



# RED CLIFFS GOLF CLUB MEMBER'S NEWSLETTER

## VOLUME 3; NUMBER 1 – MAY 2005

### THE EDITOR

What a way to start a new version of the 'Whacker' – with a retraction. In the last issue, as part of the finances report I indicated that **all** member loans had been repaid. This was incorrect! What have been repaid are the original \$1000.00 member loans, but there are five members who have loaned the club \$5000.00, which are still outstanding and the Treasurer has asked me to remind them that "they are very much in our thoughts". There is more about member's loans in the finance report that appears elsewhere in this issue.



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As our turf farm has moved into its first harvesting and selling phase, it is perhaps timely to fill members in what this venture is all about.

Last year our Turf Farm was established as one of a number of initiatives designed to establish additional income streams for Red Cliffs Golf Club, apart from the traditional, yet still vital, member's subscriptions and bar income. With changing club demographics it was more than obvious that the club income base had to be broadened. With this in mind and limited club funds available, an equal partnership was formed between a group of twenty investors and the Red Cliffs Golf Club, to grow and sell turf. This agreement sees the investors contributing labour and funds towards irrigation, purchase of turf equipment and establishment of the business, while the club supplies the land, water, equipment and labour.

Profits from the turf farm are to be shared equally between Red Cliffs Golf Club and the investors, with a mechanism in place, which will see the investors being bought out, leaving total ownership of the turf farm and income derived from it, to the Red Cliffs Golf Club.

It is important that it is clearly understood by all members that the turf farm activities are being undertaken for the benefit of Red Cliffs Golf Club and its members through contributing to the establishment of a solid financial base for the future. The assistance of many people with the turf farm has been yet another example of the generosity of our members in a time of need. In particular, Tom's contribution has been nothing short of phenomenal, with much of his work done at weekends and after hours.

I sincerely hope that all associated with Red Cliffs Golf Club, continue to recognise and respect the contributions others amongst us make in so many different ways, as the co-operation of the various individuals, sub committees, and groups is vital to the future of your club.

### A SPECIAL MESSAGE

The General Committee, members and staff of the Red Cliffs Golf Club offer their sincere condolences to Ray and Denise Rohde, upon the sudden passing of their son Wayne. Our thoughts are with them during this sad time

### A GROWING CONCERN

The General Committee is becoming concerned about the increasing amount of ill-informed or ill-directed negative comment that is occurring around the club at the moment. All members must appreciate that the General Committee has been elected by the membership to manage the affairs of the club and it is the General Committee who take full responsibility for all management decisions taken. Members who may have queries or complaints regarding any aspect of the operation of the club are requested to direct their comments to the committee or to the chairperson of the relevant sub committee. If you don't know who the appropriate person is, ask a committee member! We all need to appreciate that it is important for us all to support our staff and volunteers who are simply carrying out the decisions of the General Committee. Whilst you may not always agree with the decisions taken by the General Committee, please be assured that they are taken in the best interests of the Red Cliffs Golf Club. Get behind the committee, staff and excellent volunteers; don't 'knock' them for their efforts.

### BAR ROSTER

June 4<sup>th</sup> – Ian Symes; 11<sup>th</sup> June – Russell Abrahams; 18<sup>th</sup> June – Rod Atkins

More volunteer bar staff are urgently needed, if the Editor can do it so can you!

A full instruction manual will be available shortly which will make life easier for our volunteer bar staff.



# T H E W H A C K E R

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE SOMETHING TO THIS NEWSLETTER SEND IT TO THE EDITOR, BOB MUTTON AT ROBNGLEN@NCABLE.COM.AU**

### **THE CAPTAIN – Justin McPhee & Ron Baird**

It is encouraging to see good support of our events this time of year as our members and a few visitors get to experience our great course. Pennant time of year is fast approaching and a chance to play matchplay representing the Red Cliffs Golf Club gives us a chance to show our competitive spirit. A-Grade and B-Grade are 5 man teams, and C-Grade is 7 man teams handicap pennant. I must mention that the Singles Knockout and 4 Ball matchplay are deemed to be matchplay which according to the rules of golf differs from normal Stroke play. This means that playing in a competition and completing a matchplay round will not be allowed. Saying this the committee has made a decision to allow match players on a competition day to pay half comp fee (\$3) and be eligible for N.T.P's and Birdie Jugs !!

Pace of play has been of a concern lately and correct etiquette needs to be shown to our fellow members. It is not right to be any more than one hole behind in a round and is the responsibility of the whole group to walk just a little quicker between shots !!! If there is a hold up due to a lost ball etc. then call the group behind through.

The last thing I would like to mention is that I think as a club we would not operate if it wasn't for our volunteers who week in week out do there bit for the club. Keep up the good work ! We have a lot to be proud of !!

Regards Justin and Ron

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### **THE CLUB'S FINANCES – Chris Healey**

It is a mixed bag this month with a few 'smiling faces' and a few 'glum faces' to balance things out. Due to some uncertainties surrounding the validity of last year's figures, as a result of our recent computer crash it is difficult to get a handle on where we are in relation to the same time last year. Our conservative estimate is that we are approximately \$6,000.00 better off than the same time last year. The budget is basically on track with only a few minor areas of concern and our efforts to reduce debt have been good. The liquidity of the club remains good with a surplus cash balance of \$18,775.00. We had a particularly good month in May banking \$28,000.00.

I have heard a few negative comments recently about some decisions the General Committee has made regarding the expenditure of funds. I can assure all members that the finances of the club are being well managed in light of our current situation and that decisions are being taken on the basis of the budget set at the beginning of the year. The club cannot stand still and do nothing and there will be times when it will be necessary to spend money to keep the club moving forward. The task of the General Committee is to make these decisions based on a thorough examination of the financial situation and it is my task as Treasurer to ensure that the General Committee has all the facts at its disposal.

Member loans are a good way of raising much needed capital for the club, whilst providing the lender with a positive outcome. The General Committee is keen to investigate the use of member loans to finance the replacement of the automatic watering system on the course. I would be interested in talking to any member who has \$5,000.00 to invest over the next 3 to 5 years.

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### **CLUB NOTES**

- Gordon Weaver, a long time supporter of the club has sold his butchery business to Justin Tassone. We would like to thank Gordon for his support and welcome Justin as a sponsor of our club. Members are asked to support Justin in his new venture and to let him know where you are from when buying your meat from him.
- Neville Birch has lost his grip – that is his slip on moulded practice aid. Some time ago Neville lent it to someone and now cannot remember who the 'someone' was. If you have it, or know where it is please let Neville know as he is very concerned about his "grip". We all know what it is like to lose our grip!!!
- The junior golf program is going well under the guidance of Ron Baird and he is pleased with the way the kids are taking to the game. He would like more assistance and also some old clubs that could be cut down for the kids. Ron would like to thank all those that helped out when he was not available. See Ron if you can help out at the junior clinic or with an old club.
- The 'Teacher's and Friends Golf Day' is coming up on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July [school holidays again!!]. It will be an Ambrose in three's with great prizes, a sausage sizzle lunch and lots of refreshments. See Mick Hogan for more details.
- Due to cost pressures the price of sandwiches and hot dogs will be increased to \$3.00 as of this weekend.
- The 'Work for the Dole' program has been particularly beneficial for our club. Most of the development work that has gone on around the course in recent times has been done under the 'Work for the Dole' program. Tom Crawford is to be congratulated for the way in which he has managed this program and for the improvements that have been made.
- Fundraising activities have been quite good in recent times. A big thank you to Leigh Bowring who organized the Trivia Night which raised \$1,000.00. The recent visit by the Sth Australian Veterans will increase our coffers by approximately \$4,600.00. Although final figures are not available the recent charity day conducted by Sunraysia Community Health Services was most successful. It is important we keep fostering these types of events as they are an essential component of our income over the year. Congratulations to all involved on a job well done.