

# FAIRWAY NEWS



AUGUST  
2022



## Ye Olde Annual Membership Reminder

Annual Subscriptions (\$150) are due on or before 31 August 2022 for the membership year ending 31 August 2023.

Please contact the Treasurer if you have not received an email.

### This Issue includes

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## Course Happenings

### *Lights coming to the Driving Range*

Members will have seen that the course has started the work on installing lights at the driving range. Unofficial intel suggests the installation will be completed in late August and that the range will be open until 10.30pm.

### *Sandy on Foxtel*

Sandy Golf Links has featured on Foxtel's Your Golf Show for the second time. This episode focused mainly on the high performance centre. Dean Kinney (Head Coach, VIS) is interviewed and mentions how their top "athletes" struggle to score when they play Sandy. He cited a 36 hole tournament they conducted where the winning score was 1 over. Hey! We know its tough but its nice to hear others think so too.

### *Tree and scrub Removal*

Members will be aware of all the work on the 4<sup>th</sup> hole to remove trees and scrub and to put in a new path to the 5th tee. The hole is looking great.

## Upcoming events

**13 August** Stableford (Captains Trophy R3)  
**20 August** Pairs Aggregate Stableford(JJ Meade Trophy)  
**27 August** Stableford  
**3 September** Stroke VGL Medal, LG McDonald Final  
**10 September** Stableford

*Recent Results*

- Nick Hague (he of the Way of the Helmet fame! – see later) had the best score on 18 June with 42pts. Next best was Ben Akdag and James McConkey with 40pts winning B and C Grade respectively. Tim Noonan won A Grade with 38pts and Ruth Branagh won the Women's Division with 32pts.
- The three clubs and a putter competition on 25 June was won by Anne Forwood with 36pts. Cathy Dixon won the Women's Division with 31pts. Other winners were: David Mallen (33pts A Grade), Bernie Bagley (35pts B Grade) and Phillip Ramsden (31pts C Grade).
- An incredible score and new Club competition record was returned by Michael Sneyd to win July's VGL Medal. Michael's net 55 (77 gross off a handicap of 22) broke the previous record by 3 shots. A Grade was won by Cris Payne (net 63); B Grade by Stuart Tonkin (net 60); C Grade by Michael Lenkic (net 65); Women's Division by Christine Nicholson (net 68).
- Andrew Hunter's 39pts won the overall prize on 9 July. Women's Division winner was Olivia Odanahoo with 32pts. Peter Karvelis won A Grade with 37pts; Peter McLeod (B Grade 36pts) and Rod Burke (C Grade 35pts)
- For the second time in this period our overall winner was a woman member. Linda Best's 38pts winning the day on 16 July in tough conditions. Dale Gilkes won the Women's Division with 34pts; Peter Daly A Grade (35pts), Danny Morgan B Grade: 37pts on a countback from Alister Lahood and the consistent James McConkey took out C Grade with 34pts.
- Mark Brooks returned an excellent +6 to take the overall on 23 July. Belinda Anson's +5 was next best and won the Women's Division. A Grade: Matt Scott (+2); B Grade: Bruni Di Stanislo (+2) and C Grade: Terry Baker (+4) were the other winners.

**THE PRESIDENT'S BLOG**

An imposed rest from golf for the next 10 days is my lot in life as I come to grips with dreaded Covid. Rest assured if you haven't had it, you don't want it and if you haven't had the appropriate number of jabs then you should consider it.



For those of you who still are wanting to be a member of the Club, then lets not forget to renew our subs before the end of August. Remember if you aren't financial then you are not eligible for any competitions or prize money attached.

Over the last period of time, it has become increasingly difficult to book a T spot for Saturday golf. We all want play on a Saturday, however we are increasingly finding that there are some sections of the membership who are not being considerate of their fellow members and are booking anywhere between three and five spots (bewildering how this is able to happen when the majority of people can't even book one spot). I understand that some of the multiple spots are later cancelled, however the actions of multiple bookings just puts unnecessary pressure on everyone else in trying to get a booking.

The bookings by some has the ability to divide the club as I have had many approached about leaving the club or in fact not bothering with a Saturday which potentially leave the opportunity for the Public to get any unfilled spots

For the sake of the club, I implore everyone to consider their booking actions and think about other members.

Regards

Rob Harris

*Recent Results (cont.)*

- On 30 July the scoring must have been tough because the Daily Differential, which measures how the scores on the day relate to a predicted score for the group of golfers who played, was +2. These differentials can range between -1 (easier) to +3 (harder) so it was right up there. It didn't stop Cris Payne winning A Grade with 39pts, Brendan Murphy (36pts) won B Grade. Rod Burke (34pts) won C Grade on a countback from Rob Harris. Taylor Hawke (35pts) took out the Women's Division.
- A new mid-week competition record was set in the week of 9 July when Simone Andrews scored a massive 48pts to set a new mark for Women members. Keith Charman's 43pts was the next best score in this period.
- It seems we have had a few AFL footballers teeing it up in our mid-week competitions lately (or at least their namesakes!) The mid week comp ending on 29 July was won by Liam Baker (Richmond?) on a countback from Rowan Marshall (St Kilda?) after both returned 37pts. They played on separate days but Toby Nankervis (Richmond?) was in the field the day Liam Baker played.
- It was a tightly contested stroke competition on 6 August with 4 players returning a net 62. Alister Lahood got home in a countback to win the VGL medal. Francis Armstrong (A grade), Michael Wang (B Grade) and Liz Tanzimat (Women's Division) were the others with that excellent score. Gary Chakley won C Grade with a net 63.

**CAPTAIN'S CORNER**

The change of technology to manage our competitions continues to provide an initial challenge for many members. But once mastered, people are soon converted.



A few hints for a successful launch:

- Install the MiScore App on your phone (cost \$16.50 pa). This is optional but beneficial.
- Know your Member Number and Golf Link Number
- Your initial password is either the DDMM of your DOB or for relatively new members. Sandy22\*
- When logging into MiScore, the Club to select is Sandringham Golf Club. **DO NOT** select Sandringham GCA
- When you log in to OneGolf for the first time you will be forced to change your password, which will also become your new password for MiScore
- OneGolf is a website (sandringhamgolf.1golf.com.au). It is easier to access from a computer.
- After booking a tee time in Quick18, I suggest you enter your name on the OneGolf Booking Sheet. This can be done 10 days in advance.
- If you cancel your booking, delete your name from the OneGolf Booking Sheet
- Be careful to book into the correct competition – 9 or 18 holes. Delete your name if you make a mistake.
- If there is no-one to mark your score on MiScore, enter your hole-by-hole scores on the Kiosk tablet in the Clubs Room. Be patient as response time can be a little slow.

Please check out the VGL events on our website under Golf / Competitions. Entering some of these events is a good way to play other courses and meet members from other VGL clubs.

Best wishes

Geoff Thornton

## Major Competition News

### John Pittard Singles Match Play

We have our semi finalists in the 2022 Singles Match Play competition after the completion of the second round.

|              |     |                                  |
|--------------|-----|----------------------------------|
| Nick Hague   | def | Brad McDiarmid (7 and 5)         |
| Leigh Busby  | def | Mike Roker (DQ – wrong handicap) |
| Don Tasevski | def | Frederick Hughan (2 up)          |
| Michael Kent | def | Gary Gibb (1 up)                 |

The semi final match ups are:

|             |    |              |
|-------------|----|--------------|
| Leigh Busby | vs | Michael Kent |
| Nick Hague  | vs | Don Tasevski |

### Ian Fraser Pairs Match Play

All matches have now been completed in the first round of the Pairs Match Play

|                            |     |                                   |
|----------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------|
| Colin Hockley/Rob Harris   | def | Colin Burge/Jay Ramsden (4 and 3) |
| Andrew Rumbelow/Nick Hague | def | David Mallen/Adrian Thomas (1 up) |
| Michael Kent/Michael Sneyd | def | Cris Payne/Mal McAfee (6 and 4)   |
| Mike Roker/Bruce Baldey    | def | James Honner/Simon Catzikiris     |

The semi final match ups are:

|                            |    |                            |
|----------------------------|----|----------------------------|
| Michael Kent/Michael Sneyd | vs | Mike Roker/Bruce Baldey    |
| Colin Hockley/Rob Harris   | vs | Andrew Rumbelow/Nick Hague |

Both Michael Kent and Nick Hague are still alive in both match play competitions and could potentially face each other in the finals of both.

### LG McDonald Memorial Trophy

Francis Armstrong and Archie Hendry will fight out the final of the LG McDonald on 3 September.

## Members Memorial

If you are ever in need of rest on the 12<sup>th</sup> tee while you wait for the group in front you will notice the bench has two plaques in memory of members who passed away in the past few years – David Muir and Jonny Branagh.

RIP



## Lady Members Golf Day and Afternoon Tea 25 June

The Lady members golf day and afternoon tea was a great success. Over thirty members responded and seventeen were able to make it on the day.

The feedback about a function being organised was very positive and many of those present and those who couldn't make it on the day indicated a willingness to participate in another event later in the year.

Three of the ladies that played golf on the day had never played as a member at Sandringham even though they had been members for 12 months and three others that attended afternoon tea had also not ever played at Sandringham.

Thanks to Jenni Clarke for organising the event.

[A great initiative!](#)

Some golf was also played!



Jan Roker, Belinda Anson, Anne Forwood



The gangs all here!



Jan Roker, Liz Tanzimat, Mel Ansell



Jenni Clarke, Rowena Mytton

## Members Hidden Talents Presenting Nick Hague

(hopefully the first in an infrequent series)

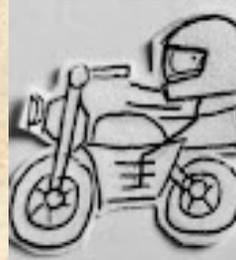
Those of us who know Nick in a golf context would not suspect that inside his cool calm presence with a club in hand is someone with a quirky sense of humour and the chutzpah to show it to the world.

Nick has started his own YouTube channel driven it seems by Covid lockdowns and learning to ride a motorbike.

His channel has videos of trips Nick has made, reviews of fast food and blow by blow videos of rounds of golf including two at Sandy. As Nick says "Just a normal guy doing normal things".

To find Nick's channel just search for "The Way of the Helmet".

If you see Nick on course you can ask him why he superimposes a helmet on his face even when he is playing golf in some of his videos!



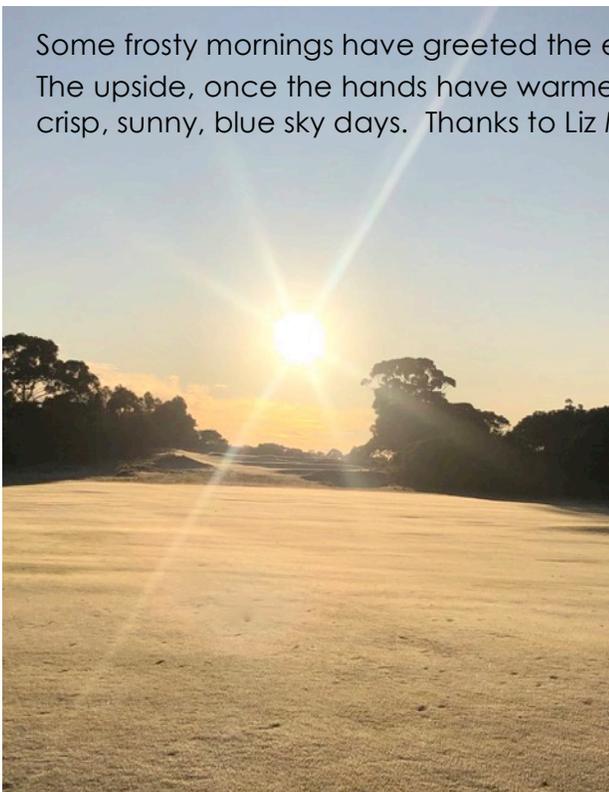
Way of the Helmet



## Winter Golf is Fun!

Some frosty mornings have greeted the early starters in recent weeks.

The upside, once the hands have warmed up, is the frosty mornings usually turn into crisp, sunny, blue sky days. Thanks to Liz Mitchell for the photos!



## The Technical Thought Process of a Lady Golfer.

"Great drive Jenni!" Christine congratulated her friend as the ball landed around 292 metres in the middle of the first fairway.

It was her turn now. Christine knew from her numerous and expensive lessons that when teeing up, the insides of your feet should be in line with your shoulders and the ball level with your left heel. The shaft of the club should be parallel with the ground at the top of the backswing and your right heel should be up off the ground at completion of the stroke, eyes following the flight of the ball.

She took her backswing thinking, "I wonder what we will have for dinner tonight." As she struck the ball she thought, "Oh no, did I turn the iron off before I left home?"

Her ball shot up into the air. She heard gasps as it landed on the practice putting green 30 metres to the right of the teeing area.

"Fore." she whispered.

As she approached the green to collect her ball she deliberated about where she should place her ball to take the next shot. Was there a penalty? One or two strokes? Was the practice area an integral part of the course and possibly thereby Out of Bounds?

Eventually she thought, "Does my bum look big in these pants?"

*Thanks to Christine Nicholson for this piece.*

## News from the Professional Ranks

The British Women's Open was the last major championship for 2022 in both the women's and men's' game. Australian golfers had a very successful year with Minjee Lee winning the US Open and Cam Smith "the Open". Minjee Lee also won the Annika award for the best player across the five women's majors. She finished 12<sup>th</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, T43rd and T4th to win the award and is now the No 2 ranked player in the women's game.

The Women's British Open highlighted a phenomenon more prevalent in the women's game than the men's – that of couples competing with each other. Ashleigh Buhai of South Africa won the Open after 4 extra holes and the TV coverage showed her being enthusiastically embraced by her husband David who had finished work for the day – caddying for one of Buhai's competitors Jeongeun Lee6. Interestingly David had caddied for Ashleigh until they got married after which he moved to another player's bag. They have not been the only couples with this arrangement. In 2019 Caroline Masson met Nelly Korda in a playoff in a tournament in Taiwan. Korda's caddy was Masson's fiancé! Korda won. Makes for interesting conversation at home I guess! Sandy has its own version of this with Jan caddying for Mike Roker during our Pennant season.

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

Sandy PGA Pro Shop

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

## Golf courses and public spaces – the Covid aftermath Part 2

As noted last time Darebin Council was considering placing a 3pm curfew on golf on the Northcote Golf Course. The opening of the course to the public became a hot local issue during Covid lockdowns when no golf was allowed but community members could use the course as a park.

In good news for golfers the Council rejected this proposal by the narrow margin of 5 votes to 4. The main reason appears to be the costs involved in cleaning up after the public.

The Council had already reallocated 5.72 hectares of land from the golf course to public land.

## News and Notes

### Club Apparel

Members can purchase Club apparel.

- Polo shirt \$35. Women's polos now also available.
- Cap \$10

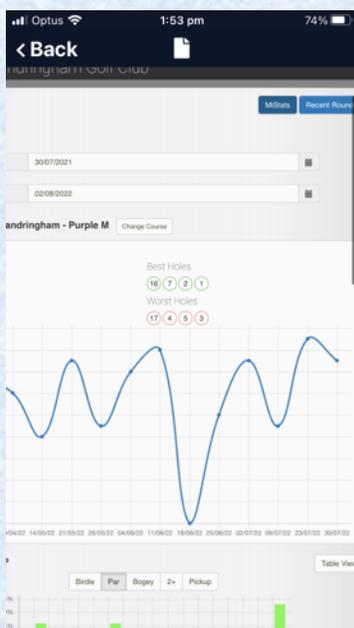
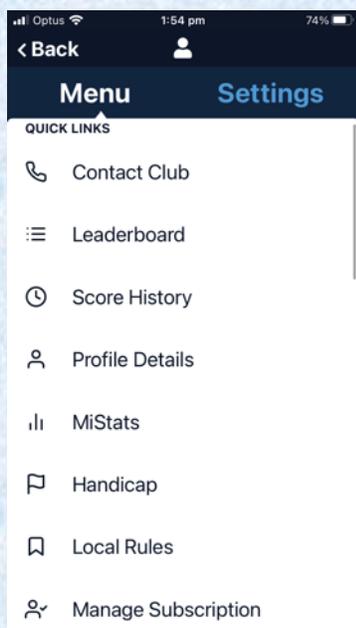
Email: [captain@sandringhamgolfclub.org.au](mailto:captain@sandringhamgolfclub.org.au) or text 0413 438 048

### Member Notes

- Congratulations to Nick Jamieson and his wife on the birth of their first child – Annabel.
- Best wishes to Andrew Preston as he recovers from recent surgery
- Welcome back to super veteran Stuart Low who played his first round in some time on 13 August.

## MiScore does more than keep score.

As MiScore becomes more familiar to members it might be fun to explore some of its other features. When you click on the Menu heading a number of items come up. The screenshot below is just the first 8. See next page for mention of the *Local Rules*. Of course the *Leaderboard* item enables you to check results and track progress in our competitions. *Score History* is self-explanatory. *MiStats* analyses your scores hole by hole (see below) as well as telling you which holes are your best and worst – you will be asked to log in to OneGolf to use this function.



## Local Rules

Now we are not using scorecards members may have to think twice about where they can find our Local Rules. Here they are below but they can also be found on our website and in the MiScore app under the Menu.

### Sandringham Golf Club (1937) Inc. LOCAL RULES (05/2021)

#### 1. OUT OF BOUNDS: Rule 18.2b

- • Outside the course boundaries.
- • Buildings and adjoining verandas, seating areas, garden beds.
- • Bitumen areas, driveways and car parks.
- • Maintenance compound.
- • Driving range and practice areas.

#### 2. PROTECTION OF YOUNG TREES: If a young tree less than 2 club lengths in height interferes with a player's stance or swing, the ball MUST be lifted and dropped. Using the nearest point of relief, that is not nearer the hole, as the reference point, the player must drop and play the ball from the relief area. The ball may be cleaned before being dropped. Rule 16.1f applies.

#### 3. IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS: Include taps, sprinkler heads, seats, signs, manhole covers. Rule 16.1 applies.

#### 4. IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTION CLOSE TO PUTTING GREEN:

In addition to the types of interference described in Rule 16.1a, interference also exists if an immovable obstruction is on the player's line of play, and is within 2 club lengths of the putting green, and is within 2 club lengths of the ball.

Exception: there is no relief under this Local Rule if the player chooses a line of play that is clearly unreasonable.

#### 5. MOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS: Include the hoops beside the greens(Rule 15.2a provides free relief).

#### 6. ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITIONS: Free relief is allowed under Rule 16.1. The following conditions are included:

- • Damage caused by birds in general area and on putting green.
- • A ball that comes to rest in or near an aeration hole on the putting green.
- • A ball located in an erosion washout in bunkers.
- • Embedded stones in the general area.
- • Wheel ruts caused by course maintenance vehicles.
- • Paths

#### 7. BUNKERS: Where rakes are missing, preferred lies are allowed by the ball being *placed* within a club length in the same bunker, no nearer the hole, without penalty. Ball may be cleaned. Otherwise, Rule 12.2 applies. Bunkers include the prepared areas of sand along several fairways.

**8. MOTORISED CARTS:** Motorised carts may not be used in VGL events or club championships except by players 70 years of age and over. Exceptions to this rule may be approved by the VGL for VGL events or the SGC Committee for club championship rounds. Motorised carts may be used in other events. Penalty for breach of this Local Rule is disqualification.

Unless otherwise noted the **penalty for breach of a Local Rule** is the general penalty: (stroke play - 2 strokes, match play – loss of hole).

## And another thing...Match Play participants take note!

Another item on the score card that members may miss if they are playing match play is the Match Play Index. Here it is but it can also be found on our website under the rules for the Match Play competitions. As the Index is universal a simple online search will find it as well.

| Hole  | 1  | 2 | 3  | 4 | 5  | 6 | 7  | 8 | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
|-------|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Index | 18 | 8 | 12 | 3 | 14 | 6 | 10 | 1 | 16 | 5  | 11 | 2  | 15 | 7  | 13 | 4  | 17 | 9  |

### So why is this Index different to our own?

The simple answer is that the index is constructed so that the handicap differences are spread across the card so that both players get a fair chance to make the most of their respective abilities. In the case of our own Stroke Index the spread is pretty good but on some other courses if their own index was used the shots received or given could all be bunched at the end or the beginning of the round and either be too late to impact the match or give the higher handicapper a flyer.

As an example in a match where one player has to give 4 shots to their opponent under the match play index these are given on Holes 4, 8, 12 and 16 – nicely spread throughout the round.

If the match was played using our index for the Purple tees (or Orange as it happens) the strokes would be given on Holes 8, 13, 15 and 17. Potentially the match might be out of reach before the higher handicapper even receives his third shot.

Whilst fairer the use of the Match Play Index can lead to some anomalies where higher handicappers get strokes on easy rated holes but not on harder rated holes (according to the Stroke Index). This is the proverbial rub of the green!



No luck in identifying the source for the picture at left from our last issue however it is pretty clear the golfer is Australian great Kel Nagle. As life member Bill McLaughlin pointed out the hat and the bulls eye putter were a dead give away.

Nagle was a late bloomer but won the Centenary British Open in 1960 holding off Arnold Palmer, was runner up in the 1965 US Open (lost in a play off to Gary Player) and won a tournament very year from 1949 to 1975. He also paired with Peter Thomson to win the Canada Cup in 1954 – the forerunner of the World Cup of Golf. Speaking of Thomson. Five time British Open champion, winner of many tournaments around the world and renowned course designer Thomson also wrote extensively on golf. It is safe to say that Thomson was a self reliant individual who didn't have a high opinion of the modern (then) trends in golf as the following quote shows.

On modern putting teaching(1993): " The teaching is wrong, the whole theory is wrong. The results are disastrous. If the theory wasn't wrong the whole entourage should be, by now, the best putters in history. The fact is they might be, collectively, the worst."

Taken from a book collecting Thomson's writings " *Lessons I have Learned*". More next issue.

## The Phantom of the Open

The recently completed 2022 "The Open" was won in brilliant style by Cam Smith flying the Aussie flag and his signature mullet.

The Open lives up to its name in that everyone can have a crack at qualifying to play in the tournament – well almost everyone.

Meet Maurice Flitcroft. In 1976 Flitcroft (47) was working as a crane driver (after a career as a stunt driver, an ice cream salesman and an artist) and decided to try and qualify for The Open. He had taken up the game two years earlier hitting balls on beaches and local fields and sneaking onto proper courses.



On the entry form he had to tick either amateur or professional. Not being a member of a club or having a handicap he ticked professional which put him into a group of real professionals for the qualifying round. After he played a few shots his playing partners realised something was not right and called officials who were unable to do anything once the round had started.

Flitcroft eventually shot a dubious 121 and blamed his poor round on leaving his favourite club (a 4 wood) in the car. A newspaper report at the time described it as "a blizzard of triple and quadruple bogeys, ruined by a solitary par".

The R&A were not amused! They changed the qualifying rules and banned Flitcroft from future attempts but that didn't stop Maurice. He tried to enter qualifying a number of other times using false names such as Gene Paycheki (3 holes before being discovered), Gerald Hoppy (9 holes before being rumbled), James Beau Jolley (say it out loud with a French accent!), Arnold Palmtree and Count Manfred von Hoffmanstel together with physical disguises such as wearing a false moustache and dark glasses.

As is the way of the world (even in 1976) Flitcroft became a minor celebrity. He appeared on TV and had a golf club in the US name a tournament after him. A biography was written and a movie made about Maurice – both called "The Phantom of the Open". The movie was released in 2022.

Flitcroft himself said: "I was looking to find fame and fortune but only achieved one of the two".

One of these two people achieved both!

