



RED CLIFFS GOLF CLUB Inc.

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THE RED CLIFFS 'WHACKER'

ISSUE #4 – AUGUST 2003

President's Message

Hello and welcome to issue #4 of the Red Cliffs Golf Club's Members Newsletter. The 100 Membership drive is coming along extremely well with close to 85 new members, well on target for the 100 members for season end. Now we need to start focusing on Summer Members so put out the word that we have one of the best courses in Country Victoria. The Major Raffle tickets are now on sale and we would expect every member to at least buy a ticket for \$2.00, but book sellers is what we need, if you could take a book to your work place or home for family members and work mates, it would be a great help. There are rosters on the notice board for all of the venues, which Bobbie Ramsay has worked hard at acquiring. If you can't afford to buy a book then perhaps you could spend a two-hour stint at one of the venues, your support with this our Major Fund Raising effort is vital. The Club has purchased the Golf Carts from Neville Birch for a very generous deal from Nev. Burnie Woodall has kindly agreed to include the cleaning and maintenance of these into his charter and a new agreement has been signed and ratified, thank you Burnie. The Trash & Treasure Sale is coming up next month, so if you can get into the shed and drag out all of your old and unwanted stuff and arrange with either Peter Hickey, Graeme Duffy or Tom Shrubsole to have it picked up, Volunteers are also needed in the week prior to the sale to go with a partner and trailer on a street collection, Peter or Graeme will organise this, once again your help and support is vital, There is a general feeling around the Club that the worst is behind us, there is a strong positive attitude starting to emanate and that is good to see, The power of positive attitude is un-boundless, remember that it is your Club and your positive support will, in the end, see us through. Congratulations to you all. Good Golfing!
Rod Atkins. - President.

Editor's Note

As President Rod has indicated above this is the fourth issue of the 'Whacker', and most comments have been positive. What it lacks however is contributions from you the members. What about writing a small piece for the next issue. Surely you must have something to say that will be of interest to your fellow members! One of the key elements the committee identified that needed improvement was communications within the club. This is your newsletter, your contribution is essential !!!

Notes from the Course Superintendent

With much of Australia in the grip of a prolonged drought, turf producers and residents alike are looking down the barrel of possible stage two water restrictions which will include the total ban of watering of domestic lawns and significant restrictions on water allocations. This is very worrying and could have a serious effect on the turf industry- no more so than in the Sunraysia area. Managing a scarce water supply is just one of the challenges facing turf managers and understanding some of the factors involved can assist in developing strategies that will help to reduce summer and drought stress on our turf surfaces.

At our club we have three water sources- FMIT (allocation of 98meg) and Sunraysia Rural Water (10.8meg) both these supplies being at 58% of our full water allocation and where would we be without our "flushing" residents in Red Cliffs who continue to fill our effluent dam!!! On the 1st of August the effluent station was holding 45meg available for our use. The station takes in 4.5meg a week and depending on evaporation rates they should be at full capacity by the end of October. I have regular contact with all three water sources to keep me informed of our water allocations.

Don't forget **Dads Army** Tuesdays- *the more the merrier!* For those already involved I would like to personally thank you for all the help, time and effort you have put in at the course.

Monday 25th August is "**greens renovation day**" - 8.30 am start for those interested in helping out with fertilising/top dressing.

For the Information of Members

Members will be upset to know that Edna Sargent is in hospital in Ward 3, room 17 as is Alan Whitelegg, who is in Ward 3, room 20. My information is that Alan is not too well at present. On behalf of the members of the Red Cliffs Golf Club, I would like to wish both Edna and Alan a speedy recovery and we all look forward to seeing them back on the course in the near future.

September trophy donors – a big thank you to you all!

Julie Warne, Jill Eyles & Joan Ryan, Greggs Electrical – Ouyen, Ian & Patsy McDonald, Rod Atkins, Chris Barko & Rodney Begg, Tasco Inland Oil, Justin McPhee.

We are always looking for new trophy donors, so why not get in the act and help your club out. Speak to the Captain soon!!!!

The Ladies News

There are some great scores being carded by our lady members. Judy Hollow won last year's August Medal and doubled up to win this year's as well with a net 66. Sad to see her handicap fall so dramatically!!! Thelma Girao is also on a winning streak with a +5 on Sunday. The ladies are continuing to have good fields and are contributing in many ways to keep Red Cliffs a happy and worthwhile club.

There are lots of good things coming up golf wise:

- Ladies President & visitors day – 3rd September
- Triple Sixes postponed to September 10th due to the wonderful rain.
- Chicken & Champagne Day – 24th September

Good golfing to you all!

Items from the Committee of Management

- The 4-wheel motorbike is to be repaired whilst discussions with the Course Superintendent are held to investigate alternative course transport options.
- A request for more support around the clubhouse was agreed to, with adjustments being made to hours worked.
- Chris Healey recommended some minor changes to the Chart of Accounts, which were accepted.
- Peter Hickey has agreed to undertake a coordinating role for the Trash & Treasure Auction, which will now be held in October.
- Bernie Woodall has agreed to new arrangements as far as his duties as caretaker are concerned.
- The committee agreed to offer Ouyen Golf Club members a special rate to join as Summer Members.
- A membership group will meet next week to look at a number of issues around attracting new members.
- Chris Healey tabled a draft Strategic Plan that he had developed. The committee agreed to allocate time at the next meeting to discuss the draft in detail.
- It was agreed that the promotion of Summer Memberships would commence following the next meeting. This will allow time for the Membership Group to report back.

This is the Captain Speaking!

The number of members playing in the club championships has been disappointing, but that takes nothing away from the 'good' golfers in each grade that are currently leading the field. The championships conclude this coming weekend with 18 holes on both Saturday & Sunday. If you are one of the leaders, I hope you can hold it together.

I would like to acknowledge those members that helped out during golf week. This is another example of the tremendous volunteers we have in the club. We all need to look at what we are contributing, and ask ourselves –

'What can I do to help?'

Get to know your Committee members!

I think this topic is an appropriate one for the 'Whacker' as readers may have noticed that the last two issues haven't contained a 'Whacker's Competition'. The last one that I ran didn't get one entry, and you may remember what the task was:

Name the members of the General Committee!

This month's Committee member profile is: Denise Rhode
Denise has been a member of the Red Cliffs Golf Club for 20 years, so she should know her way around. She is married to Raymond and has two children, Wayne & Nicole. She is involved in the horticultural industry growing wine grapes and avocados. Denise has held the position of Assistant handicapper and reckons the best part about Red Cliffs Golf Club is that it is a good club with really friendly members. Her best golfing achievement is winning the B Grade section of Mildura Golf Week. Denise didn't indicate when this was, but it must have been a great thrill to achieve this milestone. She is a good contributor on the General Committee and is not frightened to express her views, which is great. Keep up the good work Denise!

Social Happenings!

On Saturday 8th August an extremely enjoyable Games Night was held at the club. All those in attendance enjoyed a lovely tea and then participated in a series of games including Hookey, Carpet Bowls, Quoits and Bob's *[haven't played Bob's for years – don't you remember putting a blanket on the kitchen table and having a great time? I do – sorry! I got sidetracked]*. Partners were drawn from a hat and the pairing of Doreen Hamence and Tom Shrubsole stole the show, winning three out of the four events. Tom Ryan and his partner picked up the prize in the Hookey competition. We aim to repeat this night in the future and you will all have your chance to come and join the fun.

House Notes!

Its great to see the members supporting their club by buying their packaged beer. Remember the more we support it, the better off we all are. There have been some concerns raised about the level of support for the club's EFTPOS facility. The General Committee has looked at the costs involved in maintaining the service, against the amount of use members are making of the facility, and it is not looking too good. If you want access to an EFTPOS facility at the club then you better start using it or it may go.

From a concerned member!

Dear Andrew: If Toby is going to continue to use the course on a Friday evening, could you please carry the appropriate 'Pooper Scooper' to clean up after him. It makes an awful mess on ones golf shoes and trying to clean out the spikes isn't nice!