

Axedale Golf Club

Newsletter

December Issue
Editor: P. Sherriff

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another year is nearly behind us, amazing where do the years go?

Looking back on the past year the Club has experience the highs and the lows. The highs of course include the procurement of the grant to enhance our irrigation system for the watering of the greens and surrounds then the further grant to upgrade the irrigation to water the fairways. Not forgetting the "Perseverance" grant to carry out the paving work to enlarge the assembly area, this will be carried out in the not to distant future.

Another high for the year was the ever growing status of Chris Mueck, not only with the Club but throughout the Region and further more winning the Victorian Country Championship. Chris's year was topped off by winning the Robert Allenby Development Scholarship. Congratulations Chris on a great year, let's hope that next and future years will see you go on to greater heights.

Thankfully there were not too many lows, but it was disappointing at the lack of numbers at functions, in particular the Presentation Day. The Club can only go forward if Members support the functions and events. Of course the ongoing dry conditions that are straining the Clubs resources are concerning, this is out of our control and we can just hope and pray that these conditions improve during the next year or so.

With the holiday period fast upon us we are asking members to assist in patrolling the course to ensure that green fee players are paying their dues, the Club is losing a lot of money through people who believe that they can come to Axedale and have free golf. We as members pay our membership to play, we don't get free golf so why should non members? Also this will assist the Club financially to enable us to carry out works, etc. to improve our Club. Those who can spend a couple of hours patrolling the course can contact myself or any member of the committee and we can pass your name onto the appropriate person.

As this will be my last report for this year I would like to thank all concerned who have contributed in the running of the Club in any way, your contributions are greatly appreciated. To all members and their families I would like to wish you all a very and safe Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Yours in golf

Ian Martin



CHRISTMAS BREAK UP FOR VOLUNTEERS

THE PRESIDENT AND COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND AN INVITATION TO **ALL VOLUNTEERS** WHO ASSISTED THE CLUB THIS YEAR TO ATTEND A COMPLIMENTARY GAME OF GOLF FOLLOWED BY DINNER ON THURSDAY 13TH DECEMBER 07. 12 HOLE GAME OF GOLF COMMENCES AT 5 PM FOLLOWED BY CHICKEN & SALAD DINNER AT APPROX 7 PM

FOR CATERING PURPOSES RSVP TO PATRICE SHERRIFF ON 5439 7506 or EMAIL PATRICE ON msherriff@tadaust.org.au BY 11TH DECEMBER (LEAVE A MESSAGE ON THE ANSWERING MACHINE)

LADY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is the weeks before Christmas,
All is quite still
Out at the club house
Which gives us a thrill,
For there once was a day,
When we were tested and tried.
Because a great luncheon needed much work applied;
But all that is done and the rest is enjoyed.
Because the action to another date was deployed.
So now may your Christmas bring you much joy,
A new set of golf clubs or some special toy
But whatever your fortune, whatever the reason,
I pray you'll share happiness this festive season.



Remember we have an 'in house' Christmas bring and share lunch Friday, December 14th. I look forward to enjoying some Christmas cheer with both the Friday and Wednesday girls and other friends then.

Christmas cheer and safe travelling to you all.

Jan Fry

LADY CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Numbers for the ladies throughout September and October were good with an average of 30 playing an increasingly dry course. Quite a few handicaps were broken, due to a combination of good golf and the extra run. I do believe a dry weather table should be applied very soon.

Monthly medal winner for October was Helen Lindrea with an excellent 82 – 16- 66.

The 9 hole competition for the Spring luncheon, with 17 teams playing, went smoothly.

Presentation day on 17th October also went very well with some great trophies donated by Warehouse Electrical Sales of Mitchell St.

The ladies committee supports the aim to gain sponsorship for more ladies' Wednesday golf. Any one with any ideas or connections who would be interested please speak to a ladies' committee member or myself.

The main winners of the winter season were as follows

Eclectic – June Tully 56.5

Putting Mary Browne 93 putts

Pars (36-45 h'cap) – Jennifer Goddard

Crows – Dos Gunn – 5

Birdies – Helen Lindrea – 7

Best Gross scores – A – Helen Lindrea, Loretta Prowse 82

B - Irene Murdoch – 88

C - Dos Gunn ---- 98

On the 31st October, we trialed a new tee off plan for the next winter season. Hopefully, one of the aims will be to have the men on the course instead around the clubhouse as the women play the 18th and the 1st also the men can be back in the club house a little earlier before the light fades mid-winter.

Summer golf commenced November 7th. Hit off between 7.30am – 9am. Please refer to the tee-off schedule on the clubhouse window.

Please note that female players can only ride in golf carts on gold letter events and on monthly medal days if they have submitted a medical certificate.

Yours in golf,

Loretta.

**CONGRATULATIONS BEV FITZPATRICK FOR
HER HOLE IN ONE ON THE FIRST HOLE**

PRESIDENT YEARLY REPORT

2007/08 - Update

The Committee is considering several issues and some feedback from members with their views would be appreciated.

This newsletter is also opportune to ask members to forward their Email address to our Membership Secretary Mr Garry Harrop at kilbracken@bigpond.com to assist with communication in the future.

Opportunity has also been taken to update all members on recent achievements and improvements.

September saw the completion of the \$ 49,000 Stage 2 Community Water Grants project involving the replacement of the old green-side sprinklers with modern back to back sprinklers allowing independent flow control to each sprinkler head.

A most generous \$3,500 Sponsorship arrangement with Bendigo Mazda & Bendigo Toyota funded the purchase and installation of an Automatic Injection System (for wetting agents etc) into the Irrigation system .

In October the Committee purchased temporary irrigation water from Campaspe irrigators at a cost approaching \$18,000 to maintain Greens, Green surrounds, Green approaches, & Tees.

With an assurance of water, works will commence to restore the Green surrounds to their pre drought condition. The assurance of water has also enabled work to continue with the Tee reconstruction program to level and re - surface several tees with Santa-anna couch.

The Club also secured soil at no charge from the Superpipe project, and this will be used over the next few years to undertake course improvements recommended in the Course Architects forward look plan.

In November the Club was also informed that it was successful with its water saving submission in round 3 of the Community Water Grants. This Grant provides \$41,867 for the club to replace the old inefficient fairway sprinklers with modern geared sprinklers, improving flow distribution with direction control. Installation will be programmed for Autumn/winter when ground conditions soften up.

The Reserve Committee was also advised it was successful with its application to Perserverance Mining for a \$2,000 Community grant towards improvements around the marshalling area involving some landscaping & bitumen.

From a financial perspective with all the Irrigation infrastructure upgraded at minimal cost to the Club, the major items of equipment in reasonable repair, with no debt in respect to the Clubhouse and only a small loan outstanding for recent equipment updates, the long term future appears positive providing normal rainfall conditions return.

The drought and lack of irrigation water however has had a significant impact on the Clubs 06/07 Income with a similar forecast for 07/08.

Green fee income has plummeted from \$57,700 in 2000/01 to \$41,700 in 05/06, falling to a low of \$27,700 last year.

Course conditions together with the drop off in tourist dollars from Eppalock during holiday periods were major factors. It is also our view that the amount of *free* golf by Green Fee players has increased. Members can assist in this area by politely asking for Green Fee players to produce receipts.

This 2007/08 season presents a most challenging financial year with a Budget deficit estimated at around \$30,000 due primarily to the water purchase and falling Green fee income .

In line with many other Clubs it has been suggested by several members that the Club should give consideration to **introduce a small levy of say \$1 or \$2 on every 18 hole competition event player to assist with the water purchase** for the remainder of the 07/08 season . Prior to the Committee giving consideration to the suggestion and the amount we would appreciate members views.

Should you have any objection or desire to express an opinion in respect of this issue please feel free to discuss with myself or Vice President- Graeme Rooke.

The Club has also been approached by *Super IGA Strathfieldsaye* to have members participate in an alternative sponsorship arrangement referred to as :

“The Community Group Rewards Program”

The program requires at least 50 Club Members to sign up as a group representing the Axedale Golf Club – there is no financial obligation.

You would be given a coded membership tag which when presented at the cash register when shopping at IGA Strathfieldsaye (including Liquor store & Bakery), points would be allocated to the Axedale Golf Club at 1 point for every \$1.00 spent (100 points represents \$1.00 to Golf Club)

If 50 members spent say \$100 / week at this store this would see the Axedale Golf Club receiving \$2,500 in rewards over a 12 month period.

If you occasionally shop at this store and are prepared to sign up on behalf of the Club ***please indicate your willingness in your E -mail to Garry*** and we will make further contact with you about the sign up soon.

The Club is also developing a Website which we hope will be operable early in the New year

Good Golfing and please support our Sponsors when possible.

Ian Martin
President

RULES OF GOLF

2008 CHANGES

The R & A has announced the 2008 changes to the Rules of Golf.

Golf has 34 playing rules and in 2008, 28 have been amended to a greater or lesser extent. All changes are agreed, jointly by the R&A and the United States Golf Association, and can be characterised as improving clarity or reducing penalties to ensure that they are proportionate.

These changes are effective from 1 January 2008.

A summary outline of the 2008 changes will be posted on the bulletin board at the club but the more significant changes, most likely to be encountered by golfers in regular play are:

Revised Rule 12-2 allowing a player to lift a ball in a bunker or water hazard for identification purposes. There is a consequential change to Rule 15-3, which introduces a penalty for playing the wrong ball in these circumstances.

Revised Rule 4-1 reduces the penalty for carrying, but not using, a non-conforming club from disqualification to, in stroke play, a penalty of two strokes per hole, with a maximum penalty of four strokes per round. In match play, the state of the match is adjusted by deducting one hole for each hole at which a breach occurred, with a maximum penalty of two holes per round.

Revised Rule 19-2 reduces the penalty for the accidental deflection of the ball by the player, his partner, their caddies or equipment to one stroke in both match and stroke play.

Copies of the 2008 Rules of Golf book will be available from the clubhouse when they become available next year.

Members are encouraged to carry a Rulebook with them on the course and to refer to it, when necessary.

NEW REGULATIONS GOVERNING DRIVERS

Golf Australia wishes to remind golfers that they should continue to plan for the full introduction of the new Rule relating to drivers. This rule will limit the spring-like effect a driver may exhibit.

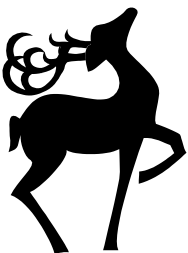
The new regulation states that driving clubs with a loft of 15 degrees or less must not have a characteristic time greater than 257 microseconds when measured on pendulum testing apparatus approved by R&A Rules Limited. The penalty for use of these drivers is disqualification.

A list of clubs known to have a characteristic time greater than 257 microseconds can be found on the R&A web site. This can be accessed via www.golfaustralia.org.au.

DISTANT MEASURING DEVICES

From 1 January 2008, the Association has determined that a player will be permitted to use devices that measure distance only in all V&A events including V&A and Colts Pennant.

Note that use of devices that gauge or measure other conditions that might affect a player's play (example wind or gradient) will not be permitted.



**THE AXEDALE GOLF CLUB
PRESIDENT AND COMMITTEE
WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND
A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR
TO ALL ITS MEMBERS FOR 2008**