



# RED CLIFFS GOLF CLUB Inc.

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## THE RED CLIFFS 'WHACKER'

ISSUE # 16 – SEPTEMBER 2004

### Editor's Note

I cannot let this opportunity go by! They say that there is the first time for everything, and guess what they are right! Out of 15 issues of the 'Whacker' this is one of the few times that I have started the newsletter with the 'President's Report'. What normally happens is I am chasing him to finish the newsletter. Well done Rod!

### President's Report

Hello and welcome to issue #16 of the Red Cliffs Golf Club's Members Newsletter. **Spring has sprung, the sun has ris, I wonder where the birdies is!!** My dear old Mothers favourite saying at springtime.

Seriously though we are having magnificent weather at the moment, the course is in great shape and what a perfect opportunity to talk that neighbour, friend or relative into coming out for a game on the best course in the district, we desperately need a big injection of summer members so that we can hopefully convert them to full members by the end of February. The fee they pay for summer is a discount on their full membership if they continue, so it makes it pretty easy for them if they get keen. So let's have an all out effort to see if we can get as many new members as possible for this summer.

There has been no response to the caretaker's position; Bernie has told me that he will stay on until we find a replacement so if anyone knows of anybody who's of good character and reliable who might be interested, please let me know.

The ladies "Chicken & Champagne Day" was once again a roaring success, Congratulations to Denise and all of the ladies who organised the day. Many thanks also to those brave men who volunteered their services to look after the ladies and help make the day the huge success that it was.

The Trivia night was also very successful, I was unable to attend due to family commitments in Adelaide, but I am told everyone had a great night and more importantly raised much-needed funds for the club. Congratulations to Mick and his band of helpers.

We have a busy week coming up from the 4<sup>th</sup> of October with the South Broken Hill men arriving to play for the "Scrubbers Cup", it's their October long-weekend and we need about 15-16 men to play with them, there won't be any Wednesday play that week for the men because of the WVG Tournament being played on our course on the Tuesday & Wednesday, so how about it fellas see if you can make it to win back the cup.

Speaking of the WGV Tournament, we need about 10 men volunteers to act as spotters around the course and keep the

field moving on both days, if you can help, please let Sue or Denise know.

On Melbourne Cup Eve, we are having a Variety night starring many of the very talented people associated with the club along with a "Phantom Race Call". A passing sparrow told me that a stern little gentleman with a short little moustache might be there to pass on some pearls of wisdom!! So get a group together and come and make a great night of it. I've also been speaking to HIM and HE said the weather will be fine!! Good golfing to you all!

Thank You. Rod Atkins. - President.

### Notes from the General Committee

The General Committee meeting for September was held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> and it was pleasant to sit in the clubhouse and not freeze to death for a change. Some of the highlights of the meeting were:

- The first of the proposed car park signs has been made and will be erected soon. The General Committee is looking for comment from members before proceeding with the proposal to erect more signs in the car park to boost revenue.
- Some preliminary planning is underway for the next 'Concert on the Course' event to be held later this year.
- Life membership working party established to look at the establishment of a set of basic criteria to be met before a member can be nominated for Life Membership.
- Women's Golf Victoria Country Championships to be held in the district on the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> October. More details later in this edition.

### The Club's Finances

I have been a bit reluctant to publish many details on the club's finances because I was concerned that other clubs would use the details against us. I think the time is now right to put the club's financial position on record.

Compared with the same time last year we are \$6,104.00 better off. This might not sound much, but in reality it is a god effort considering the circumstances. Compared with the same time last year golf activities, raffles, bar trading, fund raising are up and membership, catering, course activities, sponsorship and administration expenses are down.

For those that have been critical about the lack of activity around debt reduction, it is interesting to note that the total club debt in August 2003 was \$167,847 and in August 2004 it is \$143,180, or a reduction of \$17,667. Once again this might not sound much but given the comparison with the same time last year as set out above and the improvements that have been carried out it isn't a bad effort!

### **Golf Week 2004 Roundup**

This report is from an anonymous contributor and I thank them for their contribution. Some more member contributions would be great.

Once more Golf Week has been and gone and your representatives on the Golf Week Committee, Ray Pain, Ron Baird, Patsy McDonald and Shirley Case would like to thank all the members of our club who helped to make it a success once again.

Special thanks to Jack Tyrell, Col McDonald and Buck Millar who put the men's fields out and brought them in. To Julie Warne, Sue Poole and Denise Rohde who put the ladies fields out and brought them in, to the ladies in the kitchen who fed our visitors so well, the people behind the bar who did all they could to quench their thirst and make them feel welcome, thank you!

Thank you to Tom Crawford, Neville Birch and Dad's Army for having the course in tip top condition.

Thank you to all the members who played in Golf Week. It helps to make the visitors feel welcome when the locals join in the competition.

Finally, I'm sure you would all like to know that the red Cliffs Golf Club's 1/3 share of the profit this year was \$3,000.00. Well done all!

### **Guru Bob says!**

I was playing golf the other day with Col McDonald, Chopper Chase and Ian Symes and I couldn't believe my ears!!! Col said: "Windy, isn't it?" "No," Ian replied, "it's Thursday." and 'Chopper chimed in, "So am I. Let's have a beer."

For James it was a masterly addressing of the ball, a magnificent swing but somehow something went wrong and a horrible slice resulted. The ball went on to the adjoining fairway and hit a man full force. He dropped! James and his partner ran up to the stricken victim who lay unconscious with the ball between his feet. "Good heavens" exclaimed James "What shall I do?" "Don't move him" said his partner, "if we leave him here he becomes an immovable obstruction and you can either play the ball as it lies or drop it two club lengths away."

'Draw' shot is a term commonly used by golfers to describe a 'snap-hooked' ball they were actually able to find.

### **Information from 'Clubs Victoria'**

Clubs Victoria is very concerned about proposed changes to the Liquor Control Reform Act and the impact that the proposed amendments may have on clubs. There are concerns with several aspects of the bill including the presence of minors on licensed premises, the definition of "responsible adult" and "in the company of" for the purposes of minors being on licensed premises, enforcement powers under the act and increased penalties relating to specific expenses. The General Committee is concerned about the impact the proposed amendments will have on our club and is supporting the approach by Clubs Victoria.

### **Club Notes**

- Women's Golf Victoria Country Championships will be played in Sunraysia on the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> October. Half the field will play at Red Cliffs on both days. As a result there will be no Men's play on the 6<sup>th</sup> October. We need some help from our men players on both days. If you are available to help out, see Sue Poole or Denise Rohde. The ladies are also looking to borrow about 30 golf buggies for the two days. If you are prepared to lend yours see Sue or Denise.
- Broken Hill visit on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October and we need members to play with the visitors. We need to win the 'Scrubbers Cup back again and with no men's golf on Wednesday come out on Monday and enjoy the company of the Broken Hill boys.
- The recent Trivia Night was a great success with over \$1,000.00 raised for the club. A big thank you to Mark Bowring, Mick Hogan and Ray Patterson for organizing the night. Also a big thanks to Ian Ditchburn for manning the bar to ensure that we didn't go thirsty. Thanks also to the sponsors, Brockfields Wines, Red Cliffs Foodworks and Beryl Chappell.

### **'A Very Risky Business'**

An article with this name appeared in the latest issue of 'Golf Victoria' and it highlights a potential problem facing all players of golf. There have been a couple of recent cases that have highlighted the need for golfers to adequately protect themselves with appropriate insurance cover. The article is well worth reading, so get hold of a copy of 'Golf Victoria' Volume 45, Number 4 and have a read.

At the last General Committee meeting this issue was discussed as a result of advice from the Australian Golf Union that they had entered into an arrangements through Golf Australia Insurance Services to provide insurance cover for all players at an affordable price. To access the deal it is a requirement that 100% of the members of a golf club are covered by the 'AGU PIP Scheme'. If you were to buy the level of insurance offered as an individual the current cost would be approximately \$185.00. Under the AGU PIP Scheme, clubs can access the cover for \$14.00, provided 100% of members are covered. The scheme provides personal liability up to \$20 million as well as personal accident cover up to \$100,000.00. The scheme also covers a number of other things like loss or damage to equipment, third party personal injury and weekly loss of income cover. It is likely that many golfers are under the impression that their membership fees or their home insurance will provide them with the cover they need. This is not the case!

The General Committee discussed this issue at its last meeting and has taken the decision that the best way to ensure adequate coverage for all members is to impose a levy on club membership fees. As a result the 2005 full membership fee will increase to \$320.00 to enable all members to join the AGU PIP Scheme so that they are adequately covered every time they step onto a golf course.