



*Top o' the mornin',
at the top o' the third*

July, 2010

FORE!

The newsletter of the
Goulburn Golf Club Ltd

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JUNE 2011 EDITION

Welcome to the July edition of FORE! I hope you are finding the information that these few pages bring to you each month allows you remain informed of developments at your club.

Movements.

Last month, mention was made of Mal Hughes' departure as VP, and Finance Committee member, who also took on the Golfing Committee Chair. Since that time, a Director has been announced in Ben Holgate, who attended his first Director's Meeting at the end of May. Ben has also expressed an interest in the Golfing and Social Committees, so members can be assured of some energetic input on that stage.

That left the VP position open, and in the absence of the avalanche of nominations anticipated by me at least (perhaps somewhat naively), I have been elected as vice-president – mainly by acclaim!

I am still coming to terms with what the “promotion” might involve, however I look forward to working just that little bit more closely with the club's senior management, and gaining more insight in to the machinations of this historic golf club, I hope an onward and upward one.

Board Snippets.

Your board met on Monday May 23rd last, and I attach for your information, some insights from that meeting.

- **Finances.**

We are trading reasonably steadily, however we do have and will have shortfalls to make up, and are by no means out of the woods – I mention again that this can only be improved by increased turnover, and for this we require the on-going support of members and their guests – we now have a top-rate restaurant, whose licensees are regularly challenging their staff to deliver top-quality product and service to you.

The benefit to the club is from increased bar-trading, and for that we need, and are grateful for, your help.

- **Flood-damage repairs.**

You would already have observed some work going on around the clubhouse and environs with regard to “making good” some of the damage from the December flooding, and shortly, some re-lining of the areas downstairs is to take place.

It should be pointed out that quite a deal of restorative work will be going on around the course as well.

We are able to do this work due to insurance claims and grants.

Sec-Man Bob Kirk has been quite diligent in sourcing both, and has prepared a schedule of the expenditure which the board has endorsed, so be assured we are not increasing our debt level to program, or carry out these works.

- New Database.

You will soon receive rather a large package in the mail containing a lot of information about your renewal for 11-12 (and yes, it has gone up, but probably by about the average CPI increase only).

Please explore the information provided carefully, and comply with the requests for information as much as you possibly can, ensuring you return by the due date.

We will be switching over to a new club-management database system on July 1st, so your assistance and cooperation is essential if this is to be relatively seamless.

This new system actually costs less to run than the existing set(s), so there is a benefit to the club in that respect.

It will also bring us in to line with so many other clubs both in NSW and nationally, bringing with it an advancement in technology such as card-swiping terminals, “rewards systems” and the like.

While there may well be some “glitches” implementing the new system, I feel confident you will quickly master it, and adapt to this “new-age technology” as well. It will (still) run in parallel with **GOLFLink™**, and should not affect your access to, or information from, that site.

- Reviving Reciprocal Visits

In response to a suggestion received via the Open Forum, I am able to report that Morris Owen has written to both Royal Canberra and Federal Golf Clubs with a view to re-starting Bi-annual Reciprocal Visits between the clubs.

We have not heard back from either club at the time of going to press, however as soon as we do, you will read about it in the next issue.

- Delegate to GolfNSW, Zone D

Roger Fidler has been nominated by the club to attend this division as GGC’s representative.

- Ladies News – Red Cross Day

Held recently, this was a very successful day, and conducted in near-perfect conditions. \$150 was raised as a result, for the continuing great work of The Red Cross group.

Ann Ridley not only ran, but won the annual Hoddle Cup event, with what was said to be a record score for this particular event.

Pru Gutzeit scored the first hole-in-one for the Ladies in 2011 during Round One of the Hoddle Cup.

Junior Hope Cohen maintains the good form she had reported in the “Post” recently, winning the U/18 Championship in Queanbeyan in early May.

On June 8th, a Single Stableford will be played – this was an omission in the Ladies’ Program Booklet.

Our apologies for this oversight.

Pokies, Pollies, and “Pre-Commitment”

Most members would be aware of various MP’s agendas in this regard lately.

It has been said in this Newsletter before, that like them or not, virtually all small clubs (and pubs) around the country are reliant on these machines for a significant proportion of their income – that is, working capital.

Certainly ClubsNSW had taken up the cudgels in terms of mounting a strong campaign against this initiative on behalf of their member clubs, including the creation of a website where people can have their say about the initiative, which, it would be fair to say, has polarised opinion the length and breadth of the country.

You would also have seen a range of posters around this club which invite, perhaps provoke comment, but most importantly there are petitions at this site that you can sign asking the Government to reconsider (At least!) This club has nineteen machines.

It has been suggested that possibly five of those are too old to accept the (alleged) “bolt-on” technology that would facilitate use of the Pre-Commitment Cards – so, some sums:

FIRST SUM:	5 NEW MACHINES,
(@ \$20-\$25K ea):	\$ 112,500
“Bolt-ons” x 14 (2 – 2.5K x 14):	\$ 31,500
Assume Freight/Install/Software etc:	\$ 6,000
Total Cost:	~\$150,000

SECOND SUM:	
Replace all 19 machines:	\$427,500
Assume Freight/Install/Software etc:	\$ 6,000
Total Cost:	~\$433,500

Anyone seeing a pattern here?

GGC is in no position, short or long-term, to be able to cope financially with what is a grossly unfair political impost, which is really a poorly-researched means to a political end. This course of action would limit our alternatives to such an extent that surrendering of the licensed premises may well be the only recourse available to us.

What can I do?

- Get GGC’s voice out there.
- Write to Bill Shorten, Jenny Macklin, Tony Abbot, Alby Schultz, Ursula Stephens. (**And Good Luck with that** – I have written to all these people twice in the last three months on behalf of the club – not one has responded!)
- Ask everyone in the club if they have signed, or would mind signing the petition, which is available at the bar.
- Go to the website, which is <http://www.its-unaustralian.com.au/>
(Copy this in to your browser if you are reading this on-line, or just select Control and (L) Click your mouse)
- Have a look at the info that’s there, and add your voice to the growing numbers of people opposed to this “strategy”.
- By the time the next election comes around our position may very well be untenable.
- On the bright side, putting golfing members Annual Fees up by about \$400 a year for three or four years might cover it – any takers?
(That was a joke, Joyce – a joke!)
- And if this doesn’t win “Rant of the Month” I have no idea what will!

(**NOTE: FORE! editor’s perspective only**)

Let's talk some positives!

Pennants Dinner (Sat 28MAY11)

This event was initially conceived to celebrate the great win by the A Grade Men's Pennants Team.

The event grew to become a celebration of all players who play pennants for our Club.

Teams with members present entertained us all with great stories of the seasons' games, their highs & lows. Around sixty GGC members attended what was to be a great night.

Gary Worboys was without doubt the greatest MC you could ask for, and with an abundance of humorous stories, he kept the night flowing along nicely.

Paul Falk also entertained us with some witty stories during some of the breaks.

An excellent 2 course dinner was provided by our own Cooper's Bistro and enjoyed by all.

The A Grade Pennants Team Manager Digger Gann praised his team, the Club, and the team's sponsor **GOULBURN FIRST NATIONAL REAL ESTATE**, represented by Club Director Barry McEntee and his wife Heidi.

Digger presented Barry and the Club (& also the team members) with a specially framed photo of the team to commemorate the win.

This was undoubtedly the best night that the Club as a whole has had to celebrate what we are all about - GOLF - that I have attended.

A combined night that provided such good camaraderie for all of our members.

It is a must that we make sure this goes into our joint Calendars to continue to build this spirit.

Congratulations and thanks go to all involved in organising the night.

Contributed by Morris Owen

Medallists

May Ladies (Wed): Veronica Williams

May Ladies (Sat): Ann Ridley

May Mens': Ray Selig

Congratulations to all winners

- Don't forget there's a nine-hole comp on on Fridays - \$5 members, \$10 Social.
- Please keep in mind that it is mandatory to carry a sand-bucket, as well as repair divot and plug-marks on the course – and not just yours, either – it would assist.
- We're always looking for **vollies** - see Bob Kirk, or Dave Potter.

LADIES CALENDAR, JUNE 2011

DAY	DATE	EVENT
WED	01JUN	R5 ClubsNSW + Club Medals
SAT	04JUN	As above
MON	06JUN	CSGA Ladies Vets
WED	08JUN	Single Stableford
SAT	11JUN	Single Stableford
MON	13JUN	PUB HOL - PRO-COMP
WED	15JUN	INV DAY – 2-PSN AMB
SAT	18JUN	Single Stableford
SUN	19JUN	VIKINGS SOCIAL GC, 09:00
WED	22JUN	3BBB GNSW PAR EVENT
SAT	25JUN	Single Stableford
WED	29JUN	GGC vs. TULLY PARK

GENTS CALENDAR, MAY 2011

DAY	DATE	EVENT
THU	02JUN	Single Stableford
SAT	04JUN	Monthly Medal (Stroke)
THU	09JUN	Single Stableford
SAT	11JUN	Single Stableford
MON	13JUN	PUB HOL - PRO-COMP
THU	16JUN	Single Stableford
SAT	18JUN	Single Stableford +4BBB
SUN	19JUN	VIKINGS SOCIAL GC, 09:00
THU	23JUN	Single Stableford
SAT	25JUN	Single Stableford
THU	30JUN	Single Stableford + 4BBB

No more room – more news next month.

