



RED CLIFFS GOLF CLUB Inc.

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THE RED CLIFFS 'WHACKER'

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The Last Issue of the 'Whacker'

I got in before the President this issue to make an important announcement. This will be the last issue of the "Whacker" – in its current format. After two years the Editorial Committee [that's me] met and decided it was time for a change. The May issue will be the start of the third year of the member's newsletter, so it is time to make some changes.

Over the past two years I have wondered who is reading the "Whacker" as every month there are still copies of the previous issue in the tray. If the newsletter is not serving a purpose, then there is no point continuing with it. Some feedback from the membership, either good or bad, would be helpful! It would also be good to get some contributions from members for the newsletter. I can always find material to fill it up, but that shouldn't be the aim of the newsletter. Some items of interest about what is going on around the club would be great. I look forward to your support and hope you keep reading the "Whacker". Take a copy home with you!!!

The President's Message

The continued support received from our members in so many different ways, is having a tremendous influence upon the resurgence of Red Cliffs Golf Club and augurs well for its long-term future. Thank you for the prompt payment of memberships and I would urge those few still outstanding to make arrangements to settle their accounts as soon as possible.

The redevelopment of the 12th hole is almost complete with the new tee open for play. Tom and his band of helpers have done an outstanding job on this project and a few little finishing touches will add to the redefined character of this hole. I know it has been said before, but the presentation of our course is outstanding, and a credit to all involved, especially considering the dry conditions we have experienced.

It is pleasing to report that our yearly budget remains on track, which allows for planned expenditure to further develop equipment assets to proceed.

Harvesting of the turf farm is underway as orders have been received and it is great to see this initiative coming to fruition to the benefit of our club.

Your committee has developed and adopted an operating plan for 2005 has prioritised objectives for the year.

Captain Justin has begun preparations for the upcoming pennant season and is seeking players for all grades. Another positive sign for the club is that we are once again fielding a stand-alone A Grade side and I would urge all members to give their full support to Justin and the match

committee in regard to Pennant.

Juniors have always been one of the strengths of this club and it is pleasing to see our junior program underway again on Sunday mornings. The valuable work Ron Baird and the members who are assisting him in this area are doing, is laying the foundations for the future of Red Cliffs Golf Club. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

Our publicity machine, courtesy of Bob, continues to roll on with some great articles appearing in *The Settler*. Keep your eye out for a full colour supplement appearing in this publication in the near future.

In the meantime may your drives be straight and your putts true – if only! Andrew Wood – President.

Did you hear about!

- A recent ex-president's effort on the 10th in a 4-ball event. Apparently he took four to get past the ladies tee. His next shot hit his partner's ball on the full then to top it off he hit the wrong ball. I would doubt that the group scored on that hole!
- Apparently the club will be providing toilet rolls as well as sand buckets from now on. That is the word I got from one member who related the story of one of his recent playing partners who nearly got 'caught short'. I have it on good authority that his name is David!
- There were a couple of red faces recently when a couple of well-known club identities came to grief on one of the tracks around the club. Thankfully there wasn't too much damage done to either vehicle.

Something Worth Noting

Did you know that since 1994 'Bobbie's Bistro' has raised in excess of \$25,000.00 for the Red Cliffs Golf Club. This is a truly fantastic effort on behalf of all those concerned and highlights once again the magnificent club spirit that exists within our club. If you want to be a part of this success story all you need to do is to come out to the club on any Friday night and enjoy a casual, relaxing meal with friends. Booking in advance would be appreciated.

Some Friendly Reminders!

- If you haven't paid your subs, now is the time to do so. Any unpaid members will shortly have their name removed from the handicap list and will not be eligible to play in club competitions.
- Don't forget the 'Trivia Night' coming up soon. More details on this club event can be found elsewhere in the 'Whacker'. Come along and have a great night!!!

The Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report to the April General Committee meeting contained three 'smiling faces'. This is the largest number of these we have seen on a finance report for some time. There are some good reasons for the 'smiling faces', but the Treasurer was quick to remind everyone that we still have some way to go before we can say that we are 'out of the woods'.

The situation can be summed up by reporting that, till the end of March 2005 all the indicators are good:

- Profit is up
- Things are going roughly to the budget plan
- We have already achieved our goal of reducing our debt by \$20,000.00
- Our bank balance is in the black and holding its ground.

Profit from the five months from October 2004 is \$11,733.00 up on the same period last year. This turn around in profit has been brought about mainly by increased golf activities of \$7,630.00. As the Treasurer reported it is good to see the club making a profit from its main business – golf!

As a result of this improved financial position the General Committee decided to implement the budget decision to commit \$14,000.00 to asset purchases between now and October this year. After quite a lot of discussion it was agreed that the funds be allocated to improvements to the irrigation system, an increase in the number of motorized golf carts and a John Deere 'Gator' vehicle for the course. This decision was financially responsible and in line with the budget established at the beginning of the year.

The General Committee discussed the issue of member loans to the club. Although all existing member loans have been repaid, some members have indicated that they would have preferred to have maintained the loan due to the 6% return they were receiving. A membership loan of \$5,000.00 meant that the member received a discount of \$300.00 per year off their membership fee. Given the level of interest from members the General Committee agreed to reintroduce membership loans of \$5,000.00. If you are interested in participating in this loan scheme you should talk to Chris Healey as soon as possible.

Club Shorts

- Trivia Quiz Night – Friday 6th May @ 7.30pm in the clubhouse. \$12.00 per head, tables of 8 or 10 please. Bring your own nibbles. Bookings at Dean's Pharmacy or ring 50241531 or 50245143. This promises to be a fun night, so make up a table and join in!
- Footy tipping competition is going well [for some] with 42 entrants. If you haven't paid up as yet, please do so ASAP. To get your Friday night tip in either ring the club or fax your tip, but restrict it to the Friday night game as it is causing some problems when people want to put all their tips in.
- Some members may not be aware of the Friday afternoon nine-hole competition. What a great way to end the week and you can stay on and enjoy a great meal at 'Bobbie's Bistro'.

The Captain's Corner – Justin McPhee.

It is very pleasing to see that the fields on a Saturday are holding their own, which is evidenced by the improvement in the Golf Activities section of the club accounts. We have certainly had the weather on our side but we shouldn't forget that one of the main reasons for the good weekend fields is the standard of our course. It is incumbent on us all to try and maintain our course in the best possible condition by ensuring that sand buckets are carried and used on fairway divots, not just the ones you have made, but any you see on your way around. The same care needs to be taken of the greens by repairing those pitch marks. Let's all do our bit to maintain our golfing conditions!

Pennant season is just about to start and Ron Baird and I would like to see all grades represented with a competitive side. I remember as a junior some years ago how difficult it was then to get into a Red Cliffs pennant team. We would like to see that competitive spirit once again to the fore at Red Cliffs. We are looking for members interested in representing their club in a district pennant team to put their names forward. If you are interested in playing pennant have a talk to Ron or myself, we are here to help you get involved.

Notes from the General Committee

It was an extremely busy General Committee meeting held on Monday 18th April with a number of very important issues addressed.

- The club's Operational Plan was finalized and as soon as the alterations are made the plan will go up on the noticeboard for the information of members.
- How the club awards Life Memberships was also discussed. Sue Poole presented the first draft of a set of criteria for Life Membership. She will come back to a future meeting with a revised draft based on the discussions at the General Committee meeting.
- The General Committee debated a list of priorities in terms of the things the club needs to concentrate on in the years ahead. Additional irrigation water, repairs to the irrigation system, upgrading machinery, repairs to the clubhouse were all items on the list. Agreement was reached about the immediate priorities that the General Committee will be concentrating on in the months ahead.
- The House Committee will be asked to address the preparation of an instruction manual for volunteer bar staff. Some concerns were raised that some members were reluctant to become involved, as they were not sure about what was required. This matter will be addressed by the House Committee.
- The apparent lack of action around car park advertising was causing some concerns as a large percentage of the fund raising budget was related to this initiative. Any members with ideas about advertisers are asked to speak to President Andrew or Chris Healey.
- OH&S review being carried out by Graeme Bamford is progressing well and it has identified a number of minor issues that need to be addressed