

FROM THE CLUB PRESIDENT

Well the Christmas cheer is over, the extra kilos have not magically disappeared and the New Year's resolutions have all been broken or forgotten but our course still remains in tip top condition. So much so that scores are unbelievable with the ball running so well, the greens so true and handicaps are falling (for some anyway).

Club Management

The club management has been anything but in holiday mode because we have been auditing accounts, preparing for the AGM on Thursday 28th February 2008 and of course getting on with the club house development. I spotted Manager Dennis and his wife Stef having a quiet dinner together in an empty club house just before a Committee of Management meeting and it seems this is the only way Stef gets to see Dennis these days. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated manager and an understanding Stef.

Competitions

Please don't forget our Opening Day Ambrose on Sunday 24th February and Captain Michael is always keen to add more members into the field to what is always a fun golf day. I hope to see many of you there and to enjoy your company so please put your name(s) on the list on the notice board.

Also please remember the SA Ambrose Championship on Sunday 2nd March 2008. This will be our eleventh running of this event and it gets better each year so get that team together and book at the office, but quickly as I understand it's nearly full.

Yes the Pro-Am will be run this year on Tuesday 1st April so highlight it in your diary and the lists will be up soon for registrations. The Pro circuit is really getting behind Victor Harbor's event so we fully expect a good contingent of professionals to play with and pick up those valuable hints.

Green 100-metre markers

One issue that seems to have upset a number of our members is the removal of the green 100-metre markers. Contrary to some members comments we do listen to members views and do care but your committee is between the proverbial rock and a hard place. The club has only a small team that looks after the course and with the extra pressures from climate change and the extra time spent trying to keep up with regulations etc

they are finding it difficult to keep up with the demands of the job.

The maintenance team suggested that the removal of these markers would provide some help as the markers continually get broken, they need spaying to keep the grass at bay and they get in the way of mowers. The committee carefully considered the request and agreed, so as to avoid more overtime which would increase costs. In an even worse situation this trend towards an increased workload could force the need to add another grounds person at a cost to subscriptions of about \$100 per member per year. The choices were either that we should control costs and try and keep everything, but accept that some things will just not happen, or alternatively be proactive and work with our grounds staff to find acceptable ways of reducing the work load. The latter is the path we decided to take. Another option was to ask the volunteers to take over the responsibility of these markers but I believe this would be imprudent considering the amount of work they already perform around the course.

Your committee also took into consideration that we have now placed distance markers on all sprinkler heads from a little over two hundred metres to around sixty metres from the pin. These are fairly accurate GPS distances from the centre of the green whereas the one hundred metre markers and one hundred and fifty metre markers are only approximate, due to the fact they represent a point some distance from the marker in the centre of the fairway on a line that is sometimes difficult to determine - not a very accurate system when you consider it carefully.

In summary, the committee is well aware of some members concerns and has discussed them a number of times, but we do ask that you at least give the new system a fair trial before deciding if you really need to place the workload back onto the grounds staff.

AGM

Finally I hope to see you all at the AGM in the club house 8 pm on Thursday 28th February 2008 and wish you all good golfing for 2008.

Peter Reynolds

FROM THE LADIES' PRESIDENT

It was a very fun-filled and happy Christmas lunch that all the ladies enjoyed to wind up the year last December. Many long hours (about three!!!!) of tough practice and rehearsal went into the performance of the can-can, and I think any photos will attest to this. We had a lot of fun putting it together and hope everyone enjoyed our version of the can-can, and the day.

We are now preparing for the 2008 season with a lot of planning being put into the new programme and the year's events. With the ladies Opening Day on the 27th February there is not long now before we are back into the winter season. I hope you have all been able to reduce your handicaps over the summer - I believe there have been quite a number of ladies playing over summer who have enjoyed the days.

As you will all by now be aware, the Ladies AGM is to be held on Wednesday the 20th February at 9 am in the clubhouse. This will be the first time the ladies have had a February AGM and will be only a week before the club AGM. The Ladies Committee hopes to see as many ladies as possible on the 20th.

We are delighted that our submission for an *Active Sports Grant* was successful, which will enable us to advertise and promote the game of golf in an effort to encourage more ladies to take up this exciting sport. This will take the form of a **TRY GOLF** campaign which we plan to run in May and June with help from Gavin, Dennis, WGSA and some lady members. Hopefully we will get a lot of interest from women who would like to take up golf as a new sport and our programme will enable them to have coaching lessons from Gavin over the two month period. In addition they will meet existing lady members after each session who will show them a friendly face.

Welcome to the 2008 season ladies and we look forward to a happy year of good golf and good friendship.

Rosalie Lillecrapp

HELP!

'Doc I can't stop singing *'The Green, Green Grass of Home, that sounds like Tom Jones syndrome.'* Is it common?

"It's not unusual."

FROM THE CAPTAIN

Over Christmas and the school holiday period the club has been very busy, not only with the clubhouse extensions but also with the number of visitors on the course. Many people have remarked about the increase in visitor numbers to the south coast during the holidays and I believe this has been reflected in an increase in green fee players. Michael Bohnsack and the ground staff have been kept busy with the increase in people traffic and associated increase in course maintenance.

The Course and Match Committee made a decision in January to cancel the Civil War Trophy event as this was very similar to the City v Local Members competition held in September last year. The City v Locals competition proved to be very popular and has the potential of growing bigger and better over the next few years.

Club Program

With the club program due to go the printer in the next few weeks, January proved an opportune time for the Committee to examine all the events in our club calendar and prune a number of competitions that are either not patronised or have run beyond their use by date. Competitions in the men's calendar such as Par Cup, Stroke Cup and Stableford Cup have been deleted. Many players don't even know they have entered these events, nor know what they represent. Many people are 'time poor' today and cannot be expected to attend event after event, so hopefully with pruning the program there is more flexibility for members to commit to events on a more regular basis.

9 Hole Golf

Following on from the 'time poor' theme, Golf Australia is concerned about the continued drop in club membership numbers and has asked clubs to embrace a new initiative called **9 hole golf – Your time. Your choice**. 9 hole golf is for people who want to play golf, but don't have the time for eighteen holes or four hours. It provides for newcomers who want an introduction to the game that is less demanding and it also allows for people who find it difficult to escape the office or have to juggle week end family commitments. It is also ideal for elderly or infirm people who do not want to give the game away totally.

Through the endorsement of Golf Australia, golf clubs will be able to offer officially handicapped 9 hole competitions.

VHGC will be making a commitment to 9 hole golf in the near future and the Committee will keep you informed of developments.

Thank You and Farewell

In the last Caddie in December 2007 I wrote my thanks to you, the club members, for your support, advice and assistance over my three year period as Club Captain. Without your support I do not believe that the club would have achieved the numerous improvements that have been made to our events, our club and course.

The club and the course are always evolving and I trust that you will give the incoming Club Captain at the AGM the same support that you have given me. With your support I know our incoming Captain will be able to work through the numerous issues that arise and that our club will be in good hands.

Once again, thank you and I wish you all the best for the coming golfing year and for always.

Michael Bade

FROM THE LADIES' CAPTAIN

The summer season is almost over and the winter season begins with the Ladies' Opening Day on the 27th February. The program has been done and sponsors found for the coming year. We are very grateful for the generous sponsorship which allows us to reward the ladies for their golf achievements throughout the year.

Many thanks to the Pro Shop for providing the summer competition and the summer bowl.

The AGM for the lady members is to be held on the 20th February at 9 am. This will be followed by a 12 hole Stableford with a shotgun start at approximately 10 am. Please place names of intending players on the sheet in the ladies room as soon as possible.

I will finish my time as Lady Captain at the club AGM on the 28th February and I would like to thank everyone who has assisted and supported me in this role, especially the Ladies' Committee.

Marian Sorrell

DADS ARMY

Having just resumed after our extended holiday time it is good to see past members and some new members joining in, bringing our numbers to average low to high forties each week.

It is with pleasure that I can announce that Mike Cole has agreed to join our Committee.

Alan Wells

*Support Ballast Stone Estate Wines
one of the major sponsors of the Victor Harbor Golf Club*

FROM THE JUNIOR GOLF COORDINATORS

You may have noticed the large number of young golfers at the club on Monday and Saturday afternoons. Their numbers are increasing and their talent is growing. We certainly will have a young junior squad ready to fill the shoes of the past juniors who did the club proud representing us in pennants and interclub events. Keep an eye out for them and lend a hand.

We are looking for some help from senior golfers who set good role modelling on the course, to take young juniors as caddies for a few holes, prior to their training times. If you can assist us, please let Phil or Dennis know so we can arrange a junior for you to "buddy up" with.

We are also planning a junior camp for the youngsters later in the year.

Linda Hodgson and Phil Tierney

FROM THE CLUB MANAGER

I am pleased to report that the clubhouse extensions are progressing well with an expectation that the balcony and restaurant extension will be in use at the end of February. The kitchen may be a week or two later, given the extensive fit out required.

Most members would realise that the existing club chairs have reached the end of their life, and the cost of restoring is prohibitive. The Committee has approved the purchase of two hundred dining chairs and these should be arriving during the week of the 11th February. This raises the question of what do we do with the existing chairs?

Some chairs were originally sponsored by members and these have plaques attached. If those members wish to either take the plaque or the chair please see me in the office. There are some good chairs left and if members wish to acquire some of these please see me in the office. I have already had one member order some for his shack, and another for his entertainment room (bar) at home.

It is pleasing to note the restaurant was very busy over the holiday period, and this has continued into February. Bookings are already coming in for the new function/restaurant area in anticipation of its completion.

This also reflects in the visitors to the golf course. During January we there was a 30% increase in visitors when compared to 2007 – that's a staggering increase.

The Annual General Meeting is being held on Thursday 28th February 2008 at 8 pm, please mark this in your diary and come along.

On Sunday 10th February the Club again hosted the South Australian Group 4 Championships. This event was started by this club last year and has now grown to a size where the course has to be closed during the event. This year twenty eight teams competed. For those who are not aware what a Group 4 club is, they are affiliated clubs who do not have a "home" golf club.

On Tuesday 1st April this club will be hosting a Pro-Am again – put this in your diary and come out and play. We will be having upwards of sixty pros playing and already we have twenty amateurs nominated to play. If you are keen to play come and see me in the office – it promises to be a good event, and features in the professionals' order of merit events.

In the last caddie I suggested we have a contest to name Warren's new shed when it is finished. To date I have only had one entry with suggested names of *Warren's Warren* or *The Warren*. Come on let's see some more suggestions, after all there is a bottle of wine/champagne on offer here!!!!

Finally, it was good to see our former Captain and music man Jeff Green up and around at the clubhouse. Good to see you and we hope your recovery is speedy.

Dennis Wilden

COURSE MANAGEMENT – SPRINKLER HEADS

With all this talk about slow play, and the removal of distance pegs at the one hundred metre mark, here are a few tips to help players know the distance to the green.

- all fairways except Par-3s have **two rows of sprinklers** – one row on either side of the fairway.
- sprinklers are approximately **seventeen metres apart**
- most sprinklers are about **four metres in from the rough**

The distance marking on the sprinklers starts about two hundred metres from the green and goes to within sixty metres of the green.

There is a program in place to replace all the sprinklers on the course. The new sprinkler heads hold a clip-on distance marker whereas the old sprinklers have been marked with red texta colour indicating the distance.

So really there is no reason why you should be hunting around for a sprinkler marker. By all means enjoy the social side of golf and walk down the fairway with your playing partners, but as you approach the vicinity of your ball move over to the sprinkler line on the side your ball is located and observe the distances. By the time you reach your ball you have a good indication of the distance to the green. It also saves time.

Smart golf course management is good golf.

Dennis Wilden



The volunteers barbecue which was held in the area next to the 10th fairway.

VOLUNTEERS

A barbecue was held for the volunteers just before Christmas to thank them for all the good work of the past year.

Both President Peter Reynolds and Course Superintendent Michael Bohnsack expressed their gratitude for the amount of work that was done by members, saying that the beautiful condition of the course could never be achieved without all the extra voluntary labour that was provided by so many people.

LIFE IN THE 1500'S - Believe it or not!

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "*Don't throw the baby out with the bath water.*"

Houses had thatched roofs which were piled high with thick straw and no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying "*It's raining cats and dogs.*"

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, "Dirt poor." The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entranceway. Hence the saying, "*A thresh hold.*"

WHAT SKILL!

Well done to these players for great achievements recently:

Holes in One

None!

Eagles

Gerry Kain	on the 6 th hole	on 17 th December 2007
Joel Tucker	on the 13 th hole	on 27 th December 2007
Grant Walker	on the 13 th hole	on 7 th January 2008
John Garrett	on the 13 th hole	on 24 th January 2008



NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the following new members whose membership applications have been confirmed by the Committee of Management.

We hope you enjoy your time in our lovely club and make many new friends.

Please make a point of introducing yourself to other people you meet.

7 Day Members

Carl Dorsch
Will Dorsch
Brian O'Shaughnessy
Andrew Seedsman
Philip Wise

City

Malcolm Brebner
Ros Brebner
Alex Dorsch
Jane Hecker
Richard Huebl
Bob Birt
Bill Bush

Casual

James Eagle

Junior Under 13

Blake Baird



COURSE MAINTENANCE - DIVOTS

Have you ever played a good shot but found that it has rolled off the fairway into the rough. That's not so bad is it? But what is really irritating is when you get to the ball and find that it is lying in someone else's unfilled divot. The message is

Please don't treat the **rough** any different to the rest of the course,

Please fill **all divots** with sand to ground level.

Dennis Wilden

PEG'S PAGE

Hello fellow golfers. It is great to be back at golf on Saturdays and to see the familiar faces.

What wonderful work is being done up at the club and I feel it will be sensational when it is finished. I am dying to sit out on the balcony when it is finished with good company and a glass of wine!

Our committee work so hard behind the scenes and spend long hours up at the club - and does our President ever go home! To everyone who looks at our beautiful course and does nothing to help, I say think of all the volunteers who give their time and energy to make it look like this. We are always grateful for any small contribution you can give.

Bruce Blain has given us a mature bougainvillea from his garden for the bank below the first tee and it certainly should look lovely in a few years. I have also noticed Doug Jenkins doing his bit on the areas he looks after. Jan Berryman and I have done a lot of work around the fountain and replanted the pots so they will look better in a few weeks. The extra water lilies that Rosalie put in this year have added even more colour to the pond. With a lot of TLC I hope to bring the plant inside the clubroom door back to life. It said thank you for the water it got last Saturday.

To me there is nothing nicer than coming up to the club in the late evenings the birds are busy and the kangaroos are eating their final meal for the night. The quietness and solitude is magical and the view tops it all off. Gee, I did finish on a philosophical note this time!

Enjoy your golf but don't worry if the score is bad because there are more important things in life than golf. Woops - who am I kidding!!!!!!!!!!

Peg House



**SCARPANTONI ESTATES
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Play the game and drink the wine!

THANKS DAVE!

If you see him around please thank Dave Haddrick for the magnificent job that he did brush cutting the bank below the first tee. Dave generously volunteered to do the cutting over the Christmas period and I can tell you that it would have taken him hours.

Dave, you really made that view down the bank and along the fairway look magnificent—not just for us the members but also for all those important green fee paying visitors who enjoyed a round during the holiday season.

You have shown us how lovely that bank can be and I would like to keep it like that now!

Many thanks Dave!

Richard House

P.S. Welcome to the bar staff!

TIPS TO AVOID SLOW PLAY

- Walk quickly between shots
- Be ready to play when it is your shot
- Do not address the ball too long. Be ready to execute your shot as soon as you are set up.
- Do not take more than one practice swing.
- Be ready to play at least five minutes before your scheduled tee-off time.
- Do not mark your card while on the green.
- Try to hole short putts unless you will be standing on another player's line.
- Do not leave your golf bag at the front of a green: always leave it to the side nearest the next tee.

(From Golf Etiquette—A Guide to Golf Behaviour, 3rd edition AGU)

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President	Peter Reynolds
Vice President	Kym Bartel
Club Captain	Michael Bade
Ladies Captain	Marian Sorrell
Committee Members	Judy Graham Finance & Admin
	Murray Tucker Finance & Admin
	Marion Balocca Fund Raising & Social
	Jack Roberts Fund Raising & Social

Club Vice Captain	Jack Roberts
Ladies President	Rosalie Lillecrapp
Ladies Vice President	Carol Scott
Ladies Captain	Marian Sorrell
Ladies Vice Captain	Trish Bohnsack
Dad's Army	Alan Wells
Editor <i>The Caddie</i>	Richard House

STAFF

Club Professionals	Phil Tierney
	Gavin Stratfold
Pro Shop	Des Pinson
	Linda Willoughby
Juniors Co-Ordinators	Phil Tierney and Linda Hodgson
Club Manager	Dennis Wilden
Club Staff	Kathy Whyatt
Catering - <i>Views of Victor</i>	Shannon and Jo White
Bar Staff casuals	Kevan Smale
	Ashley Picot
	Dave Haddrick
Course Superintendent	Michael Bohnsack
Groundsmen	Justin Megaw
	Shane Parkes
Mechanic	Dean Allanson

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Angove's Wines	Morgan Park Garden Centre
ANZ Bank	Murray Bridge Auto Group
Bank SA	Nino's Pizzeria and Pasta
Bartel & Hall	Noarlunga Refrigeration and Air Conditioning
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Ben Hogan Golf	Parnell Kerr Forster
Bernie Lewis Home Loans	Phil Harding, Electrical Contractor
Bell's, Victor Harbor	Phil Tierney, Leading Edge Golf Ping Golf
Big Surf, Australia	Pitstop Brake and Exhaust Centre
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Cadbury Schweppes	See Optometry
Cobra Golf	South Coast Sand & Civil
Community CPS Credit Union	Southern Motors
Donna Bohnsack Hairdressing	Sporte Leisure
Duncan Barnett Optometry	Steve Robertson, Painting Contractor
Elders Real Estate	Stranded Restaurant
Fay Anderson, Raine and Horne	Super Seal
Ferrier Hodgson	Taylor Made Golf
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Hotel Grosvenor	Victor Harbor Used Cars
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JaDS Hairdressers	Victor Plumbing
JaRae Jewellers	Vincent's Port Elliot
John May Insurance Services	Whalers Inn Resort
Judells	