



In this Issue

Recent Competition Results
Saturday Booking Arrangements
Membership Renewal
Course Closure - November 2011
Upcoming Changes to Handicap System
Countback rules
Corella Invasion

RECENT COMPETITION RESULTS

Recent months saw a number of our annual trophies being decided - some in dramatic fashion.

Foremost among these was the L.G. McDonald Cup that is played over 5 stroke rounds during the year. A qualifying round is played in December and the field set at the best 32 net scores. After each subsequent round the field is halved. After a hiccup over communication the final was played between Jerry van Driel-Vis and John Benzie on 6 August. At the end of regulation Jerry and John were tied with a score of 69 net. Congratulations to Jerry who took the trophy on a countback (see later in newsletter).

The SGC Captains Trophy is also decided over a number of rounds spread throughout the year (in this case 3 stableford rounds). This year's winner was John Evans playing of 32 with a three round score of 118 pts. Excellent scoring - an average of nearly 40 points over the three rounds.

The Les Stainsby Memorial Over 60's competition was won by long time member Ron Menner on 16 July.

The J.J. Meade Trophy for teams was played on 23 July and was won by Bill Skoufis, Ken Charpentier (a fly in member currently working overseas!), Michael Houston and Ajay Arora. The best three of the four scores gave the winning team a total of 113 pts.

Keeping it in the family identical twins Geoff and Jason Maynard won the Ian Fraser Memorial Pairs Matchplay beating father and son pair Philip and Jay Ramsden on the first playoff hole. The match was won when Jason birdied the 10th with a putt of almost 7 metres from off the green.

Congratulations to all successful members.

Congratulations also to John Benzie (76 tied 3rd) and James Honner (77, 4th) who finished high up in the VGL Open Championship at Albert Park.

SATURDAY BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS

The course management is seeking the Club's cooperation in relation to the way in which our members book and pay for their games. There is a problem for the pro shop when a member (or anyone for that matter) books a tee time for a group of players and the individual members then want to pay by credit card over the phone. This can often mean three or four separate transactions that the pro shop must handle instead of one transaction. As a result, it can create an unacceptable load on the pro shop, tying up the phone and causing delays for other parties who are trying to contact the pro shop. Members who make phone bookings will be well aware of this.

Demand for Saturday tee times both from the public and our own members is increasing and it is in our interests to co-operate

Procedures

The course management has advised that the following procedures should be followed for making and paying for group bookings:

1. Payment by phone for a booking for more than one player can only be made by a single payment for all members of the group. Phone payments by individual members of a group will not be accepted. **(Note: this is the key change to previous practice)**
2. Payments for individual members of a group may, however, be made at the pro shop.
3. The names of the members who have not been paid for will be removed from the group on the Thursday night preceding the Saturday for which the booking has been made, if they have not paid by that time.

The consequence of this change for members is that, if paying by phone, they may have to enter into co-operative arrangements with their playing partners so that a single payment can be made and reimbursements made to the member making the payment.

COURSE CLOSURE - NOVEMBER 2011

Further details have been provided to the Committee on the closure of the Sandringham Golf Course for the President's Cup in November. The



Course will be closed from 9 November to 29 November. The last date is a target and may depend on the condition of the course.

This means that the Club will run a Stableford competition on Saturday 5 November.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Members are reminded that the Annual Subscriptions are due at the end of August. Any member not renewing by the end of September will be ineligible to win any Club competitions.

At the end of the 2010-11 membership year the Club had 267 members - the most for many years.

UPCOMING CHANGES TO THE HANDICAP SYSTEM

A reminder that new handicapping arrangements will start on 21 September.

The changes to the system are:

- The best 8 scores of a player's last 20 rounds will be averaged (previously best 10 scores)
- A Bonus for Excellence multiplier of 0.93 will be applied to the average (previously 0.96).
- Introduction of an Anchor which will prevent a player's handicap from increasing any more than 4 strokes beyond their best exact handicap from the previous 12- month rolling period.
- Golf Link will cap the score that goes into a player's handicap record at no more than the following amount over the course rating:
 - 50-women
 - 40-men .

COUNTBACK RULES EXPLAINED

Many of our competitions are close and often decided on a countback.

If two or more players have the same nett scores in a handicap *stroke* event, the winner is determined by considering the scores on the last nine holes, using half the handicaps of the competing players. If this doesn't produce an outcome then the last six holes is considered using one-third of the handicaps, then the last three holes using one sixth of the respective handicaps. If this does not produce an outcome the process is repeated for the first nine holes.

For *par* and *stableford* events, the winner is determined using the last nine, last six, and last three hole scores based on the handicap index table – this is the index shown on the scorecard. As before, if this doesn't produce an outcome the process is repeated for the front nine holes.

Countback rules had to be applied recently on a day when the playoff for the L G McDonald Trophy had to be decided, as well as the usual A grade result. On that day, three A grade players, John Benzie, Cris Payne and Jerry van Driel-Vis each had nett 69. John and Jerry were the last two left in the L G McDonald Trophy. John had 38 strokes on the back nine and Jerry had 39. Under the countback rules, half the handicaps of each of the players had to be applied to their scores. Jerry's handicap of 14 and John's of 6 meant that after applying half the handicaps Jerry's 32 was matched against John's 35, making Jerry the winner. The A grade event for that day also had to be determined by countback between the three players. Jerry came out the A grade winner as well as his 32 also got him across the line against an unlucky Cris's 32.5.

CORELLA INVASION

Playing golf in recent weeks has felt like a cameo appearance in Hitchcock's movie 'The Birds'. Either that or a walk along the Murray River. Damage has been severe on the 16th Fairway whilst the strangely beautiful but pesky creatures have spent plenty of time on the 14th as well.

