



History of the Thirlstane Golf Club - Part 1

The commemorative plaque on the wall behind the bar shows that the Clubhouse was officially opened in April 1985 by the then Premier of Tasmania, Robin Gray. So by any standards, this golf club is not all that old, however from humble beginnings 35 years ago the Thirlstane Golf Club has grown to become one of the great success stories with a continued strong membership. On the 30th anniversary of the official opening of the Club Rooms it is worth taking a trip down memory lane.



Up until 1980, there was only one golf Club in the area and that was the course surrounding the Shearwater Country Club resort. The Golf Club was then known as the Shearwater Golf Club. A change in ownership of the Country Club brought a change in the lease agreement for the golf course. The Country Club owner wanted an increase in the lease arrangements and demanded five

years payment in advance. That amount of money would have bled the Golf Club of all of its funds and it was an untenable situation so a Special General Meeting was held and the majority of members voted to move away from the Country Club and buy land to build a new course nearby.

Barrie Isles was one of the members tasked with looking for a suitable place to build a golf course and he saw a 106 acre (42.8 ha) undeveloped bush property (where the TGC is) that belonged to our Patrons, Don and Audrey Mitchelson that looked promising. Quite a bit of behind the scenes work and consultation was done in a very short space of time and in August 1980, Eric Holmes, the President of the Golf Club presided over another Special general Meeting to make the following announcement.



The proposed site for the new golf course has been selected and the owners have agreed to sell...Mr P Toogood, one of tasmania' leading golfers, has offered his services free of charge to design the course.

The Club has \$25,000.00 therefore a further \$100,000.00 would be required for the full project to go ahead. To service the loan we will require \$1350.00 per month and we have a scheme to put forward. We suggest to you that if we obtain 100 members who are willing to become foundation members we will be home and hosed. A foundation member will agree to pay \$15.00 per month for the next ten years, associates \$8.00 per month. In return each of those members becomes a life member. A foundation member would pay \$1,800.00 during those ten years but would not be required to pay any more for the rest of his golf days. (excerpts from original meeting notes)

Needless to say, the quota of 100 foundation members was filled immediately.

So with the land sale agreement, the wherewithal to fund the building of a new course and the courage and determination to undertake the mammoth project, most of the members left the Country Club, took the Shearwater Golf Club name and their clubs with them and off they went to build a new course.

Part 2 next month.

Gold Medal 2015 Sponsored by the Parsons Family

Eighty players including most of the monthly medal winners of the past 12 months, contested for the Gold Medal & monthly medal on Saturday 11 April 2015. The day was sponsored by the Parsons family who as always, seemed to enjoy themselves immensely. The shield and the Gold

Medal was won by Rod White with a score of 66 nett off an 11 handicap. Other medal winners were Damien Holland and Frank Kelly each with nett 67.



Gold Medal 2015 winner Rod White



Pictured above with the Gold Medal winner are the Parsons family crew including John Cornell, Benny Parsons, Robert Parsons, Hannah Pearsonn, Mark Knowles, Michael Ling and Peter McCourtrey.

And speaking of Monthly Medal Winners

The Match committee have changed the rules regarding medal winners. The best score of the day in each grade will be eligible to win the monthly medal, regardless of how many times that player has won the medal within the twelve month period.

Revised Use of Motorised Carts Policy

At the last committee meeting, a new policy for the use of motorised ride on carts was adopted.

It is the policy of the Thirlstane Golf Club that motorised golf carts may be used on the course subject to the conditions approved by the Committee for the use of Carts on the course.

In this policy,

“*Committee*” includes the general committee and/or the match committee.

“*Course*” means the Thirlstane Golf Course.

Conditions for use of Carts

- The type of cart used on the course must be specifically designed for use as a golf cart.
- Any golf cart used on the course must be of a type approved by the Committee.
- A medical certificate is no longer a requirement to use a Cart **except for** Pennant and Club Championship events as well as any other major competition as specifically determined by the Committee.
- Any person using a cart must be over the age of 17 years and must hold a current drivers licence.
- Carts designed to carry two persons and two sets of equipment may be used by up to two persons.
- Carts must be kept at least 10 metres away from greens, tee beds and bunkers and must be used in such a way that they do not damage the course.
- Always use cart paths where provided.
- Never drive a cart through a hazard.
- Avoid all wet areas. In wet conditions, drive down fairways, not in the rough.
- Carts must not be ridden in areas marked G.U.R.
- All motorised cart and buggy users shall observe the Rules of Golf and Golf Etiquette as well as the conditions stipulated by the committee.

- The Committee reserves the right, at its absolute discretion, to disqualify a player using a cart from any competition, and to suspend or cancel or otherwise limit the use of a cart if it becomes aware of any breach of these conditions by a member or visitor using a cart on the course.
- The Committee may suspend the use of carts or restrict the areas they can be used when the course conditions may be considered to be unsuitable for the use of carts.

This policy takes effect from 1 May 2015.

President, Thirlstane Golf Club

The committee requests that all ride on cart users adhere to the policy and the conditions including members in carts who are playing with ambulant members, to stick with their group and not race ahead. Golf is supposed to be a social activity.

All members are requested to assist cart users in following the guidelines by reminding them each time a breach is observed.

Policy on Use of Club Logo

The committee adopted a new policy regarding the use of the Club logo



Policy on use of Club Logo

Pictured above is the official logo for the Thirlstane Golf Club which is the only one approved and sanctioned by the Committee.

The logo colours are blue red and white.

The logo may be used by any member to promote the Club.

A member may have the Club logo put on any article of clothing at the member's own expense. (This does not relate to pennant or other team approved shirts.)

Use of logo on 'Official' Club shirts, jumpers, vests and coats.

The Club logo must be placed on the left side of the chest of the article of clothing.

The colour of Pennant shirts and any other uniform apparel that carries the Club logo must be the same for all divisions represented by the Club in any one season and must be approved by the Pennant Captain.

The Veterans and Ladies committees shall determine the colour of their shirts carrying the Club logo to be worn by their respective members when they are officially representing their respective groups.

Pro Pin

For the month of May, the Match Committee had decided to trial the Pro Pin on the 6th hole instead of the 7th as some members are complaining that they cannot reach the green in two shots on the 7th so this should give them a chance to win. There will still be a nearest the pin prize for those who have not entered the pro pin. The pro pin will be marked by a small coloured disc on the green. the match committee will actively monitor the number of entries and if there is no discernible difference in the number of entries after a month, the pro pin will revert to the 7th hole.

Don't forget the Annual general Meeting on Tuesday May 19th at 7.30pm

Members are reminded that the AGM will be conducted at the Clubrooms on the above date. All vacancies on the committee have been filled by nomination. A list of the nominees for the positions has been posted on the General Committee notice board in the club rooms. Any other member wishing to stand for a position on the committee must be nominated prior to 9th of May. Nominees and their proposer and seconder must be financial for the nomination to be valid.

So far nominations have been received from

Trevor Stubbs for President

Hank Timmerman for Vice President*

Bevis Dutton for Secretary

Rodger Paice for Treasurer

Mark Atkinson for Captain

Anthony Webb for Vice Captain

Marcus Brown for Deputy Vice Captain

Paul Baggott for Committee

Tony Coates for Committee

Senior Vice President position automatically filled by Gary Oliver

Peter Bonney on Committee not due for re-election this year

*If Hank Timmerman is elected to Vice President, a committee member position will become vacant for which a nomination has already been received.

Leigh Holland has decided not to re-contest his committee position which he has held for the past four years. The President said the Club is indebted to Leigh for his commitment and outstanding service he gave whilst on committee.

Likewise Vice President Geoff Gale has decided not to re-contest his vice-president position

although he will continue to have input through his position as President of the Veterans committee.

Any member wishing to raise an item of general business for discussion at the AGM is requested to give notice of such business in writing to the Secretary of the Club at least fourteen days before the AGM.

Please take an interest in your Club by attending the AGM.

Anzac Day Competition

Some members have expressed their views that they did not think it was appropriate for the competition on Anzac Day to be commenced prior to midday.

The Match Committee had considered the matter months before the event and they sought appropriate advice from the ADF as well as the RSL. There are no specific protocols relating to sporting fixtures on Anzac Day except for racing carnivals involving gambling and neither organisation raised any issues regarding the appropriateness of conducting our competition prior to midday so the decision was made to run the competition as normal. In respect of Anzac Day, the flag at the Club was flown at half mast until midday. Lest we forget.

From the Committee

Drop in green fees over the easter period

The committee noted a 20% drop in green fees over the Easter Break from last year. Whilst speculation that the cause for the decrease may have been due to the increase in the price of green fees, the committee determined that the situation should be monitored over a longer period before considering whether any further action was warranted.

Trees at the back of the 9th tee

Rodger advised that the back of the ninth tee was unable to grow grass because of the trees at the back of the tee blocking all sunlight to that area. The committee resolved that the six trees behind the ninth tee bed be removed.

Blackwood Tree Roots becoming a golf hazard on some of the fairways

The issue of exposed blackwood tree roots on some of the fairways was discussed. The question was asked if a free drop could be considered for a ball landing on an exposed root rather than risk damaging a club. The committee determined that a local rule would not be invoked as such a rule could be easily abused. It was resolved that no action would be taken and if a golfer believed that playing a shot may damage his or her club, an alternative course of action should be considered such as taking a penalty drop from an unplayable lie.

Tree removal schedule

The removal of the identified trees on the course has had to be re-scheduled, possible until

spring later in the year, due to the inclement weather when it was originally proposed last month. The heavy equipment required to be brought onto the course to undertake the work could damage the course in wet conditions that would ordinarily be forecast at this time of the year.

Club Maintenance

Tony Dick advised that as he was about to retire from full time work, he was available if the Club wished, to carry out unscheduled maintenance work around the club house. The President Trevor Stubbs thanked Tony for his very generous offer which was accepted without hesitation. Very generous indeed.

Condition of the Greens recently

Many members have commented recently of the excellent state of the greens of late. Whilst they remain very true, they have increased in speed and members indicated that they hoped the greens could be maintained in that condition. Compliments were also received from members from other Clubs, including Port Sorell who played here recently, and we know what their greens are like. Great work by our course staff.

Lady Members

President Jan Richardson advised that the N.W Shield, a premium Ladies golf fixture is due to be played at the Thirlstane course on Friday 15 May 2015 subject to committee approval. The matter was resolved in the affirmative and indeed the Club is honoured to be able to be on display for such an event which is usually held on an 18 hole course.

Lady Members Annual General Meeting - Tuesday 5th May 2015

A reminder that the AGM for the Lady Members is to be held at the Club rooms at 2pm on Tuesday 5th of May 2015 after the regular competition. President Jan said it would be lovely to see as many members attend as possible.

Lamington Drive

Once again the Ladies will be conducting their very popular annual lamington drive. See any of the lady members or put your order in on the form at the Club house to make sure you don't miss out on these. At \$10.00 a dozen why wouldn't you order a few.? They freeze very well too.

Thirlstane Veterans

President Geoff Gale advised that the Vets held their AGM on 1 April with all current serving committee members being returned for another term. An additional committee member was also appointed to the board. The Veterans Committee includes President, Geoff Gale, Vice President Foxy Levett, Secretary/treasurer Frank McConnon, Assistant Sec/Treasurer Denis Page, Captain Warren Snashall, Vice Captain Mik Danos, Committee members Peter Skirving, Greg Boyd and Scott Westlake. Those members are congratulated for their ongoing commitment to ensuring the success of the Thirlstane Veterans Group.

Geoff reported that a team of Vets players went to Launceston recently to defend their winning status from the last challenge to be beaten by only four points overall.

The Rubicon challenge held between Port Sorell and Thirlstane at Thirlstane recently was a great success. Thirlstane won the day and the event was sponsored by the Port Sorell Community Bank. The manager, Phil Martin who now lives at Hawley played in the event and was impressed with the course. He committed the Bank to ongoing support for the event for the foreseeable future. He said it was one small way of giving back to the community. The Community Bank is a not for profit organisation with all profits being returned to the Community. A good reason to support a sponsor who supports the Club.

Geoff also advised that the Riverside Golf Club were coming to play in a Vets challenge next month. He said this was the first time Riverside Vets had joined the interchange circuit and he hoped it was the start of a long ongoing interchange between the Clubs.

Speedy Recovery

President Trevor is currently recovering from a knee replacement operation. All apparently went well but he won't be able to drive for six weeks so if you happen to be anywhere near where he lives, drop in and say g'day. He would surely appreciate it.

New Members

The committee approved four new applications for membership at the last meeting. The Club welcomes the following new members-

Michael Watts of Devonport - FullMember

Grant Dicker of Devonport - Full Member

Blake Lidster of East Devonport - Junior Member (only 10 years old)

Delma Bowden of Devonport - Lady Member

Please repair Plug Marks on the Greens and Divots on Fairways

Laughs for the Month

Jim stood over his tee shot on the 450 yard 18th hole for what seemed an eternity. He waggled, looked up, looked down, waggled again, but didn't start his back swing. Finally his exasperated partner asked, 'What the hell is taking so long?'

'My wife is watching me from the clubhouse balcony,' Jim explained. 'I want to make a perfect shot.'

His companion said, 'You don't have a chance in hell of hitting her from here.'

Irish Ghost Story

This story happened a while ago in Dublin, and even though it sounds like an Alfred Hitchcock tale, it's true.

John Bradford, a Dublin University student, was on the side of the road hitchhiking on a very dark night and in the midst of a big storm.

The night was rolling on and no car went by. The storm was so strong he could hardly see a few feet ahead of him.

Suddenly, he saw a car slowly coming towards him and stopped.

John, desperate for shelter and without thinking about it, got into the car and closed the door...only to realize there was nobody behind the wheel and the engine wasn't on.

The car started moving slowly. John looked at the road ahead and saw a curve approaching. Scared, he started to pray, begging for his life.

Then, just before the car hit the curve, a hand appeared out of nowhere through the window, and turned the wheel. John, paralyzed with terror, watched as the hand came through the window, but never touched or harmed him.

Shortly thereafter, John saw the lights of a pub appear down the road, so, gathering strength; he jumped out of the car and ran to it. Wet and out of breath, he rushed inside and started telling everybody about the horrible experience he had just had.

A silence enveloped the pub when everybody realized he was crying...and wasn't drunk.

Suddenly, the door opened, and two other people walked in from the dark and stormy night. They, like John, were also soaked and out of breath. Looking around, and seeing John Bradford sobbing at the bar, one said to the other:

"Look Paddy...there's that idiot that got in the car while we were pushing it!"

Feedback on Newsletter

As you can see the layout of the Newsletter is a little different this time as there are no columns. Some feedback received indicates it is easier to read the newsletter electronically without having to print it out if you can simple scroll down.

Please provide some feedback on which layout you would prefer. Also if you have any thoughts on the type of content you want to see in your newsletter, contributions would be gratefully accepted.

If you have any funny anecdotes and especially if you have photographic evidence that you think might be worthy of inclusion, please forward them to putterpatter@beagle.com.au or give Hank Timmerman a call or SMS him on 0419509618.