

FAIRWAY NEWS



February
2021

Welcome to 2021 and hoping that sense of déjà vu will go away!

What can we expect from 2021 golf wise? We've already had our first (and hopefully last lockdown).

This has had an impact on the Club fixture particularly the Club Championships. The first round will now be played on 20 February, the second round on 27 February and the final round on 13 March.

After a gentle January introduction the Club's competitions kick into high gear with the Club Championships in February and the start of the Pennant season in March. Also in January there has been a frenzy of match play events as the Club tries to complete the 2020 match play trophies. We also wish all our members and their families good health for 2021.

Watch this space – or the fixtures part of the website really!

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First Club Championships on the new course.

The 2021 Club Championships will now be conducted in February and March.

Up for grabs will be the Club Open Championship, B and C Grade Champions and the President's and The First Lady trophies. The latter two being won by the best nett score over the three rounds.

Competition is usually fierce and results often in doubt until well into the last round.

The winner of the Open Championship represents the Club in VGL Champion of Champions event to be conducted later in the year.

Dave Philipson who won ten times in 14 years between 1997 and 2010 holds the record for the most Club Championships. It's hard to see anyone equaling this feat but the challenge is there!

Good luck to all participants.

Upcoming events

Note Change in fixtures due to Covid Lockdown

20 February	Stroke, (VGL Medal, Club Champs Rd 1, LG Mac Qualifying)
27 February	Stroke, Club Championships R2, VGL Medal
6 March	Stableford
13 March	Stroke, Club Championships Rd3,
20 March	Stableford – 3 clubs and a putter

Recent Results

- Boxing Day was the last Saturday competition for 2020 and 39pts was the score of the day with David Mallen taking out A Grade and George Andreetta winning B Grade with that score. The intrigue of the day was in C Grade where father Phil Ramsden beat son Jay on a countback when both were tied with 35pts. Nick Jordan's 42 pts was a nice Christmas present to win the mid week comp.
- The scores in the first round for 2021 were steady rather than spectacular with the Ladies (Marian Nguyen), A Grade (Geoff Thornton) and C Grade (Emil Bredahl) winners all scoring 38pts.
- Geoff Thornton continued his good form scoring 39pts to win the mid week completion the next week. Tran Vu's 41pts was the best Saturday score of the day overall and secured the Ladies comp. Peter Russell's 40 pts was next best and won B Grade.
- The best score in the Par round of 16 January was Adrian Thomas' +4 to win A Grade. Pat Kealy's +3 won B Grade and long time but long time no see member Rob Walker won C Grade with the same score.
- Scores ticked up on 23 January. Matt Scott's 42 pts (including an eagle on 18) was the best and won A Grade. John Sime's 41pts won C Grade. Marian Nguyen's 35pts won her second Ladies comp in 3 weeks on a countback from Ruth Macdonald. Anne Forwood's 41pts won the mid week comp.
- Don Tasevski broke the field with a massive 46pts to win C Grade on 30 January. Peter McLeod's 42pts won B Grade on a countback from an unlucky Dan Murphy. Terry McAleenan (39pts A Grade) and Liz Mitchell (38pts Ladies) were also winners.

THE PRESIDENT'S BLOG



Well, hopefully at the time of reading we are out of the lockdown that was for 5 days and everything is once again back to normal on the golf course. The latest 5 day "circuit breaker" lockdown imposed is a demonstration of the times we are now living in and how quickly we are all effected by events that can occur and which we generally have no control over – it makes planning a difficult task and especially that of a golfing schedule.

Our Captain, Geoff is slowing pulling his hair out, but at the same time he is doing a marvelous job at scheduling all of the events that we all like to aspire to winning.... especially the Club Championships which are now upon us and hopefully we get to commence them shortly.

I think we can all agree that the course is playing magnificently and is living up to the promises and expectations that we all had. Let's hope that we have fewer interruptions from hereon in.

Some chapter headings from a recent book I read:

1. How to properly line up your fourth putt
2. How to hit a Callaway soft feel from the rough when you hit a Titleist from the Tee
3. How to get more distance from a shank

Good luck to everyone in the Club Championships and finally let us not forget about the upcoming Pennant season...the more the merrier so we can have good team coverage and a successful outcome.

Regards

Rob Harris

Recent Results (cont.)

- A massive field of nearly 100 took to the course on 6 February. After making the leap to B Grade and dropping 4 strokes off his handicap Don Tasevski came back to earth. Without giving too many details let's just say his score was less than half that of the week before. Best scores were David Mallen (39pts A Grade), Andrew Vines (41pts B Grade) and Jay Ramsden (40pts C Grade). These scores were swamped by a terrific mid week score of 45pts by Ross Gordon.

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

After a couple of weeks of the re-introduced Competition Sheets on Saturdays, it appears that not everyone's understanding is clear. The sheets are prepared in tee time sequence to assist our comp steward estimate when scorecards are expected.

The idea is that you write your Surname AND Initial alongside YOUR tee time. Take note of the Entry Number and write it at the top of your scorecard.

There are still a lot of scorecards where stableford points are incorrectly calculated, and sometimes the wrong handicap is used. Markers are also responsible for checking that scores are correct. When a player says 5 for 4, alarm bells should ring. Remember to also record Stableford points on Stroke rounds (eg. Club champs). We are now asking players and markers to counter-sign cards. The process is:

Player to score own scorecard and record player's score in Player columns. Marker's name to be written on scorecard. Marker's score to be recorded by player in Marker columns. Player and Marker to agree scores at completion of round and sign both cards. Player is responsible to ensure that photo of player's scorecard is sent by text to 0413 204431 (Jay on Saturdays), 0413 438048 (Geoff all other days). THEN: DROP SCORECARD IN BOX PROVIDED IN PRO SHOP.

I have been told emphatically that rakes will never be returned to bunkers. I support this initiative to improve pace-of-play. We would continue with the local rule of preferred lies.

ONLINE BOOKING SYSTEM:

There is a belief by some that certain members are receiving preferential treatment by being able to book the same time each week, or able to book multiple groups. I learnt recently that the ability to book more than one group of four has been re-enabled (unfortunately). When selecting the number of players there is an option to book a Larger Group, which opens a dropdown to select the number of players (up to 60 no less!!!). I have been told, also very emphatically, that all members are treated equally, and that no changes will be made to the booking system.

Good luck for club championships. Be aware that VGL approval is required for use of motorised carts for all young members less than 70 years of age.

Regards

Geoff Thornton



News and Notes

Pink Day is Coming!

The Club will participate in the 2021 **Tee Off for Breast Cancer Trials** event. A Two Ball Ambrose competition will be conducted on 8 May and members will be asked to make a donation to this worthy cause and mark the day by wearing pink.

Watch for more details closer to the time.

Condolences

The Club expresses its condolences to former Club Captain Colin Burge on the recent passing of his father. Mr. Colin Burge senior was due to turn 100 in mid February four days after he died. Our best wishes to the Burge family.

VGL Events

The VGL conducts a number of events during the year that SGC members are eligible to participate in. The first of these is the Seniors (55 +) 4BBB Championship at Eastern Sward Thurs 25th Feb. Application forms are on the front page of the Club's website.



2020 Match Play Competitions

Both the 2020 John Pittard Singles and Ian Fraser Pairs Match Play events will be completed in early 2021. The full schedule and round completion dates are available on the website.

John Pittard Singles Match Play

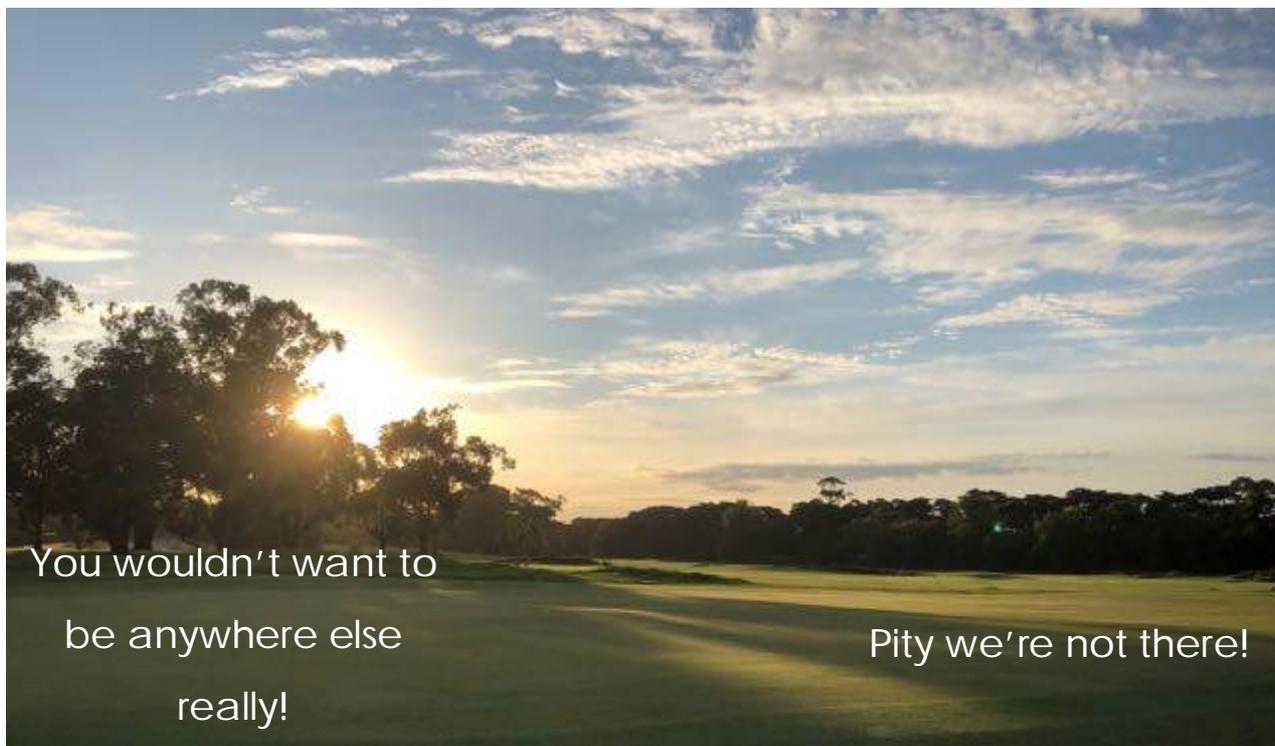
On one side of the draw Bruce Baldey is through to the semi final. He will play the winner of the Jan Cormack/ Tim Green match up. On the other side of the draw Gary Boschen is in the semi final after defeating Paul Rich 5 and 3. The remaining quarter final is between James Honner and John Bris.

Ian Fraser Pairs Match Play

Martin Dusek and David Waters are through to the final after defeating the defending champions the McCarthy brothers 5 and 4 in the first round and then knocking out the team of current and former Club Captains Geoff Thornton and Colin Burge (4 and 2). Geoff and Colin had survived an epic in the first round beating Larry Stewart and Tim Green 2 and 1 after 35 holes.

The remaining semi final will be business as usual for the normal foursome of McAfee, Hendry, Payne and Honner as they face off to see who makes the final. In the first round Archie Hendry/Mal McAfee defeated Michael Kent/James Lefebvre 3 and 2 and James Honner/Cris Payne defeated Mark Brooks/Craig Punshon by the same score.

In these Covid impacted times things roll around quickly as the qualifier for 2021 John Pittard was played on 6 February. This year's draw is on the website.



Pennant Season Starting Early March.

Last year's Pennant Season was cancelled and this year will see both Sandringham's Scratch and Handicap teams attempt to win promotion to Division 1 – admittedly there are only 2 Divisions in Scratch Pennant but it still would be great to have both teams playing in Division 1 in 2022.

The season kicks off on 4 March with the Seniors Pennant taking to the course first. Scratch and Handicap teams commence their seasons on 21 March. The full draw is below.

Let's hope we enjoy a full and successful season.

	Scratch (Div 2)	Handicap (Div 2)	Seniors
Rd 1	Craigieburn Wilmott (A)	Lakeside (H)	Centenary Park (A)
Rd 2	Altona Lakes (H)	Centenary Park (A)	Dorset (H)
Rd 3	Ringwood(A)	Camberwell (A)	East Malvern (A)
Rd 4	Craigieburn Wilmott (H)	Lakeside (A)	Centenary Park (H)
Rd 5	Altona Lakes (A)	Centenary Park (H)	Dorset (A)
Rd 6	Ringwood(H)	Camberwell (H)	East Malvern (H)

Vale David Muir

The Club was saddened to learn of the passing of member David Muir after a long battle with cancer. David was regular Saturday player even during his illness. In 2017 Dave was a member of the Handicap Pennant flag winning team and was named Handicap Pennant Player of the Year for his performance that year. David was almost as excited for the Pennant win as he was later that year when his beloved Tigers took out the AFL Premiership.

RIP David



Holes in One – yes that’s right! Plural!

On 9 January Helen Ansems came to the 16th having a pretty good day that was just about to get a whole lot better. Here’s what happened in Helen’s words.

“I used a 6 iron and after I hit it and saw it head to the green I lost sight of it as it turned slightly behind the left bunkers. As I picked up my tee Christine Nicholson and Fiona Reynolds started getting excited saying they thought it had turned and gone in the hole - I wouldn’t believe them until I walked to the green and saw it in the hole!”

This was Helen’s first hole in one and the 1 for 6 pts helped her match her husband in the hole in one stakes and get to 37pts for the day.

Helen who always plays a yellow ball was using one found by her playing partner Christine Nicholson earlier in the round. Maybe Christine’s thinking she should have kept it!

And then...

Unbelievably new member Kevin Murran was playing the same hole just a week later. Kevin hit a high straight King F7 pitching wedge shot that bounced in line with the pin and rolled in.

Like Helen Kevin and his partners weren’t 100% sure the ball was in the hole until they walked up to the green as it was hard to tell if the ball had rolled past and off the green from the tee.

It was Kevin’s first hole in one after 26 years of playing golf.

Kevin being presented with his trophy by Club Captain Geoff Thornton



Helen triumphant and receiving the Club provided ball mount to commemorate the event.



News from the professional ranks Part 1

Don't try this at your home course!

Patrick Reed has gained a reputation as pushing the boundaries of the rules for golf and this reputation was given a further kick along at the recent Farmer's Insurance Open

Reed's second shot at the par-4 10th hole on the Saturday landed in the left rough, bounced once and settled in the deep grass.

Neither Reed, his playing partners, their caddies or a volunteer near the landing area had seen the ball bounce. When Reed arrived at the ball, he treated it as a potentially embedded ball, lifted it and felt an indentation in the ground, then called over a rules official who ruled it was indeed an embedded ball and gave him a free drop, setting up a 14-foot par-saving putt.

This according to the PGA was all according to Hoyle and exactly what Reed should have done. However..... The TV footage clearly showed the ball had bounced forward before settling into the rough thus almost certainly ruling out the ball being embedded. The nearby volunteer actually said she did not see it bounce not that it didn't bounce; once Reed had picked up his ball the footage shows him poking around the hole (feeling to see if it had broken the surface according to Reed) before calling the Rules Official who also poked around and agreed there was a lip and gave Reed relief.

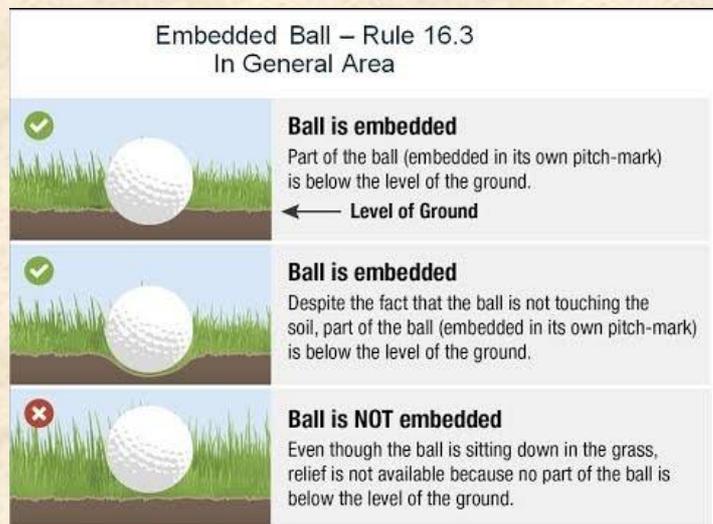
Commentators and some players (after the event) have suggested that once Reed picked up his ball (which he is allowed to do to check if it is embedded) he should have realised it wasn't embedded and replaced the ball and played it as it lay.

Reed is a combative competitor who thrives on controversy and of course he played brilliant golf to win the tournament by 5 shots. His reputation stretching all the way back to his College golf days leaves little room in people's minds for him to get the

benefit of the doubt. His most recent incident was when he was penalized 2 shots for improving his lie in a bunker by practicing his takeaway in 2019 for which he was heckled severely at the President's Cup later that year.

To prove the reputational point Reed's camp was quick to point to Rory McIlroy doing a similar thing on the 18th that day without attracting a hue and cry. McIlroy hadn't even bought over a rules official, he just confirmed the embedding with his playing partner.

In late breaking news the PGA has told McIlroy that a volunteer had stepped on his ball whilst looking for it hence the embedding!



News from the professional ranks Part 2

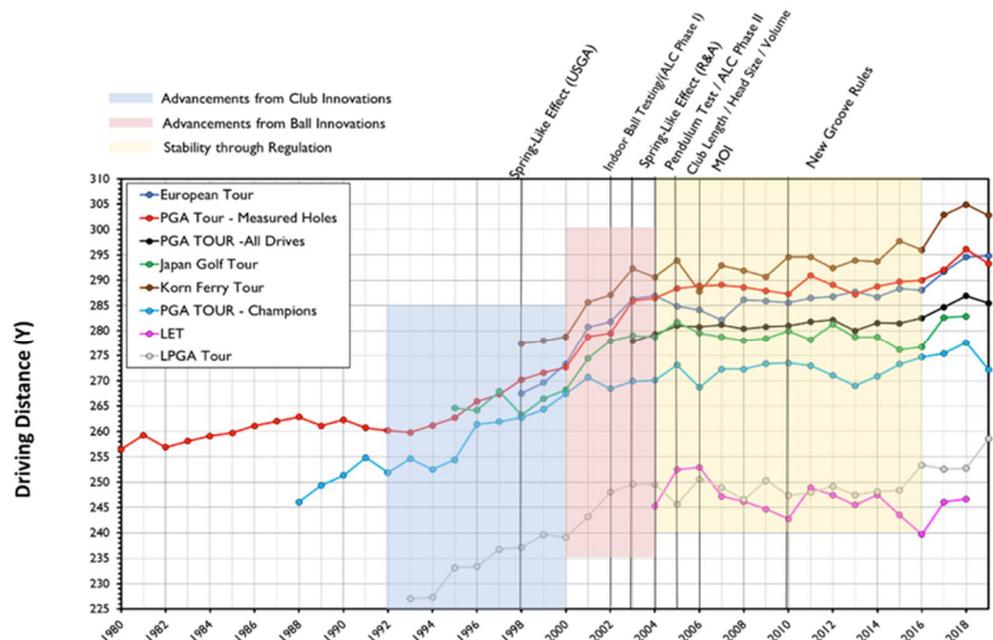
How do you solve a problem like a 400yd drive? The distance controversy

The R&A and the United States Golf Association (USGA) have been considering for some time how to limit driving distances. They recently outlined some proposals for the industry to consider which include:

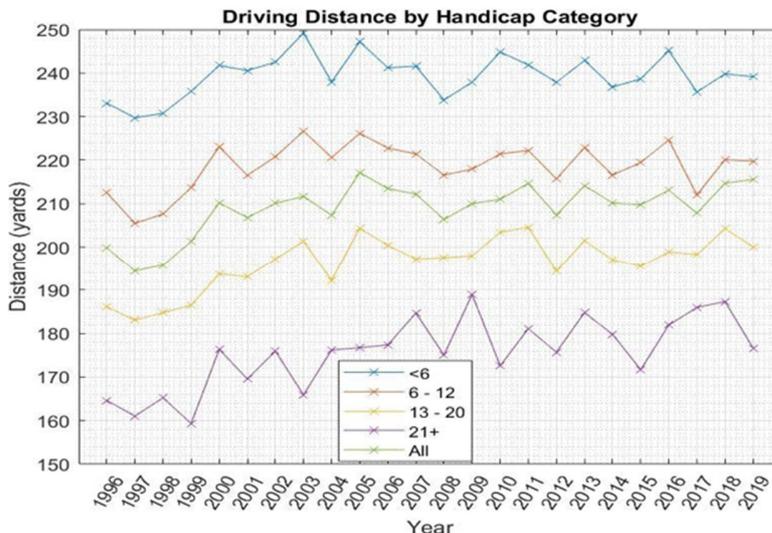
- a review of club and ball specifications – no 48inch driver for you Bryson
- the possibility of bringing in a local rule "that would specify the use of clubs and/or balls intended to result in shorter hitting distances".

This last one seems to enable the introduction of a restricted ball or limits on the effectiveness of clubs in professional tour and amateur events to reduce driving distances.

Effectively this would mean a "bifurcation" (note that word kiddos!) between the top level of the game and social golfers who would be able to use any equipment they liked.



Don't worry nothing will happen before November this year.



Charts from the Distance Insights Report Jan 2020.

Above data from Pro Tours
Left Data from Amateur golfers in the UK. – Not much change over the years.

Competition Prizes Increased

Effective Saturday February 13th, the value of competition prizes will increase as follows:

SATURDAYS (18 holes):

Overall winner \$50 (cannot also win Grade or Ladies)

A Grade Men \$30

B Grade Men \$30

C Grade Men \$30

Ladies \$30 (subject to minimum of 6 entries, otherwise join Men's comps)

NTP x2 \$15

MID WEEK (includes 9-holes on Saturdays):

18 holes, Mixed

1st prize \$30

2nd prize \$20 (subject to minimum of 40 18-hole entries)

9 holes, Mixed, \$20 (subject to minimum of 10 9-hole entries)

Where to redeem your vouchers if you are lucky enough or good enough to win one!

- House of Golf
- Some Drummond Stores
- Sandringham Café for food or drink
- Grape and Grain Liquor Cellars, Station St Moorabbin
- Royal Melbourne Golf Club Pro Shop

News from the professional ranks Part 3

The PGA of America announced on 9 February that it will allow the use of distance-measuring devices in its three professional major championships – PGA Championship, Women's PGA Championship and Senior PGA Championship – starting this year.

The devices will first make an appearance at the PGA Championship, May 20-23 at Kiawah Island Golf Resort's Ocean Course in South Carolina.

The PGA of America is hoping the use of the devices will help improve the flow of play as players and caddies won't have to walk off yardages to sprinkler heads and other fixed positions. As part of their justification for the move the PGA said"

"The use of distance-measuring devices is already common within the game and is now a part of the Rules of Golf. Players and caddies have long used them during practice rounds to gather relevant yardages."

The PGA of America becomes the first major body to allow the devices in all its premier professional events.

As for the use of distance – measuring devices in SGC competitions the devices allowed can report only on distance. Devices that calculate elevation changes or wind speeds, or that suggest a club for a player as well as other data, will not be allowed.

We have our new 18 holes course, we now have our practice putting green so the question is when will the rest of the redevelopment be completed.

Best guess is that the building complex will be completed in June this year with some suggestion that the driving range will be operational as early as April.

