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The newsletter of the
Goulburn Golf Club Ltd

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APRIL 2011 EDITION

So, another month passes, and again there is much to impart. I hope there is enough room here to provide readers with enough information around developments at your club.

1. Special General Meeting.

As previously announced, a **SGM** was convened on Monday, March 21st last, with sixty four members attending.

A range of issues was discussed, including the club's current financial position, as well as proposed developments. The minutes of this meeting are available from Sec-Man, but what is important to note is the contributions from the floor, with around twenty (20) suggestions forthcoming.

The input(s) included the **Amalgamation Proposal** (Members please note that this item is still very, very much in the early discussion stage), **Poker Machine Relocation, Marketing, Time-frames, a Golfing Members' Forum, a Review of**

Membership Categories, and the inclusion of a **"Drinks Ticket"** incorporated into the match-fees (Note that this free strategy will be implemented as a trial for a month from Thursday, March 31st.)

Also suggested was the need to **attract more young people** to our club on Friday and Saturday evenings, **having social events on a Sunday afternoon** (this is already being pursued), a **Survey of Members** (Again, the survey form will be available at the club, and in the Pro-Shop almost straight away), the availability of the club's **Strategic Plan** (This has been delivered to person requesting, and the most-recent version will be added to the web-site), the establishment of a **TAB Facility** (And this included reservations from some members).

Director Barry McEntee summarised the evening, concluding that it was less "you and they", and more about how "we and us" could address the issues. **Quite a positive night.**

The GGC Board discussed all the minuted points raised on March 28th, and as mentioned above, some of the suggestions are already in train.

With regard to the Golfing Member's Forum, a date has been set for that as well, and

Golfers are advised that this "focus group" will have its first meeting on Tuesday, April 12th, at 7:00pm.

The Board also agreed that it may be appropriate to invite those who provided advice, comments and suggestions at the SGM to be part of an implementation group, as attempts are made to initiate some of these strategies.

Contributors are thanked for their input on the night.

2. Casual Board Vacancy.

Advice has been received in the week of March 28th that Director Mal Hughes has been transferred in his bank job, and compelled to resign his commission. Mal has been an enthusiastic, insightful and valuable member of the Board since his appointment, and will be sorely missed.

Apart from chairing the Golfing Committee meetings, Mal's finance background was highly regarded by members of the Finance Committee also.

Thanks again, and good luck, Mal.

Obviously, that means an opportunity now exists to fill that vacancy. Interested persons should discuss this possibility with President Morris Owen, Sec-Man Bob Kirk, or any (other) board-member **prior to 30th April 2011.**

3. "In-house" Improvements.

Greg Croker has been looking after some of the improvements inside the club-house (some planned, some forced), particularly following the floods in December. It is the Board's intent to publish what has been completed, and what is planned (notwithstanding availability of funds). Persons who may be interested in assisting Greg to accomplish these tasks are invited to discuss this with Greg.

4. On-Course Vandalism

As disappointing as it is, it continues to occur, and is somewhat problematic to police, let alone prevent.

Most commonly, the damage is either purloining of flag-sticks, or damage to the greens caused by the same implement. More recently, not only were the flag-sticks removed from the greens, so were the cups!

Anyone witnessing this behaviour is asked to advise both NSW Police, and the club. It seems to be happening far too regularly, and becomes quite expensive over the course of a year.

5. Chipping/Pitching.

It has been reported that the somewhat enigmatic “person or persons unknown” have been using an area near the eighth to pitch/chip to the first and seventh greens.

If you are that mysterious golfer, please cease and desist immediately.

Not unexpectedly, and again, this leads to a request to all golfers to **repair divots and pitch-marks.**

The Golfing Committee continues to regard these matters as a **serious breach of golfing etiquette**, and will be moving to address this issue by way of a new by-law, approved by the Board on March 28th, and details will be made available at the Golfing Members Forum on 12 April, 2011.

6. Bryant's Pie-Drive

Director James Groves (Social) is coordinating this fund-raising venture, with a delivery date of Friday, April 15th next, from 2:00 – 6:00pm. **Order-forms need to be returned on or before Monday 11th.**

Forms are available from the club or from James. The pies will be locally-made by TBP Baking, and a variety of Meat and Fruit Pies (small and large), Sausage Rolls, Slices, Scones, Cookies and even Quiches are yours for the asking, at significantly reduced prices.

Members are encouraged to support this latest fund-raising initiative.

James is also looking for vollies to help on the afternoon of the 15th.

7. The GOULBURN CUP

Golfing members should note that this event (*formerly the Winter Cup*) has been re-named, as well as re-scheduled.

The Goulburn Cup will now be played on the weekend of May 14th and 15th.

The event continues to be supported by Barry McEntee's Goulburn First National Real Estate.

8. Catering Contract.

Coopers Brasserie P/L have been appointed as the club's caterers. Their principal, Matt Cooper, has visited the club several times during the past month or so, and despite having to go to Great Britain for a couple of weeks, began moving their equipment and provisions in during the week of March 28th, and will open for business from March 30th.

We look forward to a long and mutually beneficial tenure.

Thanks also to Melinda and Medeena for their assistance in assisting the bistro to continue trading, and functions to continue to be provided, whilst the negotiations for new caterers were taking place.

9. March Medal Winners

GENTS: Allan Hedges (Nett 65)

LADIES (SAT): Karen Marshall (Nett 71)

LADIES (WED): Jean Dooley (N 69)

Don't forget you can look up results anytime – just go to GGC's results pages via:

<http://www.goulburngolfclub.com.au/>

10. Possible Changes to Poker Machine Legislation

Some of you will no doubt be aware of the changes proposed to deter excessive poker machine usage by people referred to as “problem gamblers”.

In a co-signed letter to clubs and their representatives dated March 3rd 2011, **Jenny Macklin MP** (Min for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs), and **Bill Shorten MP** (Assist Treasurer and Minister for Financial Services and Superannuation) discuss a “full pre-commitment scheme the Government plans to introduce to help problem gamblers.”

It goes on to say that “The idea behind pre-commitment is that we can use technology to give people a tool, at the beginning of a gambling session, to think about how much they want to spend, set limits and stick to them.” Further, “We support a card-based solution that is easy for players to use....”

There is a possibility also that this initiative may include limiting ATM withdrawals to \$250/day at your club.

The full letter may be viewed on-line at:

<http://www.clubsnsw.com.au/circulars/1-035%20attachment.pdf>

A technology installation figure of around \$25,000 per machine has been bandied about lately.

For this club, with nineteen machines, that means \$475,000 in set-up fees – clearly impossible for us, without some sort of considerations or dispensations from those who would seek this reform.

Alternately, GGC is wound up.

For the information of members, and in the Goulburn Soldiers' Club Annual Report, their president (Steve Swadling) said this:

“These measures will be expensive, and will force us to cut jobs, increase prices...and reduce our community support. Punters will stop coming to the club and they will go online to gamble – reducing club revenue by about 30%.”

Toni Mitchell (GSC Gen Mgr) suggests further in her report that

“All forward plans have been put on hold pending the outcome of the new policy commitments...on gaming machines...the future of our club is under threat.”

You begin to get a feel for how seriously these reforms are being considered by (all) the clubs affected, and by ClubsNSW.

Please send the people below an e-mail, and let them know that securing Andrew Wilkie's vote will come at an enormous cost to the community at large.

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ministerial@treasury.gov.au

senator.stephens@aph.gov.au

Apologies for not including April's golfing program, but there are far more important issues at stake, all of which members are entitled to be informed about.

Maybe we'll get back to “normal” next month. Bye for now.

