



RED CLIFFS GOLF CLUB MEMBER'S NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 3; NUMBER 3 – JULY 2005



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I have always believed that our course is presented in top class condition, but just how good our course actually is, became even more apparent to me following a recent visit to a couple of 'premier golf courses' on the New South Wales northern coast. Red Cliffs might not be surrounded by rain forest, have winding creeks, undulating topography and a staff of forty two, but our greens and fairways compare most favourably, to those myself and a certain Collingwood supporting, former president of this club, experienced last week. In fact our greens are far superior. We certainly have much to be proud of.

Speaking of the condition of our course, we all need to ensure that we look after it, particularly in regard to the filling in of divots both on the tees and fairways and the repairing of pitch marks on greens. It's easy to point the finger at green fee players, but we all need to set an example, particularly in regard to less experienced members, in repairing divots and pitch marks.

Congratulations to emerging talent, Anthony O'Brien and Captain Justin McPhee on being selected to represent Sunraysia in the upcoming Country Week in the 'Big Smoke'. Obviously the excellent leadership and organisational skills Justin has displayed as Captain of Red Cliffs Golf Club have been recognised elsewhere, as he has also been appointed Captain of the Sunraysia contingent. I'm sure they will both acquit themselves very well.

Thank you to 'Dads' Army' for their excellent work in construction a shed to house our golf carts. The new shed will protect these valuable assets to the club from the elements and also allow more efficient and safer charging of the batteries. This is yet another example of the huge amount our volunteers contribute to the running of our club.

Some of our members who have represented us on the Golf Week Committee for some time will not be available to continue on next year. Consequently we are seeking the assistance of anyone who might be able to help us out in this regard. If anyone is interested please let me know.

With Golf Week approaching, we will be looking for volunteers to sell tickets in our clubs bag and buggy raffle. Your committee is very conscious of the need to attract 'outside money' in fundraising activities as much as possible and Golf Week provides a perfect opportunity to do this. Following Golf Week, the men's club championships are looming so there promises to be a fair bit of activity around the club over the next few weeks.

In the meantime, may the Golfing Gods be kind to you all, in your individual quests to master the 'Royal and Ancient' game.

THE HOUSE

Currently the bar is working well and returning a good profit to the club. However, at this stage we cannot afford to employ a person to run the bar so we are still dependent on volunteers. Those presently working the bar are doing a sterling job, but they are wearing out! We desperately need the help of more members to fill the bar roster. It is not a daunting task, in fact it's a lot of fun as you get to talk to all the members, not just the group you played with. To assist new members a manual has been produced that provides all the information you need to know to run the bar successfully. This makes it even easier! With Beryl's help you can still have your game of golf and work the bar on a Saturday. If you can help at any time please see Lois or Mick and you can be assured that your support will be appreciated. We need people to help out on a Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon.

A new gas hot water service will be installed in the near future that will save the club money on gas currently being used by the old storage hot water service. The new system comes courtesy of support from Tooheys and the efforts of our resident plumber Maurie Press. Maurie has also taken on the task on repairing the glass chiller and he will also be looking at the glass washer in the bar. Where would we be without the help of our members!

REMINDER! REMINDER! REMINDER!

Don't forget the "Fairway 2000" coming up on the 12th August. Get those tickets sold as we need the money. If you haven't got any tickets to sell see Graeme Bamford or Graeme Tiller. It's shaping up to be a great night!

We are keen to make a last final effort for the major raffle so get those tickets sold. See Bobbie Ramsay if you don't have any tickets to sell. Hopefully we can sell a lot of tickets over 'Golf Week' to make the raffle a success.

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

THE CLUB'S FINANCES – Chris Healey

The outcome for June was a little disappointing as we recorded a loss of \$2,608.00 compared with a loss of \$1,655.00 for the same time last year. The main contributor to the loss was an influx of bills for loam used since November. This result highlights the fact that although the club's finances are in much better shape than previous years we still need to be vigilant to ensure our survival. The profit for the eight months to June 2005 is \$11,597.00 up on the same period last year, which is very pleasing. Main contributors continue to be increased golf activities, membership and fundraising. We continue to remain on track to reduce our overall debt by \$20,000.00 for the year with the current debt reduction figure standing at \$15,470.00

It is important that we have a successful 'Fairway 2000' this year to bring in that predominantly 'outside money'. To ensure a success we need ALL the tickets sold!! The club is looking for sponsors for the tees and the car park. If you know someone who might be interested in promoting their business at our club talk to me [Chris Healey] and the General Committee will follow it up.

In the last couple of finance reports I have indicated that golf activities has been one of the major contributors to the club. To illustrate the point you may find the following figures of interest. Ordinary membership is up \$6,000.00; Social playing membership is up \$3,500.00. Competition fees are up \$4,500.00; Green fees are up \$3,500.00 and cart hire is up \$2,400.00. It is pleasing to be making a profit out of our core business – golf! Let's us all work to keep it going.

THE CAPTAIN

Or more correctly in this issue – **The Captains!** This issue contains a report from the Ladies Captain which is great to see Lady's Captain:

Fields have picked up during the past month, averaging 40-45 on Wednesdays and 30 on Saturdays. Medallists of the month were Doreen Hamence in A Grade and Shirley Case in B Grade. Our championships started on Wednesday 8th June and finished on 22nd June. Christie Walker was Club Champion for 2005 with round of 73-87-77-237 She also won the A grade handicap trophy. Dee Hopkins won B Grade both scratch and handicap. Shirley Case won C Grade and was also the handicap winner. Edna Sargant won D grade both scratch and handicap. Edna is to be congratulated on such steady golf at the young age of 83. There were 30 entrants in the Ladies Golden Putter sponsored by Rod Atkins which is a shame in my opinion this event should be an open event as it will bring players from other clubs to participate and add prestige to the event.

Men's captain:

The club has received good feedback from the Sunraysia District Golf Association on the way the course was presented for the recent SDGA Pennant Finals. Congratulations to Tom, Neville, James and Dad's Army for their untiring efforts.

I have been given the honour of captaining the Sunraysia Country Week team and will be joined on the team by fellow club member Anthony O'Brien. A strong team has been selected and we are all looking forward to a successful Country Week campaign. All members are reminded that the 2005 Club Championships are coming up in August and we are keen to see a big field participate. This year the Club Championships will be played over two weekends so the pressure is on to perform.

The district Junior Aged Championships will be played at Red Cliffs on Sunday 31st July and we are planning a BBQ for the juniors. Anyone able to help out on the day would be welcome. These young players are the future of golf in Sunraysia so they need our support.

CLUB NOTES

- The General Committee spent some time at its last meeting discussing the increasing problem of course maintenance and how to address the problem. In the end the Committee felt that it was up to the members to repair those pitch marks on the greens and use a sand bucket on the fairways. If we are going to maintain our course it is up to us all to do our bit!
- Sue Poole has agreed to produce the next two issues of the 'Whacker' while the usual editor takes a well earned break touring France and Spain. See what being the editor of the 'Whacker' can lead to! Any items for the August and September issues should be given to Sue.
- The Sunraysia District Golf Association will be putting on a 'Rules Night' at the Mildura Golf Club on Tuesday 2nd August. If you want to brush up on the rules of golf, this is your opportunity!.
- Following the acceptance by the Liquor Control Commission of the changes made to the club's rules at the last AGM a copy of the club rules will be located on the Captain's desk in the corner of the clubhouse in the near future. The club's rules are there to be looked at – not taken away!
- Lois Briggs has advised the General Committee of her intention to scale back her clubhouse duties as of the end of the current golf season. Lois has been the backbone of the 'House' since the introduction of volunteer workers. To simply say thank you to Lois doesn't seem enough given the work she has done! We all appreciate the effort she has put in and now it is time for someone else to take up the challenge. We will probably need more than one person to fill Lois's shoes, so if you are interested in helping out in some way, see Mick Hogan or another member of the Committee as soon as possible.