



RED CLIFFS GOLF CLUB MEMBER'S NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At last, the heavens have opened and good rain has fallen over the hallowed Red Cliffs Golf Course, which should even further compliment the excellent condition of our course. It will also mean the watering system can be turned off for a while resulting in reduced expenditure for the club.

Congratulations to all members who have represented Red Cliffs Golf Club in the SDGA Winter Pennant Competition. It is fantastic that we have been able to field stand alone teams in all grades, something we have not been able to do for some years. Our A Grade team has been the surprise packet of the competition with some strong wins over more highly fancied competition. On current form they have a real chance of playing in the finals, which this year will be played at Red Cliffs.

Congratulations also to bean counter and committee member, Chris Healey on his achieving the ultimate in golf, a hole in one while playing pennant a couple of weeks ago. If you haven't already heard about it, I think you will some time in the future. Well done Chris.

All members are invited to play in the Teacher's and Friends Golf Day which will be played on Friday 1st July. It is an Ambrose in Threes with a shotgun start at 12.30, following a sausage sizzle beginning at 11.30.

Interested Red Cliffs Golf Club members have also been invited to attend the launch of an advertising campaign promoting golf in Sunraysia on August 11th. The advertising campaign comprises a television advertisement featuring golf in Sunraysia and a coloured brochure which features our club. The dinner dance launch is to be conducted on the PS Mundoo at a cost of \$55 per head. If anyone is interested in attending please let me know.

Some 'unsung heroes' of our club are our handicappers, Leigh Bowring and Keith Rogers who are ably assisted by Denese Rhode and Paul Dominelli. Spare a thought for the essential role these people play within our club and the time they put into recording and adjusting handicaps after every competition. I suppose they are a bit like good football umpires, in that when they are doing a good job, you hardly notice them.

In order to further streamline the handicapping process, the Golf Link program, which is widely used among other clubs, will be introduced to our club in the near future. This will see handicapping done online and members issued with a swipe card which can be used to verify handicaps when playing away.

Finally, I would ask all members to ensure they repair plug marks on greens. We seem to have an increasing number of these being left un-repaired which obviously has a detrimental effect upon our greens.

May the golfing gods allow all members to continue enjoying their golf, with at least the occasional perfect stroke and true putt to keep the fire burning within. Andrew Wood – President.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

- A big thank you to Brett and Jenny Innes who provided the lovely curtains in the ladies rest rooms.
- Red Cliffs Foodright for donating the large fridge for the kitchen, it will be a real asset.
- Thanks to Ian Ditchburn for his work getting the new fridge up and running and also to those that helped getting the fridge set up in the kitchen.
- Thanks to Maurie Press for repair work in the bar area, it is very much appreciated.

More examples of the assistance we receive that helps keep our club going!

CLUB NOTES

- We are looking for a number of the original black plastic recycling tubs that are no longer in use. A few of these would be ideal for storage in the bar. If you have one at home that you no longer want, bring it along.
- **Sunraysia Teachers & Friends Golf Day:** Yes, you've guessed it they are on holidays again! Friday July 1st, Ambrose in threes, 12.30pm shotgun start following a sausage sizzle lunch. Great prizes and both handicapped and non-handicapped players welcome. *[I was going to make a comment about handicapped people and teachers, but I thought better of it.]* A big thank you to the sponsors: The Victorian Teachers Credit Union, Deakin Estate Wines, National 1 and Sunraysia Golf Factory. It is not too late to enter contact Mick Hogan (50242388), Andrew Wood (50235412) or Rita Chase (50242593 A/H). It promises to be a great day so come along and enjoy yourself. With a lot of teachers about you are assured of some riveting conversation!!!

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

increase in membership both Ordinary and Social, bar trading and fund raising. One of the most pleasing features is the increase in golf activities including competition fees, green fees and cart hire. It is a good sign when the club is making a profit from its key activity and it is hoped that this trend will continue. Since the beginning of the club year in October 2004 we managed to reduce our debt level by \$19,622.00, which means we are still well on track to achieve our goal of reducing our debt by \$20,000.00 in the year. Whilst most indicators are good there are a couple of areas that are dragging us back a bit but will be worked on throughout the remainder of the year. All members of the club need to be congratulated for their assistance in assisting the club to improve its financial position. It doesn't matter how you can help, just that you do!

THE COURSE SUPERINTENDENT

Editor's Note: I have decided to allocate a large section of this issue to an update on the course from Tom Crawford.

In this report the strange noise of rain on the shed roof is a welcome sound. The region has been soaked in the past month and for greenkeepers, gardeners and especially the farmers it is a welcome relief. It's nearly July and it's only now we can get the hose reel up, number and store away our most important asset on the course, the greenside hose!

The course is in reasonably good condition (I say reasonably because I am never totally happy, it could always be better) but in one way is a good thing, I think)

This is my first report for the WHACKER for some time, I must start by thanking the committee members, Marion, Les and especially Dads Army and other members who give their time and sometimes funds to assist on the course, much appreciated.

There are not many to go! Some of you will be happy to know that we have ceased tees construction, but only for a few months until extra finances are available! The men's 2nd tee was a TAFE project for 10 turf apprentices, they only had 6 hours so we will need to give it a good top dress and work on the aesthetics. Ladies, we are looking into redoing the tees on the 6th and 16th tees. When the warmer weather arrives all tees will receive a good top dress.

Overall we have a good cover of kikuyu, if money permitted I would like to scarify certain fairways that are a little bit on the other end of the scale cutting of tree roots would encourage a better surface in some areas. Over winter we are replacing some of the bare areas (middle of 1st and 14th) with instant turf, also improving the irrigation to those areas by installing as extending sprinklers to the front of greens where needed.

We are currently trying different fungicides to combat mushrooms on the 6th green. Every Monday we spray the green with good results- to the members who are doing a great job cutting them out please **stop** so we can work out if the fungicides are working or not. The occurrence of moss over the summer months (not just at our course) has curators puzzled. We are working on a program to eradicate this weed but I must warn that the greens may burn off slightly as we explore the different fungicides available. While trying to eradicate with spraying we must also look into the cause- a combination of old and poorly designed irrigation and poor drainage.

Shed: We have finally finished the long overdue office come smoko room, a very clean and dust free environment and volunteers. A special thanks to G Duffy, G. Bamford and Steve Weight for all their work. Graham Bamford is in DH & S and with myself is looking into safety issues.

De Dole: We are nearing the end of 2 six month projects and are lucky enough to be able to sign again with MADEC Consulting for another 6 months with that brings more funding to be used on the course. I am very grateful to these organisations for without their participants and funding we would be no where near as advanced as we are now in our course projects.

The General Committee has agreed to the introduction of a new computer controlled irrigation system to be installed on the course. The existing system has almost reached its 'use by date' and there are only a couple of places in Victoria where the existing system is still in place. As a result spare parts are becoming almost impossible to source. Although this will be a big expense initially, the long-term benefits will be a major boost for our course. Tom Crawford – Course Superintendent.

THE CAPTAIN – Justin McPhee & Ron Baird

Thank you to the Enjoywine Café for sponsoring a men's 'Nearest the Pin' prize on the 3rd and to Cheap as Chips for the prize on the clubhouse. Ron Baird put in the work to get the desk, so well done Ron! All members should be aware that the men's tournament finals will be played at Red Cliffs on Sunday 10th July, which will mean that the course will be closed to all other activities that day. Whilst on pennant it is pleasing to see that Red Cliffs has been able to field a full pennant team in each grade and all teams have acquitted themselves very well. The Sunraysia District Golf Association is organizing a 'Rules' tournament in the near future. If you are interested in attending, see me for more details. Tom and his team have worked hard over a very dry time to maintain our course in top condition, **help them out by repairing your plug marks on the greens!!**