<section-header>

Club Championships 2023

After two playoffs, a one shot and a three shot margin here are our Club Champions for 2023. Congratulations to all! Full details later in the newsletter.

Club Champion	James Honner	225
Runner Up	Tim Noonan	228
B Grade	Paul Scanlon(P/O)	242
Runners Up	Geoff Thornton	242
C Grade	Tony Morgan(P/0)	273
Runner Up	Steven Brook	273
Women Open	Kate Caridakis	225
	Liz Mitchell	262
President's Trophy	Jeff Coghill	189
Runner Up	Paul Scanlon	190
First Lady	Kate Caridakis	195
Runner Up	Liz Mitchell	205

This Issue includes

Club Champions 2023 Upcoming Events Recent Results The President's Blog Captain's Corner Coveted Golf Trophies News and Notes Major Competition News Course records and We were wrong! I don't go that far on my holidays Golf Ball - facts and estimates Pennant 2023 Club Championship Wrap Score Differential – the handicap number The Social Pages Club Function February

Congratulations to James and Kate



and Masters week!

Happy Easter

Upcoming events		
8 April		Stableford
15 April		Pairs Aggregate Stableford
22 April	-	Stableford
29 April		Stableford
6 May	Total.	Stroke, VGL Medal LG
		McDonald R2
13 May		Breast Cancer Pink Day, 2 Ball
		Ambrose
20 May		Par Club Medal

Recent Results

- The second round of the Club Championships on 11 February saw Paul Scanlon take the overall with a net 58. Michael Wang's net 59 was next best and won B Grade. Net 62 was a popular score with Kate Caridakis(Women's Division), Steven Brook (C Grade) and Peter Daly (A Grade) all returning that score. As did the unlucky Roger Van Hilst who lost on a countback to Peter.
- A new record net score was set on 18
 February when Todd Wilson shot a net 53
 off a handicap of 18 to win the VGL
 Medal. Todd was 5 shots clear of Jeff
 Coghill and Geoff Maynard with Jeff
 beating Geoff for the B Grade win on a
 countback. Oliver Cunliffe (net 59 C
 Grade), Adam Canwell (net 62 A Grade)
 and Glenda McDade(net 63 Women's
 Division) were the other winners.
- Don Tasevski was the overall winner with 43 pts on 25 February. Brett Clarke's 42pts was next best and won B Grade. Dale Gilkes' 40pts won the Women's Division and Andrew Rumbelow's 38pts won A Grade. Frederick Hughan won C Grade from Dan Harrison on a countback after both scored 40pts.
- Mark Heaven and Shane Upton's scorching +12 was too good for the field in the 4BBB Par round on 4 March. Next best was Michael Sneyd and Matt Scott who took second on a countback from John Bris and Laurie Spence after both pairs scored +9. The competition was hot as 22 pairs scored +6 or better. Matt Dowling won the individual stableford with 39pts.
- Dale Gilkes continued her excellent form this time taking out the overall prize on 11 March with 44 pts. Roger Van Hilst's 41pts got him into the winner's circle in A Grade. Michael Sneyd(41pts B Grade), John Radonich(36pts C Grade) and Ruth Branagh (35pts Women's Division) were the other winners.

THE PRESIDENT'S BLOG

First business is to report back to Members on the Committees action in relation to the hugely disappointing



increase in Green Fees. Since the last newsletter we have written to:

- Royal Melbourne Golf Club
- Bayside Council
- Mr Brad Rowswell (Legislative Assembly, Liberal State Member for Sandringham)
- Mr Ryan Batchelor (Legislative Council, Labour Member for Southern Metropolitan Region)

To date we are awaiting a response from any of the above. It is intended that the next Committee meeting will discuss the next course of action.

The Club Championships have been and gone and other than the first day of play, the weather was relatively kind to all who participated. Congratulations to all the winners of the respective Divisions.

Big congratulations to all those who participated in the organisation and running of the social outing at the BMYS. A big pat on the back to all those that attended and helped ensure its success and remember to earmark it as a regular occurrence.

Senior Pennant has been and gone and unfortunately I can't report enough success over the 6 rounds to elevate us into the final. The team performed well (a highlight was a 8 to 0 win against Creekside) but unfortunately we couldn't replicate this in other matches. Hopefully next season we bring a better showing and new recruits from the younger fraternity as they reach 55 yo and become eligible. Handicap and Scratch teams began their season on 26th March and we wish them all the success that the Seniors could not attain...good luck teams.

Well that's enough from me and sorry to disappoint but no joke or "memorable quote" this time around

Regards

Rob

Fairway News April 2023

Recent Results (cont.)

- Scoring cooled off for the Par round on 18 March with Michael Lenkic's +2 taking the overall prize. Only 4 other scores were in the plus territory and three of them were in B Grade - Andrew Ball beating Mal McAfee and John Bris on a countback with a +1. Tony Morgan won C Grade with the same score. Luke Rector beat Ben Willersdorf on a countback for A Grade at -1 and Christine Nicholson did the same to beat Linda Best in the Women's Division.
- Solid rather than spectacular scoring characterised the Stableford round on 23 March. Scott Reed's 40pts took out the overall. Next best was Anna Puchalski's 39pts to win the Women's Division. Tom Rogacki (37pts A Grade, Alan Abbes (38pts B Grade) and Dan Harrison(38pts C Grade) were the other winners.
- Former President Ollie Cunliffe won April's VGL Medal with a net 62. Fiona Reynolds net 65 won the Women's Division. Other winners were Sean O'Sullivan (net 63 A Grade), Peter McLeod (net 63 B Grade) and Rod Burke (net 64 C Grade)
- Best mid week scores in this period were Gary Fiddes and Rita Hahn who both scored 47pts in the week of 11 February. These excellent scores were 1pt shy of the midweek course record. Craig Punshon's 44pts was next best.

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Hello everyone.

April brings the start of the best weather for playing golf in Melbourne,

calm days of moderate weather and course conditions at their peak after the long growing season.

The Sandringham greens have recovered from the bout of infections around Xmas and are impressing our Pennant visitors, giving us a slight home ground advantage as they struggle with the pace and firmness.

Our Pennant teams are performing better than last year and it is good to see new faces joining the competition. If you have time you are always welcome to support as either a caddy or spectator.

For those members in other trophy competitions, please keep an eye on the dates as a few members have missed out on registration dates. The John Pittard Singles Match Play in particular has forfeit dates which are fast approaching.

A final quick reminder on bunkers, please rake or smooth out the sand as you leave. Landing in a deep footprint can ruin the moment, especially when you are in a match play competition.

Happy golfing.

Michael Kent

Coveted Golf Trophies - or not!

Everyone knows the winner of the US Masters gets the coveted green jacket which they can take home for a year but which then stays at Augusta.



So how about this one?

Apparently provided to the winner of the Castello Masters in Spain in the 2000s. Maybe you might leave it at the course as well so it doesn't scare the kids.



News and Notes

Member Notes

Safe Travels

Best wishes to Archie Hendry and wife Ursula as they take off on the road.

Club Apparel

Members can purchase Club apparel.

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

Email: <u>captain@sandringhamgolfclub.org.au</u> or text 0413 438 048

Scottie Scheffler's 2023 Masters Dinner Menu



US Masters Notes - 6-9 April

This year's US Masters will be the first of golf's Major championships for 2023. It will also be the first time eligible LIV golfers will compete with PGA players this year.

Speculation has been rife about awkward conversations on the practice range and frosty rounds if rival golfers are paired together. A potential occasion that could be filled with strained pauses is at the past winners dinner held on the Tuesday night of Masters Week.

Each year the previous year's winner gets to host a dinner of all the past winners and also gets to set the menu for the dinner. Most years the main talking point of the dinner has been the menu – maybe not this year!

Steaks of various kinds have featured prominently with rival BBQ cultures trying to outdo each other – South African, Argentinian, Texan etc. On the other hand Nick Faldo's menu the year after he beat Greg Norman was *Fish and Chips and Tomato Soup* whilst Sandy Lyle educated the group when he served Haggis with mashed potato and mashed turnips. These two thus proving the old cliché about British cooking. Adam Scott served (and I quote!)

"Surf-and-turf on the grill, including Moreton Bay 'bugs'. An appetizer of artichoke and arugula salad with calamari. The main course of Australian Wagyu beef New York Strip steak, served with Moreton Bay lobster, sauteed spinach, onion cream mashed potatoes. Desserts of strawberry and passion fruit pavlova, Anzac biscuit and vanilla sundae."

Try to play golf after that! Anyway back to LIV. Six LIV players have won the Masters – Dustin Johnson, Phil Mickelson, Sergio Garcia, Bubba Watson, Charl Schwartzel and Patrick Reed and 18 LIV golfers will tee It up.

Watch this space!

Major Competition News

The Club's major competitions are moving along. Here is an update on progress.

John Pittard Singles Match Play

The first round of the singles Match Play is underway. The draw and results can be accessed through the results page of the website or here

https://www.sandringhamgolfclub.org.au/cms/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Pittard-Draw-Sheet3-1.pdf

Fifty three players nominated for the competition this year which meant 11 lucky players got a first round bye. The first round is due to **be completed by 15 April and the second round by 27 May**. Note: Matches do not need to be played on Saturday or even at Sandy if agreement can be reached on a venue.

Ian Fraser Pairs Match Play

Eight pairs won their way into this competition and the first round needs to be completed 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 second round was played on 1 April and the field is now down to 9 players. The next round is on 6 May. Check the results page for progress.

Founders Shield

Stroke Gross

Dan Harrison has taken the lead in the Founder's Shield Eclectic competition. His 58pts leads by 2 from Dale Gilkes and Gavin Kinnaird. Check the Eclectic tab in One Golf for progress and your own score. The Eclectic counts your best stableford score on each hole in stableford rounds.

Course Record Scores – we were wrong and a new record!

In the last issue we listed the record scores in Sandy competitions since the new course opened. While all due care was taken – we missed one. Apologies to Matt Scott who pointed out that he had shot 70 off the stick and was entitled to the Stroke Course record. The table below corrects our error.

Since the last issue we have also had a new net record set by Todd Wilson whose net 53 on 18 February broke the previous best of 55. Congrats to both Matt and Todd.

Date	Men	Sc/Hc	
5/11/22	Matthew Scott	70/8	
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	
18/2/23	Todd Wilson	53/18	
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	

Two Pages on Golf Balls or "I don't go that far on my holidays!"

(Ye Olde Golf joke with some ye olde golf balls)

For some time golf's governing bodies the R&A and the USGA have been considering what they can do to pull back the increasing distances the golf ball goes especially at the professional level. Their concerns can broadly fit under two key themes: reducing the pressure on courses to continue to lengthen – including cost and sustainability issues if courses need to purchase additional land and; ensuring that distance did not become predominant in the balance of skills required in golf. Other issues include an increase in the cost and time it takes to play and a reduction in the challenge of many existing courses - in some cases creating a risk of them becoming obsolete.



So the governing bodies have finally acted and put forward for consultation a Model Local Rule that would slightly limit how far the ball would go (estimated at about 5%). The use of a Local Rule enables the change to be implemented only when an organising body adopts it. The R&A/USGA are hoping that the professional tours will adopt the rule and that the rest of the game including us won't! It seems clear that at least 3 of the Majors would adopt the rule (the Open, US Open and the Masters) but there is a lot of opposition from golf manufacturers and professional players (who often have contracts with the manufacturers of course).

There's a lot of technical language in this stuff but here's a go at an explanation.

Golf balls are already tested and limited to an Overall Distance Standard (ODS) limit of 317 yards (plus 3 yards tolerance) using 120 mph(193kmph) clubhead speed, 10 degrees and 42 revolutions per second (2520 rpm) launch conditions. The new test will keep the ODS at 317 but change the other parameters to a clubhead speed of 127 mph(204kmph), 11 degrees and 37 revolutions per second (2220 rpm).

The desired effect is if you swing faster and harder the rolled back ball will still only go the same distance as the previous ball with a slower clubhead speed.

So what are the issues? For us nothing– assuming we don't have anyone in the club swinging faster than 204kmph. Social golfers can still use the current balls.

What happens next?

• There is a consultation period til August and if approved the rule would be available from 2026

Who likes it?

• The governing bodies, classic courses like Augusta, St Andrews, some golf commentators, Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy

Who doesn't like it?

• Golf ball manufacturers, most professional players and according to a survey run by Taylor Made 81% of 45,000 golfers they surveyed disagreed with the proposal.

Golf Balls Page 2

Why don't they like it?

Well from the manufacturers there are issues of producing two types of golf ball, the
extensive R&D and retooling of processes needed. From the professionals they don't
believe it is needed. A claim is that distance has increased because they are bigger and
better athletes than in the past and that only a few courses would need significant
changes. A charge you often here from the professionals is that well why don't they raise
the height of a basketball hoop because everyone can dunk now. The response is that
golf has already done that by lengthening courses all over. Some people oppose what
they see as a bifurcation of the game.

Bifurcation – what the hell is that?

• Bifurcation is when there would be separate rules for governing golf at the elite level and the social level. The theory is that social golfers like to test themselves against the pros using the same equipment. Bifurcation does happen in other sports e.g. baseball in the USA where metal bats are allowed in college sport but only wooden bats in the major leagues.

The naysayers are also worried about the trickle down effect.

• Huh? It goes like this. As mentioned three of the four majors are likely to adopt the new rule. Players won't want to just turn up to a major and use a new golf ball so they will start using it at lead in tournaments. Elite amateur tournaments will probably also adopt the rule as they are run by the USGA in the US. Eventually the market be lopsided enough for the manufacturers to consider only making the rolled back ball.

What's the bottom line?

 The same Taylor Made survey mentioned earlier also asked the question. "If the proposed golf ball rule were to go into effect, would it have an impact on how much golf you play?" 85% said: No, it wouldn't have an impact.

Some golf ball facts or estimates really!

How many are there?

Around 1.2 billion golf balls are produced annually although another estimate says around 850k. The golf ball industry is a juggernaut, with brands like Titleist churning out about 1 million golf balls per day! What happens to them?

It is estimated that around 420 million golf balls are lost. Every year! One estimate says that there are 66 million golfers globally, and most of them play at a 16 handicap or worse losing 1-2 balls around on average. Some lost balls are recycled but modern golf balls are not environmentally friendly. Depending on the materials used, a golf ball could take between 100 and 1000 years to decompose, while continually releasing chemicals and micro-plastics into the ecosystem.

It's not just at golf courses that balls are found. A sonar survey done in 2009 of Loch Ness in Scotland estimated 100,000 golf balls lying at the bottom of the loch. But as some might know there are no golf courses near Loch Ness! You can also find some in my shed! Sources: Wikipedia, Tomorrow Golf, Golf Educate





Pennant Season Update

Seniors miss the final

The Seniors team started their season in great form but one bad loss and some bad luck cost them a potential place in the final. An excellent home win against Centenary Park was followed by a narrow away loss to Eastern Sward and then a whitewash of Creekside at home had the team looking good. An away thrashing at Centenary Park set the team back and the storm that closed the course on 23 March made things worse as the resultant draw prevented the team from achieving a perfect home record which is a key factor in Pennant success. The washout compounded the team's bad luck from Round 2 where a Rob Harris putt that lipped out on the 18th at Eastern Sward prevented the team from getting an invaluable draw in that match. An away draw at Creekside in the final round meant the team finished with a 2 win. 2 draw, 2 loss season to finish 3rd. Congrats to manager Geoff Thornton and all members of the team.

Steady starts for the Handicap and Scratch teams.

In the opening round of their seasons the Scratch team went down to Altona Lakes away and the Handicap team had a strong home win against Ringwood. The results were reversed in Round 2 where the Scratch team had a narrow home win against Westgate and the Handicap team went down to a big away loss at Ringwood. Both teams are still a chance for the final with four rounds to go.

One of the Handicap team's opponents this year is Northcote Golf Club. The Northcote course has been in the news since the Covid lockdowns and is ground central for a battle about the use of open space – golfers vs public use. The controversy is continuing as the 2022 Council compromise has led to more issues as the golf and public areas don't seem to be clearly delineated and the newly located greens were initially just patches of dirt. Council is considering a new redesign but is facing opposition. It will be interesting to hear how it is going when the Handicap team plays at Northcote in late April.

	Scratch (Div 2)	Handicap (Div 3)	Seniors
Rd 1	Altona Lakes (A)	Ringwood (H)	Centenary Park (H)
	L 13pts to 3pts	W 11pts to 5pts	W 12pts to 4pts
Rd 2	Westgate (H)	Northcote (A)	Eastern Sward (A)
	W 9pts to 7pts	L 13pts to 3pts	L 9pts to 7pts
Rd 3	Brighton (A)	Camberwell (H)	Creekside (H)
			W 16pts to 0pts
Rd 4	Altona Lakes (H)	Ringwood (A)	Centenary Park (A)
			L 14pts to 2pts
Rd 5	Westgate (A)	Northcote (H)	Eastern Sward (H)
			Bpts to 8pts*
Rd 6	Brighton (A)	Camberwell (A)	Creekside (A)
			D 8pts to 8pts

* Points shared due to course closure.

Club Championship Wrap

Club Champion

James Honner and Matt Scott led the way after Round 1 shooting 74s to hold a 3 shot lead from Luke Galloway and Tim Noonan with Neil Singh a shot further back. James edged ahead in the second round shooting 75 to Matt's 77 to lead by two. Neil (77) and Tim (78) were 4 behind Matt and 6 behind James. Playing together in Round 3 Matt couldn't close the gap and James' 76 saw him through to his second Club Championship on 225 strokes. Matt's 78 saw him slip to third behind Tim Noonan who closed with a Championship equal best 73 to take second 3 shots behind James. James' score was three shots better than the previous low Championship score on the new course.

Congratulations to James.

B Grade

All eyes were on two time defending champion Paul Scanlon in the B Grade Championship. Paul was off to a slow start however as his opening 85 left him 7 shots behind the Round 1 leader Allan Abbes' 78. Club stalwart Geoff Thornton's 80 had him in second and three players returned 83s. Paul shot his way into the equal lead after Round 2 with a brilliant 76. Geoff's 81 was enough to tie Paul for the lead. A shot further back after an excellent 78 was Daniel Dew (84 in the first round). Paul McGarry (83, 80) also put himself in the mix only 2 off the pace. The final round saw the top three all shoot 81 and despite fast finishes from Ilja Sidoti and Jeff Coghill (both 77s) Geoff and Paul tied on 242 (2 shots better than the previous low B Grade Championship score on the new course.) Daniel was third on 243 and Ilja and Jeff tied with Paul McGarry (83) for 4th.

In the playoff Paul was too good on the day for Geoff shooting 78 to 87. Congratulations to Paul on his third successive B Grade title.

C Grade

Ross Gordon left the field in his wake after Round 1 in C Grade. His 85 was 7 shots better than next best Laurie Spence. Tony Morgan, Barry Russell and Oliver Cunliffe were a shot further back on 93. There was a three way tie on 183 after Round 2 – Tony (90), Ross (98) and Steven Brook (his 87 was 9 shots better than his opening round.) Ross didn't play Round 3 and Steven and Tony both shot 90 to tie on 273. Finishing one behind was Oliver Cunliffe whose final round 83 was the best C Grade score this year.

In the playoff Tony's 87 saw him home by three shots over Steven.

Congratulations to Tony on his first C Grade Championship.

Ladies Open

In the Ladies Open Kate Caridakis opened strongly with a 79 for a five shot lead over defending champion Liz Mitchell (84). Kate then proceeded to blitz the field setting new scoring records for Women and matching the best score of the Championships with a pair of 73s in Round 2 and 3. Despite Liz finishing 3 shots better than last year's winning score Kate had an extremely comfortable win from Liz with Anna Puchalski finishing third. Kate's winning score of 225 equaled that of the Men's Club Championship.

Congratulations to Kate on winning her first Ladies Open Championship.

Club Championship Wrap continued

President's Trophy

The President's Trophy (best net score in the CCs) was hotly contested. Opening 64s from Neil Singh and Geoff Thornton saw them lead by 1 from five players with two players a shot further back. In Round 2 Paul Scanlon's net 58 seemed to have given him a grip on the trophy. His 125 led by 3 from Neil Singh (another 64). There were 3 players 5 behind Paul and another 3 on 131 – 6 behind. One of these was Jeff Coghill whose brilliant last round 58 saw him surge past the pack to take the Trophy by shot from Paul (65) with Ilja Sidoti also storming home for 3rd with a net 59 in the last round.

Congratulations to Jeff whose 189 beat the previous best score on the new course by 3 shots.

First Lady

In the First Lady Net competition Liz Mitchell (65) led by 2 from Anna Pulchaski and 4 from Kate Caridakis after the first round. Kate's second round 62 saw her open up a 4 shot lead over Liz (70) and a final round 64 gave her a score of 195 and a 10 shot win from Liz – 70 in the final round. Anna was third 2 shots further back.

Congratulations to Kate whose 195 beat the previous best score by 7 shots.



The old saying about "good weather for ducks" applies here but not for our Seniors Pennant team.

This photo was taken on the afternoon of 23 March after a storm had passed over the course in the morning forcing the home pennant match against Eastern Sward to be cancelled.

Thanks to Phil Ramsden for the picture.

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

Score (or Gross) Differential – the most important number in determining your handicap.

Your 'Score Differentials' are the most important element in the calculation of your GA Handicap and are what your GA Handicap is based on. So for people who have at least 20 scores in their handicap record, their GA Handicap will be calculated simply by averaging the best 8 of their most recent 20 'Score Differentials'. Note: There are tweaks to this if your scores fall into the dreaded Cap Regulation zone.

WHAT IS A 'SCORE DIFFERENTIAL'?

The 'Score Differential' for a round is the calculation of the handicap a player actually played to in that round taking into account the rating of the course to standardize a players

performance to that of a course of neutral difficulty. The process takes into account the Slope, the Scratch Rating, the Par of the course and in some cases the overall performance of he field on that day (a daily playing conditions calculation - PCC). If you look up your handicap Golf Australia's website you can see a chart of your "Score Differentials".

This is where it is a bit confusing because the "Score Differential" is not really a "Differential" at all but rather the handicap you played to on that



day. To confuse matters more if you look it up on the GA app or the tables on the webpage the Score Differentials are labeled as "Gross Differentials". Huh?

As a reminder Sandy's ratings are (Par is 65):

	100 E V	Purple	Orange
Men	Scratch Rating	67	64
	Slope	114	114
Women	Scratch Rating	72	68
	Slope	124	120

A set of tees with neutral difficulty has a Slope Rating of 113. What this means is that a score on a difficult course will be made a little better by the standardisation process. And a score on a less-challenging course will be made a little higher. Because of this standardisation process, handicaps are portable around the world - supposedly. Sandy Golf Links is rated slightly harder than neutral (114 to 113). For technical interest here is the actual formula.

The WHS formula for a 'Score Differential' is:

((36 - Stableford Score) + Daily Handicap + Par - (Scratch Rating + PCC)) × (113 ÷ Slope Rating)

The Social Pages – Club Function Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron Feb 2023













The Social Pages – Club Function Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron Feb 2023







