



ON PAR

Great Work in the Front Garden



A big thank you to the Ladies and all the volunteers who worked on the front garden over the past few weeks to transform it into the showpiece of the Clubhouse entrance. The garden has had a complete makeover and now all it has to do is grow. Here are some pictures of some of the volunteers at work last Monday.

Marj Robson got more than she bargained for when pulling up to help one day. She drove over a rake which ended up under the wheel arch of her car, firmly embedded in the tyre. The RACT Roadside Assist bloke who came to replace her wheel said he had never seen anything like it.



For Sale - Mazda BT-50

If you are thinking of buying a new 4WD, you might want to consider a mighty little Suzuki with the pulling power of a bulldozer. Seen here pulling out a Mazda BT-50 that was bogged to the axles near the front entrance to the golf course recently, at least one of our members has a new healthy respect for Paul Baggott's little workhorse.



The Carts are Back



The boys in the ride on carts were lined up and ready to go last Wednesday, the first time they have been allowed back onto the course for 10 weeks following the recent long spell of wet weather. The course still has a few boggy patches and whilst the rain continues, it will be delicate for some time.

Providing all cart drivers stick to the routes as marked on the maps they have been given, they will be able to

continue using their carts. If they don't they will not be permitted to use a cart on the course for a period to be determined by the committee.

Cock O' Walk Final next Sunday

Jason Heatley and Sam Vickers have made it to the Cock O' Walk finals, defeating Jamie Kunta and Simon Thompson in the semi - final. They are up against Nathan Richardson and Mark Atkinson who are in top form having defeated Jim Booton and Charlie Sineisi, but will the 22 shots Nathan and Mark have to give up prove to be too much. Come and watch on Sunday at 9am to find out.

Regular Monthly Working Bees

Just a reminder that a monthly working bee will be undertaken on the first Thursday of each month so if you can see your way clear for a few hours a month, your assistance would be gratefully accepted. The number of members listed on the sheet placed on the general notice board each month for the working bees will assist in determining the number and type of projects that can be undertaken. It will also allow for the Ladies to cater for the magnificent morning teas and lunch that are provided to the workers. This month's working bee is on 1 September (today for most of you) and the projects lined up include re-screwing the roofing iron on the workshop, carting and spreading gravel in and around the beer garden and splitting firewood. Future working bees will undertake projects such as developing cart paths around the course and any other worthwhile and necessary projects. In fact if you have ideas for some of the projects you think could be considered, talk to President Bevis Dutton.

New Member Introduction



Relative newcomers who joined the Club earlier this year are Dean Vos and Ben Smith. Dean (pictured left) was a member at Port Sorell but had a break from golf for a couple of years. After being given a provisional handicap of 10 which he thought was a bit harsh, he soon mastered the course and played 3 over par one week followed by 4 over par the next. His handicap was soon sorted and he is currently playing off 5.

Ben Smith (right) had never played competition golf before joining our Club. He played cricket with Spreyton for many years which may explain his ball hitting skills.

After starting off on a provisional 36 handicap, Ben soon showed he was no slouch with a golf club and after playing just one competition round, his handicap was slashed to 18. Not bad for a 'beginner'.



The Club welcomes both members and we trust you will have a long and happy association with the Club for years to come.

The Committee approved Brian's wife, Irene Page as a new full member recently. Irene is the

first female member to join since the Constitution was changed at this year's AGM where Lady Member status for new female members is no longer available. Irene will enjoy all of the rights and privileges of a full member and the Club extends a warm welcome to her.

Buggy Shed

Some members have suggested that the Club should consider a dedicated buggy storage facility so members can safely leave their buggies, carts and equipment at the golf course.

The committee has considered the suggestion including either purchasing a storage container or two or building a purpose built shed. The facility would be available to members on a user pay basis and the committee has proposed that in order to cover the costs an annual fee amounting to \$2 per week would be charged to users.

Before considering the proposal further, the committee wants to know how many members would be interested and would use such a facility. A list has been placed on the general notice board. If you are interested in using such a facility please put your name on the list.

Vale - Ted Rapley

The Club mourns the loss of one of its Foundation Members recently. Many older members will remember Ted Rapley who died last week aged 95. He stopped playing golf a few years ago but before he retired from the game he is reputed to have shot his age off the stick. Ted was a resident at Rubicon Grove when he passed away. He was a member of the Golf Club for over 40 years.

From The Committee

Strategic Planning

The committee are discussing the development of a strategic plan for the Club and they will be seeking input from members. A few years ago members were involved in a "Think Tank" where ideas for course developments were raised, documented, prioritised, budgeted for and over a period of time, many have been implemented. Strategic planning is similar but is more holistic looking at the Club's future direction overall including possible developments, Club management, membership growth, budgeting, labour costs, member services and assets management amongst other things.

Golf Australia advises that "without adequate planning, a club can frequently deal only with immediate problems and fail to consider future needs. Consequently the club:

- tends to function on a random ad hoc basis
- will never seem to have time to anticipate challenges
- does not create conditions to deal effectively with the future

Therefore, to overcome these limitations, a plan is necessary."

The strategic planning document once developed becomes a living document that must be constantly reviewed. It should provide a clear direction for the Club on an ongoing basis.

The planning process will be ongoing and it will require some commitment from everybody involved in the Club from committee members & staff to volunteers to ensure its successful future.

Course Maintenance

The recent wet conditions on the course have highlighted some drainage issues that the volunteer ground staff have been working feverishly to improve. It has been quite a challenge however the hard work of unblocking existing drains as well as creating new drainage systems has reaped rewards with the course beginning to dry out quite nicely.

As well as sorting out the drainage issues, the maintenance staff have also maintained the course to a continual high standard. Many members are commenting that the greens are the best they have ever been.

Full credit and hats off to all the members who volunteer on a regular basis to ensure that the course is maintained in such a fantastic condition through some of the most trying conditions ever seen.

Match Committee

Golf Month

As advised in the last news letter, the Match Committee are organising an event during October for Golf Month which will include inviting teams of three from various local sporting clubs for a nine hole ambrose event. This day is being held as a potential membership drive to encourage other sports minded people to take up golf as a sport they can play for years after they decide to give up other forms of competitive sport. Many of the players will be novices to the game of golf.

The event will be on 23 October and it will include a BBQ. The Match Committee are hoping that as many members as possible can join in on the day to help make the participants feel welcome.

Shot Gun Starts

The winter shot gun starts have proven to be very popular and quite timely given the frost that has been around in a few recent early mornings. One of the biggest winter fields this year fronted up for the shot gun start on Saturday 27 August with 66 in the field, Match Committee will be reviewing winter fixtures next year with a view to adding more of these popular starts.

Re-rating of Course

The Match Committee have received advice from Golf Tasmania that a course will not be re-rated for its slope rating unless there have been significant changes made to a course which includes a difference in length of at least 100 metres or that the conditions have changed to such an extent that there is a vast discrepancy in the scores creating an unrealistic DSR (Daily Slope Rating).

It is acknowledged by Golf Australia (GA) that the current slope has created significant issues

between winter and summer play at many courses throughout Australia as a result of a recent survey they conducted. This Club was involved in that survey. To date GA have not offered any solutions to that issue.

Membership

Honorary membership

The Committee have awarded Honorary Membership to Keith Ives for his outstanding contribution to the Club. Keith owns the two ride on carts that are available for hire. The Club is the beneficiary of the proceeds of the hiring of the carts and it is very grateful and recognises the value of Keith's generosity.

Social Membership

The committee approved the application by Trevor Stubbs to convert from Full to Social Member.

Ladies Committee

The Ladies have not had the opportunity to play a lot of golf in the past month due to the inclement weather which has required some events to be re-scheduled.

The Tasmanian Senior Ladies played at the course on 26 August and 44 players from Smithton to Scamander fronted up to what proved to be a very successful day. Many favourable comments were passed on from the visitors about the standard and conditions of the course.

Course Development

Sprinkler systems have been installed into the new 7th and 18th tee beds and they will be ready for competition as soon as the course dries out.

The lengths of the holes from the new tee beds compared to the existing tee bed are

Men's			Ladies	
	New	Existing	New	Existing
12th	484m	491m	425m	433m
7th	328m	296m	319m	288m
18th	380m	364m	330m	282m

O.H & S

The Club has purchased a quantity of fluoro vests which are to be worn by volunteers who come to assist on the course unless they are already wearing approved safety clothing. The vests must be returned to the shed when signing off. Volunteers are reminded to sign the volunteers register kept at the equipment shed prior to commencing work on the course each day to ensure that everyone is accounted for and that they all leave safely.

Monthly Sponsors

Mersey Sheet Metal

Sponsoring the stableford multiplier on September 17 is Mersey Sheet Metal who have been a loyal sponsor for a number of years. Situated in Hiller Street, Devonport, the general sheet metal business specialises in stainless steel welding, particularly commercial kitchens and canopies. They have also moved into the field of commercial roofing since 2007. The business is proud family business wholly owned and operated in Tasmania.

Darren Spencer

Darren is well known to most Thirlstane members. He is the golf professional at the Devonport Golf Club and he also maintains a business at Port Sorell. For all your golfing needs including professional lessons, contact Darren at the Pro-shop at the Devonport Golf Club.

The Holden Scramble

Darren is sponsoring the annual 2BBB competition on September 10 and he is also organising the Holden Scramble which is being held at the Thirlstane Club the following day. Why not get a team together and enter the Scramble for your chance to play in the regional finals with Darren at Mowbray on October 13. Then who knows, you may be off to Queensland for the National finals, all expenses paid.

To enter the Scramble, which is a four-person ambrose, contact Darren. Entry fee is \$39.50 per player. Each group must have no more than two single figure handicappers and each team handicap will be capped at 32. The handicaps of each team member are added together and divided by eight for the team handicap.

Players in each team must get at least three drives on the card and the player who played the best shot then misses out on the next shot although all four players can putt once on the green.

Boags Country Championship - Sheffield September 18

This is an important event on the golfing calendar for the Thirlstane Golf Club. A team of 16 is required from the Club to do battle in a single stable ford against the three other competing clubs, Sheffield, Deloraine & Exeter. The event is on Sunday September 18 and it is a 10 for 10.30am shotgun start. The entry sheet is on the notice board.

Whilst each Clubs aggregate score will determine the winner of the trophy, the playing groups will consist of one member from each of the four Clubs in each group. The first sixteen names on the sheet will be accepted, so it will be first in best dressed. If you put your name on the sheet, please commit to going as it may be difficult to find reserves at the last minute.

Rules relating to Plugged Balls

Many members are confused about the rule relating to plugged balls, especially where the ball cannot be found but you know or are virtually certain that it landed in abnormal ground condition and was no doubt plugged.

Rule 25 -1 (c) allows you to play another ball without penalty by dropping it within one club length of where the ball last crossed the outermost limits of the abnormal ground condition no nearer the hole.

Unless there is casual water lying where the ball is believed to have landed, the spot to drop the ball is as near as possible to where you believe your ball landed.

If your ball is plugged but not lost, Rule 25 -2 allows you to pick up and wipe the ball and drop it as near as possible to where the ball was plugged, without penalty.

If your ball has mud on it but is not plugged, you must play the ball as it lies unless the Club has a temporary lift, wipe and place local rule in place. Check the local rules board or ask the starter if you are in doubt about temporary local rules.

Golden Circle Winners - August 2016

6 August	13 August	20 August	27 August
\$30 R Rainbird	\$30 P Skirving	\$30 R Sullivan	\$30 V Addison
\$20 L Viney	\$20 W Russell	\$20 P Skirving	\$20 M Connelly
\$10 J Gamble	\$10 R paice	\$10 M Robson	\$10 A Mitchelson
		\$50 J Richardson	

Putter Patter

Heard on the grapevine that Colin Mathew was auditioning for a local production of Mary Poppins last Saturday. Colin was last seen chasing his umbrella towards the road after it left his buggy on the eighteenth. He might have even been training for the next Olympics with a hop, step and jump to clear the fence to retrieve the recalcitrant broly.

Joke for the Month

AFL Grand Final

A mate of mine has two tickets for the AFL Grand Final. Box seats plus airfares, accommodation etc., but he didn't realise when he bought them that this is going to be on the same day as his wedding - so he can't go.

If you're interested or know someone that is and wants to go instead of him, it's at St Peter's Cathedral, 27 King William Rd, North Adelaide. Her name's Julie.