

# FAIRWAY NEWS



**JUNE  
2025**

## Members Only Edition(almost)

In this issue Fairway News focuses on the exploits of the members of our esteemed club.

From the Seniors Pennant team (right) that secured Sandy's first Pennant since 2018 through our Sandy lady members who have been on tour and taking on local competitions to author/golfer and Sandy member George Bakrnchev. Even an AI assisted poem!

Not to mention our regular competition updates and Wednesday Whispers.

This issue has a lot of contributions from various members. Special thanks to Fiona Reynolds, Liz Tanzimat, Roly Spencer, Julie Coupe, Geoff Maynard, Paul Hurkmans and George Bakrnchev.

As noted elsewhere all contributions and suggestions/feedback will be gratefully received.

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## Seniors Pennant Winning Team

(l to r) Hamish Olgivie, George Andreetta, Craig Punshon, Tony Pearce (Manager), Neil Evans, Chris Labour, John McCarthy, Paul Hurkmans, Mark Johnson

### Upcoming events

<b>7 June</b>	<b>Stableford, Singles Match Play R2 and Pairs Match Play R1 complete</b>
<b>14 June</b>	<b>Stableford, Captain's Trophy R1</b>
<b>21 June</b>	<b>Stableford</b>
<b>28 June</b>	<b>Stableford</b>
<b>5 July</b>	<b>Stroke, VGL Medal LG McDonald R4</b>
<b>12 July</b>	<b>Stableford, Captain's Trophy R2, Singles Match Play R3 Complete</b>
<b>19 July</b>	<b>Par Club Medal</b>
<b>26 July</b>	<b>Stableford, Pairs Match Play R2 complete</b>

*Recent Results*

- Scott Reed blew the field away with a net 55 in the Stroke round on 5/4 and won the overall and the VGL Medal. Next best was Club Champion Andy Morafis (A Grade) and Julius Chan (B Grade) who both shot a net 62. Ben Woodham (net 68) won C Grade on a countback from Gavin Kinnaird. Low numbers meant there was not a separate Women's Division.
- The Par round of 12/4 saw Steve Williams win the overall with an excellent +7. Colin Hunter's +4 was next best, and he won B Grade. Christine Nicholson (+3 Women's Division), Paul Scanlon (+2 A Grade) and Terry Baker (+3 C Grade) were the other winners.
- There was a tightly bunched field in the Stableford round on 19/4. Andrew Lejcak (40pts) won the overall on a countback from Steve Bywater who won C Grade. Linda Best (38pts) won the Women's Division and Terry McAleenan (39pts) won A Grade. In B Grade Alan Abbes (39pts) won on a countback from Dan Harrison and Ned Brennan.
- Paul Norton's 43pts saw him win the Overall on 26/4. Adrian Boyd (41pts B Grade) was the other player to top the 40pts mark. Monique Quinn (36pts) won the Women's Division and Rob Harris (37pts) won C Grade. Peter Collins (37pts) won B Grade on a countback from Todd Wilson.
- Ross Gordon set the pace with a net 59 in the stroke round on 3/5 winning the overall and the VGL Medal. Peter Theo (B Grade) and Gavin Kinnaird (C Grade) were also winners with their net 62s. Countbacks were needed in the Women's Division (Sarah Adam- Gedge over Monique Quinn on net 66) and A Grade (Gary Roberston over Pat Fitzgerald on net 63).

**THE PRESIDENT'S BLOG**

First cab off the rank for this month is a hearty congratulations to all members who participated and contributed to a very successful Pink Day. A very special thankyou also goes out to the organising committee and their efforts on the day (and leading up to the event), which was the catalyst to the overall success of the day.



Congrats to the winning pair of Andrew Lejcak and Julius Chan, but more on the overall day and prize winners later in a special edition of our newsletter.

Last month I mentioned the Golf Lessons that the Club are sponsoring and that are being held at Royal Melbourne. Since then, I have personally been able to participate and can endorse the positive comments from other members that have also been involved. All I need to now do, is put in the extra effort and practice into the principles of what was demonstrated at the Clinic and fingers crossed see my handicap drop.

Once again, I will get on my hobby horse regarding bunker care and cleaning up after your attempts to extract the little white beastly from the sand. Think of those that are following your group and what it may mean to someone other than yourself, especially if they fall foul of a large footprint.

I know you have all been waiting for the latest in my attempt at mirth, so here it is

"...Once upon a time there was a King who was only 12 inches tall....he was a terrible king, but he made a great ruler"

Regards

Rob

### Recent Results (cont.)

- The Pink Day 2 -ball Ambrose was won by Andrew Lejcak and Julius Chan who scored 53.5 off a handicap of 5.5. They comfortably got over the line from Craig Punshon and Todd Wilson who shot 55.75 off a handicap of 5.25.
- The Par round of 17/5 saw Dara Danh's sizzling +7 take the Overall and the Club Medal. Next best was Liam O'Connell (+4) who won B Grade. Matt Scott (Sq) and Gavin Kinnaird (+2) won A and C Grades respectively. Gavin's second win in 3 weeks. Linda Best (Sq) won the Women's Division on a countback from Sarah Adam-Gedge.
- Tom Rogacki's 40pts won the overall on 24/5 but only just. He beat George Bakrnchev (who won A Grade) on a countback. Brett Williams (39pts) and Christine Nicholson (35pts) won B Grade and the Women's Division respectively. Paul Reinsch(34pts) won C Grade on a countback from Brendan Murphy. Danny Morgan (38pts) won the Les Stainsby Memorial Trophy(60+).
- Gavin Kinnaird's brilliant net 58 won the overall and the VGL Medal on 31/5. There were three net 61s. Anna Puchalski (who won the Women's Division), Alexandre Mirzayantz (who won B Grade on a countback) and Craig Punshon who missed out as he is in B Grade as well. Matt Scott (net 62 A Grade) and Tony Morgan (net 63 C Grade) were the other winners. See later for details of Matt's round.

### CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Our long summer of golf has finally been overtaken by the first days of winter. We are now settling into the middle of the fixture when weather adds an extra dimension to the already long list of challenges to a good score. We are lucky to play golf in the middle of the Sandbelt, and the course has a chance to remind you how good it performs in wet weather. Take every opportunity to ignore the cold and embrace the sport invented for Scottish conditions.



Members will also note that the greens are softer now than in the first few years after the rebuild, so it is a timely reminder to repair your pitch marks, fill divots and maintain the bunkers after you leave them. I am still playing early on a Saturday and having to fix fresh footprints and gouges from the groups in front. Not cool.

For those playing in the matchplay tournaments, we have had a great start to the season with only a few forfeited matches, me included. Please keep those results rolling in and if you have a friend playing in a match, offer to caddy for them as it makes a real difference.

Happy golfing.

Regards

Michael Kent

### Vale

The Club would like to express its condolences to Michael on the recent passing of his mother at the end of May.

Our best wishes go to Michael and his family.

## News and Notes

### Hole in One

Visitor Andrew Dempster recorded an ace on the 2<sup>nd</sup> hole on 17 May.

This was the 17<sup>th</sup> Hole in One in SGC competitions since the new course was opened. It was also the 2<sup>nd</sup> ace to be recorded on the 2<sup>nd</sup> hole in that time and the 4<sup>th</sup> ace this year.

### Stand Alone Sunday Competition Now Running

The stand-alone Sunday competition is up and running and is a combined men and women Stableford competition. Prizes are 1st place \$60, 2nd \$40, 3rd \$20. No NTP.

### Do you know? Seniors/Concession Rates

Seniors and concession holders pay \$15 less for 18 holes all day Mondays and after 1pm Tues to Friday (except public holidays). Proof of age/concession status need to be supplied to the Pro Shop so it can be flagged in Quick18.

### 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)

OR send a message on the website's [Contact Who](#) page

## Competition News

### Match Play Competitions

#### John Pittard Singles Match Play

The first round in the singles match competition has been completed with some very tight matches – 3 going to a play off and 7 being decided by 1 up scores. Most 2<sup>nd</sup> round matches have also been played and the quarter final match ups are nearly set. The quarter finals need to **be completed by 12 July**.

#### Ian Fraser Pairs Match Play

First round matches in the pairs competition are nearly complete with two going to a playoff and three others being decided 1 up. The second round is due **to be completed by 26 July**.

**See later for match play draws.**

### LG McDonald Trophy

The LG McDonald Trophy is three rounds in and there are 4 players left to contest Round 4 on 5 July.

### Founders Shield (Eclectic)

The Founders Shield is awarded to the highest Eclectic score in Saturday Stableford rounds from 1 January to the last round in September. An eclectic counts the best Stableford score on each hole. It basically tells you what you would score if you added all your best results over the period on each of the 18 holes.

As at the end of May Justin Lo leads with 58pts from 4 others on 56pts -James Blangiardo, Peter McLeod, Alister Lahood and Paul Norton.

Long way to go!

## Pennant Wrap 2025 – Seniors win Pennant, Handicap staves of relegation

### Seniors

The Seniors team had 3 wins and 2 draws from its 6 matches but went into the final against Centenary Park at Churchill Waverley Golf Course as major underdogs having lost to their opponent by 7 matches to 1 in the last round. Expertly marshalled by first time manager Tony Pearce the team stood up under pressure to draw the match on the course winning 2 of the 3 matches that were decided on the 18th in the process. Competition rules decree a sudden death play off to determine the winner. Paul Hurkmans was Sandy's hero as his par 5 won the title when his opponent could only manage a bogey. In Paul's words:

"The real story of the playoff was reasonable drive, really good second shot, shaky chip, average first putt and a maybe 40cm second putt which was only difficult because I suddenly realised the weight of expectations on my shoulders."

Tony Pearce had pulled all the right levers and managed brilliantly during the season to get the team over the line. Unbeaten seasons from Gary Gibb (4 wins) and Colin Hockley (3 wins) set the team up but both were unavailable for the final. Other good seasons came from Hamish Olgivie (3 ½ wins from 5 matches), Mark Johnson (3 wins from 4) and Paul Hurkmans (3 wins from 5 plus the all-important playoff win!)

### Handicap

The Handicap Team was staring relegation to Division 4 in the face when it went to Eastern Sward in the last round needing to win at least the equivalent of 5 ½ of the 8 matches to overtake the home team and stay up. Here's how it unfolded in Manager Geoff Maynard's words:

"Yesterday saw us turn up at Eastern Sward with perfect conditions to play golf but a battle to stay in Division 3 that was a real challenge.

After a hard front nine our top 2 players Neil Singh and James Lefebvre unfortunately succumbed to immense pressure with a few holes to play.

Michael Sneyd had a great 6&4 win to start the long road back. This was followed with a mighty 4&3 win by Mark Brooks and great 3&2 win by Ollie Cunliffe.

I then got through one of the closest Pennant matches I have played in some time by holing a putt on the last to get a 1 up win.

Four matches to 2! It was starting to get too much for a Team Manager's ticker!!!

Peter Bowen then came in with a solid 2&1 win on 17 which left Clayton Ford as the only game alive and us needing a win to ensure we stay in Division 3 for 2026.

Clayton looked to have in control until his opponent sunk a putt from the edge of the green which meant he needed to hole his 10 footer (maybe 4 foot but for building the drama we will call it 10 foot) to halve the hole and get it done!!!!.....

The putt goes in and the mountain has been climbed!!!!!"

Excellent seasons were turned in by Ollie Cunliffe (4 wins from 5), Peter Bowen, Mark Brooks and Geoff Maynard all going 3 wins from 5.

## Pennant Wrap 2025 – cont.

### Scratch

The Scratch team had set up their season well but faltered late against tough competition to finish 3<sup>rd</sup>. Going into the final two rounds at home the team was well placed to make the final but two disappointing losses including one to Brighton in “a winner makes the final” clash in Round 6 saw them drop out of contention. Excellent seasons were had by Craig Brenner (5 wins from 6 matches), Sean Paterson (4 wins from 6) and Michael Kent (3 wins from 4).

Here are the full results for Sandy's Pennant teams with the mixed pennant season to come later this year.

### Pennant Results

	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) <b>D 8pts to 8pts</b>	Eastern Sward (H) <b>W 9pts to 7pts</b>	Centenary Park (H) <b>D 8pts to 8pts</b>
<b>Rd 4</b>	Craigieburn Wilmott (A) <b>W 10pts to 6pts</b>	Elsternwick Red (H) <b>L 4pts to 12pts</b>	Craigieburn Wilmott (A) <b>W 11pts to 5pts</b>
<b>Rd 5</b>	Lakeside (H) <b>L 5pts to 11pts</b>	Royal Park (A) <b>L 14pts to 2pts</b>	Glen Waverley (H) <b>W 12pts to 4pts</b>
<b>Rd 6</b>	Brighton II (H) <b>L 4pts to 12pts</b>	Eastern Sward (A) <b>W 12pts to 4pts</b>	Centenary Park (A) <b>L 14pts to 2pts</b>
<b>Final</b>			Centenary Park <b>D 8pts to 8pts</b> <b>Won playoff</b>

Congratulations and thanks to all those who represented the Club in 2025:

**Seniors:** Tony Pearce (Manager), Paul Hurkmans, Gary Gibb, Hamish Olgivie, John McCarthy, Craig Punshon, George Andreetta, Chris Labour, Neil Evans, Mark Johnson, Colin Hockley, Paul Scanlon, Bernie Bagley, Russell Jones.

**Scratch:** Tim Noonan (Manager), Craig Brenner, Gary Boschen, Sean Paterson, Matt Scott, Michael Kent, Terry McAleenan, Andrew Rumbelow, David Mallen, John White, Tom Campitelli, Nick Hague

**Handicap** Geoff Maynard (Manager), Neil Singh, James Lefebvre, Mark Brooks, Michael Sneyd, Oliver Cunliffe, Peter Bowen, John McCarthy, Ilja Sidoti, Paul McGarry, Clayton Ford, Peter Cameron

### Congratulations to our Pennant Players of the Year:

Scratch: Craig Brenner

Handicap: Ollie Cunliffe

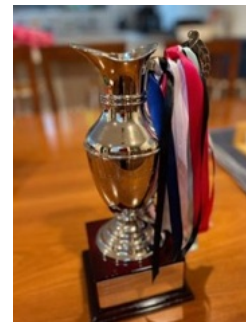
Seniors: Paul Hurkmans

## Sandy Golf Girls on Tour 2025

In the first weekend of April, 16 women golfers journeyed down the Mornington Peninsula to contest the second **Sandy Golf Girls Tour Champions** teams event, a fixture now firmly embedded in our annual calendar.

With the coveted Claret Jug as the trophy everyone was keen to win, anticipation mounted during the lead-up, with clandestine team meetings held around the place and tips for practice and performance circulated.

This year's venue was the Rosebud Country Club and our team names reflected a range of cocktails. Team shirts in appropriate colours were sourced:



Blue Mojitos	Espresso Martinis	Pina Coladas	Pink Flamingos
Ruth Branagh (Captain)	Sarah Adam-Gedge (Captain)	Dale Gilkes (Captain)	Julie Coupe (Captain)
Belinda Anson	Linda Best	Melissa Ansell	Cathy Dixon
Christine Nicholson	Anne Forwood	Ruth Macdonald	Lynda Douth
Doris Peters	Fiona Reynolds	Liz Tanzimat	Gail Simpson

To kick us off in style, Friday night dinner was held at a local Italian restaurant. While unable to stay for the weekend, Liz Mann joined us for dinner and the trivia competition, ably devised and conducted by our team captains (l to r Julie, Sarah, Dale, Ruth).

During the evening our Quizmaster outlined the four key principles of the weekend to come:

- Formalities;
- Format;
- Fun; and
- Food\*

After an evening of fun, frivolity and some great food, we adjourned to our digs. Later in the evening, karaoke, now a staple of our golf girls' getaways, was held in Room 29 at the resort.

More food and fun times were enjoyed at Saturday night's dinner in the Club bistro, with teams decked out in their respective colours.



\* Editor's note: No explicit mention of golf here!

## And now the golf...

Saturday dawned fine and sunny and after a relaxed morning, teams assembled for the day's competition on the South course. This year's format had the teams' aggregate stableford points determining rankings after Day 1, with the Espresso Martinis establishing a small lead over the field. Sunday golf was contested in blustery conditions on the challenging North course. All 16 of us played in carts, which was just as well, as there were some wayward drives and approach shots that day. The Blue Mojitos banded together exceptionally well in the tough conditions and in a terrific effort, won the day by a point. This left them just falling short of toppling the Espresso Martinis, who held on for a narrow victory cross the two days.

(l to r) The triumphant Martinis Fiona Reynolds, Anne Forwood, Linda Best, Sarah Adam-Gedge



The camaraderie, friendship and fellowship of this group is almost unrivalled. Our unofficial MC for the weekend captured the spirit perfectly with her (Ai-assisted) poem, reproduced here:

At Rosebud's fair and verdant land, sixteen friends took clubs in hand. A challenge loomed beneath the sun, the Claret Jug to claim by one.

Four teams dressed to the tee, the Espresso Martinis in black with glee, the Pina Coladas, pure in white, Mojitos in blue—a cool, sharp sight. The sassy Flamingos in their vibrant pink, after two days their tops did stink.

On fairways long and greens that rolled, stories of triumph soon were told. The South course was the 'bunker' test, undaunted though was Linda Best. Liz's putts were sharp and true, while Fiona's birdies were very few. While Doris swung with hopeful cheer, where it landed wasn't clear. Anne's finesse shone on approach; Dale aced it, as if she was a golf coach.

Christine was next to strike...onto the fairway with all her might. Ruth B chuckled, red ball in hand, and again it plonked in to the sand. With the clubhouse in our sights, counting heads gave us a fright. Where's Cathy? everyone then said. Oh... still in the creek with the ball that was red.

The North course pine trees were a test for all; Gail's still there searching for her ball. Ruth M steadied, her swing so neat, the Scottish lass would not defeat. Endless Par 5's, tree roots and berms, Mel's shots veered wildly with many left turns. Lynda D fought the hazards fair, Belinda's putting precision was beyond compare. Julie wondered why the course was so tough, while Sarah once again found herself in the rough.

Here's to the best Captains who gave it their all; the task before them was not small. Ruthie crafted games so fun for us, the incredible Dale did the creative stuff. Julie kept our feet on the ground, and with work to be done Sarah couldn't be found.

As lunchtime came, and the final hole, each team gave all to meet their goal. Through sweat and smiles, the laughter stayed, and friendship was the trophy made. The Claret Jug shone in victory's hands, but all were winners in this merry band. At Rosebud Golf club, memories grew, of laughter, love, and friendships true.




A special thank you to our wonderful team captains for their thoughtful organisation and leadership, helping make this another memorable Sandy Golf Girls' adventure. We're looking forward to our next event, booked for Gippsland in March 2026, with plans to venture further afield in 2027 also in train.

Happy golfing.

Fiona and Liz



## Wednesday Whispers from the News' ace rolling reporter

- Tom Tomlin advises not to use green golf balls when Galahs are scratching the fairway. When landing among a flock of Galahs on the 4th Fairway the Galahs proceeded to pass the ball to each other soccer style until called offside by Tom.
- 
- Most golfers are aware of the Crows on the 4<sup>th</sup>-unflipping lids on golf buggies and taking off with anything edible. Dan Harrison has a new twist when his Energy bar was extracted from a closed zipped pocket on his golf bag. Unfortunately, Dan suffers from low blood sugar and this bar was required for a late game boost. Dan fruitlessly chased the Crow across the 5th Tee. Not only was more energy consumed but his game crashed on the 16th. There is a video of events and may be released by popular request.
- 
- An early morning group who enjoy a friendly skins game have come up with a novel idea on the Hole in One 12th. Leader at the time has a shot at the Hole in one \$7000 prize funded by the playing partners who share in the win. There is a 60 second window to play and Tim Nash was unable to find a tee and settled for hitting it off the grass. The ball sailed on to the green and missed the cup by millimetres. (Line visible in the dew). What could have been! Here is actual vision of the result.
- 
- There is a bucket list item on the Wednesday players agenda which is to be able to shoot your age off the stick. New member David Elias from Pk and ex journo quipped that he would have to live to 110. However new member Fred Cara has twice missed this year by one stroke. Without giving away his age he shot 71 both times winning the Midweek both times.

Editor's Note: Hard to see the line in this photo!

## Sandy Ladies Taking on the big guns Part 1 - Southern Challenge Bowl

The Southern Challenge Bowl was held in beautiful summer conditions on Monday February 3rd at Southern Golf Club. Sandringham Golf Club was represented by Dale Gilkes, Liz Tanzimat Sarah Adam-Gedge and Julie Coupe (l to r). The course was in great condition, and we all enjoyed the event. At these kind of events you always catch up with ladies you know who play at other clubs, which is lovely.

The competition, 2 pairs playing 4BBB and the scores for 2 pairs being totalled for the bowl, was won by Yarra Yarra GC, well done !!.



Liz and Julie witnessed some really great golf from their playing partners, from Rosssdale who had 52 points, winning the best pair competition. And these 2 ladies had only met each other on that day.! We all enjoyed playing the course and playing for Sandy!! Go Girls!!

Thanks to Colin Hockley for sending through these event details. See below how another 4 Sandringham GC fared in the Keysborough Bowl on Monday 12 May

### Competition Scoring Reminder

Due to changes in security requirements, the Kiosk is logging out each evening which makes it difficult for players to enter their own scores.

This is a known issue affecting all clubs and they are working on a solution. In the meantime, players will need to email their cards using the QR code displayed in the club's room.

**Members are reminded that all scores should be submitted using MiScore and should only use the email system in exceptional circumstances.**

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

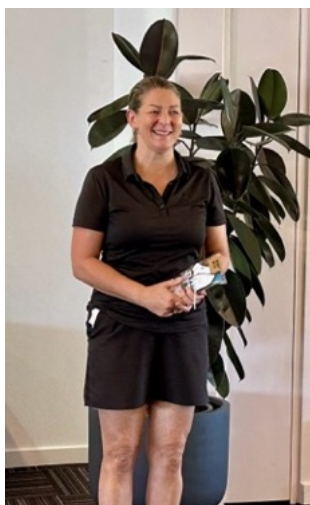
Sandy PGA Pro Shop
House of Golf
Some Drummond Stores
Sandringham Café for food or drink
Grape and Grain Liquor Cellars, Station St Moorabbin
Royal Melbourne Golf Club Pro Shop

## Sandy Ladies Taking on the big guns Part 2 - Women's Keysborough Bowl

Dale Gilkes, Cathy Dixon, Julie Coupe and Belinda Anson (l to r) played in the Women's Keysborough Bowl on Monday May 12th. The event was 4BBB Aggregate Teams Event, and 4BBB stableford.

We were blessed with another magnificent sunny Melbourne autumn day to tackle this demanding and challenging layout.

We were not quite good enough to get our names engraved on the bowl, but good fun was had by all, and we can always try again next year.



And there was much excitement on the 8th hole, a tricky elevated par 3 well protected (in front and behind) by deep bunkers. This was Dale and Belinda's last hole. Dale hit a magnificent ball at the flag, that was so close to the hole that it should have rolled in!! A very well won NTP for Dale measuring 23cm!! Well done Dale!!

Swan guarding the 3<sup>rd</sup> tee



It's always fun to represent Sandringham GC and play these events, where so many other clubs are represented, and you catch up with old friends and make new friends.

Julie Coupe

## New Course Records

The stroke round on 31 May saw two of our top players break the previous record for a stroke round in SGC competitions. Craig Brenner playing off a handicap of 4 shot a 4 over par 69 to get in 1 shot below his own previous record. Craig's round included 2 birdies and one double and a 1 over back nine.

But hold the phone Matt Scott off a handicap of 6 went one better and shot a 68 to set the new record. Three birdies matched three bogeys for an even par front nine which set up the round. Six pars and three bogeys including on 18 meant that Matt came home in 35 for the new mark. Congratulations to both Matt and Craig.

## Sandy Pennant Teams get together

In what has become an annual event members of Sandy's Pennant teams gathered at the Grape and Grain in Moorabbin to revel in the glory or rue missed chances and plan for the next season.

Here's Club Captain Michael Kent addressing the throng.



Below (l to r) Michael Sneyd, Mark Brooks, Neil Singh, Jason Maynard, James Lefebvre



Above (l to r) Emma Regos, Tim Noonan, Terry McAleenan, Matt Scott, David Mallen



The successful Seniors Pennant Team was well represented!

Left: (l to r) Gary Gibb, Hamish Olgivie, Neil Evans, Chris Labour, Tony Pearce, Bernie Bagley.

Below: Mark Johnson, George Andreetta



## Member Profile - George Bakrnchev

### How long have you been playing golf?

My golf journey began in 2000 on the Sunshine Coast. Before then, my relationship with golf was about as committed as a diet plan – I didn't even own clubs; I was borrowing my nephew's.

Then a few years later I got serious and splurged on a set of clubs, a bag and a buggy all for \$499. As you can see from that purchase, I really didn't know anything about golf.

Golf proved more addictive than social media scrolling. By 2007, I'd joined Headland Golf Club with a generous 26 handicap. Soon after I won the C-Grade Club Championships and then 2yrs later the B-Grade Net. I was on such a roll that Las Vegas would have banned me from golf betting.

Then life's curveball: I moved back to Melbourne in 2017 with an 11 handicap and quit golf for five years. Sometimes you need to lose something to remember why you loved it.

The golfing gods intervened in April 2022 when a BMW invitation to Royal Melbourne re-ignited me with a long-lost love.

### How long have you been a member at Sandy?

At that eventful day at Royal Melbourne, I was paired with Phuoc Do, who mentioned this public course "across the road" called SGC. I had no idea there was a course there.

One round at Sandy and I was smitten. Greens as pristine as Royal Melbourne's, minus the intimidation factor. Thanks to Geoff Thornton I was able to join after a 6month wait. This month marks three years of membership.

### What has been your best/happiest moment playing golf?

This might sound weird, but it's actually watching me and my mates experience golf's full emotional spectrum week to week – from perfect approach shot euphoria to five-putt existential crisis.

Golf is a personality polygraph test. You learn more about character in 18 holes than 18 months of dinner parties. I'm blessed with friends who've mastered supportive mockery – they'll celebrate your birdies and diplomatically ignore meltdowns.

Justin, Ben, Phuoc, Florian, Vlad and Alessio are my playing partners and after intense workdays, this weekly ritual of controlled chaos with great mates beats any therapy session. Plus, it's cheaper and involves fewer tissues.

### Do you have a bucket list for your golf game?

"Bucket list" sounds too final – like planning my golfing funeral. I prefer "progress goals," which sounds less like a countdown to golf mortality. At the end of each year, we review where we finished up and then set improvement targets. This year for me it is to achieve a maximum GA of 9 (I finished 2024 at 11.9).



George, his wife, Sony & two grandkids at SGC

Mission accomplished April 9th when I hit 7.9 – cue victory dance that traumatised nearby golfers. Now the challenge: maintaining single digits without reverting to my natural golfing chaos.

### **What do you enjoy about the game of golf?**

The mateship, competition, exercise (walking 18 holes counts as cardio, right?), fresh air, and courses so beautifully manicured they make my lawn weep with envy.

But here's the truth: golf is life's greatest metaphor wrapped in a frustrating package. It's predictably unpredictable – you will hit bad shots, but sometimes they'll inexplicably find the pin. It teaches focus despite chaos, valuable when your day job involves juggling crises while keeping everyone calm.

Golf is beautifully democratic in crushing dreams and creating heroes, sometimes in the same round.

### **What is your current occupation and what has been your professional journey to get there?**

I'm CEO of RÜÜHM, a Bayside property development company, and also mentor others in development.

My academic journey was as straight as my early golf shots. Enrolled for Physical Education teaching but only lasted one orientation day. Fortunately, Monash University was across the road, so I wandered over like a lost soul.

When I expressed interest in sports psychology and physiology, the admissions officer delivered crushing news: "You need year 11 and 12 chemistry, and you haven't done either." My negotiation skills kicked in: "Let me occupy one seat in Chemistry 101 for one term. If I fail, kick me out." I passed with a double major in Human Applied Psychology and later discovered understanding minds is useful whether developing properties or reading putts.

### **What was the impetus for you to write "The Golf Code"? How long has it been in the works?**

Like many projects, it started with inspiration and ended with procrastination.

I wrote 50% in two weeks, then took five years for the rest. COVID, business survival, and life chaos intervened – everything except alien abduction.

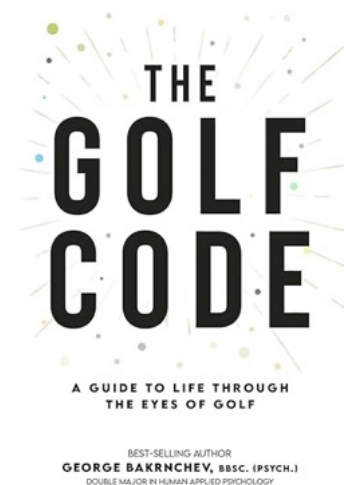
Eventually I gave myself a mental slap and remembered my mission: helping people understand themselves through golf's lens.

Golf is life's ultimate metaphor – complete with sand traps, water hazards, and miracle shots. With five kids and eight grandkids between my wife and I, "The Golf Code" is my attempt at a life instruction manual more entertaining than "eat vegetables and be nice."

### **Got any other books in mind?**

My wife, Sony, suggests I write "The Wife Code." I'm 90% certain this is either brilliant or an elaborate trap. Given she's survived marriage to someone who explains life through golf metaphors, she has material for several volumes.

Still conducting market research on whether the world's ready for that wisdom.



### Special **Golf Code** Offer to Sandringham Golf Club Members

Get Your Signed Copy Of The Golf Code (How to understand life through the eyes of golf)– a book by George Bakrnchev - SGC Member

Several members have already received a signed copy which explains the hidden parallels between golf and life.

This is an insightful and thought-provoking book that will transform the way you approach both the game and your personal journey.

You can receive a special signed copy for only \$25 - simply TEXT George Bakrnchev on 0408 535 989 to arrange name on book and payment via PayID.

or for a regular copy go to: <https://www.amazon.com.au/Golf-Code-Guide-Life-Through/dp/098044568X>

You can also email George at: [george@ruuhm.com.au](mailto:george@ruuhm.com.au)

### Match Play Competition Status

#### John Pittard Singles After Round 2

Ash Nugawela vs Matt Scott

Craig Brenner vs Dan Harrison

Liz Tanzimat vs Jenni Clarke

Geoff Maynard vs Oswin Slade or Tim Noonan

Mark Brooks vs Don Tasevski

Mark Johnson vs George Andreetta

Dale Gilkes vs Michael Sneyd

Ben Akdag vs Paul Lennon

#### Ian Fraser Pairs After Round 1

Michael Kent/Tom Sneyd

Rod Bridger/Jeremy Matthews

Mark Johnson/Guy Robertson

Linda Best/Sarah Adam-Gedge

Don Tasevski/Gary Gibb

John McCarthy/Pat Maginness

Jeremy Williams/Bruno Di Stanislo or

Geoff Thornton/Colin Burge

Ash Nugawela/Liam O'Connor

vs Ruth Branagh/John White

vs Dan Harrison/Andrew Ball

vs Cathy Dixon/Jenni Clarke

vs Fiona Reynolds/Ruth McDonald

vs Craig Brenner/George Andreetta

vs James Mackie/Tom Tomlin

vs Michael Sneyd/Matt Scott

vs Jamie Staib/Tom Rogacki

### 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)

## Elsewhere in the world of professional golf

### Major Season

With the arrival of the northern hemisphere summer golf's major season hits its stride.



On the men's side we are two majors down. Rory McIlroy and Scottie Scheffler have won one each so far and there is great interest in seeing if either can pick up one or both of the remaining two. The US Open starts on 12 June at Oakmont Country Club which by all reports will be a terrifying course. The Open starts on 17 July at Royal Portrush which is Rory's home course.



The LPGA have just completed their US Open won by Sweden's Maja Stark. The LPGA has 5 majors and the remaining three all come in the next 2 months. The Women's PGA starts on 19 June; The Evian Championship starts 10 July and the Women's Open tees off on 31 July at Royal Porthcawl in Wales.

There are also two majors to go on the Seniors tour before the end of July.

And then there is the big event:

### Ryder Cup

Many fans can't wait for the Ryder Cup which is scheduled to start on 26 September at Bethpage Black in New York. Most recent Ryder Cups have been dominated by the home team, but a lot of US fans are getting nervous about the current performance of their potential team compared with those of their European opposition. Expect the hype to ramp up after the major season finishes.

One of the talking points is how rowdy and out of control will the New York fans get. Ryder Cup crowds are notoriously partisan, and the feeling is the New York crowd will be the most rabid yet. The last Cup played in Italy saw the crowd rip into Patrick Cantlay for his suggestion Ryder Cup players should get paid and his supposed refusal to wear a team hat in protest. Not to mention Rory having an altercation with Cantlay's caddie in the car park after what McIlroy saw as a celebration that went over the line (literally) when he still had a putt to tie a match.



Watch this space!

### Australian Open at Royal Melbourne in 2025

This year's Australian golf season will be highlighted by Rory McIlroy playing in the Australian Open at Royal Melbourne from 4 – 7 December. The Open will be preceded by the Australian PGA Championship with both tournaments being co-sanctioned by the DP World Tour. McIlroy has previously played the Australian Open twice in 2013 (which he won over Adam Scott) and 2014.

This year's Open has moved away from the recent format where the Women's and All Abilities Championships were held concurrently with the men's event.

McIlroy has also committed to play the Australian Open in 2026 at Kingston Heath Golf Club.

## Anchoring your putter

We don't see many of these issues at Sandy but just in case here's all you need to know about anchoring your putter.

Some mild controversy surfaced recently when Germany's Matti Schmid(r) finished 2nd in a recent PGA event.

Eagle eyed observers (with nothing better to do) questioned Schmid's putting action and whether there was any daylight between his left thumb and his shirt, leading to discussions about whether he might be 'anchoring' his putter. How would you tell?

### The Rule

Rule 10.1 of the Rules of Golf states:

"In making a stroke, the player must not anchor the club, either:

Directly, by holding the club or a gripping hand against any part of the body (**except** that the player may hold the club or a gripping hand against a hand or forearm), or

Indirectly, through use of an "anchor point," by holding a forearm against any part of the body to use a gripping hand as a stable point around which the other hand may swing the club.

If the player's club, gripping hand or forearm merely touches their body or clothing during the stroke, without being held against the body, there is no breach of this Rule. For the purposes of this Rule, "forearm" means the part of the arm below the elbow joint and includes the wrist." The rule came into effect on 1 January 2016.

From an Australian perspective Adam Scott's change to the long putter is the most significant given he won the US Masters after he switched. Although Minjee Lee is also a recent convert and her putting has improved enormously. It was Scott's win together with a clutch of others (Keegan Bradley, Ernie Els) that led to the introduction of the rule.

Bryson De Chambeau (below) is the most famous user of the forearm lock approach.

Like a lot of rules this one is pretty hard to police in real time!

