

Bowral Golf Club Newsletter

Autumn Edition

March 2012

NEWSLETTER

PAGE 1



Australia Day

Bowral's Best Dressed: *Jenny Ogg, Brian Hanrahan, Stepane Whiteway and Brian Lamb*

The Chairman of the Board

Summer?? What Summer?? We have just endured one of the wettest summers on record and there's no doubt it has affected the club at a time that we can ill afford it, but we have to look forward and make the best of things. For example on the Saturday just passed, a lot of those who would have golfed came in for lunch (about 30 in all) and there was a palpable positive spirit in the air. There needs to be a lot of this in the near future.

The 2011 figures are with the Auditors, and the indications are that the loss may be worse than first thought, which is a severe disappointment to all of us. Please don't let this discourage members standing for the Board; if there was ever a need for a strong

Board, it is now! The Future Committee will continue its intensive work in the meantime, and make suggestions as to our future.

On a more positive note, we will be shortly (from 19th March) making some administrative changes, with a view to marketing the club more aggressively, and also to contain costs further. This involves appointing a new full-time manager, Kevin Kenny, who has been at Mount Broughton as a PGA pro, and has been instrumental in marketing the club to a high level of success. This means sadly that we have had to let Paul Hatton go--he was able to come at short notice to help us out in our 'hour of need' last year, and we are most grateful for this. Whatever happens in the future,

we have to make what we have got work better, and we will all have to work together to make this happen. This is my last letter in my role as 'caretaker President/Chairman', and I'd like to thank all those I've worked with for their help, and, as always, thank all those who do voluntary work. It's been a very hard task, and I can but wish those who are going to take the Club forward all the best wishes, and repeat what has been said many times--this club, as with all similar clubs, depends ultimately on member support; if you don't use it, you will surely lose it!!

*Ian McKenzie
Chairman of the Board*

From the Captain

Everybody is aware the Club is entering a very critical time in its history, which was pointed out in very clear terms at our recent Information Meeting. Anecdotal evidence indicates golf clubs all over the world are facing similar problems and only those with vision and who accept there must be change in the way they operate will survive. Knowing that other clubs are facing hard times is small comfort, accepting the challenge to change our ways so we can live on is up to each and every one of us. Can we survive in our current location? I think we can, but it will take the collective will of every member, no matter what the category, to do so. Let's not lose sight of the fact we are a golf club and a good one, and due to the dedication and expertise of our small but highly professional ground staff we have a magnificent facility to offer all golfers no matter what their level of handicap. Golf is still a very popular game and more and more people are playing it; it is enticing people to become members of a particular course that's difficult. We have in our course a great product to sell, and to survive we must do just that; convince visitors to come to our club for an experience that will make them want to come back again and again. We are unfortunately still suffering from some of the attitudes from the past and this is where we must move with the times. We don't have to abrogate our standards but we do have to be

flexible. We are a private members' course and nobody wants to change that, but we do have to embrace and encourage visitors to our course and club and show them the warmth of hospitality we in the main are so good at.

Some of our more recent problems have been self inflicted.

"It has been a great honour and pleasure to have served you and the club in this prestigious position. Thank you all ..."

This will be my last newsletter as Captain and to every member I express my gratitude for your support and tolerance during my three years tenure. It has been a great honour and pleasure to have served you and the Club in this prestigious position. Thank you all and a special thanks to my gorgeous wife Anne for her unending support and understanding, although I still have to convince her that the "B" in BGC stands for Bowral!

I can rest easy knowing we, as a Club are very fortunate that Kevin Burke one our longest serving members has indicated he will nominate as Captain at our AGM in April. Kevin brings a wealth of experience to the position as a former Director and as qualified rules referee. His knowledge and experience are just what the Club needs

at this time. There will be other changes to the Board and it is critical we have the right people to fill these positions.

Our Whitehorse Cup team, Don's Party, capably led by who else but Don Barker, are doing great things on the Pennant circuit. Currently lying third they have every chance of making the final. Unfortunately this weeks entire round has been washed out robbing us of a home game against the Highlands. A game that the bookies had us as unbackable favourites.

*David Stanley
Captain*

SOME COMING EVENTS

Sunday March 25th –

A number of visiting clubs will be participating but we need more entrants from our own players. This is a most enjoyable day and an opportunity to showcase our Club and course. For any queries please contact Neville Ridge. A sign on sheet is on the notice board. It's a shotgun start so we want to fill the course.

Saturday March 10th –

First round of the Vicar's Shield.

Bowral Golf Club Ltd

Kangaloon Road
PO Box 934
Bowral NSW 2576
Phone: (02) 4861 1042
Fax: (02) 4862 2104

Email:
enquiries@bowralgolfclub.com.au
Pro Shop: 4861 3218
Web:www.bowralgolfclub.com.au
www.bowralgolfclub.info

Newsletter editor: Gerard Katekar
email:
gfkatekar@gmail.com

New Members

Please welcome:

<i>Justin Cooper</i>	Lifestyle Member	<i>Matthew Robinson</i>	Lifestyle Member
<i>Joe Cutroni</i>	Lifestyle Member	<i>Anne Threadgold</i>	Social Members
<i>William Davies</i>	Full Playing Member	<i>Gale Threadgold</i>	Social Member
<i>Bruce Frankland</i>	Full Playing Member	<i>Robert Ward</i>	Social Member
<i>Anne Jones</i>	6Day Playing Member		

House Committee

Treasurer's Report

The Trophy Presentation Dinner held on the 18th Feb 2012 was a most enjoyable evening and I congratulate all the major winners.

First Friday afternoon BBQs have been attracting good numbers (on average 60 -80) and the volunteers who have made this such a success must be thanked for their combined efforts.

The heavy rains over the past months have had a big impact on general attendance and we encourage Members to use the Club-house as often as possible at Bridge, Lunch, and other functions in order to support the Club.

Dates for the calendar:

Saturday 17th of March – St Patrick's day Dinner is destined to be a great deal of fun and is expected to be well attended. Bob McInnes will be entertaining us on the night with traditional Irish music that will surely have everyone singing along. 6:30 for 7:00PM.

13th of April – Trivia Night, hosted by Geoffrey Hammond.

19th of May – Dine In Night

16th of June – President's Dinner.

*Blandina Meere
Chair
House Committee*

First the good news - we have provisional approval by Westpac for a \$75k overdraft to cover the June, July and August period. Also as stated elsewhere, the Telstra tower (pole) project seems to be gaining some momentum so that that cash inflow may avert the need to draw down on the overdraft facility. As well, our cash flow as at the end of February is in line with the budget.

However, we are finding the implementation of proposed cost reductions heavy going. The employment of the new Club Manager will place additional strains on the budget until expected revenue increases from visitor marketing starts to flow in and bad weather has adversely affected income in late February and early March. These issues alone would suggest that our budgeted loss for 2012 of \$79k may expand beyond our expectations.

The departure of our Accounting Manager in November, on short notice, threw our last quarter accounting into some disarray. The result was that the year end audit became very difficult and we are indebted to David Duff and his staff at Gillespies for the capability and application that they exhibited in completing the task. The auditors identified additional year end accounting adjustments which extended our loss for the year by an additional \$36k to ap-

proximately \$86K (I am still awaiting a final figure). A proportion of this adjustment will have a positive effect on the 2012 result, easing some of the adverse cost and income pressures referred to above.

In summary, given an incidence of good weather from now through to the end of the year we are hopeful that we can achieve our budget for 2012. I am also hopeful that even though we have the overdraft in place, we may be able to get through without having to draw down on the facility.

*Leigh Batchelor
Treasurer*

Dads Army Recruits Needed!

Dads Army is a group of volunteer members who help maintain the club house surrounds and tackle odd jobs around the course under the direction of the Club Captain and Head Greenkeeper.

We meet every Thursday morning from 9:00 – 11:00am. Due to promotions, holidays and work projects we need at least three more members to join our group. Expertise not needed but it involves the basic gardening and maintenance tasks so you must supply your own rake.

If you are interested please contact *Hamish Macfarlane* on 4862 2575 or just show up!

Hamish Macfarlane

The Lady President

Here we are now into the autumn feeling as though we have missed summer completely with the incessant rain. The Ladies Opening Day on Feb 2 again was wet but this did not daunt a few brave souls who trudged through the rain to complete a 9 hole competition between the Captain and the President's team

The President's team was victorious! Thanks to all who participated. In spite of the weather on the day the lunch and presentation was a great success and well attended ---we hope you enjoyed the change of menu sausage sizzle and we thank the chefs for their wonderful assistance cooking in the rain.

Presentations were made to:

Alex Dowling for her Hole In One on the 4th during a mixed event earlier this year;

Pam Barker for the McMurray Perpetual Trophy awarded for the best stroke aggregate on Saturdays.

Rosemary Downing was awarded the Jean Derrin Trophy for the

most reduced handicap over the year. We were pleased to be able to display the jacket Jean Derrin wore to represent Australia in Europe

The NSW Ladies Golf Summer Meeting will be held on March 5 till March 9 so this will give us an opportunity to showcase our course but hopefully in better weather conditions

We wish everyone a successful tournament.

The Summer BBQs have been very well supported and those present have thoroughly enjoyed the friendly atmosphere and we hope these events will continue and maintain the great camaraderie of our club.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone an enjoyable and hopefully a successful golfing year.

Bernadette Brown
Lady President

The Bowral Golf Club Limited Members Handbook

is proudly sponsored and
printed by

Cabra Print,

**Steve Warren MD and
BGC Member.**

In 2013, the Members Handbook will also be available as a PDF sent to you via email for storage on your own computer.

Please let the BGC office know if you would prefer to receive your 2013 Members Handbook in softcopy. Any suggestions for the 2013 Members Handbook should be forwarded to *Frank Eggert* via the BGC office.

Annual General Meeting

Friday April 27
at the Clubhouse
Registration from 5pm
Meeting commences at
6:00 pm
followed by drinks

Sue Olson
Secretary

From the Lady Captain

Let's start where we finished off. Last year we ended on a festive note with a great closing day. Did it rain? Of course it did, but that didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the ladies to dress up and have fun.

“Summer” – the definition in The Macquarie Dictionary is “a period of warm weather”.

You could have fooled me and I don't believe it.

Opening Day – Captain v Presidents Team event. Although it rained and the Chefs at the BBQ got wet the event went on. The Victors on the day were President Bernadette's team. Congratulations to the Blue team.

Trophies presented on this day were to Rosemary Downing, The Jean Derrin Tro-

phy for The most Reduced Handicap for 2011 and to Pam Barker, the McMurray Trophy for the Stroke Aggregate Score for the Saturday Ladies.

As I write this, sitting looking at the rain falling, I am wondering the prospects of next week's golf and the Golf NSW Summer Meeting. Over 3 days we are expecting over 200 players on the course. The revenue from this event in green fees, cart hire, bar and catering is important to BGC. In the past we have received in excess of \$3000. Please Mr Weatherman be kind to us. *The weather was not, this event has had to be cancelled!! Ed.*

The ladies programme is in full swing with the Bronze pennant team commencing in 2 weeks. The district CSGA Opening Day at Yass and the Autumn challenge between Bowral & Goulburn all happening in

March. News this morning from Goulburn is not good – the river has broken its banks and the ladies have moved all their possessions and the pro shop stock to higher ground.

Maybe Autumn will bring good weather.

*Pam Barker
Lady Captain*

Trophies

Monthly Medals

Ted Box Medal of Medals

David Farthing

Peter Tait Trophy

Ron Campbell

Secretary's Plate (Parent & Offspring)

Jan & Ashley Southon

H A Murdoch Trophy

John Cummins

Anniversary Cup

Bruce Windybank

Jock Rossell Memorial Trophy

Dennis Cooper & Bruce Windybank

Bill Chrystal Trophy

Michael Brown

Lady Captain v Men's Captain

Men's team

DECEMBER

“A” Grade – Jim Phillips

“B” Grade – David Stanley

“C” Grade – Pip Smith

Wonderful to see one of our veterans, in every sense, take out the “C” Grade Medal. Great work Pip congratulations!

JANUARY

“A” Grade – Jim Phillips

“B” Grade – Alan Lindsay

“C” Grade – Bill Sherman

FEBRUARY

“A” Grade Frank Eggert

“B” Grade Leigh Batchelor

“C” Grade Graham Connolly



*John Cummins
HA Murdoch Trophy Winner*



*Bruce Windybank
Anniversary Cup Winner*



Last year's Club Champion John Mulholland presents Neville Ridge with the Prosper Ellis Plate for B Grade Champion

Editor's Note

I have been the editor of this newsletter since late last century. Because I no longer play golf, I feel it is time for someone more involved with the club to do the task. Despite my draconian attitude to deadlines, all contributors have been invariably cooperative, and I thank them for their forbearance. I will still be around if anyone would like to do it, but feel they may need help.

Gerard Katekar Editor

Social Diary

Many Members have enjoyed a break, over the summer period, holidaying, spending time with family. Happily social and golfing activities continued at The Club, *in spite of and despite* the inclement weather.

An Australia Day Event was recorded in fine style by *Kevin Burke*. The participants are having a fine old time, dressed in Aussie style! Check the front page of the Newsletter for a picture of *Jenny Ogg, Brian Hanrahan, Stephne Whiteway & Brian Lamb* enjoying themselves.

Paul Hatton did a great job getting everyone enthusiastic about a First Friday Barbecue which follows the summer 12-hole comp organised by *Robert Eriksson*. January was a knock-out – there was even mention that *if we didn't book in early, we may miss out in Feb.* It was all hands on deck when members offered their generous services; BBQ chefs, *Geoffrey Hammond, Jeff Spender*, with organiser *Robert Eriksson* ably assisted by *David Mathers, Jackson Sloan and William Davis* made it an entertaining evening. Many guests helped with the service and clearing, which contributed to the evening's merriment. So yes, February was also a knock out!



Jeff Spender and Geoffrey Hammond cooking up a storm for the First Friday Barbecue



David Stanley serves dessert at the First Friday Barbecue

The Trophy Presentation held on Sat February 18 was a convivial, celebratory evening when winners, runner-ups and members gathered to enjoy the successes of the 2011 season. Special congratula-

tions to *Brian Hanrahan* winner of the Club Championship, the D R Hill Douglas Trophy.

*Elena Barry
Social Diarist*



Uscha and Robert Eriksson winners of the Wotton Trophy with Runners up Anne and Peter Keys



Dennis and Leonie Cooper, Maxine and Chris Green with Grant Blanchard at the Presentation of Trophies Dinner

(I don't think these guys won anything. It must be that they are good looking. Nah! Dennis must have won something :-) Ed.)