

July 2019 Newsletter

President Report

Members,

Wow what a great weekend of golf and entertainment it was at the Fraser Coast Legends tournament, held at the Hervey Bay Golf Club. It started with a sponsors nine hole comp with invited professionals, a magnificent sea food lunch and a great guest speaker in Steven Bradbury. Steve's presentation was outstanding, humorous, insightful and informative. He gave a great insight into his skill, hard work and dedication. It finished with the audience cheering at the video of his gold medal win.

I must make a comment about the lunch. The quality of the seafood was second to none, with bugs, oysters, prawns, all the cooked stuff and salads just great. The clubhouse was open early for breakfast and closed late after celebrations. The spit roast was appreciated Saturday night and there was a great menu Sunday. The participation in the comp was well-attended ie full fields both morning and afternoon both days. Sixty professional golfers all enjoyed themselves on a tough golf course in perfect condition. The course kept everyone honest and the winning scores were on par. No one blew the course apart which made the Committee happy. The two women professionals who attended Friday and Saturday, Ali Orchard and Anna Stanton, ran a clinic for the women on Saturday morning, which was well attended and appreciated. The PGA rep was very complementary on the organisation and running of the three days. My thanks to Gerry and Jenny for their dedicated work. The comments on the course given by the professionals were all positive I was particularly pleased with Peter Seniors comments on the local TV news, he was very complementary and positive. Three Pros tied for first place. P Senior, M Harwood and B Jackson. The amateur winners A. P Hurst, B. K Boyle, C. T Taylor, and the ladies winner was L Reynolds.

A good time had by all.

With this major event over disruptive works will be happening over various parts of the course, turf replacement (removal of wire grass) and drainage on 4 & 5. Please be respectful while work is happening.

This "short" year is quickly coming to an end with the AGM but 2 months away on the 29th September. One important action must be taken before the 29th of August and that is nominations for the members of the management committee . This closes at 5 pm on that date. I have renominated for President as have Bob Goodwin

Vice President, Steve Dixon Treasurer, DK Spencer Secretary, Gary Oborn Club Captain, Keith Disher (vice Captain) Committee member, John McLennan (greens Committee Chair) Committee member. John Castelli who has given great service to our club on the Committee particularly in the formulation and delivery of the greens budget is retiring. John has spent many years on Committee and this club owes him a great vote of thanks. On behalf of all member's I say John thank you for your service. Ladies Captain Kathleen Griffith is also standing down. Kath has been on Committee this year but is pursuing the ladies senior golf tour this coming year. Thank you for your year as Ladies Captain. I have asked member Michael Brown to stand for the Committee position. We need expertise in advertising and sponsorship, which he will provide. We need a Ladies Captain so please ladies give this your utmost attention. I feel I must here endorse the work carried out by the above Committee members the course has never been better, our processes are worlds best practice, our forward planning with the course, plant and machinery and financing through our sinking fund will make life easier for future Committees. It is important that this expertise remain. There is a lot of work being a Committee member so please members give earnest thought to that commitment when putting yourself forward for election.

Generally, all is well within the club with a good vibe and plenty of banter around. Fields are well attended and good scores keep happening (not mine).

The others below will give you all the rest of the news

Cliff Searle
President

Captains Report

It has been a busy few months with ongoing team events and busy fields mostly playing in great conditions. A couple of misdemeanours from inconsiderate members, some great scores and a lot of work being done on the course.

New scorecards are in the process of being printed including the 2019 Permanent Rules. Should be in use late August early September.

A lot of positive comments from members regarding the lower height cutting of the grass several metres off the greens' fringes, providing another club choice for players to get onto the greens.

On a sad note, the club lost another of its members recently with the sudden passing of Tim Howson after an ongoing fight with cancer. Both Tim and Jenny played

regularly and Jen more so with the Vets since they joined the club several years ago. Our condolences from the HBGC. RIP Tim.

A reminder to our members that the “Whale Watch” season is upon us bringing more tourists into the Bay and more golfing visitors. It’s our job to make them feel most welcome to enhance the occasion for them.

A few large Corporate golf days over the next month or so, so be aware of the extra work the Green’s staff need to do to keep our course the way we like it.

The Pro-am, what a great success! This Premier event lived up to its expectations! The intense planning, the financial balancing, the catering, the entertainment, the golf and the personalities all made possible by the event organisers. Jenny Davies, Gerry Taylor, Chris Mizzi and Shaun Edward. This event gets bigger each year and with more entertainment features aiming to attract more people to our Golf Club. I must also thank the work performed by the Pro-Shop staff and The Clubhouse people as well. It’s one of those occasions where we all needed to pull together to make it happen!

The guest speaker; Stephen Bradbury, how good was he!!! His presentation on Friday at the Sponsors luncheon was extremely entertaining from “the last man standing”!

The Ian Glaister Flooring Men’s Foursomes Championships were held Sunday 4th August over 27 holes with almost 40 pairs taking part. Champions with a score of 115 were Mike Pascoe and Lachlan Wood. Runners up with 117 were Michael Hogan & Adam Hall. Handicap winners Graham Bell and Dave Miller had 108.75 and Runners Up with 109, Butch Gordon & Marty Maloney. Congratulations guys. Thanks to Ian & Helen for their sponsorship of this event.

Saturday August 10th is the Qualifying round for the 4 ball Best Ball Knockout. The first 32 pairs qualify for an ongoing competition for the next few months. We will look at scheduling later rounds in the Saturday fields as we go deeper into the competition. Please advise of your inability to proceed if you are in the top 32 teams. The event is in the hands of Vice-Captain Keith Disher. (Contact number in Programme of Events booklet).

BE QUICK!! New Horizons Golf Day Friday August 16th. Free golf to approximately 36 players, must be over 70 years old, HBGC members. 9 holes of golf, lunch & prizes all supplied by New Horizons Villas. **Bookings essential** @ the Pro Shop or online. First in first served!

As usual let's finish with those pesky reminders; rake the bunkers, (not leaving the rakes on the bunker edges), fix your divots & plug marks and play to the standard of READY GOLF, hit when ready as long as it's safe to do so!

Remember it is only a game, enjoy it and let everybody else do the same.

Gary Oborn. Club Captain. HBGC.

Course Superintendant Report

Members,

It's been a busy time for us with Pro am which went off well. I would like to thank all of my staff and volunteers for all the time and effort to make the course what it was. We are now in a long dry period, as you can see with the colour of the rough, we have had only 5mm of rain for the month of July which is down from this time last year with only 9mm. Our total rainfall for the year so far is 442.5mm which is down from this time last year with 679.5mm.

Coming up in the next few months we will be getting into the course renovations which include aerating and scarifying greens, tees and fairways. So please be patient as we will be trying to get this done ahead of play but there will be times where we may not be able to, we will let you play through as soon it is safe to do so.

As you would have seen we have been getting some turfing done on the 4th and 15th, this will continue with the top left of the fairway on 3 being done next. We are removing bare patches as well as wire grass, in the process we are root pruning, removing contaminated grass, aerating then applying gypsum and fertiliser. These areas will be compulsory GUR until the turf is established.

The greens nursery extension is just about complete with an extra sprinkler being added shortly, when we do our greens renovations we will be using the cores and stolons to grow it in. Once grown in we will have 1200 m² of greens turf for more green extensions on the course.

Enjoy your course.

Peter Fraser

Course Superintendent

Greens and Forward Planning Report

Over the past month, the Greens Staff, under the guidance of the Course Superintendent and committee concentrated on getting the course in shape for the Legends Tour. The response from the professionals who played with me over the 2-day event and feedback from other members who passed on comments was extraordinarily positive.

The winners of the event, which included one of Australia's more successful professionals Mr Peter Senior, supported those remarks at the final presentation. In his speech to the members, Peter Senior stated that the course was very well prepared and congratulated Peter Fraser and his team for their work.

I personally thought that the course was in spectacular condition and a real test for the touring legends. The inclusion of a greens roller to smarten up the putting surfaces was a noticeable quality that the playing professionals and members endorsed. I would personally like to acknowledge Peter Fraser and his team for their exceptional commitment to making the course and event a rounding success.

Members will notice that the work on the 4th fairway has yet to get underway. The committee are mindful of the timing of this to occur so that interruption to the playing calendar is minimised. As previously noted in my last update, the works will commence when we have the costs finalised and have fully resolved the discharge outlet location. Members will be receiving regular updates prior to the ground being broken.

Recently I have received feedback that some members have been delayed by greens staff that are carrying out their duties on the course. Firstly, I apologise that some members feel they are inconvenienced by these delays. However, we all need to remember that the course cannot miraculously get maintenance without some disruption.

In response to these concerns, I'd like all members to remember that the green staff are your friends and not your enemy. They are our greatest ally to keep our course maintained and improving. So if you see them working around the course please support them by being patient if you have to wait to take a shot. They do a terrific job with the resources we can afford and should be congratulated for their commitment to the job.

The 16th green expansion has now been completed and bedding in nicely, and yes I too have fallen victim to the roll off at the back. To explain, I perfectly placed my ball in the middle of the green and watched it roll off the back and down the slope. Which was exactly what happened to my playing partners too!!! OK I was able to

putt back up the slope and get down as did others and that's just the point. The playing condition is the same test for all and not bias to a particular group of members.

The committee makes these changes in consultation with the match committee, our professional and captains who all have equal input into the how the course is set up. Our objective from previous decisions is to expand the greens overtime to combat them growing in and include options to either putt or chip by cutting down the rough around some greens.

Turf installation along the right hand edge of the 15th fairway has been carried out to remove the bare patches and dry ground. Members may recall that root cutting was carried out with the trenching equipment that we purchased earlier in the year prior to the turf being laid. This project has been a long time coming and had its complexities however; we believe it will be a worthwhile outcome for the hole. Members please abide the GUR arrangements whilst the turf establishes.

Greens staff are also carrying out wire grass removal over the course. This program is long term and ongoing. I personally do not think we will ever fully eradicate the wiregrass on our course however, we are mindful of its presence. Our current plan of attack is to poison combined with removing larger sections by cutting and returfing. This will cause some patchwork sections on the course, which will introduce GUR.

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 office 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

Vets President's Report

It has been a fairly quiet month so, not a lot to report.

Our club championships have been decided.

Male champion for 2019: Chris Long
Runner Up: Lindsay Young
Nett Winner: Rod Harper
Runner Up: Gordon Kellerman

Female Champion for 2019: Polly Moran
Runner Up: Jenny Brett
Nett Winner: Judith Easton
Runner Up: Polly Moran

A friendly reminder that to be eligible to win the championship a veteran must have played at least 3 games (veteran games) in the year.

We have experienced an upturn in the number of visitors playing. This has helped improve our financial situation.

Our challenge match against Gympie took place on 2nd August and despite taking a strong contingent from Hervey Bay we were unable to defeat the hosts.
We held our Bunnings sausage sizzle on 20th July. We raised \$550 which was a bit disappointing. Even Bunnings people said it was unusually quiet for a Saturday
Gary Oborn confirmed with me that there is a Mazda Voucher for the best medal score, male and female, on monthly medal day.

It has been discussed that the Vets provide a seat at the blue tee box on the 16th. I think we may have put the cart before the horse on this occasion. It was an obvious oversight that we did not first of all approach the management committee. At this stage we have not come up with a design or a site. We are aware that all of these things will have to be approved by the management committee/ greens committee.

Hugh McLaughlin
Vet's President