.

Congratulations ladies.

SUMMER CUP Winners 2017

The 2017 Summer Cup final was played in fine conditions on Sunday 19 February between the finalists David Dunham and Jason Healey against Dennis French and Roger Eadie. The contest was fairly evenly poised at the turn after David and Jason had been two down and they were two down again up to the 15th, winning the next two to again be square. After the 17th they were one up with one to go, winning the last hole with a pressure putt by Jason.

For the uninitiated, this event, like the Thirlstane Cup, commences with a 2BBB qualifying round, from which the best 8 teams of two battle it out in knockout round robin match play rounds over the following four weeks.

Well done and congratulations to the winning team and all participants in the competition.



These Flies

This summer has certainly produced its fair share of flies around the course with all sorts of repellents and home made concoctions proving to be a smorgasbord for the pesky wasters.

At least one of our members was smart enough to beat the annoying little buggers without chemicals. Smart thinking Ben but it hasn't exactly set a trend at the Club.

Work Commences on New 4th Tee

Work has started in earnest on the new 4th tee with pipes being laid and earth moved in the process of forming the new tee bed. A drain has also been constructed to divert any flood water from behind the tee bed to ensure that the new tee can still be used in wet and heavy conditions. There is a long way to go but the Course development committee headed by Peter Bonney has already made a huge start. The committee also includes Paul Baggott, Dennis French, Tony Dick, Scott Westlake and Stu Matthewson and these members have all put in a tremendous number of man-hours on a voluntary basis to make improvements to the course for your enjoyment. The President, on behalf of all members, has thanked the team on numerous occasions for their work to date. Their contribution will have lasting effects for generations.



You may have also noticed the new warning signs on the side of the dam at the 4th tee. The aim is to deter players from trying to retrieve their ball from the hazard as the result could be fatal.

Similar signs will also be erected at the dams either side of the sixth and the ninth fairways as they would also be very difficult to get out of if you were unfortunate enough to fall in.

Let's face it, many members are on the wrong side of 60 and a ball is just not worth risking your life for.

From The Committee

New Lease for Dressage Area

The Committee has entered new leasing arrangements with Dressage TAS for the lease of the land currently used by that Club. The new arrangements will provide for Dressage to lease the land for 10 years with an option to renew. This will provide some certainty to Dressage TAS and allow them to apply for grants to make improvements to the area.

NBN

The Club house has finally been connected to the National Broadband Network which should vastly improve the reliability of our internet connection.

Many members have reported issues with emails from the Clubhouse not reaching their email addresses and the cause of this anomaly has not been able to be determined. Hopefully with the more stable connection, this issue can be resolved. A test email was sent from the Club last week. If members are still having problems with not receiving emails from the Club, please let either Hank or Tony Vaughan know.

Sand Storage Bunker

The Committee has approved the building of a concrete and timber sand storage bunker which should assist in eliminating the problem of stones found in the sand when refilling bunkers.

Working Bees

The Committee resolved to revert to ad-hoc working bees for projects around the course rather than having a fixed date each month as there were often issues with the weather or hire equipment not being available on those specific dates.

Members will continue to be informed by email and notices on the board whenever working bees are scheduled. It is recognised that without the help of all of our volunteers, this Club could not survive.

Car Park Repairs

Repairs to the car park are underway. That should fix the drainage problem that currently exists, causing large puddles to be formed. Hopefully there will not be too much inconvenience to members and the end result will improve conditions for everyone.

Match Committee

In the last newsletter it was reported that the Match Committee had established that the calculation for handicaps for team events such as Canadian foursomes and ambrose events would be based on adding the handicaps of each team member and dividing that number by the number of members in the team. However after undertaking some indicative calculations from a past teams' event, it was determined that such a calculations disproportionately advantaged high handicap teams.

After further research and deliberations, that motion has been rescinded and calculations will now be based on Golf Australia recommendations that suggest handicaps for team events should be

- Canadian & Yankee Foursomes - 3/8 of aggregate handicap
- Ambrose 2 person -1/4 of aggregate, 3 person -1/6 of aggregate, 4 person -1/8 of aggregate

Purple Pepper Pizza Putting Prize is back

It was recently reported that the Purple Pepper Pizza Cafe were not going to continue their monthly sponsorship as Mark and Janine had their business on the market. Well they sold it to a truckie from Sydney. John 'Tron' Burgess took over the Purple Pepper Pizza Cafe on Saturday 25 February and the good news is he has agreed to sponsor our Golf Club on similar terms to the previous owners, giving \$20 vouchers each month for the best medal putting score for the Ladies, Vets and Members' monthly comps. That's a substantial sponsorship that members can acknowledge by patronising the business. Tron assures me that the standard of the food will be every bit as good as patrons have been used to. So support the businesses that support our Club and give The Purple Pepper Pizza cafe a try for pizzas and great fish & chips.



Masters Games 22 - 27 October 2017

Golf is just one of the 52 different sports played in the Australian Masters Games to be held on the North West coast of Tasmania this year.

Thirlstane has been selected as one of 7 courses on the Coast to be played by participants during the week. Our course will be showcased on Sunday 22 October along with Port Sorell with the split field playing a stableford event on each course.

Registrations are now open for the event with the only stipulation being that you must be aged at least 30 to enter.

Check out the website: australianmastersgames.com for more details.

Mens Pennant 2017

The Mens pennant season commences on Sunday 19 March followed by matches on 26 March and 2,9 and 23 April, 7 May and the finals on 21 May. Thirlstane have two teams, one in Div 4 and one in Div 6. The roster has just been released. Good luck to all players.

Annual General Meeting

The Club's Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 16 May 2017. Members are asked to consider making a commitment and standing for office with all but one of the Committee positions being declared vacant. If you believe you can make a valuable contribution to the Club as a member of the committee now is the time to consider putting your hand up for a position.

Recently Joined Members



These two fine gentleman have recently joined our Club. Hugh Healey (left) lives at Port Sorell and works in Hobart on and off. Having played golf years ago, he's a bit rusty but will strike form in no time.

On the right is Allan Sing, who has recently retired and has now found some time to indulge in his new passion, golf. Allan hasn't played before and is keen to learn the rules, the different types of competitions and more importantly get to know the members.

Please make both members feel welcome.



New Members

The Committee approved three new members to the Club at the February meeting. Please welcome:

Ian Hitchcock - Port Sorell - Full Member

Matt Clarke - Northdown - Full Member

Glen Janke - Shearwater - Full member

Golden Circle

Golden Circle recommences on Saturday 4 March. Any members previously in the golden circle who wish to stay in it but haven't yet been approached will be left in unless they opt out. If you do not want to participate please let either Leonie, Rohan or Tony Dick know. Likewise if you haven't been in it before and would like to, let them know and a number will be allocated. It's only \$40 for the year but you could potentially win hundreds.

Pace of Play

As advised in the last newsletter, the Royal and Ancient published a Pace of Play Manual that is available on their website. The publication was produced after a world wide survey of golfers found that the most frustrating part of golf was slow play.

This month we review some of the points in Chapter 2 of the Manual relating to "Ready Golf".

"The term "ready golf" has been adopted by many as a catch-all phrase for a number of actions that separately and collectively can improve pace of play. There is no official definition of the term, but examples of "ready golf" in action are:

- Hitting a shot when safe to do so if a player farther away faces a challenging shot and is taking time to assess their options
- Shorter hitters playing first from the tee or fairway if longer hitters have to wait
- Hitting a tee shot if the person with the honour is delayed in being ready to play
- Hitting a shot before helping someone to look for a lost ball
- Putting out even if it means standing close to someone else's line
- Hitting a shot if a person who has just played from a greenside bunker is still farthest from the hole but is delayed due to raking the bunker
- When a player's ball has gone over the back of a green, any player closer to the hole but chipping from the front of the green should play while the other player is having to walk to their ball and assess their shot
- Marking scores upon immediate arrival at the next tee, except that the first player to tee off marks their card immediately after teeing off".

Match Committee encourages all groups to play "ready golf" during competition excepting of course for any match play events.

Membership Fees

Invoices will shortly be received by members for their 2017 membership fees. To remain financial members must pay their subscriptions by 31 March or risk not being eligible to play in competitions.

This year again, members have the option to pay in full either by cash, cheque or direct debit or they can choose to pay by the month using direct debit from a savings or cheque account. Members are not encouraged to use credit card debit for their monthly payments.

Furthermore, if members chose to utilise Bpay, they will be charged a merchant fee in addition to the membership fee. Please read your accounts carefully before making payments.

Laugh for the Month



Supersex

This little old lady who has lost her marbles was running up and down the halls in a nursing home.

As she walked, she would flip up the hem of her nightgown and say "Supersex.."

She walked up to an elderly man in a wheelchair named Rob. Flipping her gown at him, she said, "Supersex."

He sat silently for a moment or two and finally answered, "I'll take the soup."