



## INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS AND GUESTS

October, 2011.

By the time you read this the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting will be over and we will have two new Directors on the Board.

**Wally Bergmann**, a former Director from a few years ago, returns for another term and **Trevor Gough** will join the Board for the first time. All of the existing Directors remain in place except for Peter Bradley who did not seek re-election.

Congratulations to both of the new candidates and the continuing Board members. Winner of the \$100 cash Lucky Door prize for attending the AGM was Lyn Ferguson.

**MELBOURNE CUP** We have a special day planned for Cup Day starting with a 2 person Ambrose for the golfers and a seafood platter for two for just \$50 including a bottle of wine or jug of beer. We have the TAB, the big screen, sweeps, best hat competition and lots of good company. Come along and enjoy the day at your Club **but you must order your seafood platter by Sunday**. The Bistro will be open as usual for normal lunchtime services.

### **MATTERS GOLF**

**\$2 practice levy** – regrettably the revenue in this area continues to decline and the Club needs the revenue. Many members do pay the levy each time they visit but clearly a general appeal has not worked.

The levy does not apply to juniors or colts (i.e. under 21 years) or to anyone using only the putting green and/or the nets. However any other use on the course incurs a \$2 fee which can be paid at the Pro Shop or at the Bar and a receipt will be issued.

The Board considered increasing all membership fees and scrapping the \$2 fee but decided that would be unfair on the majority of members who do not live in the area or who do not practice and elected in the end to adopt a 'user pays' approach.

**Therefore we have reluctantly decided that if any member is caught anywhere on the course and is unable to produce a receipt for the payment of the \$2 levy, a fine of \$20 shall be imposed on that member and all rights suspended until the fine is paid.**

**Carts in the car park** After several near misses when cars and carts have almost collided in the top (asphalted) car park, we are prompted to enforce a complete ban on all carts and ride on buggies etc, both Brett's and private vehicles, from that car parking area. This is a safety issue we need to address before someone is hurt.

Driving across in front of the 7<sup>th</sup> tee and around the front of the Club House to the bottom car park is acceptable but please do not drive carts etc in the top car park.

We are presently investigating the viability of reserving a 'Bag Drop' area between the 7<sup>th</sup> tee and the concrete driveway - in between the Directors car spaces - but carts are banned from the top car park effective immediately.

**The course** We receive many comments from members and visitors alike on the superb condition of our course and how well it compares with others. There is little doubt Andrew and his staff has it in first class condition and no praise is too high.

Whenever you see one of the greens staff, let them know what you think of their work. We have a reason to proud of it.

**Trainee Match** Don't forget the trainee pro's will take on Antill Park on **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November**. This isn't a Pro-am – it is a match for the trainee pro's from all over but it will provide plenty of good golf and great viewing.

Come along and see how the best up and coming young golfers attack our course. Hopefully we will see Rebecca from our Pro Shop and former Antill Park juniors Ethan Shanahan (Concord) and Tim Davis (Eastlakes) in the field.

**Weather siren** The siren did prove inadequate in the massive downpour on the first scheduled day of the championships because it cannot be heard over the entire course.

Truthfully there is not much we can do about that – we have a powerful siren but nothing could have penetrated umbrellas etc in that storm but we will look into it further and see what we can up with.

No doubt it will happen again but all players should remember that, in those or similar conditions, you should mark your ball and walk from the course. **DON'T WAIT FOR THE SIREN OR FOR SOMEONE TO RING YOU.** You will not be disqualified for leaving the course for safety reasons provided you mark your ball.

**Visitors restrictions** Some Clubs are offering very heavily discounted prices for membership and their members regularly play away as visitors at many other Clubs.

We have decided to enforce a rule limiting visitors from playing in our Saturday competition on more than 6 occasions in any one financial year. There is no restriction on playing mid-week competitions.

**New juniors** We have recently received a number of new junior member applications to add to our ranks of promising youngsters.

The Board is pleased that we are able to continue to attract the youth to our game and our Club in particular.

**Tee-it-forward** Recently the Board received a suggestion from member Terry Flint for a novel event using a different tee for each grade with appropriate adjustments to the scorecard.

There is no room to go into detail here on how it all worked, but the idea was considered by the Match Committee who recommended to the Board that whilst the idea had merit, it may lead to confusion if introduced at this time because we will have, in effect, 3 courses when the new course ratings are introduced and we move to the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage of the Slope handicapping system.

The Board was, however, pleased to receive a positive suggestion from a member and appreciates the effort Terry put into developing the idea.

**Championships** The weather is out of our control and whatever decisions are made in circumstances such as those which prevailed on the scheduled first round this year, we can be sure it will not suit everyone.

Some members played 18 holes, some played less and some played not at all. After much deliberation the Match Committee decided to

abandon the first round, to play the championships over 3 rounds this year, no refunds would be given and should anyone wish to play the remaining 3 rounds who had not entered and pre-paid they would be allowed on payment of the full \$60 fee. That decision was supported by the full Board.

However we are looking at changing next year and booking in for the C'ships each week – just as we do every week. That would mean you may not receive the same tee time for all 4 rounds, you would not have to pay in advance for all rounds and the draw for tee times will be conducted every Friday night as usual.

**Super Seniors Pennants** we have entered a team in this Men's event (over 65's) for the past 4 years but decided not to enter a team this year for two reasons. Firstly, because we are uncompetitive and we feel that it does not reflect well on our Club if we are viewed as the 'easybeats' and, secondly, we have struggled to field a team on a number of occasions and have had to conscript unregistered players to avoid forfeiting. We simply do not have enough low markers to match it with the other clubs and it is embarrassing when our number one has a higher handicap than the opposition's number eight as has happened.

**VALE** Jack Fitzgerald, a popular and long standing member of the Club who was interred on 13<sup>th</sup> October. Jack was a member for many, many years and was the cheery face in the Pro Shop on many a cold morning as Brett's relief. Jack will be remembered by many of the older members as one of life's real characters and always ready for a chat. May he rest in peace.

#### **MATTERS IN-HOUSE**

**Beer Raffle** We are about to start a continuous raffle with 3 prizes – first prize 30 schooners (or stubbies), 20 for second and 10 for third and it will be drawn every 100 tickets. Cost is \$4 a ticket and tickets will be available at the bar.

**Draft beer** In the interests of responsible service of alcohol and because of increasing interest in mid strength beer, we have decided to trial Carlton Mid Strength and take VB off the taps. We know this will disappoint some members and visitors but VB it will still be available in stubbies and it is a trial.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS