

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

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FEBRUARY 2008



We are starting to see improvements in many areas of the Club including the house activities, membership, competition participation and profitability. These are all excellent trends as well as having a course to be proud of. There has been a lot of hard work to make this happen and the pain is not yet over but we are getting there. A big thanks to all those who have, and continue to, contribute and volunteer to bring about these positive changes.

Membership

There has been further growth in the membership since our last report. New members are still taking advantage of the introductory offer of \$400, or pro-rata thereof, for their first year of membership. New 5, 6 and 7 day members since 1 July 2007 numbers are 62. In that same period there has been 27 resign their membership in these categories, leaving us with a net increase for the year to date of 34 additional members. This is a very pleasing result and the first time in a number of years we have had such an increase.

There was also a junior \$5.00 membership initiated at the beginning of the school holidays, which expires on 30th June 2008. This was a trial to see what new juniors we could entice into the Club. All expectations have been exceeded with 95 juniors taking advantage of this special offer.

We are now developing plans to support and keep these juniors in the Club by inviting them, together with their parents, to attend a special orientation day. This will be held on Sunday February 17th commencing at 9am. The focus of this morning is to outline their responsibilities as a member including course etiquette as well as offering them information and encouragement about attending junior coaching clinics and providing some other golfing tips. The plan is to also have a round of golf (9 holes) followed by a bbq lunch. We would love to have some volunteers to support and attend this event to play golf with a group of juniors. The success of this program will determine if such a program should be an annual offer.

If you're willing and available please let Kathleen know.

COURSE

It is a credit to Mark Thomson and his team for the excellent presentation of the course. We have had many members and visitors commenting on the course. The course is not only terrific for playing on but also a good selling point at present and the committee is looking at ways the course can be better marketed to golfing enthusiasts, especially in the western districts of Victoria. Water usage is still a concern as the summer has again been such that above average watering has been required to keep the course in its current condition. Mark is continually monitoring water usage and maintaining contact with Water SA regarding our usage. We currently conducting a 3 month trial of only cutting greens on the Saturday mornings of monthly medal days and special tournaments.

Administration

Kathleen is managing the administration well and has most parts of the job under control. She is using some volunteers to assist where needed and will soon start organizing back-up for when she takes leave. Thanks to Heather Hadnum and David Turnbull for their help with specific tasks. Members will also be pleased to note that Kathleen has been transferred from a contract employee to a club employee effective from 1st February 2008.

House

The house activities have been the largest turn around in costs and profitability. All functions are now being costed and paid labour is at a minimum. Friday night volunteers are a big component of the profitability turn-around of these nights. There are a growing number of people attending Friday nights, many of these are not club members. The new chef has also proven to be a plus and has improved the meal quality. Members are encouraged to continue supporting the Friday night meals as they are good social nights.

The house committee has also decided to no longer take on catering for weddings and formal functions. We are recommending various professional caterers, if you know of any who ought to be on our list, please let Kathleen know. The club is still controlling the bar and collecting a venue hire fee. This will assist in the Club's image with these events.

Many thanks to Sam and the team of volunteers as this has been a huge effort.

Anthony Williams continues to do a fantastic job of managing the bar and all the stock control etc, for the bar to function the way it does. He also ensures the tables are set up ready for dining on Friday nights and other functions. Anthony is to be acknowledged for his willingness to take on whatever needs to happen in the bar/club house, often going above and beyond his paid role and responsibilities.

Match

It has been pleasing that there is a trend of increasing numbers, playing on both Thursdays and Saturdays. This is the result of new members playing as well as existing members enjoying playing on our best course for some time.

Ladies have just resumed although there have still been quite a number of ladies playing on Wednesdays as well as the regulars on Tuesdays.

The Match Committee is looking at commencing a Sunday & Tuesday 9 hole competition for both Ladies and men. We will keep you informed on this event.

It was pleasing to see the success of the Australia Day Weekend Ambrose competition. Thank you to Graham Greenwood and others for organizing the day. Also thanks to Andrew Stark and Anthony Williams for their initiative in organizing the catering for the day. Well done to all of you and others who contributed to making the day a success.

Congratulations to the Max Young Memorial Trophy winners.



Congratulations to Henni Nieuwendyk on winning the Lens Trading BBQ competition.

The Diary for the new golf year is almost complete and ready for the printers.

Finance

As you can see from the above the Club seems to be turning around and there are many positives that we are hopeful will continue. They include better returns from the house activities, lower labour costs in the house, more competition rounds, more involvement in volunteering and an all round better feeling in the club. All these have led to an improving monthly financial position. We still have a lot of work to do and potential changes to be made to further improve our financial position to where we sustain profitability. The full year result will still be relatively poor as it has taken a concerted effort and time to make the necessary changes.

The Finance committee has commenced looking into other ways of increasing the revenue base and are planning to run some of these activities, of which the first will be a major raffle. All members can do their bit of supporting this committee by selling some tickets and end up with a great result.

We would expect the next few months to continue to be sound with good weather, high competition numbers and continued cost control. When the colder months arrive we can expect some drop off in activity but hopefully still above the levels of last year

Development Committee

Many members are talking about the options that have been presented to them by Empak and Mount Percy Developments and are anxious of the outcome.

This committee is still waiting on a few matters to be finalized by Empak & Mount Percy Developments where the committee have asked for further consideration in relation to specific parts of their proposals. Versace Home Builders have also put a further proposal to the committee that is currently being considered.

What we are able to inform you is that a presentation will be given to the members within 2-3 weeks and then the members will have the opportunity to vote on the proposals about 2 weeks after that. All members will be notified of the specific details of this presentation as soon as we confirm dates.

Junior Development



The junior clinics have recommenced after the Christmas/new year break.

As stated previously we are pleased to have the large group of new juniors and hope we can encourage them to attend coaching clinics and then participate in the club competitions in the same way as many of our other juniors.

Thanks to Mark Killick and his team and the volunteers for the constant effort each Sunday morning to conduct

these clinics. Mark is looking for other helpers for these clinics and especially when we start with the added numbers of the newer junior members. Please see Mark if you can help, even if it is only for a couple Sunday mornings. It is only an hour so to contribute to supporting these vital junior development programs.

Reminders From the office

Membership Details – If you have changed your postal address, contact details, email address or your birthday has been in the past couple of months and missing from the birthday board in the club house, please inform Kathleen so that your details can be updated on our system.

...and Finally

We believe the Club is improving all the time and it shows by what seems to be a renewed interest shown in the club by our members.

Again we thank all those members who are working in

the bar & kitchen for Friday night catering, for other special functions, at working bees and in any other way that contributes to our club being a place members enjoy playing golf and socialising.

If you can see your way clear to assist in any way, and particularly with fund raising activities, we would like to hear from you by letting a member of the committee know or advising Kathleen of your willingness to help – the old adage “many hands make light work”

Keep up the positive attitude and above all make new members welcome.