

ON
THE

GRAPEVINE

April 2017



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FROM THE PRESIDENT...*Don Johnson*

Last month I made quite a few comments about **slow play** on the course. Last Wednesday I had the experience of taking two and a half hours to play the first nine holes which I found very frustrating and then four hours forty minutes to complete eighteen holes. A stableford competition should not take this long. A sign was placed on the first tee reminding members of "Ready Golf" but it appears that was a waste of time as I witnessed groups who were well behind the group in front of them and they made no effort to try and catch up. This is unacceptable so I have asked the Match Committee to look into the matter and come up with a way to solve the problem.

A decision was made at the last Committee of Management meeting that **from 2018 the shirts worn by both the ladies, men's and junior pennant teams will all be the same.** In the past different shirts have been worn by various teams which does reflect well on a Club spirit when in competition.

The **Membership Committee** are looking at different ways to reward members who pay their subscriptions in full by the 31st August each year. Perhaps more members should be rewarded rather than only one person in the early bird draw. Details will be advised when a final decision has been made.

Members will have noticed the work being done between the eighteenth tee and the fairway over the past few weeks. **Thanks to Rod Gorton** who has raised sufficient funds to complete this project from the sale of egg and bacon rolls on one Saturday each month. Rod arrives at the club at 6.30am on the various days and then plays golf in the afternoon. Well done Rod.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the work that **Pam Baverstock has done organising the Seven Golf** competition over a number of years. This year the net profit, after expenses for prizes and a dinner, will be in excess of \$11,000...an excellent result. **Thank you Pam.**

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(FROM THE PRESIDENT ...continued)

On April 2nd 70 people attended the **annual luncheon for volunteers** and their partners. When looking at the volunteer hours on the course each month plus the hours put in by Committee Members and other people it would be approximately 450-500 hours each month which is incredible. The Club could not survive without this support.

After 6 months of our financial year the figures are looking very good and we would expect to have **a reasonable surplus in our cash flow**. Indications are that we will only be overdrawn for two months this year with the highest debt being about \$25,000.

The current state of the course, increasing membership numbers and our current financial position are indications that decisions made by Committees over the past few years have put us in a very strong position moving forward. ***I must not forget the staff who have contributed in many ways and in some cases have worked well in excess of what is expected.***

FROM THE CAPTAIN...Paul Sutcliffe

The **MASTERS in AUGUSTA** is over with fine win to Sergio Garcia. What excitement and joy it would be to have won such an Event!

We, however, as AMATEURS, see ourselves only as Club Golfers far removed from the exceptional golfers of the European, Asian and American Tour, but in our own way we aspire to achieve something during our golfing life.

Be it a Monthly Medal, our name printed in the "Sunday Mail or Advertiser" or perhaps even to get back a competition entry fee by winning a small wager from our playing partners, we all have a wish to achieve something for ourselves. **It is what golf competition is all about!**

Our Club, as with all others, provides a program of competition for the enjoyment of our Members as we in Australia enjoy the "buzz of competition" play, unlike some countries – notably the United States – from where paradoxically our handicap "Slope" system originates.

Each year we have programmed events that are separate from the usual Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday competitions.

These are the Championships or Honour Board Events. To aspire to have your name on the Honour Board is quite an achievement.

A week or so ago, Matt Bell, Greg Gill and Andy Irvine won the right to be acknowledged on the Honour Board by winning their Men's Match Play Championships.

In the coming weeks, the Women's Club Championships are being contested. What a thrill it will be for the winners to see their names inscribed on the Club Honour Board.

During this year why not seek out when the Honour Board Events are being held and enter!!!

IT'S UP TO YOU!

Over the next month I shall be away from the Club participating in the World Masters Games in Auckland, New Zealand, however, our Vice Captain Dean Nobbs will be about the Club.

Dean is deep in planning for the 2017 Golf SA Pennant season along with Steve Krause, Wayne Corbett, Nigel Coles and our Women's Captain Karen Parsons together with Vice Captain Angela Beaty.

Should you see any of them why not enquire how their work is progressing and let them know of yours support

Finally congratulations to Tony and Charlie Nobbs in winning the 2017 Father & Son Event. They are a great pair!



RULE of the month...*explanation*

...from John Ward

FAIRLY TAKING YOUR STANCE

Lew and Dowsky were playing the 13th hole the other day when Lew's ball finished under one of the melaleucas with very little room for him to play his next shot.

"What can I do?" he asked Dowsky.

Dowsky, who as we know has a great knowledge of the rules of golf, explained to Lew that he must first of all "fairly take his stance".

"What do you mean?" asked Lew.

Dowsky explained;

"Well you must select the least intrusive course of action which results in the minimum improvement in the position or lie of the ball, area of intended stance or swing or line of play. You are NOT entitled to a normal stance or swing. You must accommodate the situation in which the ball is found and take a stance as normal as your circumstance permits."

What is fair must be determined in the light of all the circumstances.

The following DOES constitute fairly taking a stance;

- Backing into a branch if that is the only way to take a stance for the selected stroke, even if this causes the branch to move out of the way,
- Bending a branch of the melaleuca with your hands in order to get under the tree to play your ball.

Now you MUST NOT do any of the following as they DO NOT constitute fairly taking a stance;

- Deliberately move, bend or break branches with your hands, a leg or the body to get them out of the way of your backswing or stroke
- Stand on a branch to prevent it interfering with your backswing or stroke
- Hooking one branch on another or braiding two weeds for the same purpose
- Bending with your hand a branch obscuring the ball after you take your stance
- Bending an interfering branch with your hands, a leg or the body in taking your stance when your stance could have been taken without bending the branch

Now that you understand all those requirements you can either take your stance and play your next shot or, deem that your ball is unplayable and proceed (under Rule 28) and take a penalty of one stroke.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS NOW AVAILABLE

Entertainment books are now available at the office, or you can order the digital one online by putting <http://www.entbook.com.au/1v68009> in your browser.

A WORD FROM THE GIRLS... *from Jan Shaw (Vice President, Women's Golf)*



Vines ladies in their pink shirts on Gala Day

Our **Gala Day** was held on 23rd March and was highly successful with nearly 90 players from 17 clubs attending (two players were from overseas).

Key sponsors for the event were Foodland Happy Valley, JT Remedial Therapies at Christies Beach, Nova Chiropractic at Flagstaff Hill and Market Place Boutique in Blackwood.

Thanks to the many volunteers and committee members who baked cakes, biscuits, slices, etc. and the huge selection of plants that were generously donated. Over \$1500 was raised on the day. Thanks to the Proshop, bar, catering and office staff who were so cooperative in making the day such a success.

The **Give Golf a Go Clinics** on Fridays and Saturdays have finished. Volunteers are now taking the new ladies out on the course for the next few weeks to teach them golf techniques, etiquette, club selection etc. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time to assist.

A **survey** of all members was handed out on Opening Day to identify what is working and what can be improved. Nearly 40 surveys were returned with very positive feedback and many suggestions. A PowerPoint Presentation to members is planned for mid-April.

The Golf SA **Shylie Rymill foursomes event**, held on 28th March, was **won by Cathy Hayward and Joan Coles.**

Congratulations to Eve Schahinger & Cate Browell; Bonnie Lowe-Young & Karen Parsons; Judith Hill & Sue Walsh; Jan Windows & Viv Dahl; Terri Smooker & Rose Corbett; Pam Baverstock & Mary O'Hagan; Chris Schubert & Margaret Carruthers; Denise Walters & Marianne Hall for qualifying in our Turnbull Salver match play knockout event. The first round needs to be played by 30 May 2017.

Congratulations to everyone involved with **The Legends Pro Am** on 3rd April. What a fantastic day it was. Such a great opportunity to play with a Pro (and even get some tips!). There were many positive comments about how wonderful the course was looking.

Club championships nominations have now closed and 1st and 2nd rounds are this week on 18th April and 20th April, with finals on 28th April. Hopefully the nice weather continues.

FROM COURSE SUB COMMITTEE...from Peter Shaw (Vice President, Course)

Coring and Sanding of Greens

Usually at this time of year the subject of sanding and coring of our greens raises its ugly head again. Fortunately since the introduction of the New Greens Spiking and Dusting Process we have missed two of these events, and having to play in the sand for a total of about 10 weeks.

Rob Millington has completed a 6 monthly review of the progress and this very informative document is published in "Grapevine" this month.

Excavation within the tree line on the eighteen fairway.

The earthwork underway in the tree line between the 1st & 18th fairway is to provide water for irrigation to the 18th fairway carry beautification project. While there is a suitable water access point closer, work to this area would have involved greens surrounds, and caused disruption to play.

New Short Course

Our course has recently been rated by Golf SA for a new "Short Course" as is the case with many other clubs throughout SA. Colour for this course is Orange. Over the next few days two orange pavers will be laid on the edge of each fairway, 5 metres apart. These tee markers will not impede play in anyway. Match Committee will advise when the tees are available and who it is targeting.

What's happening next to the first tee?

The Odd Jobs group was involved in removing three trees at the start of the RHS tree line on the first hole (and trimmed up quite a few others). This was done to open up this area to enhance the view from tee block and Club house, and to make it more consistent with the view to the eighteenth hole. The grass in this area, as it re-establishes itself, will eventually be mowed to fairway height to further enhance the look. Extra work to be carried out over the next few weeks, removing stumps and moving the sand bucket holder back to the existing ball washer position. A new sand reservoir will also be established adjacent to this position. The existing brick sand container will be demolished as resources are available. Also you will note that the sand/bucket infrastructure behind the 18th green is now being fully maintained as an additional point of distribution of these items.

12th Green Damage.

The 12th green sustained damage earlier this summer due to an irrigation malfunction that was not recognised for a few days. The damaged area will shortly be repaired and GUR will be in place for a short period.

Trimming of Trees – Preliminary Notice

It is planned to trim a number of our larger trees that are adversely impacting on our course. To do this a "Cherry Picker" will be hired for a week, and moved around the course as necessary. While every effort will be made to reduce the impact on players, we seek your patience and understanding due to the nature of the work involved. It is anticipated that this task be completed before the end of May.

The Course Sub-Committee is always looking for your feedback on any issue any time that relates to the Course. Have a question, a suggestion or criticism, please write to feedback@vinesgolfclub.com.au. Any correspondence will be treated confidentially.

The New Greens Spiking and Dusting Process: 6 Month Review

The Process:

- Removing the traditional twice yearly 12mm coring and top dressing from the greens maintenance program.
- Replacing it with an 8mm spiking done every three weeks and a weekly light dusting with sand during the growing season. The three week timing is based on research work done in the USA with regard to the time taken for the spike hole to close.
- Every third rotation the spiking tines will be replaced with 8mm coring tines so that a thatch (organic matter below turf surface) can be removed. These coring tines are the same diameter as the spikes and have little or no impact on the ball roll after the green is cut during clean up. The greatest impact here is that no traditional top dressing to fill the holes is used and therefore no dealing with the rubbing in and rough putting conditions for the following weeks.

Results after 6 Months:

We are very pleased with the results so far because the greens turf is very healthy and not showing the normal signs of stress that would be apparent at this time of year. The specific benefits are as follows:

- Members have benefitted from no major renovation inconvenience in Spring 2016 and Autumn 2017.
- Green surfaces have been in good condition during the period but have also been improving over that time. The leaf density is very strong currently and the consistency across all of the greens is very noticeable.
- Disease incidence has been reduced with a corresponding reduction in fungicide use.
- Similarly, insect incidence has reduced. Our normal preventative insect treatment was done in November but we generally need to follow up with a second treatment in January but the follow up was not required.
- We have seen very little dry patch (non-wetting areas under the thatch layer) this Summer season. The regular spiking allows much better penetration and lateral movement of the moisture through the profile. It also allows for better effectiveness from the wetting agent applications. Also the green surfaces are firmer after irrigation cycles because the water is able to percolate through the thatch to the root zone where it is needed.
- Slowly but surely the surfaces are becoming firmer and truer. The regular dusting has accumulated to approximately 6mm at the top of the profile and will continue to provide a firmer structure for the stem and leaf of the turf plants, as seen below in Figure 1 between the red lines. The layering seen underneath the lower red line is the accumulation of dense organic matter between each major renovation. This profile sample is looking much healthier than those taken immediately prior to the program starting. All evidence of anaerobic (microbes respiring without air, producing by-products such as sulphides etc.) black layer have disappeared from the profile proving that we have a greater presence of oxygen within the root zone.

Figure 1



(better to view this chart on the Club web-site)

This new process comes at a cost with approximately 30 hours spent per month by our staff carrying out the various work involved, mainly on Mondays. This can mean it takes us longer to get to some of the lower priority work. I feel this extra work on the greens is paying dividends for our Club considering the current condition of the greens, but we will continue to assess the results over the next 18 months and make a final decision on the 2 year trial.

Rob Millington M.Ag (turf management)
Golf Course Superintendent

Junior Golf Sponsor...



Old Reynella

Juniors...from Wayne Corbett

On Friday night 7th April, each member of this year's successful McMillan Shield squad was presented with a small trophy and a Pro Shop gift certificate to commemorate their "Back to Back" unbeaten win in the 2017 McMillan Shield competition.

The trophies were presented by our Club President, Don Johnston and the gift vouchers presented by our Vice President (Finance), Rob Dowling.

Steve Krause...Club Professional



Your Golf Pro
STEVE KRAUSE
THE VINES GOLF CLUB OF REYNELLA



VALE...

The Committee and Members of The Vines of Reynella Golf Club mourn the passing of our valued Member...

Rose Wilton

Passed away on Saturday 1st April 2017
Member for 12 years

Club Sponsors...

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