

# FAIRWAY NEWS



APRIL  
2025



## Club Championships 2025

Congratulations to Andy Moratis and Kate Caridakis who are this year's Club Champions. Andy won his first Championship and Kate her third Club Championship in succession.

<b>Club Champion</b>	<b>Andy Moratis</b>	<b>216</b>
Runner Up	Craig Brenner	219
<b>B Grade</b>	<b>Russell Jones</b>	<b>249cb</b>
Runner Up	Paul Scanlon	249
<b>C Grade</b>	<b>Tony Morgan</b>	<b>281</b>
Runners Up	Jenni Clarke	288
	Ross Gordon	288
<b>Women Open</b>	<b>Kate Caridakis</b>	<b>236</b>
Runner Up	Sarah Adam-Gedge	261
<b>President's Trophy</b>	<b>Andy Moratis</b>	<b>188</b>
Runner Up	Russell Jones	195
<b>First Lady</b>	<b>Kate Caridakis</b>	<b>203</b>
Runner Up	Anna Puchalski	205

### This Issue includes

Club Championship Results and Wrap  
Are you ready for Pink Day  
Our regular features  
Competition News incl. Pennant 2025  
Royal Clinics a hit and new dates  
Wednesday Whispers  
More about our Club Champion  
From Your Committee  
Hole In Ones at the double  
Masters Time  
Seen at the Club Function in March  
News Extra  
Moving a 23,000kg tree  
The Quiet Schism in Australian Golf  
Tee Time Bookings during the week.

## Are you ready for Pink Day? 10 May



Scour the wardrobe or beg, borrow or steal something pink and look the part for the Club's Charity Day in support of Breast Cancer

See later for more info.

### Upcoming events

<b>5 April</b>	<b>Stroke, VGL Medal LG McDonald R1</b>
<b>12 April</b>	<b>Par</b>
<b>19 April</b>	<b>Stableford</b>
<b>26 April</b>	<b>Stableford, Pittard Singles Match Play R1 complete</b>
<b>3 May</b>	<b>Stroke, VGL Medal LG McDonald R2</b>
<b>10 May</b>	<b>Pink Day 2 Ball Ambrose</b>
<b>17 May</b>	<b>Par, Club Medal</b>
<b>24 May</b>	<b>Stableford, Les Stainsby 60 plus</b>

*Recent Results*

- The first round of the Club Championships on 1/2 saw Dale Gilkes win the overall with a net 60. In a foreshadowing of what was to come Andy Moratis (net 61 A Grade), Kaye Caridakis (net 63 Women's Division) and Tony Morgan (net 66 C Grade) all took out the prizes in their respective divisions. It was closer in B Grade where Paul Scanlon (net 64) won on a countback from Adam Canwell and Damien Munro.
- It was countbacks galore on 8/2. Tom Campitelli won the overall with a net 62 and Greg Scott won C Grade with a net 63. In the Women's Division Glenda McDade (net 66) beat Anna Puchalski and Gail Simpson on countback. Andy Moratis (net 63) did likewise over Tetsuhito Hirose in A Grade. B Grade saw 5 players tie with a net 64. Jakob Kerschner got the nod over Deep Sareen, Scott Reed, Russell Jones and Darren Swinnerton.
- Andy Moratis made it a hat trick of A Grade wins with a net 64. James Smith (net 62) won the overall, Tran Vu (net 67) the Women's Division and Rob Harris (net 63) won C Grade. Once again there was a 5 way tie in B Grade – with the same score as the previous week. Julius Chan (net 64) taking the chocolates from Jeremy Matthews, Danny Morgan, Pat Maginness and Jake Beckwith.
- Alexandre Mirzayantz won the overall on 22/2 with 40pts. There were not enough entries for a Women's Division comp this week. Matthew Farrelly (35pts) won A Grade on a countback from Joshua Liberman. Kieran McAlister (39pts B Grade) and Jonathon Ingham (36pts C Grade) were the other winners.

**THE PRESIDENT'S BLOG**

Since the last Newsy edition, a lot has happened around the club, not the least being the completion of the club Championships. A hearty congratulations to all the winners in the respective categories. More about this later in the Newsletter.



Once again, a successful function was held at the BMYS, albeit the weather didn't really look after us this year. Apologies from the committee that the function was not held closer to the final round of the "Clubbies", but unfortunately as previously reported, we were stymied by previous bookings at the venue.

It is unfortunate to hear that we are losing members due to the Course Management imposing what they saw as a necessity, in the form of another price hike. As President, I can only hope that these unfortunate departures are minimal.

Also later in the newsletter is a report on the golf lesson initiative that was made available to all members (first in best dressed!!). From all reports these were well received and thanks to Andrew Preston for leading the arrangements. To those that missed out...stay alert as there will be more to come.

Our annual Pink Day is fast approaching and whilst there is more later in the newsletter, I would ask all members to get onboard and open their wallets / purses to raise money for a cause that has probably in some way touched the majority of members. A subcommittee has been formed and are doing a magnificent job in arranging some very worthwhile prizes ...but remember, you have to be in it to win it.

Finally, I know you have all been waiting for the last two months so here it is

Definition of a Fairway ... "A narrow strip of mown, perfectly kept grass that separates two groups of golfers looking for lost balls in the rough"

Regards Rob

### Recent Results (cont.)

- Visitor Alessio Caneschi streeted the field with a net 56 on the 1/3 to win the overall. Adam Canwell (net 60) won the VGL Medal and B Grade. Two net 61s took out B and C Grades with Brennan Graves and Marcus Edwards saluting the judges.
- Countbacks can be cruel as Allister Lahood found out on 8/3. Three players scored 41pts with Paul McGarry winning the overall and Kevin Wong winning B Grade and Allister missing out as he was in the same Grade as Kevin. Christine Nicholson(36pts) won the Women's Division from Jenni Clarke on a countback. Ashley O'Sullivan (40pts A Grade) and Tony Turpin (35pts C Grade) were the other winners.
- Starting with 8 straight pars Cris Payne blitzed the field to win the overall on 15/3 with a +8. Once again B Grade was a tight finish with 4 players scoring +2. Ned Brennan got the nod on countback from Russell Jones, Shaun Paljakka and Grant Nicholson. Sarah Adam-Gedge (+2 Women's Division), Sean Paterson (+4 A Grade) and Tony Morgan(+3 C Grade) were the other winners.
- Cris Payne continued his great form when he paired with Craig Brenner to win the 2-ball Ambrose on 22/3 with a score of 56.5. They only just got over the line from Deep Sareen and Clayton Ford who shot 56.75.
- Lucy Toomey set a new Women's Saturday course record with a brilliant 46pts on 29/3. Yufang Mao's 41pts was next best and won C Grade. Deep Sareen (40pts B Grade) and Allister Lahood (39pts A Grade) were the other winners. Deep continuing his good form after a runner up finish the previous week and Allister getting some redemption after missing out on a countback a few weeks earlier.

### CAPTAIN'S CORNER

In this report I want to focus on some local rules for our club. A copy can be found on the scorecard, via the MiScore app or the club website. I suggest everyone should refresh their memory, especially if they are playing in the pennant or club Matchplay events.



Our course has a lot of bunkers for a public facility. Some have rakes, others do not. Some look like "sandy wastes" and others are treated as access paths. If you find yourself in a prepared sand area, **it is a bunker**. You have to play the ball as it lies or take a penalty. There are some exceptions under the rules of golf, so unless you know them, there is no free relief.

GUR, gardens and paths. Unless the course specifically has a sign noting an area as GUR, or a continuous white line or rope circling an area, then you play the ball as it lies. All the "new vegetation areas" with a free drop are gone at the time of this newsletter. Gardens, paths and other no play zones are listed in the local rules.

Knowing the rules is easy, and sure beats the embarrassment of being called out on a breach.

If you make a mistake, take the penalty and play on the short stuff, it's a lot more fun.

Regards

Michael Kent



## News and Notes

### Condolences - Shirley Hunter

The Club wishes to express our condolences to long time member and former Committee member Tom Hunter and member Andrew Hunter on the recent passing of Tom's wife and Andrew's mother Shirley.

Best wishes to Tom, Andrew and their families.

### Condolences – Phil Goad

The Club and the VGL were shocked at the sudden passing of long time VGL Executive Manager Phil Goad in early March. As the VGL notice indicated:

"Phil was a tireless worker and devoted a lifetime to both the Northcote Golf Club as Secretary and on Committee for an extraordinary number of years and was Executive Manager of the VGL for 17 years."

The Club expresses its condolences to the Goad family and the VGL.

### SGC Bag Tags Available

Yellow SGC Bag Tags are available from the Pro Shop at no cost. Just ask the staff.

### How do you know who the members are when you book in Quick18?

The Club is asking members to edit their surnames in their Quick18 account by prefixing the surname with SGC. This idea helps new and existing members to identify fellow members when booking rounds.

### Club apparel

The Club has Men's and Women's Polos and Caps for sale. See April 2024 issue for pictures of these items or admire from afar fellow member who wear them with pride. To inquire or purchase Email:

[memberservices@sandringhamgolfclub.org.au](mailto:memberservices@sandringhamgolfclub.org.au)

## Competition News

### Match Play Competitions

The draw has been made and some matches are underway in this year's Match Play Competitions. To see who you are drawn to play or to monitor progress go to the Match Play links on the results page. There are two competitions and here are the closing dates for the first round:

- **John Pittard singles – R1 complete 26 April**
- **Ian Fraser Pairs – R1 complete 7 June**

### LG McDonald Trophy

The first round for the LG McDonald Trophy will be played on 5 April. Thirty-two players qualified with a net 67 in February (some missed out on a countback) and knockout rounds are played concurrently with VGL Medal events and the field is reduced to 16,8,4 and 2 to contest the final based on the best net scores in each round.

### Founders Shield (Eclectic)

Its early days in the Founders Shield which is given to the highest Eclectic score in Saturday Stableford rounds from 1 January to the last round in September.

As at the end of March James Blangiardo (56pts) holds a 1 pt lead from Justin Lo and Peter McLeod with 3 players a point further back - Anne Forwood, Dan Harrison and Cris Payne.

Long way to go!

## Pennant Golf 2025

All three of Sandy's Pennant teams are in action with the Seniors team completing their regular season and heading to their first final since 2021.

The Seniors team was unbeaten through the first five rounds and was the only team to take points off the ladder leading Centenary Park. Despite a loss to the Frankston boys in the last round the team finished with 3 wins, 2 draws and 1 loss and a place in the final. The final will take place at Churchill Waverley Golf Course on 10 April. Good luck to Tony Pearce and the team.

The Scratch team opened their season strongly with a good win at home over Craigieburn Wilmott. A loss away to Lakeside (11pts to 5pts) was closer than it seemed with 7 of the 8 matches going to the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup>. All 4 teams have 1 win in that Division.

By contrast the Handicap team had a big loss away to Elsternwick in the first round and then a very close fought defeat at home to Royal Park 7pts to 9pts. Plenty of rounds to turn it round.

### Pennant Schedule

	Scratch (Div 2)	Handicap (Div 3)	Seniors
<b>Rd 1</b>	Craigieburn Wilmott (H) <b>W 12pts to 4pts</b>	Elsternwick Red (A) <b>L 14pts to 2pts</b>	Craigieburn Wilmott (H) <b>W 12pts to 4pts</b>
<b>Rd 2</b>	Lakeside (A) <b>L 5pts to 11pts</b>	Royal Park (H) <b>L 7pts to 9pts</b>	Glen Waverley (A) <b>D 8pts to 8pts</b>
<b>Rd 3</b>	Brighton II (A) 6/4/25	Eastern Sward (H) 6/4/25	Centenary Park (H) <b>D 8pts to 8pts</b>
<b>Rd 4</b>	Craigieburn Wilmott (A) 13/4/25	Elsternwick Red (H) 13/4/25	Craigieburn Wilmott (A) <b>W 11pts to 5pts</b>
<b>Rd 5</b>	Lakeside (H) 27/4/25	Royal Park (A) 27/4/25	Glen Waverley (H) <b>W 12pts to 4pts</b>
<b>Rd 6</b>	Brighton II (H) 4/5/25	Eastern Sward (A) 4/5/25	Centenary Park (A) <b>L 14pts to 2pts</b>

## Royal Melbourne Clinics a hit! New clinic dates now available

The Club subsidised lessons at Royal Melbourne have been received very positively. Eighteen members in groups of 6 attended three 1 ½ hour sessions with Ryan McCarthy in February. Each session focused on a different area – driving and iron play, chipping and bunker play and putting. The structure of the sessions allowed plenty of time for one-on-one tuition as well as testing the advice by hitting plenty of balls.

Ryan mixed a little theory with practical advice tailored to each member's game. As one member said his approach was “engaging and very helpful”.

**The dates for the next round of lessons have been confirmed and can be seen on the notices page on the booking sheet in MiScore.**

## Club Championship Wrap 2025

### Club Champion

Two were tied at the top after Round 1 with Andy Moratis and Tim Noonan both shooting 71s. They led by 2 from defending Champion Craig Brenner. Andy followed his 71 with a 72 to take a 2 shot lead over Tim (74) with Craig (76) a further 4 back. In the third round Craig shot the best round of the Championship a 70 but it wasn't enough to close the gap as Andy's ultra consistent 73 saw him take the title by 3 shots. Tim (80) slipped back into 3<sup>rd</sup>

Congratulations to Andy on his first Club Championship title.

### B Grade

Three time Champion Paul Scanlon opened brilliantly in the B Grade Championship. Paul's 80 led by 2 from Dale Gilkes (who did not play the subsequent rounds) and by 3 from Ruth Branagh and Russell Jones. Scott Reed and Sarah Adam-Gedge were on 84. Paul (83) maintained his lead after Round 2. Russell Jones (82) was 2 shots back with Scott Reed (83) two shots further behind. It turned into a 2-horse race in the third round with Russell (84) closing the gap on Paul (86) to tie the score on 249. Countback rules for the CCs take the best scores on the back nine over the three rounds and this gave Russell the title leaving Paul lamenting a disaster on the 17<sup>th</sup> in the second round.

Congratulations to Russell on his first B Grade Championship!

### C Grade

Tony Morgan stamped his authority on the C Grade Championship with an opening 90. He led by 2 from Fiona Reynolds (who did not play the subsequent rounds) and by 5 from Jenni Clarke. A 2<sup>nd</sup> round 95 gave Tony a 6-shot lead from Ross Gordon whose 91 improved drastically on his opening 100. Jenni (98) was 2 shots further back. No one could close the gap in Round 3 and Tony (96) won the title by 7 shots from Ross (97) and Jenni (95) who tied for second.

Congratulations to Tony on his second C Grade Championship in the last three years.

### Ladies Open

Kate Caridakis was going for a hat trick of wins and her opening round 74 made it very difficult for anyone to catch her. She led by 8 from Dale Gilkes (who did not play the subsequent rounds) and by 9 from Ruth Branagh (83). Kate gave her pursuers some hope when she shot 81 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round, but her lead increased to 15 shots from Ruth (87). Anna Puchalski (86) was a shot further back. Kate's final round 81 saw her to a comfortable victory over Sarah Adam-Gedge whose consistent scoring (84, 89, 88) saw her move past Ruth (98) and Anna (94) to take second place. Congratulations to Kate on winning her third consecutive Ladies Open Championship.



## Club Championship Wrap continued

### President's Trophy

Andy Moratis led the President's Trophy (best net score in the CCs) from go to whoa. Andy's opening 61 gave him a three shot lead from Gary Gibb, Paul Scanlon and Tim Noonan who all shot 64. Despite losing a shot off his handicap Andy's 63 gave him a 5 shot lead from Russell Jones (65,64) and 6 shots from Gary Gibb (66). Andy's consistency won the day with his 64 giving him an 8 shot victory from Russell (67) and 10 shots over Gary (68). Andy's score of 188 was also a new President's Trophy record beating the previous best by 1 shot.

Congratulations to Andy for adding the President's Trophy to his Club Championship.

### First Lady

In the First Lady Net competition Dale Gilkes led the way with a net 60. Dale did not play the subsequent rounds and that meant there were 4 players within 2 shots of the lead at the end of Round 1. Kate Caridakis (63) led by 1 from Ruth Branagh and Fiona Reynolds -both on 64. Anna Puchalski was a shot further back. Anna's 66 in Round 2 gave her a 2 shot lead over Kate (70) going into the last round. The upset was on. However, Kate's second successive 70 was enough to get her over the line by 2 shots when Anna shot 74. This was the same result as last year, but the margin was much smaller.

Congratulations to Kate on her third successive First Lady.

## Club Championship Scores (New Course)

	Open	B Grade	C Grade	Ladies Open	Presidents Trophy	First Lady
<b>2021</b>	228	244	272	Not played	195	203
<b>2022</b>	229	250	269	265	192	202
<b>2023</b>	225	242	273	225	189	195
<b>2024</b>	214	247	283	225	191	195
<b>2025</b>	216	249	281	236	188	203

\* Shading denotes best winning score.

### 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

## Wednesday Whispers from the News' ace rolling reporter



- *Frugal golfer Roly Spendthrift discovered that the 8th Tee had been cored with 300ml holes when he glimpsed his \$3 Tour Pro Tee disappearing down one. Any attempt to retrieve the Tee only succeeded in pushing it down further. Currently working on a patent for a Golf Tee Retriever but failing that look for a new Tee Tree to sprout in Autumn.*
- 
- *During a recent extremely Hot windy day Rod Bridger got tired of partners hats being blown down the 18th Fairway West course Royal Melbourne and shared this old sailors tip. Turn the inside lining outwards in the hat and place on head. He also shared the Golf tip when having to a mark and move your ball on the Green, turn your marker/coin upside down to remind to return correct position-dodgy swy players excluded.*
- 
- *Tom Tomlin recounted the time a fox took his ball on the 10<sup>th</sup> Fairway. Fox should have gone to spec savers as it was a Srixon not a vixen. Unconfirmed reports of some googling into taking the ball closer to the Golf hole rather than the foxhole.*

## More about our Club Champion Andy Moratis

As well as working at Sandy Golf Links and being a great golfer Andy has been an active stand-up comedian since 2012 and has been part of Melbourne International Comedy Festival since 2013, including several sold out shows.

His most recent show at the Festival in 2025 was called *Generation X cellence*.



### 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](mailto:newsletter@sandringhamgolfclub.org.au)



## From Your Committee

### Save the date 10/05/2025 it's Pink Day

Time flies, and as May approaches, so does our much-anticipated Pink Charity Day – Tickle Us Pink! We can't wait to see our members out on the course in all shades of pink, coming together for a fantastic cause.

Once again, we've secured some incredible sponsors who are generously supporting the event: House of Golf, Drummond Golf, Golf Shafts Australia, PGA, Flavours Patisserie, Black Rock Cellars, Sandringham Golf Course, and Sandringham Golf Club.

This year promises to be another fun-filled day, with exciting activities and goodie bags available for purchase, packed with terrific value for our members. So mark your calendars, free up your Saturday, and join us in raising much-needed funds for cancer research.

Payment options: EFTPOS and cash will be accepted on the day. We look forward to seeing you on the fairways, dressed in pink and ready to make a difference!

### AGM Follow Up On-Course Facilities

Following discussions at our AGM, a sub-group has been formed to explore ways to improve access to on-course facilities for our members. We are actively engaging with management to achieve better outcomes. We have an agreement to see us play more regularly from the first tee to assist in the comfort of players, whilst we pursue further conversation and will keep you updated as these conversations progress. Thank you for your support.

### More on Player's Personal Liability Insurance

Golf Australia provide to members of affiliated clubs personal liability insurance. SGC is an affiliated club, so you are covered by this insurance.

The current policy covers the legal liability that members may incur while playing or practicing golf. It covers injury or damage you may cause to someone else or their property which you have been found to have caused.

The policy does not cover:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> party damage or injury caused by a non-member
- Damage to, or loss of, a member's own equipment
- A member's own personal injuries sustained on a golf course.
- Damage you may cause to a cart that you own, hire or borrow
- Actions that are deliberate that cause damage or injury, that are determined to be because of your wilful conduct.

If you have reason to make a claim, please contact the club secretary, Colin Hockley, to proceed.

## The Hole in One Page- at the double!

Remarkably not only have two holes in one been scored in SGC competitions since our last newsletter but member Mark Smith(r) has made two aces in the last 6 months! On the same hole!

### Ace No. One

Mark's double aces occurred on the ninth hole. His most recent was with the hole measuring 130m to a left-hand flag – a perfect distance for Mark's 8 iron. Here's Mark's description of what happened next:

*"It felt good off the club and landed close to the hole. I thought it had disappeared hopefully in the hole but none of us was sure it had. I admit to walking ahead of my fellow golfers and got excited when I couldn't see the ball above ground. Apologies to the group on the tee while we fumbled with my phone to get a photo. It is my lucky hole as this one followed a hole in one I had back in late September last year"*



### Ace No. Two

Earlier in March Dale Barrett knocked in the first ever ace on the 12<sup>th</sup> hole in SGC competitions. First on the 12<sup>th</sup> and a first for Dale. Here's his description:

*"In terms of the shot, I was hitting into a reasonably health breeze, with tee markers towards the back. I hit a 7 iron and tried to keep it lower than the typical trajectory. The ball landed about 5 metres short of the green....then kept rolling and rolling...and like a magnet, the ball was drawn to and eventually just fell into the hole. Pandemonium then erupted - people on the 15th tee probably heard us going a bit crazy!*

*It was quite strange to watch - from about 2-3 seconds out, the only place it was going to finish was in the hole! Watching it happen was almost slow motion.*

*I was totally over the moon, but somewhat shocked too. Having never had a hole in one before, having played on-and-off for about 4 decades, I said to my playing partners at the time: "I can die a happy man now! "*

That's a bit drastic Dale! There's no need for that!



**Congratulations to both Mark and Dale**

## It's Masters time!

The US Masters takes place this year from 10-13 April.

As tradition dictates last year's winner Scottie Scheffler will host a past champions dinner before the tournament. He will also get to choose/design the menu for the dinner.

This year's menu is strongly influenced by Scheffler's home state of Texas and has a lot of similarities to his first menu from 2 years ago. Here's his 2023 offering. Items in italics are on both menus

*Cheeseburger Sliders (served Scottie style) and Firecracker Shrimp with Sweet Thai Chilli and Sriracha Mayo* appetizers; *Tortilla Soup – Avocado, Crispy Blue Tortilla Strips, Sour Cream, Cilantro, Lime*, to start; Main course of *Texas Ribeye Steak or Blackened Redfish served with Family Style Mac and Cheese, Jalapeno Creamed Corn, Fried Brussels Sprouts, Seasoned Fries*; *Warm Chocolate Chip Skillet Cookie with Milk and Cookies Ice Cream* for dessert.



Whilst this year's menu might lack a little imagination one of the most famous Master's menus was when Tiger Woods won his first Masters in 1997 his menu was "Cheeseburgers, chicken sandwiches, French fries, milkshakes." He was only 22!

This came after Fuzzy Zoeller(r) a previous winner made a comment to the media after Tiger's win:

Zoeller told reporters: "That little boy is driving well and he's putting well. You know what you guys do when he gets in here? You pat him on the back and say congratulations and enjoy it and tell him not to serve fried chicken next year. Got it. Or collard greens, or whatever the hell they serve."

The remark was considered to be based in racist stereotypes and cost Zoeller financially in the form of several cancelled sponsorship deals, and personally in the form of damage to his reputation. Zoeller apologized publicly and to Woods but it took several years for the controversy to die down.

This year's Champions dinner will probably come under scrutiny more for how PGA and LIV players will get along than for what's on the table.

PS Fuzzy Zoeller's full name is Frank Urban Zoeller Jr





If you were not there you here's what you missed! Club Function 16 March.







## A row of Michaels! Plus Club winners.



Michael congratulates Russell Jones on his B Grade title.



Michael congratulates Kate Caridakis on her dual Women's Championship and First Lady titles.



Kate also teamed with Craig Brenner to win the VGL Mixed Foursomes title in November last year.

### News Extra

#### Starting on the 10<sup>th</sup> – 3 month trial

Course management has informed the Clubs that for a 3-month trial play will start on Hole 1 from Monday April 7 till Thursday July 31 apart from the dates below.

#### **Play Commences from Hole 10**

May 5 - 11

June 2 - 8

July 7 – 13

#### New members night

Twelve members attended a discussion on all things related to the booking process, how the club operates and our competition structure. The Committee hope to run this as a yearly fixture and schedule the next one closer to the completion of the annual subscription renewals.

#### Stand Alone Sunday Competition

The Committee has agreed to establish a stand-alone Sunday competition commencing on Sunday 4 May. The Sunday competition will be a combined men and women Stableford competition. Prizes will be 1<sup>st</sup> place \$60, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$40, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$20. No NTP.

The Midweek competition will run Monday to Friday. Prizes will remain as they are currently.



## The tree on the 6<sup>th</sup> hole at Sawgrass

Last issue we had a story on TPC Sawgrass and its designers Pete and Alice Dye. The story focused on the 17<sup>th</sup> hole island green as it is seen as Sawgrass' iconic hole. At this year's recently concluded event it was another hole that caught player's attention. The 6<sup>th</sup> hole is a 359m Par 4 with water left and trees right. As originally designed by Dye the tee shot was affected (at least mentally) by an oak tree (r) to the right and in front of the tee. As time passed the tree got older and diseased and eventually it was removed in 2014.



Recent renovations have been aimed at restoring some of Dye's original intent. So under the guidance of Davis Love III an oak tree growing about 100m away in the woods was lifted and moved(I) to return some of the visual intimidation of the original hole. It sits some 30m in front of the back tee box. Suffice to say many players did not like it!

The process of moving the tree involved rolling the tree on inflatable tubes and is documented on YouTube at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zEf\\_2y48om0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zEf_2y48om0)

The root ball was 13m in diameter and the tree was estimated to weigh over 23,000kgs.

The finished product(r) certainly impacted the scoring on the 6<sup>th</sup>. The number of birdies was 26 fewer than the year before and the percentage of pars was the lowest since 2011. A win for the designers.

Matthew Fitzpatrick said it's "the dumbest tree I've ever seen. ... whose brilliant idea was it to bring this tree back? If someone could remove it, that would be great."

Others thought it wasn't really in play but that it was a visual menace. Judge for yourself.



## Does Sandy have an iconic tree?

This discussion got us thinking. Is there an iconic tree at Sandy? Here are some candidates.



The pine on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Most of us have encountered this one.



The oaks alongside the 7<sup>th</sup> green and in front of the 8<sup>th</sup> tee. The acorns are a seasonal menace and from the back tee many a ball has been caught.



This tree between the 4<sup>th</sup> tee and the 9<sup>th</sup> green has the look of the Sawgrass tree but is not in play



The tree on the left of 15<sup>th</sup> tee seems to attract balls when it doesn't need to.



## The quiet schism in Australian golf

Every time we drive into Sandy Golf Links we are made aware of the house that Dan built as the seat of power for golf in Australia. Golf Australia and the PGA of Australia duly took up residence in the Australian Golf Centre and you would be forgiven in thinking that all was unity and harmony across golf in Australia. Not quite!

As well as a national home Golf Australia has been trying to put in place a centralised model (*OneGolf*) where Golf Australia and its member associations (the states) work together as a single organisation with top-down control from an operational point of view. The model includes a “centralised revenue process and associated reporting lines, with a single organisational brand to be adopted nationally”. When Golf WA signed onto the national model in August 2024 there was only one state left on the outer – Golf NSW.



An article in Australian Golf Digest in October 2024 has an interview with Michael Medway, the Chairman of Golf NSW which seems to indicate they aren't coming into the fold any time soon.

“We're doing a whole lot of things in the sport that we don't see the national body doing.”

The article provides a platform for Medway to enumerate the ways Golf NSW is doing better on its own (\$800k sponsorship for the NSW Open, LET co-sanctioned Ladies tournaments etc.) and to take pot shots at Golf Australia (85 staff, high turnover) and Victoria (Vic Open dying on the vine and VicGolf in a worse state.). He has ruled out any discussion of joining *OneGolf*.

Some of his claims are fact checked in the article e.g. Medway claims that NSW is more than 50% of the sport whereas a GA survey showed them at 33.1%. Despite this the article generally takes the Golf NSW perspective (it is an interview after all) but the national bodies are given a chance to respond at the end. As you might expect the response is of a generic, don't rock the boat type.

“A once fragmented golf community is more aligned and united than ever in its aspirations for golf in Australia. The strong alliance between our respective bodies is unique, and given the progress of recent years, provides us with great confidence as we accelerate our ambitions to see more Australians playing and engaging with golf.”

To be fair Medway also says the relationship is the best it has been.

At Fairway News we are no experts in these matters but there seems to be more than a whiff of other NSW vs the rest issues such as the NRL and Racing NSW's bid to position themselves at the centre of sport in Australia.

The article can be found here or look on the Australian Golf Digest website:

<https://www.australiangolfdigest.com.au/golf-nsw-chairman-michael-medway-were-doing-a-whole-lot-of-things-in-the-sport-that-we-dont-see-the-national-body-doing/>



## Respect for other Clubs that use the Course.

There are several Golf Clubs that, like us, use Sandy Golf Links as their home course. Again, like us, course management gives them access to the booking sheet two days in advance of the public. These Clubs have been long term users of the course and have long histories. Indeed, one of them – the Sandringham Golf Club Associates was an offshoot of our Club way back in 1938. You can see their logos on the wall in café beautifully crafted by SGC member Mike Roker.

Just as our Club's main competition day is Saturday each of these Clubs has a competition day during the week. They play in the mornings and the field size varies between clubs.

**If you use our advanced access to book a time during these Clubs normal competition window your tee time will likely be moved by course management and your 10 day access may be rescinded.**

**Please respect our fellow Clubs by not booking into their competition windows.**

**If you want to play adjacent to these times, it would be advisable to coordinate with the other clubs or wait until they have completed their team bookings and make your booking just prior to the public gaining access.**

Course management has asked the Club to pass on the following message to members:

**“Members of Sandringham Golf Club have access to book in at Sandy Golf Links with your group 10 days prior to your tee time (opens at 8pm online). Please note that this access is given to all club members on the proviso that you are booking only during the times your club plays and not in the times that the other clubs that are based here play. If they fail to adhere to the beforementioned member booking rules, we will have no choice but to immediately remove their 10-day advanced booking privileges.”**

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday



Sandringham  
Associates Golf Club



East Bentleigh YWCA  
Golf Club



Mentone Golf Club



Mawarra YWCA  
Golf Club