



RED CLIFFS GOLF CLUB Inc.

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THE RED CLIFFS 'WHACKER'

ISSUE #18 – NOVEMBER 2004

The President's Message.

Hello and welcome to issue #18 of the Red Cliffs Golf Club's Members Newsletter and my last Presidents Message to you. With only three weeks to go to the AGM My Presidency is coming to an end. During the past two years there have been some problem periods and some good times but mostly it has been a very rewarding experience. I have enjoyed working with a dedicated team on the committee and a great army of volunteers who have worked very hard to bring the club from the brink of bankruptcy to a positive position where there is now some definite hope for the future. I sincerely thank you all for your efforts and I wish every success to the incoming committee. There is still a long way to go but I have every confidence with all who have nominated, with your support, that they will keep the club moving forward towards a more sound financial position.

To show thanks to all of you that have contributed to mine and Julie's Presidency and to the Captaincy of Sue, Denese, Neville and John, we would like to extend an invitation to all committee personnel and partners and all volunteers and partners and anyone else who contributed either with your time or donations to attend an informal BBQ evening on Friday December 3rd at the BBQ area of the Club for a meal and a few drinks and the presentation of a few awards. We consider that we have had a fairly successful two years and its our way of saying thanks, so we would love to see as many of you as possible given that Xmas is just around the corner. The evening will commence around 6.30 to 7.00pm till when ever and the BBQ and drinks will be provided to a limit.

As this is my last message for the year I would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy Xmas and a happy, safe and prosperous New Year for 2005. Please take care on the roads.

It has been my privilege to serve you as your President for the last two years and for this I thank you.

Good golfing to you all! Thank You.

Rod Atkins. - President

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

All members of the Red Cliffs Golf Club Inc are reminded that the 2004 AGM will be held at the clubhouse on:

THURSDAY 9TH DECEMBER @ 8.00PM

Please put this date in your diary and on calendar and on a notice on the fridge to remind yourself to attend. Remember, it is your club and your attendance at the AGM is needed. More details of the special business to be conducted at the AGM can be found elsewhere in this issue.

This is the Captain Speaking!

Like President Rod this is my last newsletter item before my term as Captain expires. I have really enjoyed my time as Captain and I trust that I have done the right thing by most members. I have certainly learnt a lot about competition golf and how important it is to ensure that everything is done right. I would like to thank John Gray for his untiring assistance over the past two years. John's willingness to step in and assist without ever being asked has taken a lot of the load off me. I would also like to thank Sue Poole and Denese Rohde and the other members of the Match Committee for their support throughout my term as Captain. I look forward to continuing my involvement with the Red Cliffs Golf Club because it truly is a great place to be involved with. I would like to wish the incoming men's and lady's Captains all the best for their time in the job and assure them that I am always there to assist. Thank you all! Neville.

A Very Special Announcement

The Red Cliffs Golf Club congratulates Christie Walker on her award as "September 3MA FM Northern Mallee Sports Star of the Year". Christie now goes on to the final judging for the 2004 Sports Star of the Year and we all wish her the best of luck for this very prestigious local sporting award.

The House & Fundraising – Mick Hogan & Chris Healey

It is essential that we recognize the efforts of all the volunteers that kept the clubhouse facilities going throughout the year. Even though it is not a good idea to pick out a couple of individuals, I think it is important to recognize the efforts of Lois Briggs and Brian Furey who have both put in a tremendous effort. But there are a lot of others that have contributed a lot to keep the club going. Whilst they remain nameless they are certainly not forgotten, for without them the Red Cliffs Golf Club would not be here today.

It is important to record how some of our special events throughout the year have contributed to the financial position of the club.

- The ladies Chicken & Champagne day - \$2000.00 profit.
- Women's Golf Victoria Tournament - \$3000 profit
- National Veterans Championships - \$3000 profit
- Cup Eve variety night - \$2115 profit

All of these special events have made a great contribution to the club's 'bottom line'. One feature of all these events was the efforts put in by many of our members to ensure their success. The sobering thought however is that we will not see some of them again. This will mean we will have to continue to work hard to attract special events to the club.

The 2004 Financial Report Card!

At the beginning of the year the General Committee set itself four targets to achieve for the year in an attempt to return some financial stability to the club. How did we go?

1. Double our profit to \$20,000.00

Technically a doubling of profit from the previous year would have been \$19,530.00 – we fell short by \$1,587.00. Given the unforeseen competition for members brought about by Coomella dropping their membership fee to \$80.00, this is not a bad result.

2. Reduce the club debt by \$30,000.00

Total debt reduction for the twelve months is \$27,790.00. we feel that this has to be regarded as a reasonable effort.

3. Increase participation in weekly competition to the following: 100 men and women on a Saturday; 50 men and women on a Sunday; 60 men and women on a Wednesday.

It is doubtful that we have achieved one of these aims. Our income figures show a 10% increase in receipts from men and a 13% decrease in women playing in competitions. In total this equates to a 2.4% increase in receipts for competitions. Given that we have increased the competition fee by 8.3% we have to conclude that we have had a reduction in the number of people playing in competitions. This has to be a fail!

4. Sign up 100 new members

At the last count we were at 97, which is another great effort given the stiff competition we have faced throughout the year. What we need to look at is what category of membership most of these new members signed up to. It is likely that there are some lessons from this exercise, which the club will ignore at its peril.

So, how did we go overall? I will leave it to you, the average member to come up with a score out of 100.

A Few Words From The Editor

When the General Committee suggested the idea of a monthly newsletter, my first thought was that it would just be another job that had to be done. After 18 editions I believe that the 'Whacker' has made a contribution to the club and it looks set to continue. Incoming President Andrew Wood has asked me to continue with the 'Whacker', which I am keen to do.

Some members have commented that the newsletter is not big enough and some have said that it doesn't come out regularly enough. We decided that a double-sided page was big enough in an attempt to contain costs. Although the General Committee was keen to get some communication going amongst the members, a tight financial situation was always going to be an issue. With regard to regularity, I can assure all readers that once a month is a big enough task. Without significant contributions from members it would be impossible to fill a more regular publication.

Lack of membership contributions remains one of the disappointments from my point of view. Although I have regularly asked for items from members, they have not been forthcoming. Maybe next year things will be better!!!!!!

Special Business for the AGM

The General Committee will be putting several motions to the 2004 AGM seeking membership support to alter the club's rules. Full details of the changes to be presented can be found on the main noticeboard in the clubhouse.

The General Committee believes that the club's rules need to be constantly reviewed to ensure that they reflect the changing circumstances that the club finds itself in. Whilst most of the proposed changes are relatively minor the proposal to alter the basic structure of the Category 2 membership class will enable the club to make the most of the trend towards more social golf. The proposed changes will give the General Committee the ability to make adjustments to membership classifications as the need arises.

Of similar importance is the proposal to alter the description of a 'Temporary' member. Over recent times the club has lost several members because our rules regarding 'Temporary' membership did not allow the General Committee enough flexibility to meet the requirements of people that had a genuine need for temporary membership.

The final motion to be presented will enable the club to comply with the requirements of the Liquor Licensing Act more easily. By adding an additional paragraph to the Honorary member description we will be able to eliminate the need to have many visitors to the club sign in, making things easier for all concerned whilst ensuring total compliance with the law.

Don't forget: **2004 AGM Thursday 9th December @ 8.00pm**

Guru Bob says!

The definition of a 'Head' is:

1. The part of the club designed to hit the ball.
2. The part of the player designed to make it next to impossible to hit the ball.

Just think about that!!!

Guru Bob would like to thank Sue Poole for her marvellous little book 'Golfing'. It is an inspiration to read!

Did you hear the one about???

Graeme Duffy was playing in a group with Mick Hogan and they were standing on the 3rd tee waiting for the group in front to vacate the green. This big dog walked on to the tee and sat down and started to lick itself. Mick said to Graeme: "Gee I wish I could do that", and Graeme said: "Go ahead, but I think you had better give him a pat first! [Boom, Boom]

A Christmas Wish!

As this is the last 'Whacker' for 2004, I would like to wish all members off the Red Cliffs Golf Club all the best for the festive season and good fortune for 2005. If you are going away, please be careful on the roads as we want to see all of you back on the course in the new year.

