

FAIRWAY NEWS



OCTOBER
2023



Golf Etiquette Reminder

A reminder to all club members that we play on a public golf course and good etiquette is expected at all times. If you are not sure of these rules, please refer to the GOLF page of our website and read the [ETIQUETTE](#) and [DISCIPLINARY POLICY](#) documents.



This Issue includes

Golf Etiquette
Club AGM 14 November
Upcoming Events
Recent Results
The President's Blog
Captain's Corner
Major Competition News
Ties, draws or play to the bitter end
News and Notes
A Collector's Item
Things happening at Sandy Links Part 1
Things happening at Sandy Links Part 2
Holes in one on the new course
Two great rounds – a deep dive.
Wildlife Notes

2023 SGC

Annual General Meeting

This year's Club AGM will be held at

7.30pm on

14 November

at the Black Rock Sports Club

2 Fern St Black Rock

Drinks and finger food to follow the meeting.

Come and meet your fellow members and help shape the direction of the Club.

Think about joining the Committee if you can.

Upcoming events

7 October **Stroke, Star Medallist**
14 October **Stableford**
21 October **Stableford**
22 October **VGL Open and President's Trophies (Ringwood)**
28 October **4BBB Stableford (Pairs)**
4 November **Stroke**
11 November **Stableford**
14 November **AGM**

Recent Results

- Another hot shot round opens our Recent Results this issue. George Bakrnchev's scorching 45pts was 6pts ahead of the field on 12 August (see later for a review of George's round). Anna Puchalski was next best with 39pts to win B Grade. Yufang Mao (38pts C Grade) and John McCarthy (36pts A Grade) were the other winners.
- The JJ Meade Trophy for Pairs (aggregate Stableford) on 19/8 was won by Chris Labour (40pts) and Alan Abbes (37pts) whose 77pts was well clear of the 70 pts of runners up Ben Akdag (31pts) and James Kibel (39pts).
- On the 26 August Life Member Bill McLaughlin rolled back the years to win the overall with 39pts. Liz Mann won the Women's section with 33pts. The other grades were tightly bunched with Michael Kent (38pts) winning A Grade from Geoff Maynard on a countback and Scott Reed (38pts B Grade) and Dan Harrison (37pts C Grade) taking the other prizes.
- The best score in the Stroke competition on 2/9 was Dale Gilkes excellent net 60 to win the overall. Alan Abbes net 62 won the VGL Medal (male members only) and B Grade. Glenda McDade's net 63 won the Women's Division and Tony Morgan (net 66) won C Grade. Paul McGarry won A Grade on a countback from Matt Scott after they both recorded net 64s.
- A couple of 39pts were the best scores in the Stableford round on 9/9. Richard Grace won the overall on a countback from Bruno Di Stanislo who was compensated with a B Grade win. Liz Mitchell (33pts) won the Women's Division also on a countback from Christine Nicholson. Paul McGarry was again in the winner's circle taking out A Grade with 38pts. Paul Norton won C Grade with 35pts.

THE PRESIDENT'S BLOG

It seems like the last time I wrote for the Newsletter I was lamenting the fact that I had managed to return from overseas and that the trip was already long forgotten. Well, here I am lamenting once again, having just returned from overseas again and having already forgotten about it, but this time for good reason as I am now unlikely to be seen around the greens and fairways of Sandringham for the next 10 – 12 weeks due to a full knee replacement at the end of September.



I did manage to get one round in just prior to the end of September and the course was in great condition. I did however disprove the myth that you always a great round after not having played for an extended period of time.

Course Management continue their clearing efforts, however I could still make a couple of suggestions that would make my life easier, however I doubt they will fill in the bunker on the right hand side of 12 or reduce the size of the dam running along the edge of the 15th, but I'm sure we all have our own course design "enhancements".

The AGM is now only just over a month away (**14th November**) so mark it in your calendars, as it is important we get a good representation of our burgeoning membership. As I indicated in the last Newsletter, we need members to nominate their interest for positions on the committee. All positions are open from President to General Committee member, so please consider how you would like to assist with the running of the club by being involved. More information will be distributed soon as to the location and time of the meeting, but reserve the date indicated above

And remember;

Man blames fate for all other accidents, but feels personally responsible when he makes a hole in one!!!

Regards

Rob

Recent Results (cont.)

- The Par Club Medal on 16/9 was won by Gary Gibb who scorched the course for an equal Club Record +9 (more on Garry's round later). Next best was Clayton Ford's +4 to win B Grade. The other Divisions were all won with +2 scores. Linda Best (Women's Division), Bradley Strudwick (A Grade) and Nevin Darragh (C Grade) who beat Laurie Spence on a countback.
- Former Club President Ollie Cunliffe's hot 42pts saw him win the overall on 23 /9. Brett Dennis also cracked 40pts (exactly) to win B Grade. A pair of 38pts won A Grade (Terry McAleenan) and C Grade (Leigh Busby) whilst Lynda Douth (35pts) took out the Women's Division.
- Grand Final Day saw a reduced field but similar scores to the previous week. It was another good day for former Club officials with former Club Captain Andrew Rumbelow winning the overall with 42pts and former President John McCarthy taking out A Grade with 35pts. Gavin Kinnaird's 40pts won C Grade and Ruth Branagh's 39pts won the Women's Division. Cris Payne (38pts) took out B Grade on a countback from Bruno Di Stanislo.
- Lots of high scores in mid week comps with 6 scores 42pts and over. Two of these were by Rafael Pasquet who scored 43pts one week and 42 the next.

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Hello everyone.

And as the 2023 fixture approaches the last few months, the finals for Match Play events are fast approaching. Best of luck to all those competitors who made it this far. This weekend will also see the Star Medalist decided in a match between all those members who won either a VGL Medal (Men) or Monthly Medal (Women). The winner of the Men's event is then eligible to compete in the VGL Medalist of Medalist event and represent Sandringham.

**Summer Coaching**

Last year the Club hosted free bunker lessons for members and this received positive feedback from all who attended. The main request for improvement was to hold the lessons at the Sandringham course.

For this summer, we are in discussions with the coaches at Sandringham to run putting and short game lessons between November and January. Details are still being sorted and will be posted to the NOTICES section of the 1Golf booking page, so if you don't know how to access this page, you have plenty of time to get your access sorted.

Ryder Cup

I have had a great time over the last week watching Ryder Cup repeats and the thrilling match in Rome. It is a great showcase of talent even if it does not have the all best players in the world due to geography or politics.

What I like about the format is you see Foursomes, Four Ball and Match Play competition in a multi-day team event. The USA were trounced at the start but still managed to bring the tournament down to the wire. A bit of niggles in the carpark did not spoil the atmosphere of the event, and Ricky Fowler's concession to Fleetwood to settle the win for Europe was great sportsmanship. The quality of the shots played over the 3 days of competition and the fighting spirit of all players shows why golf is such a great game and why we should also be happy to play more than just a Stableford round. Now if I could just drive like Rory McIlroy and putt like Sam Burns I would be a happy camper.

See you on the course and play well.

Michael Kent

Major Competition News

John Pittard Singles Match Play

The semi final results are in and Andy Bakker will take on Jason Rainbow in the final. Andy won a tight battle with Mark Engel on the last and Jason had a comfortable victory over Clayton Ford. The semi final results were:

Jason Rainbow def Clayton Ford (5 and 4)

Andy Bakker def Mark Engel (1 up)

Ian Fraser Pairs Match Play

At last reporting one semi final match still needed to be played. That match resulted in a win for Tim Noonan and Jason Rainbow who will now play the team of Matt Scott and Michael Sneyd in the final. The semi final results are:

Matt Scot/ Michael Sneyd def John Bris/Laurie Spence (4 and 3)

James Mackie/David Tomlin lost to Tim Noonan/ Jason Rainbow (4 and 3)

Jason Rainbow having a banner year in match play with possible wins in both titles.

Founders Shield

Long time leader Gavin Kinnaird has skipped clear in the Founder's Shield Eclectic competition improving his score by an amazing 5 points to move to 67pts and open up a 3pt lead over Dan Harrison who also improved his score by 4pts since last time. 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. The Founders Shield will run until the Stableford round on 11 November – 3 rounds to go!

Captain's Trophy

Congratulations to Peter McLeod who took out the 2023 Captain's Trophy with a score of 102pts over the three stableford rounds. Ben Akdag was runner up on 101pts and Rob Harris finished 3rd on 100pts.



Looking towards the 9th green from the 4th tee.

Fairway News Contributions and Feedback

Fairway News is always looking for contributions so if you have any comments, suggestions, photos have a Sandy golf story to tell or fancy a bit of creative writing please send it along to

newsletter@sandringhamgolfclub.org.au

Ties, draws or play to the bitter end?

The recent Solheim Cup played in France ended in a thrilling 14 all tie between the European and USA ladies teams. Under the rules governing the Solheim Cup (and also the Ryder Cup for the men) a tie means the holders of the Cup retain the trophy. There are two schools of thought about whether this is a satisfactory way of proceeding. Let's discuss:

School 1: We want to know who's the best.

Decide a result for Peter's sake.

- What's the point of a competition every two years where you don't have a winner?
- What's with all these scenes of wild celebration when no one won (see right)?
- Imagine the drama of a play off involving 1,3 or all 12 players? You've seen penalty shoot outs in World Cups right?



School 2: You have to beat the champ to win!

- These matches are between the same two teams each time unlike other finals such as AFL or a four round golf tournament. If the Ashes series is a draw the holder retains.
- There are already 28 matches as part of the Solheim and Ryder Cups. How many more do you want to play to get a result?
- Any sudden death playoff either involving one player and/or a small number of holes would be not reflective of the match so you might as well toss a coin. Are you OK with that??

In a rule since changed the President's Cup had each team put a name in an envelope and those players would play sudden death until a winner is decided. In the only time the match ended in a tie (2003) the envelopes revealed that Tiger Woods and Ernie Els (then No 1 and 2 in the world) would play off. After 3 holes the captains agreed to a tie as it was too dark to play.

So how do other sports decide it?

- Cricket has its super over.
- We now have extra time in all AFL finals even the Grand Final
- Soccer has extra time and then the penalty shoot out but only in knock out competitions. Draws are plentiful in regular season matches.
- In the NFL in the USA a maximum 10 minute period is played where each team must possess, or have the opportunity to possess, the ball. However if the team that gets the ball first scores a touchdown they win the game. In the regular season if the scores are level at the end of extra time the match is tied. In the play offs play continues regardless of how many overtime periods are needed for a winner to be determined.
- In US baseball extra innings are played. However in an attempt to end endless extra innings matches in the regular season each team has a runner start on 2nd base in the extra innings. In the play offs extra innings begin with the bases empty.
- In boxing title fights if the contest is a draw the holder retains the championship belt.

News and Notes

Best Wishes

Best wishes to President Rob Harris as he recovers from a knee replacement.

Membership Renewal Reminder

Members who have not paid their subs by October 15th will no longer be members of the club and will need to reapply and pay the additional joining fee. As there are still in excess of 100 people on the waiting list, you may not want to find yourself at the back of the queue.

1st Tee vs 10th Tee. What is going on?

Around 40% of all play at Sandringham is for 9 holes which might surprise some members.

To even out the wear and tear on the course, play will start on the first Monday of each month on alternating tees. There will from time to time be exceptions to these start dates (Athena and other tournaments) and hopefully we catch these exceptions so that MiScore matches the starting tee.

Buy/Swap/Sell Noticeboard

After several attempts to find a technical solution, none seem to meet our requirements of a robust solution that is easy to use. This project will be given a rest for now.

2024 Fixture

For members who like to plan their holidays around the golfing calendar, we will be loading the 2024 fixture on the website and 1Golf in the coming weeks. So, if you have an important date that clashes with a posted golfing event, you will have plenty of time to have your birthday moved.

Club Apparel

Members can purchase Club apparel.

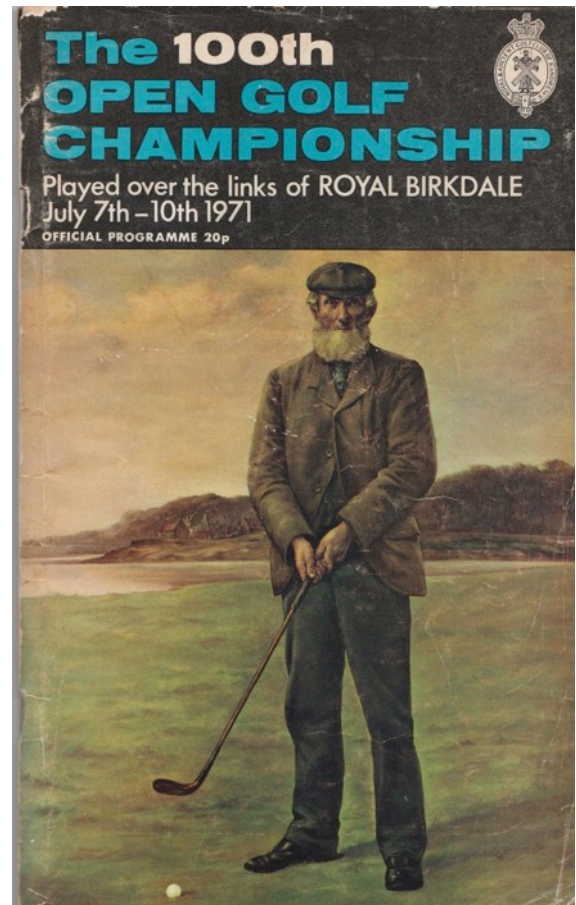
- Polo shirt \$35. Women's polos now also available; Cap \$10

Email:

memberservices@sandringhamgolfclub.org.au or text 0413 438 048

A Collector's Item

The program (cover and some ads) from the 1971 Open Championship found at an Op Shop for \$1. Lee Trevino won the tournament.



SAVE YOUR ENERGY FOR GOLF!

A new British built electric golf trolley which has the following improved features:

- Specially designed frame giving exceptional strength for long and efficient service
- Modern motor with ample power
- Easy maintenance – built-in trickle charger – simply plug into mains
- Easily dismantled for loading into car boot
- Fully charged battery enables trolley to be used for 36 holes
- Battery and trickle charger totally enclosed
- Large size pneumatic tyres which do not damage fairways
- Attractive finish in either red or blue
- Built-in clutch
- Brake mechanism supplied as an extra



For colour folder and price, write to—Electrakart Limited
Brandon Way,
West Bromwich, Staffs.
Telephone : 021-553 2271

BOLLINGER CHAMPAGNE

The Bollinger Champagne Tent—situated between the 1st Tee and the Main Scoreboard—is open to Members of the Public

Things happening at Sandy Golf Links Part 1

Australian Hickory Shaft Open Championships

The 2023 Asia Pacific Hickory Shaft Open Championship was held from Sept 3rd to 5th. The first round, Foursomes, was played at Sandy Links. Subsequent rounds which were singles events were played at Woodlands and Kingston Heath.

Craig Brenner (Sandy Links) and Stuart Tennison (PGA) teamed up at Sandy and finished equal 3rd in the gross event. They were narrowly beaten by the pair of Mike Clayton and Terry Thornton (our own Geoff's brother). See later for photos.

The next Championship will be held in Christchurch NZ in March 2024. Entry is open to anyone with an official handicap.



Footnote 1: Still got it!

Whilst on the subject of hickory competitions earlier this year New Zealand golf legend Sir Bob Charles (I) captured another golfing title two days before his 87th birthday.

Charles, the 1963 British Open winner, won the New Zealand Hickory Open by one shot. The competition was played over a 12-hole event at Charles' Christchurch Golf Club home course. Charles has now joined former Masters and British Open winner, Sandy Lyle, as the only other major champion to win a Hickory Open. Earlier this year Charles broke 70 for the first time in 10 years playing the Royal Wimbledon course in England in 69.

Footnote 2: How about them lefties?

Charles plays left handed and was the first left hander to win one of golf's men's majors – the 1963 British Open. There have been 5 left handed players win one or more of the majors. The most successful is of course Phil Mickelson (6 majors). The others are Mike Weir (Masters), Bubba Watson (2 Masters wins) and most recently Brian Harman (2023 Open winner). The Masters is the tournament for lefties apparently with 6 wins since 2000.

The whole left/right thing is confusing as many naturally left handed people play golf right handed. Examples include Jordan Speith, Ben Hogan and Greg Norman. To complicate matters even further Phil Mickelson is naturally right handed.

Footnote 3: Where are all the lady lefties?

And then we get to left handed lady golfers – if you can find any! There has only been one left handed winner on the LPGA tour and that was back in 1974. Of the modern players there are virtually none. Whilst left handedness is more prominent in males (about 2% more likely) you would have expected there to be at least a few left handed women golfers at the top of the game.

Things happening at Sandy Golf Links Part 2

Fore please! Now Charging

Three charging stations for electric cars have been installed on the maintenance shed at the top of the car park. Apparently they were installed at no cost to course management. These are free to use and have a fixed cable, although you may need your own adaptor. Another great reason to play golf often and early.

Long Drive Competition

On 25 September the Australian Long Drive Championships were held at Sandy. The winning drive by Queenslander Jason Atkins was 340m. Note that the winning drive in World Long Driving Championships was around 390m.



The red carpet at the Hickory Shaft Open Championships



Stuart Tennison(PGA) and Craig Brenner (Sandy Links) shot a gross 77 in the Foursomes competition



Terry Thornton – brother of Sandy Vice Captain Geoff (I) and Michael Clayton were one shot better. Their 76 placing them 2nd four shots off the winners.

Holes In One on the new Sandy Golf Links in SGC Competitions

In our last issue we reported on Ruth Branagh's hole in one on the 11th and speculated that it might be the first hole in one on that hole since the new course was opened. Well...how wrong were we!

As was quickly pointed out this was not the first but it turns out the third ace on the 11th since the redevelopment. (The research department has been suitably chastised! In our defence the ace happened just before we went to press.)

In order that this gaffe is never repeated here is a table of holes in one in SGC competitions on the new Sandy Golf Links. (Note: Please let us now if any have been missed particularly those that might have happened in mid week competitions.)

Par 3s yet to have ace are Hole 2, Hole 9, Hole 12 and Hole 14. Holes 11 and 16 have both been aced 3 times.

Date	Name	Hole
9 January 2021	Helen Ansems	16 th
16 January 2021	Kevin Murrin	16 th
7 July 2021	Neil Evans	11 th
26 March 2022	Andrew Kenny	11 th
17 September 2022	Anna Puchalski	7 th
15 October 2022	Colin Hunter	16 th
5 August 2023	Ruth Branagh	11 th

Neil's the man as he also scored a hole in one in November 2019 playing what was then a temporary hole in the position of our current 7th hole but using the old green.

An analysis of two good rounds

The Recent Results column shows that two members had exceptional scores in our Saturday competitions in this period. Here is a bit of a deeper dive into those rounds.

George Bakrnchev (45pts)

George scored 45pts off a handicap of 13 on 12 August. A look at George's card shows that he played holes 8 to 18 in 1 under par! He had 10 pars in a row before birdying 18 and played the back 9 in 31 strokes. His 45pts included a wipe on the 7th where he had his only double for the day. It could have been better!

Gary Gibbs (+9)

Gary tied the Club Record for a Par round with a +9 on 16 September. Playing off 20 Gary was +3 after 9. He then halved 10 and reeled off 7 pluses in a row to stand at +10 after 17. Unfortunately a wipe on the last knocked the score back to +9. In total Gary had 12 pluses and 3 wipes for the round.

Well done both!

Wildlife Notes:

Maybe we are in the tail end of the "galah/corella wrecking the fairways" season. There seemed to be less of them about in late September.

Members may have noticed this bird hanging about the 4th tee a few weeks ago. The Common Bronzewing Pigeon seemed to be on its own although there were some comrades around the 12th tee. The Common Bronzewing is a cautious pigeon, and rarely allows close approach. If startled, it flies away with a clatter, keeping low to the ground while moving in a steady, direct manner. The call of the Common Bronzewing is a deep 'oom', repeated several times. A former member of the Club thought they were hearing the call of a tawny frogmouth when it was actually coming from these hefty pigeons.

Source: Birds In Backyards

The Guardian Australia is currently conducting its Bird of the Year competition where readers can vote for their favourite bird with some birds eliminated each day until there is a winner. Unfortunately for the bronzewing it didn't even make it on to the initial ballot.



Member Andrew Steggall was looking for something to distract him from a recent round that was going "very well" when he spotted this baby on the left of the 17th. We all know what it is but you learn something new every day.

The official name is a **Blue-tongued skink**

Something else you may not know is that the large blue tongue that can be bared as a bluff/warning to potential enemies will vary in the intensity of the colour depending on the type of predator/threat.

Blue tongues are relatively shy in comparison with other lizards, and also significantly slower due to their shorter legs.

Source: Wikipedia



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