

# FAIRWAY NEWS



OCTOBER  
2021

## Golf is back – sort of.

Despite the scramble for tee times, the restriction to pairs only and the requirement for vaccinations and mask wearing members were able to scratch that golf itch when play reopened in late September.

The course was a bit wet after recent rain but in great condition.

For those who have been out for a hit it was good to see some familiar faces.

The driving range is now open, the dam is full and the Himalayan putting green is coming on.

Hopefully soon we can resume normal(!) operation not just for the sake of playing the game but also for the social benefits.

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## Annual General Meeting

The Club's Annual General Meeting will be conducted via Zoom at Tuesday 16 November. The AGM is an important occasion for the club and members are encouraged to participate. The Committee for the following year is elected at the AGM so...

### *Have you considered joining the Committee?*

Clubs like ours need as many members as possible to volunteer and take on Committee roles to ensure the smooth running of the Club for the benefit of the members. Please consider if you can be involved.

Nomination forms will be available when the formal notice of the meeting goes out.

Please contact Club Secretary Colin Hockley at [secretary@sandringhamgolfclub.org.au](mailto:secretary@sandringhamgolfclub.org.au) or on 0404 842 696

### Upcoming events

30 Oct	Stableford
6 Nov	Stroke, VGL Medal, LG McDonald Final
13 Nov	Stableford, Captain's Trophy R2
17 Nov	Annual General Meeting
20 Nov	Stableford, Captain's Trophy R3

**Recent Results**

- World Chess Champion Magnus Carlsen from Denmark won the Champions Chess Tour 2021. Carlsen won 4 of the 10 tournaments and was runner up in 2 others dating back to September 2020. The title seems a bit of a misnomer as all matches were played online on chess24.com so it's not clear where the "Touring" part comes in. Carlsen will defend his World Championship title in November/December this year against Russian Ian Nepomniachtchi. You can count on Fairway News to keep you informed – unless we get crowded out with golf scores!
- In the Disc Golf World Championships played in July excitement reached fever pitch as James Conrad hit a 247-foot (75m) shot for birdie on 18 to force a playoff with defending and five-time champion Paul McBeth. Conrad duly won on the first playoff hole. Disc golf has surged in popularity in the USA during the pandemic. Don't feel bad for McBeth though he has a \$10m over 10 years endorsement deal with Discraft. He has other deals as well and according to some sources he is one of only 70 athletes world wide who earn more than \$1m per year from endorsements. Better get that old frisbee out.
- Oh! And in another little known recent result the Melbourne Demons emerged from a long period in the wilderness to take out Australia's AFL Premiership for the first time in 57 years. The Melbourne Club (originally known as the Fuschias) could be headed for another period of glory to match its earlier periods of dominance in 1939 - 41 and 1955 -64.



**THE PRESIDENT'S BLOG**



Well Members, we're back and hopefully for an extended and uninterrupted period (weather permitting of course)

Whilst it is frustrating to get a booking at the moment, just remember the Paul Kelly / Kev Carmody song.... "From Little things Big Things Grow".

We have been assured by Course Management that as soon as we come out of lockdown, the pre-lockdown booking scenario will return and at which stage we should be able to get more favourable T-Times.

An important message that ALL members need to understand is that neither our Club, or any of the other Clubs that play the Sandringham Course has any control over the booking system (current or any future introductions that may eventuate) as it is under the absolute control of the Course Managers. Whilst the current scenario is restrictive and extremely frustrating, there is little that our Captain (nor any other member of the Committee) can do about it. I would implore all members to just "ride the storm" for the next couple of weeks and wait for the return to "normality", whilst ensuring our Captain retains the high levels of patience he always displays.

No jokes from me this month, but the important message to all our members is to get Vaccinated, if not for yourselves then for all those others around and close to you.

Regards

Rob Harris

**Did you see?**

Hugh Brown at the spritely age of 99 recently scored a hole in one at Indooroopilly Golf Course. He was so sure we would not make the green that he hit up while the group in front was still on the green. It's Hugh's 2<sup>nd</sup> ace – after a gap of 61 years!

## News and Notes

### Club Apparel

Members can purchase Club apparel.

- Polo shirt \$30. Sizes 'S' to '5XL'.
- Men's design only at the moment.
- Cap \$10

Email:

[captain@sandringhamgolfclub.org.au](mailto:captain@sandringhamgolfclub.org.au) or  
text 0413 438 048

### Golf Gloves

Members are now able to purchase high quality Cabretta Leather golf gloves at discounted prices.



Details of the process were sent to members by Club Captain Geoff Thornton on 27 September. On the Checkout page **please do not change the email address** – leave it as captain@sand...

### Club Championships 2022

Dates have now been set for the 2022 Club Championships. The dates are February 12, 19, 26.

### Latest in the distance wars

The R&A and the USGA have just announced that a new Model Local Rule will be made available to Clubs and competitions from 1 January 2022. The rule will reduce the maximum length on non-putters from 48 inches to 46 inches. This change is likely to only apply to elite level competitions in an attempt to reduce the chances of golfers overpowering golf courses with length.

Not entirely unrelated Bryson DeChambeau (7<sup>th</sup> ranked golfer in the world and renowned for his attempts to increase his distance) entered and made the top 8 in the World Long Drive Championships recently. Quite a feat given the specialty nature of the event.

## CAPTAIN'S CORNER



The Fixture has been amended again due to the latest lockdown. We are hoping that competitions will start after 26th October and that we can squeeze in a few events before the end of the year. Check the website for the latest Fixture.

The men's Pennant draw for next year is on the website under Member Access / VGL and Pennant. If you are interested in being considered please read the eligibility rules and let me know. Last year the VGL relaxed the eligibility rules slightly due to lockdowns. If there are no further lockdowns I wouldn't expect them to change the rules for next year.

Our Club has never had a women's pennant team due to our low female membership. This year we have more than doubled our numbers, so if we have enough interest it would be great to enter a team. Matches are played on Mondays. The season usually runs from the end of February to mid April.

**INSURANCE:** the VGL has not been able to renew cover for Player's Equipment and consequently this policy ceased on 30th September 2021. Players are still covered for Personal Accident and Public Liability. Details of these policies are available under the VGL on our website.

It is disappointing how difficult it is to get a tee time at the moment, but we have been assured that the previous process of booking 10 days ahead (2 days ahead of the public) will resume once competition golf is allowed.

Get vaccinated and keep everyone safe.

Geoff Thornton

## Major Competition News

### John French Memorial Trophy

Congratulations to Peter Karvelis who won the 2021 John French Memorial Trophy with an excellent average score of 37.4. This trophy rewards strong consistent performance over 10 stableford rounds (in a normal year the number of rounds would be 16). Peter was almost 2 points better than the next best this year who were Andrew Rumbelow (35.8) and Marian Nguyen (35.7).

### LG McDonald Trophy

The LG McDonald knock out trophy is down to the last 4 with the final round on 6 November. Peter Karvelis, Andrew Rumbelow, Paul Rich and Jay Ramsden remain in contention.

### Les Stainsby Memorial Trophy (Over 60s)

Martin Dusek won the Les Stainsby Trophy for 2021 on a countback from Russell Jones after both returned a score of 37pts on 31 July.

### Match Play Competitions

Both the John Pittard Singles Match Play and the Ian Fraser Pairs Match Play competitions have been cancelled for 2021.

As if there weren't enough problems playing golf this year!



A fierce hailstorm swept over the golf course and surrounding suburbs on 4 October giving the course a surreal look.

Desperate for some golf two hardy souls make their way down the first! One appears not to even have the umbrella up.



## What to play when you are playing in pairs only?

Under current arrangements no competitions are allowed and whilst there is something to be said for just playing golf without having to worry about strokes, points, penalties and daily handicaps you might want to spice up your games with your playing partners. Here are some suggestions\* to help determine who buys the cup of coffee (to drink standing up of course!)

### *Match Play*

There is always the old standard Match Play format. Use your handicap differentials and the Match Play Index on the scorecard to do it properly. Good practice for aspiring Pennant players.

### *Use the Other Tees*

For male members see how low you can go from the front tees and for lady members find ways to cope with the extra distance. Some holes look very different from the other tee. Combine with one of these other formats for a fun match.

### *Three Little Piggies*

We often have a really good round marred by a few bad holes. Well in this format you get to drop the three worst holes off your scorecard. Stableford or Stroke.

### *The Longest Metre*

In this game the winner of each hole gets awarded points to the value of the distance of the hole. Could be played across multiple groups but may need to bring a calculator.

### *Cutthroat*

Match play where the winner of each hole gets to disallow the use of one club from their opponent's bag. If you win a hole you can choose to bring a club back or disallow one from your opponent's bag. One of many variations where players are not allowed to use certain clubs during the round.

### *Bingo, Bango, Bongo*

This can be done in groups of 2, 3, or 4. This is a really good game for people with different skill levels. The first person to get on the green gets a point. The person who is closest to the pin after everyone is on the green gets a point. The person who sinks the put first also gets a point. There are 3 points up for grabs on each hole. The highest score at the end wins.

\* Note: Here at Fairway News we would never advocate gambling and we have never received sponsorship money from any major gambling organisation – as yet.

### *Something different and not recommended - Stringball*

Now this one's a bit different and we're not sure it would work in metres. It's an awful lot of string to carry around for a high handicapper. And might not help the pace of play.

This can be done in groups of 2, 3, or 4. You'll need to bring scissors and string. Each player is given the equivalent of their handicap in feet of string. If someone is a 10 handicap they get 10 feet of string. The player can then move their ball and cut that much of string off (for getting out of hazards, behind trees and bad lies). A foot of string can be got back with every birdie.

Who thinks of these things?

## Getting new people playing golf – 1Club Golf

For some time now the golf industry has been worried about the demographics of golf – age and gender. As participation seemed to be declining there were questions about the viability of golf as a mass participation sport that would have implications for the full range of facilities from the 9 hole public course to the high end membership based clubs. As the existing diehards got older and played less where were the numbers going to come from to provide the base for golf courses to continue to operate.

An unexpected outcome of the pandemic and associated lock downs has been an increase in golf participation but can that be sustained? Golf Australia has made substantial efforts on this front particularly to get more women into golf – specific programs and promotions, incentives and awards for Clubs who improve female participation etc. At Sandy you can see in the promotions (under 16s free golf after 2pm) and social media an encouragement for people to have fun at golf e.g. advice to move the ball out of a divot, throw the ball out of the bunker after a couple of tries, not needing to hole out. Competitions and keeping score are de-emphasised.

Sandy Golf Links has 4 Ladies Clubs that play mid week and our own club has its highest number of female members in history. Things look good on that front.

At one of our neighbour courses (sort of) a more direct effort has been made to get people a first taste of golf. The 1Club Golf program at Oakleigh Public Course has been running for a couple of years. Initiated by well known teacher Sandy Jamieson (former coach of Robert Allenby and Jarrod Lyle) the program promises:



“With 1club golf you will be on the course within 15 minutes and a good golfer within an hour. It is as it says golf with only 1 club used from start to finish doing away with the need to buy a set of clubs, bag and trolley, making it cheaper and easier to learn. The idea is to create ‘shot euphoria’ in the beginner, that feeling of excitement when you hit a good shot.

The 1Club has the loft of a 4-iron, to give the hit result as much distance as possible – ‘smash factor’ is a big part of shot euphoria – and yet it can still be used as a putter. The lie angle is that of a short iron and the length of a 9-iron. There’s a circle in the middle of the clubface where the sweet spot is, to give the beginner an idea of where they should ideally be striking the ball. And it has a putter grip. The upshot is that the one club can be used to play every shot. Yep, even bunkers.”



Jamieson has established a partnership with Huntingdale Golf Course and in another move he has engaged accredited community instructor Linda Chen to provide lessons and clinics with focus on encouraging more people of Chinese background to taste and take up golf.

These programs seem to be paying off and can only benefit the golf community in the long term.

## Team Golf for professionals – the Solheim and Ryder Cups

This year has seen the playing of both the Solheim and Ryder Cups between teams from the USA and Europe. The Ryder Cup was postponed a year from 2020 due to Covid and will be played again in 2023. The Solheim Cup will next be played in 2024.

The Solheim Cup was started in 1990 the Ryder Cup in 1927. They remain exceptions within the world of professional sports because the competing professionals receive no prize money, despite the contests being high-profile events that bring in large amounts of money in television, sponsorship, ticketing and merchandise revenue

### The Ryder Cup

The Ryder Cup started as Great Britain vs the USA, became Great Britain and Ireland vs the USA for a couple of matches. Then in a bid to even the competition it was reorganised as Europe vs the USA in 1979. The modern myths around the Ryder Cup started from that time although it took until 1985 for Europe to win the Cup.



The rivalry has been intense at times particularly when Seve Ballesteros was competing. He and Paul Azinger from the USA did not get on! Both sides accused each other of gamesmanship and breaking the rules. Ballesteros was reported as saying, "The American team has 11 nice guys. And Paul Azinger."

Sports writers and advertising gurus have had a field day with catch phrases associated with some of these events:

**The War on the Shore** *Kiawah Island (1991)* – Bernhard Langer (playing Hale Irwin) missed a 6ft putt to win the last match and retain the Cup. The partisan advertising and US crowds at this event are said to have ignited the rivalry and the modern day approach to preparing and conducting the matches.

**Battle of Brookline** (1999) – The USA overturns a 10 to 6 deficit on the final day to win the Cup but the crowd behavior and that of the US team and its entourage caused controversy. Specifically when Justin Leonard holed a 45ft putt for birdie on the 17<sup>th</sup> a wild celebration followed with other U.S. players, their wives, and a few fans running onto the green. This was despite Jose Maria Olazabal still having a 22ft putt to halve the hole and take the match to the 18<sup>th</sup>. After order was restored Olazabal missed the putt.

**The Miracle at Medinah** (2012) – this time Europe came from 10 to 6 down on the final day to win 14 ½ to 13 ½. Ian Poulter birdied the last 5 holes in the Saturday four balls to take he and Rory McIlroy to a 1 up victory over Zac Johnson and Jason Dufner. This feat is credited with giving the Europeans the confidence to come back on the final day. Also known as "The Meltdown at Medinah" – in the US naturally.

Fortunately or unfortunately this years' event was free of contention and drama as the USA won by a record margin 19 to 9.

Justin Leonard tries to get the crowd to leave the 17<sup>th</sup> green at Brookline in possibly the worst golf shirt ever



## The Solheim Cup

The Solheim Cup is named after the Norwegian-American golf club manufacturer Karsten Solheim, who was a driving force behind its creation. The USA has won 10 matches to Europe's 7 although Europe have won the last two. The Solheim doesn't yet have the storied history of the Ryder Cup although there have been controversies along the way including:



- Annika Sorenstam being made to replay a chip shot she had holed for playing out of turn in 2000. The call was made by the USA non playing Captain and Europe lost the match.
- In 2015 USA's Alison Lee picked up her ball believing her short putt had been conceded only for Suzanne Pettersen to indicate it hadn't been.

This year's event had a mild controversy when a ruling was made against Europe's Madelene Sagstrom in the afternoon fourballs on the first day of competition. Sagstrom partnered by Nanna Koerstz Madsen was playing against Nelly Korda and Ally Ewing. Korda just missed an eagle putt on the 13<sup>th</sup> hole when the ball stopped next to the hole. Sagstrom walked over to the ball and threw it back to Korda conceding the next putt and inadvertently running foul of Rule 13.3b which states:

"If the opponent in match play deliberately lifts or moves the player's ball *overhanging the hole* before the waiting time has ended, the player's ball is treated as holed with the previous stroke."

Under the general rule provisions if a ball has a chance to drop a player can walk to the ball and once there wait 10 seconds to see if it will fall into the hole. Korda was still on her knees lamenting the miss when Sagstrom picked up the ball. It was generally accepted that the ball was not overhanging and had no chance of dropping - see for yourself.



However the rules of the Solheim Cup allow for Rules Officials walking with each match to make the call on rules violations. The Rules Official in this case deemed the ball was overhanging and awarded the hole to Korda/Ewing who subsequently won the match 1 up. The overall match referee confirmed the decision after viewing footage of the situation.

Commenting afterwards Thomas Bjørn, the former European Ryder Cup captain, said: "Do rules officials in golf realise how unbelievably stupid they make our game look?"

Europe went on to win the Cup 15pts to 13pts but there was some commentary that although Korda and Ewing did not call the penalty themselves they should have conceded the next hole to make up for the Official's mistake. Discuss.

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

\* Assumes golf is happening!

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

### He's done it again

You may remember member Mike Roker's beautiful woodwork version of our logo. Well once people had seen it Mike was commissioned by the Ladies Clubs at the course to create similar designs for their clubs.

You will soon see these beautiful pieces outside the competition room in the café.

Great job Mike



Sandringham Associates Golf Club



Mentone Ladies Golf Club



East Bentleigh YWCA Golf Club



Mawarra YWCA Golf Club

### Cancer Council Longest Day Event

The Longest Day is an endurance golf marathon designed to test your skill, strength, and stamina.

The challenge is to successfully complete a chosen number of holes from dawn to dusk and raise funds for Cancer Council's research, prevention, and support services.

In honour of member Jonny Branagh who passed away recently current member Michael Kent is joining with Jonny's friends from Woodlands (including former Sandy member David Pidgeon) to take on the Longest Day Challenge.

Michael is asking for your sponsorship and support as he takes on the ultimate golf challenge to complete four rounds of golf in one day. That's 72 holes!

Sponsorship can be arranged at the following link.

<https://www.longestday.org.au/fundraisers/michaelkent>



### Cancer Council The Longest Day



## The State of Australian Golf

The Australian Golf Industry Council has just released the results of an independent research survey into current and future golf participation. The view for Golf Australia seems to be that “All golf is golf” and that

“Many want a more relaxed and a less regulated entry point to the sport, a golfing experience less focused on competition, no harsh clothing rules. People want to experience the game in a way that makes them feel welcome and included, regardless of skill or regularity of play.”

Some of the key findings are:

- Golf is well positioned to take advantage of a phenomenal growth in activity during the Covid-19 pandemic
- 9 million Australians are ‘interested’ in golf of which less than 5% are members
- 5.8 million of those Aussies interested in golf have not yet played a game (54 percent male and 46 percent female)
- There are 1.645 million players of ‘alternative’ forms of golf, including 295,000 categorised as ‘ball-hitters’
- Many children (an estimated 1.140 million) are interested in playing alternative forms of golf, second-only to swimming among organised sports
- Golf is considered fun, accessible, a game for life and good for mental and physical health
- Engaging women and girls remains its greatest challenge though there have been recent increases in female participation. Engaging youth is another challenge
- Shorter forms of the game and improved public facilities hold a key to the future.

Here are some of the key stats:

How many play?	Club Members	Public	Other forms (mini golf, etc.)	Would consider a form of golf
	380,000	865,000	1,940,000	5,800,000

Who Plays? Part 1	Course players (club and public)		Other forms (mini golf, range etc.)	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
	1,030,000	210,000	730,000	210,000

Who Plays? Part 2	Club Members			Public Players		
	Men	Women	Av. Age	Men	Women	Av. Age
	78%	22%	59.1	85.5%	15%	54.4

The full report is available on the Golf Australia website.