



RED CLIFFS GOLF CLUB Inc.

PO Box 449 Red Cliffs Vic. 3496

Tel: (03) 50241531; Fax: (03) 50241449

THE RED CLIFFS 'WHACKER'

ISSUE # 9 – FEBRUARY 2004

Editor's Note

I have snuck in before the president this issue, but that is my prerogative as the editor. The really keen readers would have picked up that this is the second February issue for the year. Well! I thought seeing that it is a leap year, why not do something different! The real reason is that the first issue for the year was late!

The second item I want to raise is more important:

PAY YOUR SUBS – PAY YOUR SUBS – PAY YOUR SUBS

The President's Message

Hello and welcome to issue #9 of the Red Cliffs Golf Club's Members Newsletter. We are well into the second month of the year and memberships are due and will be most welcome by March 1st, 2004. As is the usual for this time of year, your Club is in a financial bind and your membership contributions desperately needed so early payment would be most appreciated.

We have had a small response to my call for more volunteers in the last newsletter but more are needed. We need to relieve the burden on the current team, in particular Lois & Brian, so you're House-Chairman Mick Hogan is organising a new roster and an education program on working behind the bar. So please, see Mick and register your willingness to assist, the more we can get the shorter the shifts will be.

The syllabus is due out in the next week and my thanks go to both the men's and ladies match committee for a good job, well done.

In line with the syllabus, the social committee have put together a program of events that will take us through the year. The first of which is the Footy Tipping Comp. Get your names and money in. The second event is a BBQ following the Season Open Day. And then on Friday March 19th there will be a "Concert On The Course" to raise some funds for rebuilding of the 12th Green. My Band "Grab Ya Cat" has donated their time in exchange for a few drinks & tucker to play for you. It is in every member's interests to get behind this event. The Social Committee is to be congratulated for the work they have done in putting the program together, but they need your support to make things happen. Good golfing over the coming season. Rod Atkins.

PAY YOUR SUBS – PAY YOUR SUBS – PAY YOUR SUBS

This is the Captain speaking!

The recent hot weather has really affected the fields. Last Saturday 18 hardy souls [could be described otherwise – Editor] braved the conditions and on Sunday nobody played at all. Hopefully we won't strike too many weekends like that for the remainder of the summer season.

This year's syllabus contains a few more fun days designed to attract new players to the course. Once a month we have included an Ambrose in 2's, with an extra twist, on a Sunday. The idea is to bring along a non-member, or a new member that hasn't started playing yet and you have a bonus player. If you cannot get one then you play as a two.

Summer Pennant started Sunday 8th February and we beat Riverside Green 3 / 2. The winners were Lloyd, Chopper and Painsy. Unfortunately last Sunday Ouyen beat them 5 / 0. The juniors also played on the 8th February and won both of their games 5 / 1.

Medallist of the Year was Adrian Pike and the qualifiers for the Summer Cup are Julie Ann Wood to play Baden Stone in one semi final and Maurie Payne to play Al Raynor in the other.

PAY YOUR SUBS – PAY YOUR SUBS – PAY YOUR SUBS

Items from the General Committee

Issues raised by Tom Crawford at the last meeting were:

- Concerned about how some people are treating the golf carts and the course. The General Committee decided to put laminated instruction sheets in the carts
- We need to replace the 12th green, as it is full of couch grass. The General Committee decided to go ahead provided the money could be found from other sources such as special events, donations [etc]
- The club is able to claim a course completion subsidy for our past apprentice, Troy Tomlin. This money to be used for the 12th green.
- Tom has been approached by Sunraysia TAFE to do some part time lecturing to Horticultural Apprentices. Tom will do this work on his rostered days off and expects the commitment to be 40 hours per year. The General Committee congratulated Tom on his appointment as it illustrates his reputation as a turf manager.

More General Committee news over the page!

General Committee News [continued]

- Advice from Lower Murray Water re future EPA regulations re the use of effluent water. President Rod to seek a meeting with Lower Murray Water to discuss this matter and report back.
- The club has received advice that our submission to support Christie Walker has been approved for \$500.00. The general Committee resolved to look at other things that could be done to support Christie.
- The club made a small profit in January compared with losses in November and December. However the club's overall financial position is not good and subscriptions are needed NOW!
- We have had to have a new switchboard installed to ensure the cool room continues to operate.
- There is a desperate need for more volunteers to keep the club going, particularly behind the bar for outside events. These events are keeping the club going, but the same group of people cannot be expected to do it all. Rosters must be developed and stuck to!
- Several changes have been made to the Ladies catering team and Doreen Hamence will be assisting Bobbie Ramsay on a Friday night.
- The General Committee resolved that there would be one price for all drinks purchased at the bar. The take away price will be abolished. The reasons for this decision were that the existing arrangements were contravening our liquor license and causing considerable confusion to the volunteers behind the bar. The club is asking members to accept this decision and to keep on supporting the club.

The 2004 Social Calendar

The Social Committee has developed a program for the year based on the suggestions made at the recent open meeting. All members are asked to support the events as they come up.

The first event will be a BBQ following opening day on Saturday 6th March. Look out for details as they become available.

"CONCERT ON THE COURSE"

**A great night of live music featuring local band:
"Grab Ya Cat"**

**This eight piece Blues band will play your favorites
from the 60s to the 90s.**

BBQ tea and drinks at club bar prices

[No BYO due to licensing regulations]

**Bring your own chair or rug to enjoy the wonderful
outdoor setting at Red Cliffs Golf Club**

[one of Sunraysia's best kept secrets]

Friday 19th March @ 7.00pm

\$10.00 / head, kids under 12 free.

Getting the Finances Right – Chris Healey.

Last year saw our four - year run of losses come to an end and a modest profit posted. This was due to a tremendous effort by a dedicated band of volunteers who have worked relentlessly to get the club back on its feet. The main concern of the committee is that this reliance on voluntary labour at the current level we currently enjoy is not sustainable in the long run. We either need a lot more volunteers or a lot more members to support paid labour. Two critical factors that have been identified as necessary to ensure the long term survival of the club: -

1. **We need to increase the number of members to more than four hundred.**

Last year we were able to increase the membership from 250 to 300. This was achieved by signing up 95 new members – given the fact that 45 did not renew their membership. To achieve our goal of 400 members for 2004 will require a major effort.

2. **We need to increase participation rates in weekly competitions.**

We need fields of 100 (men and women combined) on Saturdays and 60 on Wednesdays and Sundays.

How do we achieve these goals?

Apart from the obvious – encourage friends, relatives, neighbours and past members to join the club and participate in competitions. Promote the excellent condition of the course and the friendly company of club members as some of the good reasons for joining.

As an incentive to recruit new members we are trying a new approach using an Ambrose in 2's + 1 on a few Sunday afternoons during the year. The strategy is that two members find a new recruit to play as a "bonus" player in an Ambrose. They do not need a handicap – they just need to play their competition fees. Hopefully by the end of an enjoyable day we have either signed up a new member, or encouraged a social playing member to participate in competitions. We would urge all members to make the effort to support as many of these days as possible and to support our recruiting efforts by finding a new face to play with. If you need help to find a recruit to play with talk to Mick Hogan, Chris Healey or Bobbie Ramsay and we will find someone for you to play with.

Remember our Slogan.

More Members = Less need for Volunteers

Club Shorts!

- Happy birthday to Christie walker who celebrated her 18th birthday recently.
- Last 'Sluggers Cup winners were Steve & Anthony Forrest. Next round Thursday March 11th, an Ambrose in 2's.

**PAY YOUR SUBS – PAY YOUR SUBS – PAY YOUR
SUBS.**