

FAIRWAY NEWS



FEBRUARY
2023



Welcome to 2023

Here's looking forward to a successful and enjoyable year on and off the golf course starting with...

SGC Club Function

Sunday 26 February

Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron

The Club will hold its annual get together at the Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron at 3.00pm on Sunday 26 February.

Members can book themselves and guest through the OneGolf booking sheet as you do for club competitions.

Please book by 18 February.

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Golf's fun isn't it?

At Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron you are guaranteed to have a better time than this!



After a dry start to the year the rain came down during the first round of the Club Championships. Can't tell if she is singing but Lynda Douch is still smiling though!

Upcoming events

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 11 February | Stroke Club Champs R2, LG McDonald Qualifier |
| 16 February | VGL 4BBB Eastern Sward GC |
| 18 February | Stroke Club Champs R3, VGL Medal, Bookings close for Club Function 26/2 |
| 25 February | Stableford |
| 26 February | Club Function Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron |
| 28 February | Registration closes for Singles Match Play |
| 4 March | 4BBB Par, Singles Stableford, Pairs Match Play Qualifier |

Recent Results

- The Christmas Eve round was won by Mark Brooks whose 38pts led a bunched field. Ricky Plummer (37pts), Pat Maginness(37pts) and Vlad Dolnikov(36pts) won A, B and C Grades respectively. Tran Vu beat Anne Forwood on a countback for the Women's Divisions after both scored 35pts. Alan Abbes eagled the 1st.
- The last round of 2022 saw Liz Mann take the overall with 42pts. Anne Forwood went one better than the previous week and won the Women's Division with 36pts. New Club Captain Michael Kent celebrated his elevation by winning A Grade with 40 pts. Matthew Farrelly won B Grade on a countback from Jason Maynard after both also scored 40pts. Super veteran Stuart Low also triumphed again winning C Grade with 37pts.
- Ben Willersdorf set a new Stableford record for the new course when his massive 49pts won the overall on 7/1. Dan Harrison's 43pts to win C Grade was next best. Jan Roker(36pts) won the Women's Division. Sean Paterson (33pts) and Julius Chan(39pts) won A and B Grade respectively.
- Michael Kent led the way on 14/1. His 43pts took out the overall. Mark Johnson's 42pts was next best and won B Grade. Roger Van Hilst (41pts- A Grade), Gavin Kinnaird (41pts – C Grade) and Christine Nicholson (36pts – Women's) were the other winners.
- The Par round of 21/1 saw 29 of the 70 strong men's field score Square or better. Don Tasevski's +6 won the overall. There were 3 scores of +5 with Dara Danh winning A Grade and Andrew Charlton winning B Grade. Craig Brenner was the unlucky one - missing a prize on a countback to Dara. Ross Gordon(+2) also won C Grade on a countback from former President Ollie Cunliffe. Jenni Clarke (+1) took out the Women's Division.

THE PRESIDENT'S BLOG



So far 2023 has been kind to us with regards to the weather, with the exception of a couple of hot Saturday outings. (Editor's note: Rob wrote this before the round of 4 February!)

As we approach February, we are all looking forward to good Saturday weather for the hosting of the Club Championships, commencing on 4th February and continuing for the two Saturdays following. Good luck to everyone who partakes.

The Greens have been a big talking point over the last few weeks and let us all hope that the work that has been carried out by the Course Staff has rectified the problems in time for the Club Championships and the ongoing enjoyment of all golfers.

The other big talking point of late is the hugely disappointing increase in Green Fees that has been levied since the start of February. As a club, it is intended that The Club will write to Bayside Council and Royal Melbourne so as to seek some understanding of the latest 20% increase. It seems like February is the month that we receive this type of unwelcome news, as I recall writing about the same issue in February 2022, albeit the increase was nowhere near as preposterous as this one.

Watch this space for further updates as and when we receive them from either entity

Finally, a quote I recently saw

“When I was young I was a poor golfer. But after years of practice, I am no longer young.”

Regards
Rob

Recent Results (cont.)

- The new Stableford record score was matched on 28/1 when Tim Hernadi scored 49pts to beat a field of strong performances. Tony Turpin's 44pts was a phenomenal round but only got him the B Grade prize. Andrew Hunter (42pts- A Grade), Brett Baker (37pts – C Grade) were other winners. Christine Nicholson won the Women's Division on a countback from Dale Gilkes after both scored 36pts.
- The first round of the Club Championships was played in difficult conditions with rain and wind resulting in a number of withdrawals especially among the early starters. Despite the weather some excellent scores were returned. Ross Gordon won the VGL Medal with a net 60 including an eagle on 18, which must have been something to see playing into the strong west wind. Alan Abbes net 61 was next best and took out B Grade. Luke Galloway (net 63 – A Grade), Laurie Spence (net 65 – C Grade) and Liz Mitchell (net 65 – Women's Division) were the other winners.

Some Stats from Michael

Some interesting statistics for last year. The club has approximately 400 members and half of them played at least 5 rounds. Only 1 player averaged over 1 round a week, a clear 10 rounds more than 2nd place. Another 80 members played between 1 and 4 rounds for the year leaving over 100 members who did not tee off in a competition or social round. There were over 850 visitors who registered for 1300 competition rounds.

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Hello everyone. I hope you all managed to get some holidays over the New Year break and are ready and in top form for a busy year of golf.



The season kicks off with the Club Championships and I wish everyone the best of luck to string 3 solid rounds of stroke play together. There have been some great scores posted recently, but rarely does a player dominate consecutive weeks.

Pennant starts a few weeks after the Championships and the LG McDonald qualifier and Pittard registration are also fast approaching. Make sure you keep an eye out for the relevant dates and get the key fixture dates into your diary. Check the website or bookings page for details.

For the new members to the club, I hope you are settling in well. Some of the strongest competition is booking a tee time and a regular grouping helps and getting known across several groups is even better. The club's annual social event is at the Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron on February 26 and this is a good time to meet players outside your regular tee time. Registration is via the booking page and I urge all members to attend. More details are to be found in this newsletter.

A quick comment on rakes in bunkers which were reintroduced for the start of February. There is no change to the club's local rule of "lift, clean and place within 1 club length" for the duration of the Club Championships and the match committee will review this rule shortly thereafter. I would ask all members to make use of the rakes after they have played their shot and leave the bunker in the condition you would hope to find it.

Happy golfing.

Michael Kent

News and Notes

Events of Note

The VGL will hold their **Seniors (over 55) 4BBB Stableford** competition on **Thursday 16 February** at Eastern Sward Golf Course. Sandy Golf Club will pay the entry fee of any members wishing to participate in this and other VGL events. Please email the captain@sandringhamgolfclub.org.au if you wish to enter.

Callaway/Paradym will conduct a **Custom Fitting Day** at Sandy on 14 February. See Pro Shop for details and bookings.

A **Women's Challenge Cup Pro/Am** is being played on 7 March at Keysborough GC. Sponsored by the Bendigo Bank Dingley Village.

Looking to go further afield a **Ladies Challenge Bowl** for Club Teams of 3 is being played at Shepparton Golf Club on 31 March.

Athena Returns to Sandy – 4/5 March

The Athena event featuring young women golfers in a variety of skill competitions and then a knock out match play event will be held at Sandy on 4/5 March. The event will be televised on Kayo/Foxtel and has been locked into the golfing calendar for the next 3 years.

Member Notes

Member Pat Maginness' son Tom has recently been awarded a full scholarship to attend the University of North Carolina and play as a punter for their football team. While there Tom will undertake a degree in Radiation Science. Congratulations and best wishes Tom.

Club Apparel

Members can purchase Club apparel.

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

Email: captain@sandringhamgolfclub.org.au or text 0413 438 048

Club Championship Trivia

- The Club's Open Champion receives a trophy named after J.C Goudie, a former President (1943-54) and donated by Mr. A.C. Goudie.
- The winner of the Open Grade is the SGC representative to the VGL Champion of Champions event.
- Last year's Champion Anthony Cape has left the country after winning twice in three years.
- Dave Philipson has won most number of Club Championships – an amazing 10! Three other members have won 8 times.
- Of current members Sean Paterson has the most with 4.
- One of the 8 time winners Claude Sheppard was once barred by the Committee from becoming a member of the Club – he won 8 times between 1941 and 1951.
- Paul Scanlon will be going for his 3rd B Grade Championship in a row.
- This will be the third Championship on the new course. Here are the winning scores so far (2021 first):
 - Open 228 strokes, 229 strokes
 - B Grade 244 strokes, 250 strokes
 - C Grade 272 strokes, 269 strokes
 - Women's Open 265 strokes
 - President's Trophy 195 net, 192 net
 - First Lady 203 net, 202 net.
- The First Lady competition for best net score by a women member was introduced in 2015 with Fiona Reynolds the only 2 time winner so far. Last year saw the introduction of the Women's Open trophy which was won by Liz Mitchell.

Major Competition News

As we move into February some of the Club's ongoing major competitions also kick off. With a large number of new members here is a summary of some of these events that start in the early part of the year.

John Pittard Singles Match Play

In previous years the top 16 players from a qualifying Stableford round entered this knockout match play tournament.

For this year, **players are able to enter the starting grid via a booking sheet on the 1Golf booking page.** Depending on numbers, some players will advance round 1 with a bye to enable the fixture to work down to the final round in the time allowed. A random draw will be conducted. Rounds are due to be completed by dates indicated in the Club's fixture e.g. R 1 by the end of May. The final will be completed by 28 October.

Bookings are now open and will close on 28 February.

Ian Fraser Pairs Match Play

This hotly contested trophy is a lot of fun and has had some dramatic matches over the years. The 4BBB Par Round on 4 March acts as the qualifying round from which 8 pairs go into the knock out stage. First round to be played by 24 June and the title decided by 28 October.

L G McDonald Memorial Trophy

The LG McDonald is a knockout competition played concurrently with the VGL Medal events as scheduled in the Fixtures. The top 32 players in the Stroke round of 11 February qualify and the field is reduced from 32 progressively to 16, 8, 4, and then the final 2 on the basis of selecting the lowest net scores in each round. In the event of ties, countback rules are applied. The final round is on 5 August.

High Ratings for Sandy Golf Links

Sandy Golf Links has been rated highly in two recent rankings of the top Australian golf courses.

Golf Australia Magazine has Sandy in at No 29 on its list of Top 100 Public Access Courses after not being ranked previously.

Maybe even more impressively *Australian Golf Digest* ranked Sandy as No 58 in its Top 100 Australian Golf Courses 2022/23. One of its panelists is quoted as saying "A great course that proves you don't need length to be challenging and fun,"

Notwithstanding the recent problems with the greens most members will recognise the quality and uniqueness of the course and it's nice to see that quality acknowledged more broadly. However there is little doubt these rankings can be used to help justify the recent jump in green fees.

Something Eclectic?

Next time you are logged into the 1Golf site and have some time have a look at the tab that says Eclectic. Under there you will find the leaderboard for the 2023 Founders Shield. An Eclectic competition takes the best score on each hole for members in stableford rounds.

As you might expect Ben Willesdorf is leading (see below) with 53pts with 3 members close behind on 51pts.

Looking at the leaderboard you can see which holes you need to work on!

Last year's results are also there and show that Alan Abbes won with 58pts so there is still a chance for everyone as more Stableford rounds are played.

Course Record Scores

As noted in the recent results column the course record in Stableford competitions has taken a beating this January. First Ben Willesdorf scored 49pts on 7 January to break the previous Saturday record by 2 pts and the midweek record by 1 pt.

Three weeks later visitor Tim Hernadi matched Ben's score. Brad McDiarmid held the previous best Saturday score. There must be something about this time of year as Brad's record was set in January last year – 50pts in 2024 anyone?

Ben's Stroke score of 71 which included 2 birdies and 8 pars would also have broken the Stroke record of 72 held by 3 players but the Statistician is being finicky and the record will count as a Stableford score only. Not to mention that a nett 52 would also be a record.

Ben scored his 49pts playing off a handicap of 19, Tim was playing off 36 when he made his run at glory.

Naturally after a score like that both player's handicaps took a hit with Ben losing 4 shots and Tim a whopping 17 shots!! (Probably because he doesn't have a full 20 rounds in the system)

Here are the current best scores in SGC competitions since the new course opened.

Stroke Gross

Date	Men	Sc/Hc
5/12/20	Anthony Cape	72/9
20/2/21	Nick Hague	72/11
13/3/21	Gary Boschen	72/8
Date	Women	Sc/Hc
27/2/21	Marian Nguyen	82/19

Stroke Net

Date	Men	Sc/Hc
2/7/22	Michael Sneyd	55/22
4/12/21	Andrew Preston	58/22
12/2/22	Larry Stewart	58/26
Date	Women	Sc/Hc
5/12/20	Ruth MacDonald	58/32

Stableford Saturday

Date	Men	Sc/Hc
7/1/23	Ben Willesdorf	49/19
28/1/23	Tim Hernadi	49/36
29/1/22	Brad McDiarmid	47/20
Date	Women	Sc/Hc
10/7/21	Liz Tanzimat	44/28

Stableford Mid Week

Date	Men	Sc/Hc
3/4/22	Phillip Noble	48/28
24/3/22	Sam Pilcher	47/30
Date	Women	Sc/Hc
9/7/22	Simone Andrews	48/45
19/12/20	Sally Squires	45/37

Par

Date	Men	Sc/Hc
3/4/21	Peter Karvelis	+9/19
Date	Women	Sc/Hc
23/7/22	Belinda Anson	+5/33
15/1/22	Ruth Branagh	+4/23
19/3/22	Glenda McDade	+4/29

Pennant Season starts late February

Sandy will enter three teams in VGL Pennant competition in 2023.

First cab off the rank is the Seniors team (over 55s) whose season starts on Thursday 23 February. Sandy will be playing the same three clubs as last year with each away course providing different challenges.

The Scratch and Handicap team's seasons commence on Sunday 25 March.

All teams will be looking to improve on their showing in 2022 and win a flag for the Club for the first time since 2018.

Even if not playing members are most welcome to come and support the teams on match day.

	Scratch (Div 2)	Handicap (Div 3)	Seniors
Rd 1	Altona Lakes (A)	Ringwood (H)	Centenary Park (H)
Rd 2	Westgate (H)	Northcote (A)	Eastern Sward (A)
Rd 3	Brighton (A)	Camberwell (H)	Creekside (H)
Rd 4	Altona Lakes (H)	Ringwood (A)	Centenary Park (A)
Rd 5	Westgate (A)	Northcote (H)	Eastern Sward (H)
Rd 6	Brighton (A)	Camberwell (A)	Creekside (A)

Minor Changes to the Rules of Golf for 2023 – very minor!

There were some minor rule changes for 2023 that are likely to have minimal impact on member's play. Here are two that might:

Dropping back on the line

This process has been simplified so that if taking relief from a penalty area or taking an unplayable lie by dropping the ball back on a line *the ball must come to rest within 1 club length of the drop in any direction*. Of course the other relief options apply – going back and re-hitting the shot or taking two club lengths from the ball (unplayable) or the point of entry into the penalty area. A 1 stroke penalty applies to all these options.

Replacing damaged clubs

If your club is damaged during a round (except in cases of abuse) you may replace it, repair it, or continue to use it.

No Rules Books

The Rules of Golf will no longer be available in hard copy. Websites and apps are the go in this modern age. The Golf Australia Handicap app will be updated to contain all the Rules content in early 2023.

The early 2023 PGA tournaments have lacked a bit of spice as players gradually regain their regular season chops (Jon Rahm excepted – he was going for 3 wins in a row in the PGA Tour event in late January). That is until the Hero Desert Classic played in Dubai where the PGA Tour vs LIV imbroglio turned personal - sort of. Fairway News presents:

Good vs Evil in the Desert – first draft of a treatment for a streaming series

The scene

The Hero Dubai Desert Classic is a DP Tour event and LIV players can play in these events as a result of successful court action. This is the first time for some time where players who are loyal to the PGA Tour will meet and play against players who went to LIV.

Dramatis Personae

Rory McIlroy The leading man, a matinee idol maturing in years, wears the white hat and leads the charge for the PGA Tour. The best golfer in the world at the end of 2022.
Played by Rory McIlroy.

Patrick Reed The feisty outsider who pushes the boundaries and whose golf gets better when he feels it is him against the world. Wears the black hat on most occasions but here is representing LIV. Played by Patrick Reed

First act

At the range before the tournament Rory is focused on his routine. Reed walks over and shakes hands with McIlroy's caddie and says hello to Rory but gets no response. As he walks away he is seen to flick a golf tee in Rory's direction. Social media lights up and the golf press jumps on the players in their press conferences. McIlroy explains that his response might have been a reaction to Reed's lawyer serving him with a subpoena while he was with his family on Christmas Eve as part of the legal to and fro between LIV and the PGA Tour. Reed's response was that "if you're going to act like an immature little child then you might as well be treated like one."

Second Act

Both players are near the top of the leaderboard throughout the tournament and speculation is rife that they might be paired together in the final two rounds. In the end McIlroy pulls away to a three shot lead at the end of the third round – 4 ahead of Reed. Reed stays in the headlines in his usual fashion however when he hits his ball into a group of tall palm trees. With the use of binoculars Reed convinces the officials he can definitively identify his ball in one of the trees and gets a drop underneath. The issue gains legs when video footage appears to show Reed's ball entering a different tee in the group of three. Social media lights up again.

Third Act

Reed starts the final round brilliantly picking up 6 shots in his first 11 holes and takes the lead on the back 9 only to bogey 16 and fail to birdie the drivable Par 4 17th. A birdie on 18 takes him to 18 under where he is joined by McIlroy when he birdies 17. McIlroy's drive on 18 finishes inches from the water. He lays up from there and amidst much tension holes a 4m putt for the birdie and the win with commentators all in a lather about a possible play off between the two.

Series 2

The next opportunity for LIV players to compete with PGA Tour players will be the US Masters in April. After this opening series fans can't wait.

Keeping Track of the Ecology of the Course

Bayside Council publishes a quarterly bulletin (Banksia Bulletin), which reports on the ecology and environment in the Bayside Council area – and sometimes beyond.

Sandy Golf Links features regularly including in the Winter 2022 edition where there was a significant story about the ecological burn that took place alongside 6th green and 7th tee in 2021 and the later burn alongside the 4th fairway. The article documents the plants that have regenerated naturally and some of which were helped along with a seeding or planting process after the burn. A recent photo of the area alongside the 7th was included in the last newsletter – the Banksia Bulletin is a bit more sophisticated with lots of photos and names the species (Latin names of course!)

Interestingly the article indicates that “The plan is to gradually increase the heathland and understory to slowly weed out some areas of Coast Tea Tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*), which is dominating large parts of the course.”

In another Bulletin there was the snippet to the right.

The Bulletin can be read online or subscribed to through the Bayside Council website.



@ Sandringham Golf Links

Wild Parsnip (*Trachymene composita* var *composita*) is quite common in pockets of Melbourne but it was a nice discovery, identified by Val Stajsic at Sandringham Golf Links in October, which appeared after this year's ecological burn. It's annual, or sometimes biennial, with beautiful flowers and many seeds.

“There is an old collection of *Trachymene composita* at the Herbarium, and my collection from Cheltenham Park. The Sandy Golf Links plant is the first record of Wild Parsnip in this part of Bayside, at least in recent years. It has always surprised me why it never appeared after burns locally so I was very pleased to see it,” Val said.



Rain on 4 February should help the ecology of the course especially after how fast the level in the dam was going down.

Just remember not to drive into water – you never know how deep it is!

Thanks to Cathy Dixon and Glenda McDade for the rainy day photos this issue.

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

Rakes or no rakes??

Sometimes putting the newsletter together every couple of months means events overtake you. Adrian Thomas (Editors note: I'm going to have to put him on the payroll soon!) provided a link to an article that appeared on the USGA's website in July last year entitled "Going Rakeless at Inwood Country Club". Interesting and relevant to our Club - lets run with it. And then...Sandy Course Management changes its stance on rakes. Oh well – here's the story anyway.

Inwood Country Club decided that after two years of no rakes that they would not go back. A number of reasons are given in the article starting with the one that golf "is more fun" without rakes! Here are some others:

- golf is more natural and less artificial, – getting back to golf's roots
- rounds at Inwood were about 10-15 minutes shorter without rakes.
- beneficial to the maintenance budget and less time spent moving rakes for course care.
- aesthetics - trying to present a more natural, old-school look and feel.



Concerns about fairness were responded to with the line "Golf is not inherently fair, and no two players are ever playing an identical golf course ...Expecting a consistent lie after an errant shot devalues the well-placed one."

Some other quotes from the article:

- "those who won't kick out their footprints probably shouldn't be trusted with a rake anyway!"
- "Most members would agree that not having rakes has had little to no effect on their score.
- "One reason the ancient Scots fell in love with the game is that they thought it accurately reflected the unfairness of life."

The Full article can be found at <https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/course-care/green-section-record/60/13/going-rakeless-at-inwood-country-club.html>

Now we have them where do we put them?

The USGA and the R&A recommend placing rakes outside of bunkers and away from where they are likely to interfere with play. Ideally, you don't want to place rakes across the line of play or in a location where they could trap balls in a difficult spot – e.g., within a bunker on a steep slope near the lip.

Even with our local rule of "Lift, Clean and Place within 1 club length inside the bunker" it is important to place rakes in a way to minimize the potential impact on play.