



JANUARY 2010

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Greg Libbis

I trust you all had a great Christmas and New Year, we can all now look forward to hopefully seeing some course redevelopment commencing in the first half of the year.

Our course has held up very well during the summer months and all credit must go to John Couzell and his team for managing their water reserves and maintenance program.

Our golf operations Staff have settled in nicely with the Pro-Shop looking spic and span – they have had a very busy summer with visitors and demand has been high, but they always greet members with a smile on their face and are very helpful and co-operative.

Over the break there has been a lot of activity around the club despite the fact that we are no more advanced on the redevelopment. I can appreciate the frustration this is causing to some members but until the Surf Coast Council give the green light to our water solution works will not commence. I want to assure all members that the RACV are ready to move the moment the Council approve the water solution. Drainage contractors have been appointed, tenders for the new clubhouse have been shortlisted and are about to be called.

Colin Jordan CEO of the RACV recently made a trip to Torquay to meet with Surfcoast Shire Council to try and finally resolve the water position and give the green light to build the pipeline through the parklands joining Duffields and Hoylake Roads to the 14th (new 16th tee) to capture storm water and divert into the new dams planned for the course.

In reply Council advised that they will not consider the matter until their February meeting.

Last Monday the committee met with Geoff Hose to view the final course design changes. There have been a number of positive changes to the course layout after earlier consultations with your committee. We hope to have some plans on the course for members to view by opening day (we believe you will be pleasantly surprised with the course changes).

The timeframe from start to finish of both the course upgrade and new clubhouse remains at 27 months once works commence.

On a sad note our Project Manager Geoff Hose has tendered his resignation to the RACV as he intends to pursue his retirement plans. Geoff has been a fabulous supporter of the golf club and has worked extremely well with your committee to ensure members are provided with a challenging but not a championship style course and has been very helpful and co-operative with the layout of the new clubhouse. His imprint on the redevelopment will remain strong but we will miss his input. Geoff has indicated to us that he will continue with the Project Managers role until 31st March and by that time he is hopeful that all final approvals and permits have been granted. We cannot thank Geoff enough for his efforts to date and wish him well.

Our inaugural Nine and Dine was a huge success and it has been a long time since we had a packed clubhouse on a Friday night. The Bistro, Gaming room, Members area and the deck we filled with members and friends having a wonderful night. Remember these are being held each fortnight whilst day light saving is in. Our next one is scheduled for Friday 5th February with timeslots available from 4.00pm to 6.00pm.

And don't forget....

- Our Rock N Roll night Saturday 30th January in the clubhouse. Cost is \$70 a double or \$40 a single. Numbers limited to 100 – book your spot at the office.
- Open day Sunday 7th February – 12.30 shotgun start with a BBQ lunch served by your committee from 11.30am

MANAGER'S REPORT – Richard Mierzejewski

Happy New Year to you all and let's hope this time next year we are well underway with the course re-development.

January has been a typically frantic time, huge fields, great weather, the course still in fabulous condition given the time of year and traffic it has had to cope with, a new look pro shop, golf staff and a new bistro menu.

Feedback from members on all these areas has been positive and thank you all for your help, patience and understanding while these transitional changes have been undertaken.

Members are reminded that all golf matters are now run from the pro shop and not the office which is designed to give you a better overall service. The new team of Nathan, Daniel, Andrew, Wanda and Judy look forward to meeting your needs. Special congratulations to Daniel, who has received his endorsement from Golf Australia as a provisional pro and also to become a father later in the year so lots happening in that household.

Janelle our Bistro Supervisor is leaving us early in February to travel overseas with her partner. She will be very sadly missed as she has been the one constant in the restaurant area and has always strived to deliver outstanding service. Good luck Janelle.

Jess in the front office has also decided to take a break from admin duties and will finish up in the office early February. She will not be lost to us altogether though as she will be seen in a part time role in the Bistro.

We have placed an order for a new oven in the kitchen which we expect to be operational mid February. This will greatly improve efficiency levels in the kitchen as John our Chef has had a very challenging time coping with old and failing cooking equipment. On a positive his new menu is getting great reviews so why not make a booking and find out for yourself.

Members are also advised that we are in the process of changing our procedures so that winners of competition prizes will shortly be able to convert these to Pro Shop vouchers. Watch this space for further details on when the change will take place.

KICK START THE NEW YEAR IN “ROCK N ROLL” STYLE

On Saturday 30st January 2010 we have arranged a Dinner Dance in the clubrooms (limited to 100 max.). Hap and Skaf a well known Melbourne based band who play all the major pubs have been booked. They play really good old fashioned rock n roll so why not get a big group together to celebrate with your fellow members. This will cost \$70 a double and \$40 a single inclusive of dinner, cheese and greens and lots of dancing. Book at the office.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please make note of the following main events and do your best to support them.

- Rock N Roll Dinner Dance Saturday 30th January 2010 7.00pm to 11.00pm
- Tuesday 2nd February Ladies Opening Day
- Friday 5th February Nine & Dine
- Sunday 7th February Club Opening Day
- Friday 19th February Nine & Dine
- Friday 6th March Nine & Dine

GREEN'S REPORT – Mike Brady

At our recent Greens Committee meeting, our Course superintendent, John Coulsell reported that for the 2009 calendar year the course received 512mm of rain. That was 70mm more than the course received in 2008. There is no doubt all will agree, the course is in as good a condition it has ever been for this time of year. John advised that water capacity was at approximately 60%. While it would be great to be able to water all fairways, the ground staff will continue to concentrate on watering of tees and greens. The excellent late spring rainfall has meant the mowers have been working overtime and going to areas that over recent years, growth has been minimal. In keeping with Council requirements, the strong grass growth has meant the staff has needed to undertake fire prevention work at the Jan Juc site.

Apart from the standard course maintenance work, the ground staff have fertilised fairways along with spraying herbicides on selected fairways to control broadleaf weeds. There has also been a need to spray selected fairways with insecticide to control black beetles. The greens continue to receive special attention dusting and on some greens spraying a wetting agent to control dry patches. All members are reminded of their duty to take care of the course. Happy golfing.

CAPTAIN'S REPORT – Gary Rogers

Record fields have made golf an enjoyable challenge throughout the peak January period. I trust your sores have been good and your handicap on the decline.

Whilst talking handicap the mooted change of handicapping system that Golf Australia had planned to introduce in February has been pushed back to April. In essence Golf link will administer the changeover so each member will simply have to wait until 1st April to learn what your new handicap will be. In essence they will look at your last 20 rounds. These will be converted to a stableford score. The best 10 of these 20 rounds will be isolated and an average of those 10 rounds calculated. That average will be multiplied by 0.94 which will become your new handicap. The experts predict that on average all golfers will see their handicap blow out by 2. Once your new handicap is advised the system will repeat itself – you best 10 scores out of your last 20 rounds will continue to be used to ascertain your handicap.

Junior Pennant and Senior Pennant will be in full swing come February – we will have two teams in both Junior's and Senior's. Once teams, venues and times are known we will advise.

It has been great to see capacity Saturday fields booked recently. However we have experienced a 5% drop out rate from late Friday until tee time Saturday. Whilst cancellations are a part of life we are concerned at the rate we experience as it potentially prevents other members from not getting a game. If you do have a booking but need to cancel it members are asked to make the cancellation early. We have commenced a programme of monitoring who pulls out late in the week and if there are repeat offenders you will need to explain your reasons to the Match Committee.

Tim Sinnott and Danny Willersdorf recently represented our club at the Master of Amateurs tournament at Yarra Yarra. Both did a sterling job representing your club but no silverware.

Our new golf syllabus has been signed off and it is at the printers as we write. These will be available on opening day Sunday 7th February 2010. Members should also note that the syllabus for 2010 is now live on our web site thanks to the efforts of our new Pro Nathan. Once in the members area click on bookings, pick the month and the dates etc all appear.

The RACV have recently advised that they will be boosting the number of motorized carts from the 6 we currently have to 12 for the remainder of daylight saving time. One of these will be quarantined for Golf operations so they can increase their course marshalling role.

In concluding who was the former vice president of the club who has business interests in golf equipment who arrived at the airport for an overseas business trip only to be advised by the lady at the check in counter that he was a day early!

LADIES REPORT – Chris Barr

Chris Barr our resident scribe is on leave and given the ladies programme is in “recess” over January there is not a lot to report. However our ladies President and Captain will be representing our club at a 4 day event at the RACV’s Royal Pines Resort in Queensland in March. We wish them our best.

PRO SHOP – Nathan Stubbs

I would like to thank everyone for the warm welcome you have extended to me and our new team in the Pro Shop. It has certainly been a busy time recruiting, setting up the new shop, marshalling record numbers of players and getting to know as many members as I can.

With the summer rush nearly behind us we will be focusing our attention on developing some new initiatives such as running regular “specials”, cranking up the lessons, getting out on course marshalling a bit more and expanding members access to golf equipment.

Coming soon we will have a range of Titleist, Cobra and Callaway golf sticks which we will be able to custom fit. And for the next few weeks check out our latest specials

- Callaway Tour Ix Golf Balls - \$59 Per Dozen
- Titleist DT Carry & Roll Golf Balls - \$29 Per Dozen
- Titleist Nxt Extreme Golf Balls - \$36 Per Dozen
- Titleist Nxt Tour Golf Balls - \$45 Per Dozen

If there is anything you would like us to consider or if you have a comment positive or otherwise about our performance or product offering let me know. If we can improve our service to you we will do our best to oblige.

SPONSORS

Once again we are indebted to our **Friday night raffle sponsors** Town & Country Meats and RACV.
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