



RED CLIFFS GOLF CLUB MEMBER'S NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Diehard's Day last Saturday marked what used to be the end of the golfing year in times past. With golf a year-round proposition, it now signals the beginning of the summer season and a time when we try to attract new members to our club through offering summer membership. It is an undeniable fact that many people who play golf in this day and age only want to do so on a social basis, so with this in mind a social playing membership has become available in addition to the traditional summer membership. Sponsorship packages are also available which include membership with benefits attractive to the business sector. More information on these packages is available from either Chris Healey or myself. If you have any friends or family members who you think may be interested in becoming part of our club in some way, please let them know what we have to offer.

Lately we have been experiencing difficulty with the control system of our watering system, which means that some sections of the course have to be manually watered. Tom has managed to get some controllers repaired so hopefully the situation has been rectified for the time being. As mentioned before, we have applied for a government grant of around \$50,000, which would enable us to replace our obsolete control system with a more efficient state-of-the-art system.

All members are reminded that our Annual General Meeting is on the 8th December and everyone is invited to attend. Nomination forms are on the notice board in the clubhouse should anyone wish to make themselves available for a position on the committee.

I would like to acknowledge three members who are retiring from the committee, Ron Baird, Chris Healey and Graeme Bamford. They have all made significant contributions to Red Cliffs Golf Club and hopefully we will continue to see them around the club in the future.

Unfortunately the inevitable has happened and Marion has also decided to call it a day and will be finishing up after the AGM. Marion has been a loyal servant and valued member of Red Cliffs Golf Club for many years and I thank her for all she has done. She assures me she intends to continue enjoying her golf at Red Cliffs in her retirement.

Red Cliffs Golf Club has always liked to think of itself as "The Friendly Club" but sometimes I wonder if this is really the case. We all need to consider how golfers visiting our club are treated and how welcome they are made to feel. There is an old adage that "you only make a first impression once" and sometimes that first impression can mean the difference between someone becoming a regular part of our club, or going somewhere else.

Over the past couple of years, we have set targets of signing up a hundred new members. On two occasions this has been achieved, but it hasn't translated into anywhere near that number rejoining and becoming ongoing members. I urge all members to do all they can to make playing at Red Cliffs Golf Club an enjoyable experience for all.

Finally, thank you to all those who supported our Market Day last Sunday. Even though the number of people through the gate was down on last year, the venture still managed to generate a reasonable return for the club.

With the onset of the warmer weather, please remember all the Sun Smart messages and continue to enjoy our great game. Andrew Wood, President

CLUB SHORTS!

- One of the best winner's speeches I have heard was delivered by Fran McKay when she partnered Kath Cattanach to win the women's section of 'McDonald's Day' recently. Her speech was short but to the point: "The day was very interesting. We called it the F & K Chaos day." They played with Des Armsden and Whizza but I really have no idea what she meant.
- Apparently we have a member at the club who is a master at looking after a golf course and growing grass but has no idea how to thaw out a sausage. He had to ring up another person for some advice. Can you believe it?
- Club members will be interested to know that Peter Knight is making a good recovery in Adelaide after recent knee replacement surgery. The word is that he is up and about on his new knee and is expected home in the

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

THE CUP EVE VARIETY NIGHT

Another successful 'Cup Eve Variety Night' was held on Monday 31st October. We had a great line up of local talent as well as a top dinner. The auction for the horses in the 'Phantom Call' was very well handled by Mark Bowring ensuring good prizes for the place getters. Once again Rod Atkins came to the party and provided his sound gear and assisted some of the acts to get their music set up. Rod has been doing this for some years now and without his assistance and support we would not be able to put the night on. Not only did he provide his gear but he entertained the crowd with a number of great songs to finish the night off.

THE FINANCES – CHRIS HEALEY

At the recent General Committee meeting I delivered my last report as Treasurer. Although we achieved the majority of the financial targets we set ourselves at the start of the year, the club is by no means 'out of the woods' from a financial point of view. At the beginning of the year we set ourselves the target of achieving a profit of \$20,000.00 and we recorded a profit of \$20,352.00. However it needs to be kept in mind that the 'Work for the Dole' program contributed \$14,000.00 to this result. Tom Crawford is to be congratulated for his management of the 'Work for the Dole' program and for his efforts in keeping total course upkeep costs down over the year. Without Tom's efforts we would not be in the financial position we find ourselves in at the end of the year. We also managed to achieve two other financial targets we set at the start of the year. We finished the year with a positive bank balance, albeit small and we reduced our overall debt by \$21,516.00.

Whilst all this might sound positive we must keep in mind that we still have a long way to go and need the support of all members to keep the club going by volunteering to do whatever each of us can to assist. One bright spot on the horizon is the turf farm, which is really showing tremendous potential, once again thanks to the efforts of Tom Crawford. The club has already received a return of \$3,800.00 from the turf farm with potentially a lot more to come in the future. It is clear to anyone that has the eyes to see that the turf farm will be the thing that will save the club unto the future. It is about time all club members got behind this initiative.

Editor's Note: As this is Chris's last Treasurer's report it is important to recognise the work he has done managing the club's finances over the last three years. He took on the job when the club was basically on its knees and has worked tirelessly to get the club on a more sound financial footing. Although he will be the first to admit that the club still has a long way to go [he tells the General Committee that every meeting] he has been responsible for a number of initiatives that have put the club back on track. His clear thinking and attention to detail will be missed. The club wishes Chris and Jenny all the best on their long-awaited trip around Australia and I bet that they get to play on some great golf courses, but none better than Red Cliffs. Thanks Chris and Jenny for your support for the Red Cliffs Golf Club and we look forward to seeing you back again soon.

FAREWELL AND THANK YOU

As President Andrew mentioned in his report Marion Pengelly has indicated her intention to retire from her position at the club. Marion has been a long time employee of the Red Cliffs Golf Club as well as a regular playing member. She has maintained the club's financial records, as well as a host of other things during her time at the club and she will be sorely missed. The entire club would like to wish Marion and Gordon all the best for the future and hope to see them around whenever the opportunity arises.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITY

The Market Day: The result was a little disappointing with 200 less people through the gate compared with last year. Overall profit for the day is approximately \$3000.00, which is \$900.00 down on last year. A big thank you to Tom and Mick for their organization and to all those that helped out on the day.

The Annual Calendar: We need help! The calendar is a major fundraiser for the club and with Ron Baird out of action we desperately need someone to step up and take control otherwise we stand to \$3000.00 in relatively easy sponsorship. If you have some time to spare to make some phone calls please speak to Lois Briggs or Chris Healey as soon as possible. Here is an opportunity for a couple of members who do little around the club to put their hand up and support their golf club. What about it!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Australia Day Ambrose: Although quite some way off it is time to start organising your team for this tremendous annual event. What we would like to see is members organise players from other clubs into their team so we can attract more players from around the district. Our Australia Day Ambrose is becoming one of the highlight events of the calendar, so let's share it around.

Annual General Meeting: Members are reminded that the 2005 Annual General Meeting of the Red Cliffs Golf Club Inc. will be held in the clubhouse on **THURSDAY 8TH DECEMBER @ 7.30PM**. If you are interested in the future of your golf club you will make it your business to attend the AGM and get involved.

Christmas Tea: Mick Hogan has asked me to mention the 'Christmas Tea' coming up soon. He wasn't able to give me any details other than to say it will be on so keep an eye out for the notice when it appears in the clubhouse.

ON A LIGHTER NOTE

Mildred! Cried the golfer at his nagging wife, if you don't shut up you will drive me out of my mind. Mildred thought for a moment and then with a smile on her face said "That wouldn't be a drive it would be a short putt [boom boom]"