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The newsletter of the Goulburn Golf Club Ltd

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SPECIAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING EDITION - OCTOBER 2011

Welcome to the October FORE!

• ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Firstly, thanks very much to those who attended the AGM on September 26th last.

Numbers this year (74) were higher than for the last couple of AGMs, suggesting that more people were perhaps more interested in the club's fortunes, and future direction than previously. There were some very serious issues concerning this club's future direction discussed, and clearly, this month's issue will concentrate largely on what was presented at the meeting, and the club's outlook and plans for the future.

David Murphy, representing the club's accountants (Booth and Co, Nowra) was also in attendance and spoke to the financial report, as well as providing an auditor's perspective.

Reports were provided as well by the Ladies and Men's Captains, and President.

Morris' report was one which summarised the amalgamation process to date, and included **the need for the club as we know it to change, possibly markedly, if we are to survive.**

Morris went on to say that we are in very regular contact with the club's auditors, adding further that there was no way Directors would allow the club to trade insolvent.

The possibility of proceeding without a Secretary-Manager was discussed, however that strategy begat issues such as who would hold the (liquor/gaming) licences, and it was also pointed out that the current Sec-Man arrangement, in light of the circumstances, was on a month-to-month basis, and that by mutual agreement.

The President's Report concluded by requesting volunteer input from those with a secretarial and/or managerial background.

Like it or not, members and guests, it is far more complex than a weekly game of golf, and that requires recognition and action.

There were no formal written Notices of Motion submitted, in accordance with AGM procedure, nor were any proposed from the floor on the night.

In General Business, attendees were invited to discuss matters of concern – some of the issues discussed included the following:

- The drop-off in subscription renewals, and the reasons – some of which included an ageing population, people being time-poor, changes to work-patterns, and the rationalisation of family discretionary spending.
- In response to another query, it was pointed out that "Reduced Memberships" are available subject to certain conditions being met, and also to Board approval.
- The newly-installed software will assist in identifying all categories of membership (a function we didn't have with the previous software).
- The option of a \$350 membership (OCT11 – JUN12) was also proposed as a possible means of attracting some of the "lapsed" members back to the fold, and will be considered.

Members were also advised of a visit from a representative of a "membership marketing" firm, taking place on Thursday Sep 29th. The outcome of that event is TBA.

- The on-going connection with **AUSTAR** was also discussed, its cost PA vs. benefit to members, however it was requested that the potential cost from losing income from those members who enjoy/employ the facility be kept in mind also.
- Members were advised that the possibility of a weekly column in the local paper was also being explored, and that while this was expensive in terms of "buying space", a sponsor for this initiative was being sought.
- A question about the cleaning costs as listed was explained in terms of total cost of service, eg cleaning plus consumables etc.

- The matter of Social Golfing Club fees were raised, and it was reported that the Golfing Committee had reviewed these some time ago, and there is a possibility that they could be reviewed again.
- A question around the use of vouchers as prizes was responded to by the Captain.
- The possibility of a TAB facility was raised, however it was responded to by Director Barry McEntee, who led the exploration of this – it was agreed that the cost of installation (~\$23K) vs. the likely return over time, made it next to impossible for this club, in its current state, to consider its acquisition. The results of this investigation can be discussed with Barry, who was quite diligent in investigating this option.
- It was agreed that there were inconsistent reports around the catering – it was reported to the meeting that this is an aspect of the club's functions that is constantly monitored by the Sec-Man.
- The possibility of picking up extra sponsors will be explored.
- The increase in cost of the Direct Debit facility was explained as a fee that the "Slice" software people collect as part of the new software package.
- An update on the amalgamation process was requested, and responded to by Pres and Sec-Man.
A large part of the Wyong concern included the lease-renewal for use of this Crown Land as a public facility. All the administrative hoops have been jumped through by GGC, and the local Lands Dep't people. The new lease awaits Ministerial approval, and that is understood to be pending. In terms of a "wish-list" and what GGC had to offer potential "suitors", the Sec-Man referred to a document first compiled in 2009, one which has since been added-to and amended several times. I am sure Bob would be only too happy to provide interested members with the most-current document.
- Finally, one member wished it minuted that the Board of Directors be congratulated for their efforts in 10-11 in terms of making "courageous" and sometimes unpopular decisions in the interests of the club and its members.

Nearly all this information is now available on the club's web-site.

- **Just where do my fees go?** Harry Ford, GGC Vice-President, and Director of Finance, has suggested that some dissection of golfing members' annual fees might be in order, so you are advised thus:
 - **Full Member:** \$625 less GST \$57 = \$568 net return to the Club.
 - **Pensioner Member:** \$525 less GST \$48 = \$477 net return to the Club.
 - **Country Member:** \$425 less GST \$39 = \$386 net return to the Club.

We then have Affiliation with:

- **NSWGA:** \$29.92 per Senior Member, while it's \$14.96 for Juniors
- **ACTDGA:** \$7.26 per Senior Member, while it's \$3.63 for Juniors
- **Golf Australia:** \$2.75 per golfing member.

If member subscriptions are paid by card, that equates to \$10 per transaction, which is a cost to the Club.

Then in general terms, we have the cost of Trophies, Pro Retainer, and Course Maintenance and Repairs, as well as maintaining the Clubhouse, all of which need to be factored in annually. ***It ain't cheap, people!***

- ***Practice Nets.*** We would like to have a working bee around the new Practice Nets – please speak to either Bill Hughes or David Potter.
- ***Fundraising Day*** – Bit of early notice - an Ambrose is being proposed for 8 January, 2011, raising funds for Luke Humphries who will be travelling overseas representing New South Wales.
- ***Melbourne Cup Day*** – a \$25 Melbourne Cup Day Luncheon will be available on the day – book your party or group now!
- ***New Year's Eve*** – there will be a NYE Party here as well, and more details about that one will be published as they come to hand, and as the date for the fixture draws nearer. **Why not put it in the Diary now!**
- ***Poker Machines*** – by way of an update, may I refer you to last month's report – it's exactly the same (apart from my writing to them all **(AGAIN!!!)** on September 25th last – for what is now the fourth time, which is to say no-one has bothered responding.

You can still have your say, though, at:

<http://www.its-unaustralian.com.au/>

- **Course Enhancements** – The course improvements funded by The Veolia-Mulwarae Trust are now complete, and look great. Again, our thanks must go to the trust administrators, and Gail Moroney and the Ladies Committee, who developed the submission.

Thanks again also to Gary Privett and his team from “Privett Haulage and Roadworks”.

Look out for the new signage

- **From the Ladies’ Locker-Room**

Ladies’ Captain Gail Moroney has provided a copy of her report, which is really helpful to extract news from about the Ladies, so thanks for that, Gail.

Some of the information provided by Gail this month includes these few points:

The Handicappers are becoming more experienced with the new computer system and it is a great help to us to have the ball rundown completed and printed and also player’s eclectics done automatically.

I am sure all members would be as one in congratulating Desma Carter in a real highlight, that being the crowning of Desma as NSW Div 3 Country Champion. Des took an impressive lead on the first day at Cronulla with 42 stableford points and held off the field at the very challenging Woolawara Club to win by 4 points on day two. Des’ win is especially significant, as we have no record of any other Goulburn player winning the top spot at this championship.

Flyers regarding our recruitment/open day have been sent to several women’s clubs and also posted in the small shops around town. We already have some names so we are looking forward to a successful day.

Through the efforts of Karen Marshall and the Ladies Committee, and thanks to our players, the GGC lady members have won the Nita Devlin Trophy for their donation to Junior Golf promotions.

Just on \$500 was raised from novelty events and raffles and this will be used by the CSGA to promote junior golf in our district”.

Thanks, and well done, ladies.

- **GOLFLink™ Changes**

In a nutshell, these are the handicapping amendments that came into effect on September 21st last:

- Alter Best 10 of 20 to **Best 8 of 20**.
- Change the “Bonus for Excellence Multiplier” **from 0.96 to 0.93**.
- Introduce an anchor which will prevent a player’s handicap from increasing any more than 4 strokes beyond their best exact handicap from the previous 12- month rolling period.
- Golf Link will cap the score that goes into a player’s handicap record at no more than the following amount over the course rating: 50 for women and 40 men.

Need more? Copy this link into your browser:
<http://www.golflink.com.au/GolflinkArticle.aspx?contentUrl=/CMS/site-content/handicap-changes/handicap-news,-answers-and-updates#ixzz1YIfj6WpM>

- ***It’s your club, remember*** – Now that daylight saving is upon us, what better time could there be to avail yourselves of your club’s amenities. How about a lazy nine holes on any afternoon, followed by a cool beer and, or a social drink with family and friends, maybe some dinner – all in a great “country-style” setting. With a range of available space, and a variety of snack and “finger-food” menus, GGC should be at the top of your list when considering a venue for any occasion – in fact, why not have your work facility’s Christmas function at your club – put in a bid now, though! You’d be doing yourself, your workmates, and of course your club a great favour by utilising your facilities for your next function. It’s also a great opportunity for your club to increase social membership, simply through the very people you introduce to it. We should all be making an effort to target, or invite, or entice more social members to the club. Targeting that particular group was in fact a recommendation from the club’s accountants at last year’s AGM.

- **Luke Humphries Luke made the cut (60) in Singapore, and finished a creditable T27th, with scores of 75, 69, 73, 70 (-1). Great job Luke – Well done!**

- **October Calendars** - As you will see from the October Calendars in the next column, a really big month is planned for October, equating to a golfing activity every day – and that doesn't count regular participants such as the Workers and RSL Social GCs, the "Railway Comp", and the day-to-day social golfers. It's worth mentioning. So please spare a thought for "Pottsy" and his small but very busy team, and help us yourselves by maybe picking something up that could choke a or stall a mower for example, or pruning the "bottle-trees", and just simply repairing pitch-marks and divots. **How hard can that be?**

- **Monthly Medallists for October**

Again, and at the time of writing, the October medallists have not been decided – I will list those winners in the November edition. As promised last month, the September medallists were:

September Ladies (Wed): **Karen Marshall (N64)**
 September Ladies (Sat): **Karen Marshall (N75)**
 September Gents: **Matt Langbein (N67)**

Congratulations again to the medal-winners, who ever they may be, for October

- **Contribution to on-course maintenance**
 Just another reminder that it is mandatory to carry sand-buckets, as well as repair divots and plug-marks on the course – they don't always have to be just yours, either, and it would assist the grounds staff significantly in their remediation work.

- **And finally, the editorial:**

While suggestions are always welcome and indeed invited, the manpower required to implement them is rarely as forthcoming. "The Board should do this", or "The Board should do that", is always much easier said than done.

I spoke to one member the day after the AGM, who said "We (the members) have to get off our a__s and start helping out if we are going to survive this". A remarkable piece of insight, and one most worthy of mention.

How about giving your club a hand?

LADIES CALENDAR, OCTOBER 2011

DAY	DATE	EVENT
SAT	01OCT	STROKE
MON	03OCT	PUB HOL – PRO-COMP
WED	05OCT	SING STABLEFORD
SAT	08OCT	STROKE
SUN	09OCT	GORDON HOPE AMBROSE
TUE	11OCT	GBN v BOWRAL @ BOWRAL
WED	12OCT	SING STABLEFORD
SAT	15OCT	SING STABLEFORD
TUE	18OCT	CLUB CHAMPS, R1
WED	19OCT	CLUB CHAMPS, R2
SAT	22OCT	STROKE
TUE	25OCT	CLUB CHAMPS, R3
WED	26OCT	CLUB CHAMPS, R4
SAT	29OCT	SING STABLEFORD
MON	31OCT	GNSW PLAYOFF
TUE	01NOV	MELB CUP LUNCHEON
WED	02NOV	CANADIAN F'SOMES

GENTS CALENDAR, OCTOBER 2011

DAY	DATE	EVENT
SAT	01OCT	MEDLEY STABLEFORD
MON	03OCT	PUB HOL – PRO-COMP
THU	06OCT	SING STAB, + 2BBB
FRI	07OCT	"MEN of LEAGUE" AMB CABRA CLAN GC
SAT	08OCT	MONTHLY MEDAL CABRA CLAN GC
SUN	09OCT	GORDON HOPE AMBROSE
SUN	09OCT	CABRA CLAN GC
THU	13OCT	SING STAB, + 2BBB
FRI	14OCT	JOHN & SEND CORP DAY
SAT	15OCT	D & C CHALKER'S SING STAB & 2BBB DJ's SOCIAL CLUB
SUN	16OCT	DJ's SOCIAL CLUB
THU	20OCT	SING STAB, + 2BBB and  Cup
FRI	21OCT	2GN CORP DAY
SAT	22OCT	MEN'S CHAMPS, R1
SUN	23OCT	MEN'S CHAMPS, R2
THU	27OCT	SING STAB, + 2BBB
FRI	28OCT	ELDERS CORP DAY
SAT	29OCT	MEN'S CHAMPS, R3
SUN	30OCT	MEN'S CHAMPS, R4
TUE	01NOV	MELB CUP LUNCHEON
THU	03NOV	SING STAB, + 2BBB
SAT	05NOV	SINGLE STABLEFORD

All the best, Michael Deegan, Editor
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