



Tee Tidings

"Play by the Bay"
Clifton Springs
Golf Club
FEBRUARY 2012

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome Members to another year and I hope that everyone had a good Christmas and New Year.

The Club is progressing very well, with numbers in the Clubhouse and on course at an all time high.

December green fees were the best since records have been kept and it is also evident that the course has been well frequented during January.

Feedback from green fee players tells us that the changes to the course have been well received and that the overall condition of the course is excellent. Having said that, it is obvious that over the last month the course has dried off significantly even with the extra water available from the dam and the rain at the end of January. Fortunately the greens and surrounds are still in excellent condition and the fairways, although browning off, still have plenty of cover on them and are also excellent to play from.

There is still much work to do on the 5th fairway and you will have seen the arrival of soil from the Jetty Road sub-division to enable us to complete these works. Furthermore, the left hand side of the 1st fairway still needs a substantial amount of soil and there are other areas around the course that have been identified where we will also place soil which will eventually see a vast improvement to the course.

We hope to be able to do some major improvements around the course during the year. The paths we currently have around the course, although better than what we had previously, are regularly suffering from the elements and we are currently costing the replacement of these paths with concrete.

The current path from the 8th tee to the fairway is substandard and will be replaced with a grass path akin to what we currently have on the 14th hole. Works to improve drainage from some of the worst bunkers will commence after the Pro-Am has been held and the area between the 12th green and 13th tee will be stripped and re-laid with appropriate turf.

We will also revisit the rebuilding of the 10th green later in the year but these works will be subject to funding being available.

The return of our Celebrity Pro-Am is scheduled for March and will be sponsored by Parkers Steakhouse in Geelong. Entry forms are available from the Club for any Member who wishes to participate on the day and play alongside a Professional golfer or Celebrity.

We are also running a Sportsman's night on the Friday prior to the Pro-Am and have already managed to get former Richmond star Matthew Richardson as a guest. We are currently attempting to obtain another two quality guests for this event. Tickets are available for this night from the Clubhouse.

The Committee will continue to try and improve both the Clubhouse and course throughout the year...please be patient and enjoy your golf in the meantime.

Jerry O'Connor, President

FIRST HALF PROGRESS

The first half of the Club's financial year has seen a good result with most areas showing solid performance.

It is good to see that both membership numbers and green fee numbers are well up on last year. Full members at the end of December were 291 against 277 at the same point in 2010, while green fee numbers were 36% higher in the first six months than at the same point last year.

Bar sales, gaming revenue, membership fees and green fees are all up, although these increases have been offset to some extent by higher labour costs, higher interest costs and other expenses which are higher than might have been expected.

Despite that, the Club is clearly moving in the right direction and with further changes planned for the golf course over the rest of this year and into the future, the Club looks well placed at present.

CELEBRITY PRO-AM RETURNS TO CLIFTON SPRINGS

The Committee is delighted to announce the return of the very popular Clifton Springs Celebrity Pro-Am on Sunday 11th March 2012. The defending champion is Jon Abbott and leading golf professionals will compete for \$10,000.

A spectacular weekend is planned commencing with the Sportsman's Night on Friday March 9th with ex-Richmond great and media personality Matthew Richardson confirmed as the main guest speaker with the event being hosted by the highly sought after MC Rob Gaylard. Tickets for the night are \$80.00 per person which includes the panel, 2 course meal and beer, wine and soft drink from 8.00pm until 11.00pm. Tickets can be purchased from the bar or the office.

Parkers Steakhouse have become the naming rights sponsor for the Pro-Am which will comprise of two shotgun starts (7.30am and 12.30pm.) It is hoped to have a minimum of 90 professionals competing for the \$10,000 purse. The Club is currently working on the celebrity players with patron Leon Wiegard (ex-Olympian) already confirmed.

Amateur entries are now being taken with morning spots available for \$50.00 and afternoon \$70.00 with entry forms in the Pro Shop or Clubhouse. If you purchase an amateur spot and a ticket to the Sportsman's Night, a discount is available.

If any members would like to assist with the event prior to and on the day please contact any member of the Pro-Am committee (Danny, Anthony, Jerry, Jim, David, Sue O'Connor or Gordon McConaghy.)

LOCAL RULES

When you have played at a club for a period of time it is easy to become blasé about things like Local Rules. With all the work that is going on around the course, however, it pays to make a habit of taking a quick look at the Local Rules board outside the Pro Shop every time you play.

It has been noticeable in the past week or so that some Members do not appear to have noticed that there has been a change to the Local Rule on the 5th hole. The new rule only allows you to take advantage of a preferred lie if your ball is on a "closely mown area". Closely mown is defined in the Rules of Golf as any area cut to fairway height or less. When taking a drop from the GUR along the right hand side of the 5th, the drop must take place within one club length of the nearest point of relief, the nearest point of relief in most cases is going to be just outside the line marking the edge of the GUR. If the ball, when dropped rolls into the rough, or is dropped in the rough, no preferred lie can be taken and if the ball is otherwise in play no redrop is permitted.

A REMINDER ON SLOW PLAY

Over recent weeks we have received a few complaints about the pace of play, particularly on a Saturday. Whilst delays will always occur when players are searching for balls etc., it is incumbent on all players to minimise delays for other players by observing a few simple ways to keep play moving.

- Be aware of your position in relation to the group in front. Do not measure your position in relation to the group behind. The fact that you may not appear to be holding them up is irrelevant as it is your group's responsibility to keep up with the group in front.
- If your group is falling behind, say something and take steps to try and catch up. The lowest handicapped player in the group has responsibility for etiquette and pace of play.
- If you lose a clear hole and are delaying the group behind, you must call them through.
- Do not wait until it is your turn to play before putting your glove on.
- Do not wait until it is your turn to play before calculating your distance and selecting your club.
- Within the bounds of normal etiquette, when on the green, look at the line of your putt whilst waiting for others to putt first.
- DO NOT leave your clubs at the front of the green and delay the group behind. Position your bag in a way that allows you to move away from the green without holding up players behind. (This particularly applies when the next tee is forward of the green you are playing.)
- Move away from the green immediately the last player has putted out and if the next fairway is clear, tee off before marking your scorecard.
- If you believe that your ball may be lost or hard to find, play a provisional ball immediately. Remember that you can continue to hit the provisional ball until you reach the area where the first ball is believed to be, without penalty.
- Play ready golf. If you keep up with the group in front you cannot be accused of slow play.

DID YOU SEE THAT!

In case you didn't see it or read about it, an interesting thing happened at the recent Abu Dhabi Championship on the European Tour. World number 2 golfer, Rory McIlroy, was just off the green and seeing some sand on the fringe between his ball and the hole, proceeded to brush it away. It was brought to his attention that this was not allowed and the result was a 2 stroke penalty. Had it been a twig or a leaf he would have been okay but it is not permitted to remove sand or soil except on the green.



On a similar subject, you quite often see amateur golfers liberally brushing away debris around their ball in the rough. The rules allow you to carefully remove individual pieces of debris from around your ball but you are not permitted to remove or flatten soil or bend or break any living item thus improving your lie. (Rule 13.2 Improving Your Lie). The penalty for infringing this rule is 2 strokes.

STEP FORWARD ALL VOLUNTEERS

There are very few clubs of any kind that can survive without the help of volunteers and ours is no exception. The Club is very grateful to all the Members who give up their time to help make this Club what it is, whether that help is through formal committees, through the grey army or the ladies who tend the gardens or those who assist with other things from time to time. The Club would like to express its gratitude to all those people.

We would like to see more of our Members take an active role in the Club and all Members, however short or long your term of membership, are asked to consider finding a few hours from time to time to assist. We are particularly keen to expand the number of men on the card duty roster on Tuesday and Saturday. Full training will be given and you would be paired with an experienced Member so you need have no concerns about any technical aspects or the use of the computer. All it would take is a couple of hours on either a Tuesday or a Saturday afternoon (you choose the extent of your involvement) and you would only be called upon a few times each quarter. If you would be willing to help out please contact Jim Llewellyn or Geoff Fifer in the first instance.

WOMEN'S NEWS

Before the summer lay off period, Anitra Franklin and Liz Hendy combined in the SWD Foursomes Championships and won the A Grade Nett. Anitra also won the Spring Trophy at Clifton Springs by two shots from Vivienne Benham.

Anthony has been initiating women into the wonders of golf via his beginner clinics. The lessons will be followed up by the women at the club to support and give the newcomers a look into playing golf for the rest of their lives.

The monthly mixed competition at the club goes from strength to strength. The happy socialising after the golf is proving to be a hit. Let the Pro Shop know if you do not have a partner. Anthony runs a good partner finding service.

February is the start of the golfing year and already we have had teams at the 'pre-season' events in the district. It is a full year programme for women and Pennant starts this month with the Otway season. Best of luck to all players.

An important initiative has been the inclusion of women on the club's Match Committee. This emphasises that the club is one group of people and we all play under the same rules and conditions.

Best wishes for a great year in golfing.

Marcia Williams, Women's Captain

ON LINE TEE BOOKING

For several years the Club has looked at introducing an on line tee booking system but, to date, the costs have outweighed the perceived benefits.

That situation is expected to change around March of this year with the introduction of such a system. Further information will be made known once it is available. Members should rest assured that this should not have any significant effect on their ability to play golf at their preferred time slot. Time sheets will still be opened a couple of weeks beforehand as they are now, except that they will be on the computer rather than on a piece of paper. You will be able to telephone the Pro Shop and ask for your name to be put in and you will still be able to register yourself at the Pro Shop even if you do not have a computer at home. Full details of how to use the system will be provided.

VETERANS PENNANT

The 2012 pennant season is underway with the vets having already played two rounds.

Clifton Springs 1 drew with Lonsdale at Portarlington and defeated Portarlington at Torquay to be near the top of the ladder at this stage.

Clifton Springs 2 won their first match against Curlewis at Portarlington but were defeated by Portarlington in their second match played at Curlewis.

OUR SPONSORS

The Club would like to thank its sponsors for their continuing support

Adroit Insurance Group
Andersons Autocare
Bellarine Estate
Bendigo Bank
Bisinella Developments
A & N Chapman
Clifton Springs Boat Hire
R H & D A Connelly
Dimo's Mechanical Repairs
Drysdale Carpet Court
Drysdale Clinic
Drysdale Motors
Drysdale Removals and Storage
Drysdale Tattsлото
Drysdale Timber & Hardware
Drysdale Village Hardware
Elsworthy Electrical
Geelong Private Hospital
Harvey World Travel Drysdale
Hommy's Quality Meats
The House of Golf Geelong
JaM Celtic Music
Jim's Building Maintenance
Kevin Coldwell Bricklaying
Kevin Paisley Fashion Eyewear
Kiki Hairdressers
Lord of the Isles
Merv Jennings Signs
Montana Fashions
Mortimer Petroleum
National Australia Bank
Parkers Steakhouse
Press Here
Sally's Massage & Pamper Days
Shojun Concreting
Smiths of Geelong
Soupy's Plumbing
Springs Electrical
Swan Bay Nursery
Tabaret
Ted's Fencing
Thomas the Jewellers

THEY SEEM TO LIKE OUR COURSE

The changes to the course around the 5th, 6th and 7th holes have received very favourable comments overall from Members and visitors alike. Green fee income in December was the highest on record and January looks equally good. The increased use of the course in recent months has been noticed by everybody, the place just looks busier which is good news.

With the course back to its full length, we can confidently hold the Pro-Am again this year and you will no doubt have seen the signage. The event takes place on Sunday March 11.

The Club is also pleased to announce that 18 holes of the 36 hole GDGA Championships will be held at Clifton Springs this year on **Saturday June 23rd**. Members should note this date in their diary and fixture book. The Club competition scheduled for that day will be moved to Sunday June 24th. Whilst this will mean some disruption to our normal order of things, it will mean that all the best golfers in the district will be at our Club on that day which should be a good advertisement for the course and will hopefully lay to rest many of the old views of Clifton Springs. It should also help serve as an advertisement for our Open Tournament later in the year.

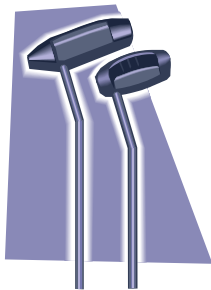
NEW RULES FOR 2012-2015

It is hoped that by now every Member will have obtained a copy of the revised Rules of Golf. If not, books are still available free from the Pro Shop.

The changes made on this occasion are relatively minor but one of the changes does require some explanation. Rule 13.4 deals with "Prohibited Actions in a Hazard". Under the old rule you were not allowed to touch the sand in a bunker in any way either with your hand or with your club before playing your stroke. Exception 2 to Rule 13.4 has been amended to permit a player to smooth sand or soil in a hazard at any time, including before playing from that hazard, provided it is for the sole purpose of caring for the course and Rule 13.2 is not breached (Rule 13.2 deals with improving your lie).

The effect of this rule change is that you are now permitted to retrieve the rake from another part of the bunker while waiting your turn to play and rake up your own or anyone else's footprints etc. before you play your shot. Be aware though that if you fail to get out of the bunker with your first shot and your ball rolls back into an area that you have previously raked, you will be in breach of Rule 13.2 as you will be deemed to have improved your lie.

DON'T USE YOUR HEAD



It is very frustrating for other players to find that the hole has been damaged by earlier players through negligence or carelessness. A reminder to all those players who do not read the Local Rules Notice Board that the use of a putter or other club head to retrieve the ball from the hole is banned.

Members who use a ball retriever attached to the end of their putter shaft are also asked to take extra care not to damage the hole when using these devices. Many of the players using these devices use the side of the hole as a guide and in sliding their club up and down the side of the hole create a groove in the edge of the hole. When retrieving your ball please make sure that you avoid the edge of the hole.

Please also take care when putting the flag stick back in the hole that you do not damage the edge of the hole.