



INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS AND GUESTS

January, 2012.

Happy New Year to all!

We hope you have enjoyed the annual festive season break and you're now looking forward to what is left of summer and a break in the wet weather to enjoy some quality time on the course.

GENERALLY

FIRST UP and MOST IMPORTANT : members and guests may be inconvenienced somewhat from next week as major repairs are undertaken to the club house roof and the front verandah.

Some areas will be closed off and some temporary arrangements will be in place in the car park. Whilst work will be restricted to Monday through Friday, scaffolding, site offices, dumpmasters etc will need to be accommodated for the 5 weeks the work is expected to take – subject to the co-operation of the weather gods.

Your patience would be appreciated.

Car Park Safety : we are pleased that members and guests have abided the new 'no carts in the car park' policy with only a few exceptions and also utilising the Bag Drop area.

We are still looking at some good suggestions to further improve the facilities, better organise and improve the car parking areas and perhaps even introduce one-way traffic in the car park to assist in safety matters.

MATTERS GOLF

Pennants : The pennant season is almost upon us with the Major "A" Grade pennant due to start on 12th February. The team will be captained by Noel Wood and is expected to do well with some new members joining up with our experienced troupers from previous years.

"B" and "C" Grade pennants will start on 25th March and lists are now on the notice board above the ATM for members to add their name if they would like to be considered to represent the Club.

Play as it lies : it is a measure of the condition of our course that the Match Committee decided in January that preferred lies would be discontinued in all competition play until further notice. Andrew and his ground staff have achieved something we have not seen on a consistent basis for many years and the feedback we have received indicates the change has been welcomed by most players.

Green's equipment : We continue to upgrade our equipment on Andrew's recommendations to keep our course in tip top condition. Recent purchases

include a second-hand 4wd out-front slasher with 72inch cutting deck; a new Toro Sidewinder 'tees and collars' mower and most recently a second-hand hand greens roller.

Thursday comp : numbers in the seniors (over 50's) Thursday comp continues to improve and at \$12 comp fee it is an inexpensive mid week activity.

Teeing areas : the new ratings and tee markers may have introduced a measure of confusion as we get used to the change, but we have noted a few players teeing off the plates in practice rounds.

All players are reminded that they must use the tee markers of the day wherever they may be and whatever colour is in place and play from the 'Plates' is not allowed at any time unless that is where the blue markers have been placed.

Slow play : the scourge of golfers is alive and well at Antill unfortunately with some normal Saturday stableford rounds from the white markers taking up to 5 hours at the tail end of the field.

The Board has received complaints that some players make no attempt to make up ground and regularly lose their place in the field.

We believe a normal round should be completed in a little over 4 hours on our course if some simple guidelines are followed by everyone.

Suggestions to speed up play include the following;

- Keep up with the group in front;
- Any player in a group should advise his/her fellow players if they are falling behind;
- Keep practice swings and pre-shot routines to a minimum;
- Be ready to play as soon as it is your turn (put glove on, select club while waiting turn to play etc);
- Play 'ready' golf which simply means the order of play is based on who is ready;
- Look at the line of putt while others look at theirs and putt out, with the bounds of etiquette, whenever possible;
- At the green, position bags so as to allow quick exit from the green to the next tee;
- Play a provisional ball if a ball may be lost outside a hazard or out of bounds;
- Walk quickly between shots;
- Take the rake into the bunker before playing the shot; and
- Pick-up in Par, Stableford and Two Ball events if scoring is not possible on the hole.

Remember slow play is selfish play.

Success : in a field of 85 starters came to former Antill Park junior Ethan Shanahan with a win at the Woolooware Trainee Match on 23rd January.

Ethan, who returns regularly to play or practice at Antill, is indentured to Ken Trimble at Concord Golf Course and is hoping to advance his future by trying his luck on the Asian Tour next year.

We wish him continuing success.

MATTERS IN-HOUSE

Web site : most comment on our new web site has been positive but we did receive some negative remarks about the 'dirty' golf ball.

Funny, but it didn't seem an issue when we approved it – after all most golf balls get pretty dirty and we thought it looked genuine nestled in the long grass, but we are making attempts to fix it by putting it through a ball washer and cleaning it up.

Unfortunately it isn't quite that simple but we are working on it.

Honour Boards : we are sometimes asked why somebody's name hasn't been added to the Boards. The reason is simply because it is an expensive exercise so all Boards are updated at the same time once a year at the end of the year.

Beer Raffle : the first beer raffle was drawn before Christmas and first prize of 30 schooners was won by Bobby Pemble (who surprisingly was very quiet about it). Adam won 20 schooners for 2nd prize and Rod Butt picked up 10 schooners for 3rd prize.

Tickets are sold on an ongoing basis at the bar and the raffle drawn as soon as 100 tickets are sold.

Vale : Long standing member and stalwart of the club for over 40 years, Noel McLaren died on 22nd December.

A physically imposing former police officer and teetotaler, Noel will be remembered by many in later years for, amongst other things, his regular pot of tea and, for a while at least, his one-handed putting.

Noel's son Keith is a current and long standing member and we extend our condolences.

Friday night : we have been slowly introducing a slightly different genre of live entertainment over the past few months to integrate with the country style we have supported for some years.

As a consequence we are seeing some new faces in the Club and attracting a new clientele and the recent appearance of 'Carmody out of Ireland' was one of the biggest crowds we have seen for some time.

Members should consider paying us a visit for dinner one Friday and bring the kids to try out the play area upstairs.

Ezio De Angelis : has been a regular visitor to our Club for the past 3-4 years and will appear again at the Club next week on Thursday at 7.30pm

Ezio is assisted by his wife Michelle and gives public psychic readings to some of those present as their family and friends make contact from the spirit world.

Numbers are limited and tickets must be purchased in advance from the bar for \$35 each. The bistro is open from 6.00pm and will close when Ezio commences his performance.

Security of tenure : our lease of the property is due to expire in February next year and we do have to negotiate a new lease with Council.

Discussions to that end were first initiated by us in October, 2010, but there has been no resolution at this point in time.

That is not to say it has been difficult or there is any major disagreement; it has just been a very slow process and the ball presently sits firmly in Council's end of the court where it has been for some time.

We are hoping for some progress in the near future as we try to plan for and secure our long term future.

Matters Financial : at the half-way mark of the financial year we are managing to show a small trading profit of around \$14k and we are running in line with budget at the bottom line. That result is unaudited at this stage but it is not expected to be affected by that process.

We expect we will be able to maintain that trend and perhaps even improve a little if the rain would let up and the sun come out and give us something like our normal fine and dry weather.

The traffic on the course has been steady and our competition fields continue to improve. Membership numbers are getting back to last year's levels and bar trading has been good and in line with expectations. Private function bookings are essential for us and we need to maintain that revenue stream. Ask your friends to consider the golf club for their next celebration.

It is a fragile state but nevertheless we are in a good position and doing better than many small clubs and golf clubs in particular.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS