



Tee Tidings

"Play by the Bay"
Clifton Springs
Golf Club

JANUARY 2010

Special Update

The Dam Project

At the Annual General Meeting in October, members were brought up to date with the plans for the dam alongside the 5th hole. Since that time there have been a number of developments and this bulletin will cover where we are now.

The overall situation has improved significantly since the last update.

The first area of note is that the total capacity of the dam has been increased from the original plan. The draft plan which has been on display showed a capacity in the main dam of around 13.25 megalitres, with a further 2.25 megalitres in the smaller dam below the 6th green. Following further work by TGM who are the Club's advisers on the project, this capacity has been increased to 18.25 megalitres in the main dam and 2.25 megalitres in the smaller dam, an increase of over 30% which would make a huge difference to the Club's ability to drought proof the course for the future.

Second, we now have written, in principle approval from the City of Greater Geelong to construct the dam, although final approval is still subject to satisfying a number of conditions, which are:

- The submission of final design specifications regarding the increase in capacity to 20.5 megalitres.
- The resolution of some minor technical queries which will be addressed by TGM.
- The completion by qualified consultants of a Dam Burst Analysis. Given that most of the water in the dam will be below what is currently ground level and that the dam wall that has to be built will only be about 1 metre high, it is hoped that this analysis will not prove to be a hurdle that is insurmountable. The cost of this latest analysis is expected to be in the region of \$6,000.

The third and possibly most significant development is the identification of possible grant funding for part of the cost. At the beginning of December a grant application was submitted to the Department for Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts for a grant of \$367,900, which is 50% of the projected cost. We have secured the backing of Federal MP Richard Marles who has written a letter in support of our application.

Where does this leave us in terms of getting the project under way?

Sadly, in some respects it does inevitably mean another, hopefully slight delay before work starts. Assuming that nothing else crops up to throw a major spanner in the works, we are only talking about a delay of a few months. We are working on a revised time frame to complete the various elements as follows:

- 31 January 2010 - Submission to COGG of the final specification changes for a 20.5 megalitre dam.

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- 14 February 2010 – Dam Burst Analysis to be completed and submitted to COGG.
- 28 February 2010 – Receipt of final costings and retender.
- 31 March 2010 – Receipt of final approval of the technical design from COGG. Receipt of final approval from Barwon Water of the plans to realign the sewer line. This is not expected to be a problem as realignment has already been approved for the original smaller dam.

The Club would urge members to understand, however, that we are in the hands of outside agencies who work at their own pace. Whilst we will continue to put pressure on these bodies for a speedy resolution, there is only so much that we can do to push it along. Members should also understand that whilst these timescales are achievable from the Club's perspective, they may be subject to further delay which is outside our control. We will, however, try to keep members informed of progress.

In reality, the delay should suit us well in that, if a Grant is forthcoming, the likelihood is that we will hear about it around the end of March 2010. It is the Club's intention to begin construction of the dam as soon as practicable after final approval from all interested parties. If the above timescales are achieved and subject to the availability of the main contractor, construction could commence around the end of April 2010, with the project completed in time to start harvesting water from Winter and Spring rains.

Caption Competition

In the last issue of Tee Tidings we asked for your captions to the picture below. With many thanks to all the members who submitted suggestions, a winner has been decided.

Of special mention we particularly liked Jan Trickey's offering:

Jerry, the women are not going to like this!

and Pat Linley's topical:

Not another change on the 6th!! That means another year!!

But for us the winner is Ken Smedley's offering:

"I'm sure we had 18 holes before the earthworks".

Ken will be receiving his prize shortly.

