



Here is the Club's March 2019 newsletter.
We hope you enjoy following what is happening at your Club.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Once again a busy golf month

The rain has finally arrived and our course is showing the benefit. Fortunately, to date we have lost one day of golf. Captain Gary's cart directing sheet has kept carts on the course. Please observe these directions and stay off the fairways.

There has been work done with Micropower and our IT people. The Micropower site is now functioning pretty much as we want it and the results TV in the bar is working continuously with a much better format. This has been a cause of much heartache, hopefully now solved.

The rain has shown the bunkers that need work. The work to rectify them is in the program. The wet weather though, has shown the new drainage on 11, 14 and behind 1 is working brilliantly.

Six of our juniors are representing Wide Bay in the Queensland Junior Golf Titles (both Girls and Boys) at the Keperra Golf Club. To play in this tournament the contestants must be of a certain (high) standard. Our excellent junior program has brought forward talented young people. The club is supporting them and I/we wish them well.

The Captains, the Greens director and the Treasurer all have the bulk of the news below.

The scores again this month have been high (not mine). There is a very positive feel about the Club and the Clubhouse is busy. I recommend Members come Thursday evening for the steak night. You will enjoy a great steak at a very reasonable price.

Cliff Searle
President

CAPTAINS REPORT

A lot of stuff this month to get through, grab coffee and a seat and make yourself comfortable.

Unfortunately, I must start this piece with a few grizzles about the stuff that not only gives me the gripes, but a lot of the members as well seem to be perturbed.

1. The new rules allow for the pin to be left in whilst putting.... great idea that a lot of us prefer, but it has led to a bad habit! Players are pulling the pin out with force enough to bring the ball out of the hole, but alas, they are damaging the hole! Similarly, retrieving the ball from the hole using your putter presents similar outcomes. Please refrain from either of these practices.
2. I am now receiving letters and emails increasingly from members that are feeling the same frustrations I have regarding the continual wrongdoings of some of our members. I publish one such letter below, with permission, that has obviously tipped this member over the edge and has vented the spleen accordingly. (name withheld).

“14 March 2019

To Gary Oborn, Kath Griffiths & Peter Fraser

I am writing to express my complete and utter dismay of the behaviour of cart drivers on our golf course. I get so sick of seeing breaches when I know how hard our green staff work on the course and the way the course is now presented around the greens.

I play (a couple of times) each week and constantly see breaches of the cart rules.

I appreciate that Gary has written regularly about the bad behaviour for the last couple of years in the monthly newsletters but this is obviously not being read or absorbed by those who constantly do the wrong thing.

There has to be a way that players can be penalized for deliberate breaches – some of which are listed below that I see regularly:

1. *Driving around the right-hand side of the 1st and 3rd greens – despite the cart sign pointing the other way; I have seen this on the 1st green nearly every Saturday this year by social golfers in hire carts when I am putting out on the 7th.*
2. *Ditto the 5th green;*
3. *Completely ignoring of the cart signs on the 11th green area. I actually saw a cart parked hard up against the fence at the 11th recently. They then ignore the cart path and drive around the right side of the green to meet up with the cart path at the 12th tee. The right-hand side of this green is now no good to chip from compared to a couple of years ago but will retreat if something isn't done again.*

I recently saw two groups of ladies in two carts not even parked on the cart path on the 12th tee but on the grass nearby. What chance do we have?

3. *Driving down the left-hand side of the 14th green towards the 15th tee – again there are cart signs pointing across the fairway to the cart path;*

Those that do actually manage to go across this side of the course then completely

ignore the cart path and hug the right-hand side of the green to eventually meet the path at the back of the green;

5. *Parking at the back of the 15th green – off the cart path (seen regularly)*

6. *Parking too close to the right-hand side of the 16th green; - then driving straight across from the green to the ladies' tee and not using the cart path.*

7. *Recently a group were in two hire carts. Apart from breaches above – they drove right up to the edge of the 18th green.*

These are just the ones that I see on the couple of days that I play each week.

Then there are the social golfers who don't even pretend to know that there are rules of cart behaviour. I think that the only way to capture social golfers is to have rules spelt out, laminated and placed in an obvious position in the cart. There could also be provision that any breach of the rules allows for immediate removal of the person from the course. This could be enforced by green staff, committee members but also give regular golf club members the ability to threaten this given that it usually happens when green staff are not on the course – i.e. after hours.

- Is there any chance that a Local Rule can be made to cover the behaviour? I suspect probably not.*
- Can cart guidelines be enforced to be displayed in carts – similar to the registration stickers?*
- Cart hirers could be requested to sign an acknowledgement of the cart rules before being given the key?*
- Can more power be given to ground staff and members to request removal of the players from the course – and/or – disqualification? (Similar to when wet weather cart rules were imposed which seemed to work).*
- Can a “dob in” system be implemented? That way if you see a breach – you can report it.*
- Should more string and posts be put back on the course? I think yes.*

Having been a member now for 9 years and seeing the absolute improvement in the course in the last 4 years just makes me so angry to see the blatant ignorance of cart players. Surely something more can be done.

I realise that imposing any penalty or dob in system requires more work of committee members that are already flat out.

I just think that something more could be done and happy to help.”

I spoke with the member who signed the letter and received permission to publish the above. I thank this member and many others who feel the same way. I spoke with our Club Pro Gerry several weeks ago about formulating some cart rules to be displayed in the carts along the lines of the suggestions made in this letter. (After viewing some very

irresponsible visitors in a hire cart, that after speaking to them, left the course). I will proceed with this idea.

You, like myself, get sick and tired of hearing this stuff over and over again, but unless we all speak up and take it upon ourselves to help reinforce our rules to protect our course, it will get worse! You don't have to be rude, just state the facts in a polite way, preferably within earshot of other rule abiding members!

Moving on.....some great news on the Pennants....the 2018 Wide Bay Pennant Premiership flag finally arrived and was presented to myself and the President, for the club to display in The Clubhouse. Iona has found a prominent position on the wall behind the bar. Well done guys.

More Pennant news.....we played host to the second round of the Sunshine Coast Pennants a few weeks ago, not only did we rack up a win but I received many great positive comments from visiting players and officials regarding the presentation of our course, which I gladly passed on to our Greens Super Peter to advise his staff accordingly. Great job guys!! It's good to hear that our course is in better condition than a lot of well known Sunny Coast clubs, from their own members. *(All the more reason we protect it as above).*

The Matchplay draw is up and running. Participants please note your "play by" dates are to be strictly adhered to. No exceptions! All enquiries to Vice Captain Keith Disher 0402 592 633.

Severe, heavy rain over the weekend of 16th & 17th of March led to the course being closed on Monday the 18th. It was a pretty easy decision to make, with all bunkers containing various levels of water, damage from all lakes overflowing and debris piled up throughout most of the course. An apology to members that would have otherwise played.

Congratulations to Greg Cathcart for his Hole in One!

A quick word on the progress of the new website; we are putting the finishing touches on it with several write-ups and other presentations being added over the next few weeks. Some of the new additions coupled with the total look of it, will be something worth waiting for. Coincidentally, the MPower site, including new presentations on the members portal has also been overhauled too. You will still need to use the new site when it is released, to access MPower for all those Member services reasons.

In my Captain's capacity, I want to raise an irritating matter that seems to be happening at our club. Recently I had cause to disqualify a member for having a practice shot (with another ball) during a competition. As a result of this situation, I have been approached

by members with stories about other misdemeanours that players are guilty of that appear to be commonplace by some. The following list outlines some situations that I want to cease immediately whilst playing in a competition.

- No Practice shots during competition play.
- No “Gimmies” no matter how close or for any reason except the rules in Matchplay.
- Using only a maximum of 14 clubs and nobody else’s during play.
- Using only the ‘card length’ for preferred lie placements.
- Do not mark your own card.

Remember that all of the above are rulebreakers and are subject to relevant and varied penalties. Also, can you imagine visiting players from other clubs witnessing these activities and the conclusions they will draw when speaking of our club to others? If you are signing a card as a Marker, you too are at fault.

Respect the game, it’s rules and your Club!

The next few months bring the start of some really entertaining and sponsored golf competitions; With such a busy schedule, let’s hope the weather is kind to us and our thoughts are with the Green’s Staff.

1. Easter April 20th & 21st a two-day Single stableford event with single day trophies.
2. Thursday April 25th Anzac Day 4 ball Ambrose 12.30 pm Shotgun Start. Thanks to The Clubhouse. (opening at 1pm).
3. Saturday May 4th first round of the Wide Bay Mazda Men’s Championships.
4. Sunday 5th May; second round of the WBM Men’s Championships.
5. Saturday 11th May Third round. WBM Men’s Championships.
6. Sunday 12th May. Mother’s Day 4-person Mixed Ambrose.
7. Saturday 18th May. Final round Wide Bay Mazda Men’s Club Championships.
8. Wednesday 22nd May. Round one Wide Bay Mazda Ladies Championships.
9. Sunday May 26th. May. Round two Wide Bay Mazda Ladies Championships.
10. Wednesday 29th May. Third round Wide Bay Mazda Ladies Championships.
11. Wednesday 5th June. Final round Wide Bay Mazda Ladies Championships.

*The Ian Glaister Flooring Mixed Knockout has been moved to Sunday 30th June.

Lot’s of golf to be had, let’s get into it!

Even after the tone of some of this newsletter.....” Remember, it’s only a game, enjoy it and let everybody else do the same!”

Gary Oborn. Club Captain.

GREENS AND FORWARD PLANNING REPORT

Dear Members, please find the March update from the Greens and Forward Planning Committee.

Over the past month, both committees have continued with developing course improvement initiatives. This includes a list of projects to be rolled out over the coming months. The top three are listed accordingly;

1. Widening of the 16th and 4th greens
2. Upgrade of bunker drainage at the 4th and 8th holes
3. Continuous replacement of sprinkler heads and isolation valves in the irrigation system.

The greens widening can be undertaken by the green staff utilising the turf nursery that we have at the 14th tee. This project will also instigate an expansion of the turf nursery so that other greens expansion can be undertaken in the future. The work will involve extending the collars to provide a larger green footprint. This initiative is something that the Match committee, Forward Planning Committee and Greens Committee see as a betterment to the course.

The bunker drainage will include the removal of the sand, shaping of the bunker profile, installation of special drainage units and outlet lines. The project will be undertaken by the greens staff to keep costs down. This method of rectification is working successfully on other bunkers on the course and is proving to be effective. Peter will continue to rake the bunkers with the new bunker rake, which has allowed a deeper sand profile and fluffier lie.

The asset inspection program undertaken during the development of the asset management plan identified that the irrigation ball valves and isolation valves are corroding and disintegrating. This asset failure has led to irrigation pressure issues and poor irrigation coverage. The valves are progressively being replaced under the direction of the Greens Superintendent. Members may notice this occurring on the course and should be wary of the work areas when playing.

Other projects outside of the continuous course maintenance program that are sitting for budget approval include;

Installation of the drainage system for the 4th hole
Progressive installation of cart paths throughout the course
Additional irrigation pump for the reuse water supply
Reserve irrigation pump for the water distribution system

We have now received possession of the mechanical bunker rake and trenching

attachment to the Ventrac multipurpose machine. The bunker rake has been previously mentioned. However, the trenching attachment has been purchased to allow the cutting of encroaching tree roots around the course. This piece of equipment has allowed the costs of using contractors to be reduced from the greens budget. Tree roots can be quite destructive to the fairways, tees and greens. We now can carry out our own cutting program which can be accommodated by the greens staff.

Our vice captain, Keith Disher has been updating the asset management plan to develop a condition matrix for the irrigation network. This work is complex but allows the course infrastructure to be scored and graded for replacement/renewal. Keith has been adding other assets into the management plan, which is providing valuable forward planning information and budgeting information for the treasurer. It is anticipated that the matrix will provide more accurate capital replacement details and a smoother expenditure program in the long term. Keith is also a highly competent water engineer who is interrogating the course irrigation and distribution hydraulic system.

I recently had the pleasure of holidaying in Fiji earlier in the month and felt it necessary to partake in a few games of golf whilst in the Country. Of note, one of the courses I visited was the Denaru Golf and Racquet Club. A par, 72 course with 15 holes influenced by water hazards. Needless to say, I found the water more than once and needed a replacement sleeve of balls after completing the first 9 holes.

Being the Greens Chairman, I find myself investigating other golf clubs and comparing our course against others to gauge how we are performing. After playing Denaru and considering the course condition I can happily state that our course greens and fairways are worthy of an international destination. In fact I believe our course greens were in better condition and worthy of being showcased. Not that I am biased or anything, but from now on, I will be saying we have “world-class” greens. (Well better than Denaru anyway).

Now that summer has gone and the drier conditions have abated it is terrific to see the course looking green and healthy, this is testament to the great work that the Greens Staff do, day in day out. I believe that we are approaching the best time of year to play golf with the heat of the day reducing and the extreme weather events past. However, I still remind members to look after our most valuable asset by being vigilant with course care, divot filling, pitch mark repairing, and bunker raking. I challenge every member to empty their sand bucket on each hole by filling up divots as they go. This means filling divots other than your own as you work your way around the course.

Members, if you wish to offer a suggestion please put it in writing and drop it in at the office or use the suggestion box provided. Alternatively, you can email the club through the secretary or reception addresses. The committee is more than happy to receive your

comments and review them constructively for consideration.

As always, I look forward to receiving your written suggestions put forward on how we can further improve the course and keep our club progressing.

Happy Golfing

John McLennan & Bob Goodwin
Greens Chairman & Forward Planning Committee Chairman

GREENS SUPERINTENDENT

We have finally had some decent rain with a March total of 223.5mm, and hasn't the course loved it. We have a busy time coming up with golf but we still have to keep going with projects and course maintenance. We are about half way through scarifying and fertilising the fairways which has been a slow process due to weather and golf. We are also half way through applying a pre-emergent herbicide to the fairways which is to stop seed germination of wire grass and crow's foot.

Shortly you will see the collar on the 16th green dying off as I am preparing the area for the green expansion. The next one to do will be 4. We are also in the process of making our nursery green bigger so we have enough turf to keep going with the greens expansion program.

As you may have noticed we have started replacing the irrigation ball valves. This is going to be a long process but one that needs to be done.

Through the cooler months we will be re-draining the bunker on 4 and the 2 little ones on 8 as they hold water after even a small amount of rain.

That's all from me; enjoy your course.

Peter Fraser
Course Superintendent

LADIES

Summer is finally behind us, however the heat and humidity has decided to stay with us until the end of March. As much as I enjoy summer and the warmer weather, I am very

much looking forward to more moderate temperatures. Some welcome rain has finally arrived and our golf course is looking a treat. Visiting golfers have expressed their delight at seeing a golf course in such good condition.

Our Wednesday Ladies competitions continue to gain momentum with ever increasing participants. 41 Ladies took to the golf course for The Wide Bay Mazda Monthly Medals were contested on the 6th of March.

Division 1 Winner: Regina Schaerer

Runner Up: Sandra Kerley

Division 2 Winner: DK Spencer

Runner Up: Sheryl Bramley

Division 3 Winner: Marilyn Laherty

Runner Up: Trish Hummerston

Wide Bay Mazda once again have generously provided vouchers and wine glasses for the winners. Thank you Wide Bay Mazda for your support.

Wednesday the 20th we had a shotgun start for a 4 Person Ambrose Event. 53 Ladies took part. The event was sponsored by Jenny Davies and Ross Funerals. Despite the oppressive heat and humidity a good day was had by all who took part. Jenny and Scott (Ross Funerals) were on hand to present the magnificent prizes they provided for the winning team.

The winning team consisted of: Bev McIntyre, Penny Brittain, Jenny Brett and Kath Griffith.

I can speak on behalf of the winning team, to Jenny and Scott...a huge thank you to you both and to Ross Funerals. The prizes were amazing and are greatly appreciated.

Following the Presentations by Jenny and Scott I presented Mazda Vouchers and Wine glasses to our February and March monthly medals winners. Trophies were also awarded for the 2 Holes in One achieved so far this year. (Carol Springer and Barbara Conway)

Friday Pennant season is upon us and Hervey Bay is playing host on Friday April 5th. Any member wishing to help out, spotters, bunker rakers, etc are most welcome....see Kath or Colleen Bennett if you have some spare time. Colleen has our team fired up and ready to go, our first match is not until April 12 at Isis. Good luck Ladies.....represent your club well.

Handicap breaks for each Division for Wednesday competitions are being adjusted each week to ensure we have similar numbers in each division. This will continue to be the case. Daily handicaps will be used.

Wednesday April 10 is now a shotgun start. This change was made to enable presentations to be carried out. April was the only month in the current programme without a shotgun start and your committee deemed it appropriate to include one. Our monthly presentations have been well received by the majority of our ladies and I am keen to continue with one shotgun start each month during our golf season.

Enjoy the cooler weather and good golfing to you all

Kath Griffith

TREASURER'S UPDATE

As members will be aware, Sandie Wilson was employed as our office manager on 2 December and our club administration is the beneficiary of a rigorous review of all our office processes. Dianne McGregor has also recently been appointed to provide Sandie with administrative support. We are aiming to keep our members services office open during the active hours of golf during weekdays.

Year to date performance

Financially our club is sound as we continue to operate in surplus, meeting all expenses as they fall due while saving for anticipated future expenses. As a result of our Golfing year changing under our new Constitution and commencing in future on 1 July, but our previous year under our old constitution ending 30th September, we have an anomaly this year with only a 9-month financial year which makes it a little difficult to make exact comparisons to last year. To get a feel for the club's performance for the 5 months from 1 October 2018 to the end of February I note the following :-

Item	Actual	Budget	Comments
	year to date	year to date	
Total Income	\$608,898.00	\$612,231	NB. Income is within 0.5% of budget
			- Membership Fees = \$213,284

			- Total Financial Members = 762
			- Green Fees year to date \$238,067
			- Advertising income \$2,100
			- Rental and Registration income \$136,257
Total Expenses	\$569,721	\$508,814	Overall expenses are 9.3% under budget
These include:-			
- Total Golf Course Operations	\$262,947	\$289,779	
- Administration and members services	\$211,534	\$192,260	10% over budget
-expenses (including pro shop)			
- Net Captains expenses	\$11,467	\$7,005	
			NB Over budget but approved in advance
- Course improvements	\$39,388	\$20,000	Exhausted full year's budget
- Other unbudgeted expenses including some unexpected replacements, additional junior support, Asset Management Plan etc	\$44,384		.
			Funding the Asset Management Plan and a number of other unbudgeted items (out of surplus).
Surplus from trading for 5 months to end Feb	\$39,176	\$103,417.00	NB. While surplus year to date is less than planned after 5 months, we are still on track to

achieve our budget of \$100,000 contribution to our sinking fund for infrastructure replacement.

In the meantime, we have paid all bills as they have fallen due, do not have any debt and are closely monitoring our budget variances. The management committee has put in place sound processes that see our staff and all other expenses paid appropriately, see equipment replaced in the most economical and timely fashion without incurring debt, and the replacement of infrastructure as it falls due while accumulating reserves to replace assets when retired as per our Asset Management Plan.

Asset Management Plan

As highlighted at the 2018 AGM, the Management Committee engaged Engineering consultants to review and update our Asset Management Plan, and in particular our infrastructure assets, so that we have accumulated sufficient reserves (or a sinking fund) so we can replace assets as they fall due without the need to commit the club to incurring future debt. We are also developing a process for the Management Committee to provide members with a full report on our Asset Management Plan in the normal course at future AGM's.

We continue to fund course improvements and members will have noticed we completed additional drainage works over the last year which have already proven valuable in keeping the course open during recent heavy rains. I note improved drainage, additional cart paths (and a lot of good fortune with the weather) have resulted in our only needing to close the course for 1 day since October!! The committee is fine tuning the clubs Asset Management Plan and hopes to fund additional drainage works over the next few years which we anticipate will further protect the course (and our income streams) from heavy rains.

Planning for next year's budget is already well under way and we will provide members with a full accounting and audit of this year's progress at our AGM which (from now on) will be held around the last Sunday in September.

Kind Regards,

Steve

Stephen Dixon

Treasurer

JUNIORS

The 21st February saw many of our junior's head out to Gayndah for the Wide Bay School Trials. They represented our club incredibly well and we are pleased to say that six of our juniors will continue on to the state titles in Keperra at the end of April. Congratulations to Lydia Shackell, Allira Shingles, Braiden Taylor, Kai Hinton, Travis Taylor and Finn Churchward.

Chase Rendell also competed in the Trans-Tasman Cup at the Palmer Colonial Golf Course.

Connor Reeves popped in one Sunday morning, early in March, to show us his trophy from the Gold Coast Open. The Gold Coast Open is a competition that has been held for 61 years and with the likes of Wayne Grady having won it previously we are sure that Connor, as the new Champion, will continue to go from strength to strength with his golfing achievements. Connor used to play as a junior here at Hervey Bay. We thank him very much for coming along, spending time with the juniors and showing us if you persevere and practice anything is possible.

On the 17th March many of the juniors made the trip to Bargara to play in the Bargara Junior Open.

Results:

3 Holers

Gross Runner-up: Rebekah with 23

Nett Win: Malikah with 9, Gross 25

Nett Runner-up: Shylah Shingles, with 10 Gross 26

Jordan: Gross 26

Tasmyn: Gross 32

6 Holers

GIRLS

Gross Runner-up - Phoebe with 33

Kaitlyn: Gross 40

BOYS

Gross Win: Oakley with 29

Nett Runner-up: Taj with 21, Gross 30

Finnian: Gross 44

James: Gross 46

Theo: Gross 48

9 Holers

GIRLS

Nett Win: Natalie with 34 Gross 63

Sophie: Gross 70

BOYS

Tyler: Gross 71

Boston: Gross 80

Matthew: Gross 72

13 Holers

Gross Win: Chase with 74

Gross Runner-up: Daniel with 78

Nett Win: Zane with 44 Gross 75

18 Holers

GIRLS

Gross Win: Lydia with 80

Nett Runner-up: Eevee with 71 Gross 100

Allira: Gross 99

BOYS

Division 2

Gross Win: Braiden with 82

Nett Runner-up: Travis with 68 Gross 97

Finn: Gross 102

Kai: Gross 107

Jordan: Gross 97

Last weekend saw our six Wide Bay representatives participate in a training session at The House of Golf and then play a round in at their home course. We thank The House of Golf for their continued support of our junior program and a heartfelt thank you to Shane Bird for organizing this training session.

Brian and his troop of helpers have been working tirelessly with our many beginning golfers during their training sessions. They have been teaching them many new skills as well as the etiquette of golf including safety on the golf course, consideration toward other golfers and to thank your playing partners at the end of the game and shake hands.

The next carnival will be in May at the Tin Can Bay Classic. The last game before the school holidays will be Sunday the 7th April. No games will be played over the Easter Holidays. Games will resume on Sunday 28th April (home game).

Happy Easter to all!

**Vanessa Churchward
for the Juniors**