

# FAIRWAY NEWS



APRIL  
2026



## Club Champions 2026

It was déjà vu in this year's Club Championship as Andy Moratis and Kate Caridakis both defended their titles from 2025. Andy won his second Championship in record fashion and Kate her fourth Club Championship in succession. Congratulations to both Andy and Kate.

<b>Club Champion</b>	<b>Andy Moratis</b>	<b>207</b>
Runner Up	Sean Paterson	213
<b>B Grade</b>	<b>Craig Punshon</b>	<b>250</b>
Runners Up	Peter Bowen	254
	Geoff Thornton	254
<b>C Grade</b>	<b>Stephan Viewager</b>	<b>253</b>
Runners Up	Alan Russell	269
	Bernie Bagley	269
<b>Women Open</b>	<b>Kate Caridakis</b>	<b>230</b>
Runner Up	Sarah Adam-Gedge	249
<b>President's Trophy</b>	<b>Tom Rogacki</b>	<b>190cb</b>
Runner Up	Stephan Viewager	190
<b>First Lady</b>	<b>Kate Caridakis</b>	<b>200</b>
Runner Up	Sarah Adam-Gedge	207

### This Issue includes

Club Championship wrap  
Our regular features  
Rules quiz plus bonus  
Major Competition News  
US Masters Sandwich Tradition  
Sandy Golf Girls on Tour 2026  
How's this for a trophy?  
Card index vs actual scores – an analysis  
Marcus Aurelius and Golf  
Pennant Update  
Club spirit – a discussion starter  
Photos from the Club Function

**Breaking News: Senior Pennant Team goes back-to-back!**



Kate and Andy at the Club function at the Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron on 29 March

### Upcoming events

11 Apr	Par
18 Apr	Stableford
25 Apr	Stableford, Singles Match Play R 1 completed
2 May	Stroke VGL Medal
9 May	2 Ball Ambrose
16 May	Par
23 May	Stableford, Over 60s Comp
30 May	Stroke, VGL Medal, LG McDonald qualifying round
6 Jun	Stableford, Singles Match Play R1, Pairs Match Play R1 completed

### Recent Results

- The second round of the Club Champs on 7/2 saw some solid scoring with Dara Danh's net 60 the best of the bunch to win the overall. Ruth Macdonald and Michael Wang shot net 62s to win the Women's Division and C Grade respectively. Countbacks were needed in the other divisions which were both won with net 64s. Sean Paterson took out A Grade from visitors Samuel Mitchell and Wayne Jarman and Peter Bowen won over Peter McLeod in C Grade. Highlight of the day may have been John White's eagle on 18.
- Scores were similar in the final round of the CCs on 14/2. Matthew Farrelly's net 61 won the overall. Once again countbacks decided two divisions. Belinda Anson (net 64) won the Women's Division from Kate Caridakis and James Lefebvre (net 63) got over the line from Jeremy Matthews. Paul McGarry (net 63 A Grade) and Ben Nottle (net 65 C Grade) were the other winners.
- Visitor Anthony James' hot 44pts was best in the Stableford round on 21/2. Chris Labour (42pts C Grade) and Tom Rogacki (41pts A Grade) also broke the 40pts mark to take out their Divisions. Linda Best (34pts) won the Women's Division and James Lefebvre took out his second B Grade Division in a row with 39pts.
- The fourth stroke round in five weeks saw Geoff Maynard score a career best gross 73 and his net 58 was a clear winner of the Overall and VGL Medal. Matthew Farrelly had his second win in 3 weeks when his net 63 won A Grade. Glenda McDade (net 67 Women's Division), John McCarthy (net 61 B Grade) and Danny Morgan (net 61 C Grade) were the other winners.

### THE PRESIDENT'S BLOG

Well, the Clubbies are now behind us and congratulations to all the winners in their respective categories. More about this in the rest of the Newsletter.



To celebrate the completion of the 3 weeks of "torture", an annual get together was held at the Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron (BMYS) on 29th March and the weather gods turned on a cracker of a day which makes the venue such a highlight. A good group of guests were in attendance and commiserations to those that were not able to make it....come along next year and see what you have been missing out on!!

Congratulations to our Manager Tony Pearce and our Seniors Pennant team who just won their Pennant Division for the second year in a row. This is the first time a SGC team has won two in row since the Handicap team in 2017 and 2018. See later for more on the Pennant final.

All our thoughts are currently with one of our long-term members who is going through some hard times. Stu Low was recently hit by a car in a shopping centre carpark and is currently in hospital at Frankston where he has had an operation to insert a steel rod from his hip to knee....get well soon Stu.

This editions joke is from a fellow golfer:

Before the invention of Crowbars, where did Crows drink - at home of course

Happy golfing everyone

Regards

Rob

*Recent Results (cont.)*

- Jackson Cull's 42pts won the day on 7/3. Visitor Michael Cripps was the only other player to get to 40 and his 40pts won C Grade. Visitor Trinh On (38pts Women's Division), Michael Sneyd (39pts A Grade) and Bernie Bagley (38pts C Grade) were the other winners.
- The Par round and Club Medal on 14/3 was won in fine style by Alan Abbes who's +7 equalled the 4<sup>th</sup> best score in a Par round on the new course. Visitor Alessio Caneschi was next best and won B Grade with +4. Kieran McAllister (+3 A Grade) and Emily Heappey (+1 C Grade) were the other winners.
- The 4BBB competition on 22/3 was a tight affair. Craig Punshon and Paul Norton won with 48pts. George Bakrnchev and Ben Akdag(47pts) were runners up on a countback from Brett Ryan and Ollie Cunliffe.
- The weather for the Stableford round on 28/3 was not as bad as forecast and scoring was generally good. Gary Chalkley (41pts) won the overall on a countback from Timothy Guille who won A Grade. Jeff Coghill was one point behind and his 40pts won B Grade. Bruno Di Stanislo (39pts C Grade). And Emily Heappy (37pts Women's Division for her second win in three weeks) were the other winners.
- Gavin Kinnaird set the pace in the Stroke round on Easter Saturday. His net 61 took out the overall and the VGL Medal. He was one of only two players to better net par. The other was Alan Russell whose net 64 won B Grade. Other winners were Adam Canwell (net 65 A Grade) and visitor Sharon Hall (net 65 C Grade). There was no separate Women's comp due to low numbers.

## CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Hi members,

By now many of you will be enjoying the 2 most important events in the global golfing calendar, namely the US Masters at Augusta and the fantastic win by our Senior's Pennant team in the finals.



While Tiger Woods tried to steal the pre-tournament limelight for this season, it was the cracking start to our Pennant season with an early dominance of the leaderboard that had everyone's attention. A back-to-back victory was last seen by Mr Woods in 2002 whereas our Tony Pearce now has 2 flags to hang off his buggy.

Our handicap and scratch pennant teams have only just started the season with round 3 on Sunday 12 so they now have a challenge issued. Likewise the club's matchplay tournaments are underway with some early results posted and quite a few new names for the year.

I encourage all our members to get out there and enjoy the remainder of the Autumn weather on the best Sandbelt public access course, just don't forget to rake those bunkers please.

Happy golfing.

Michael Kent



Ah! If only!  
But you can do your part. Rake those bunkers baby!

## News and Notes

### Best wishes

Best wishes to member Leigh Busby as he recovers from recent surgery.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to former member Stuart Low who was a victim of a nasty incident when he was hit by a van whilst Stuart was a pedestrian.

### Register Please

Course Management has asked that members register with the café/pro shop before they tee off. Please take the time to let them know you are on course.

### 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.

### 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

## Visitors beating up the course!

Our competitions are open to visitors who pay the \$5 entry fee and there is always a good sprinkling of non-members playing especially on Sunday and mid-week. In recent weeks the non-member contingent have been delivering the goods.

### *Two holes in one in six days.*

On Sunday 22 March George Nabbout scored an ace on the 2<sup>nd</sup> hole and six days later on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March Jeremy Wood did the same on the 7<sup>th</sup> hole.

The "Aces" count on the new course in our competitions is now 24 with three coming on the 2<sup>nd</sup> hole and five on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

### *Record equalling score*

In the same week Ron Szancer equalled the mid-week Stableford record score when he shot 48pts off a handicap of 21 on 23 March.

## Rules around Visitors

Members are reminded about the rules for visitors entering and winning prizes in our competitions. This is the key para from our rules:

"Visitors are welcome to join the Competitions. The competition fee must be paid before commencing the round. **Visitors may win competition prizes, including NTP, except for any perpetual trophy or VGL or Club medal. Visitors may enter the weekly Saturday competition as many times as they like but cannot win a prize after they have played in six Saturday competitions in a calendar year.**"

There is no restriction on visitors regarding the Mid-week competitions."

Please make your guests aware of this rule if you think it might apply.

## The Rules of Golf – this issues quiz

Continuing our series from last issue here are four more questions on the Rules of Golf to test your knowledge. These are a mixture of Beginner and Intermediate level questions drawn from quizzes generated by the R&A Rules of Golf site:

### Question 1

If you need to measure a club-length to show you the relief area in which you must drop, what club should you use?

- A - Any club in my bag.
- B - The longest club anyone in my group is carrying.
- C - The longest club in my bag (except my putter).

### Question 2

When taking lateral relief from a red penalty area, where do you measure your two-club length relief area from?

- A - The point where the ball lies.
- B - The point where the ball last crossed the edge of the penalty area.
- C - Wherever you want.

### Question 3

When taking lateral relief for an unplayable ball, the two club-length relief area is measured from the nearest point of complete relief.

- A - True
- B - False

### Question 4

In stroke play, on the 4th tee you play your ball from in front of the tee-markers. You correct the error and play another ball, this time from within the teeing area. What is the ruling?

- A - You get two penalty strokes.
- B - There is no penalty provided you play from within the teeing area.
- C - You are disqualified.

For answers see later in the newsletter.

The R&A rules website can be found [here](#).

The illustration(r) is from series published in 1906 by a Scottish artist and editorial cartoonist who gloried in the name *Charles Exeter Devereux Crombie*.

Charles Crombie specialised in cartoons and publication illustrations. His "The Rules of Golf" rapidly became a best-selling series. As did his follow ups including "The Rules of Cricket"



## Major Competition News

### Match Play Competitions

Sandy's two Match Play competitions are underway with some matches already played in the singles competition. The draw and results can be accessed through the Results section of the website. First round matches need to be completed by:

- Pittard Singles – 25 April
- Ian Fraser Pairs – 6 June

### Perpetual Founders Shield - Eclectic

For 2026 the winner of the Perpetual Founders Shield is the member with the lowest gross Eclectic total from all Saturday Stableford, Par and Stroke rounds from January 1 to the last round in September. This a change from previous years where an eclectic Stableford score was used. Tim Strickland (55) holds the early lead by 1 shot from Sean Paterson and 2 shots from David Mallen. The leaderboard can be accessed through the Results page.

#### *History Note:*

This Shield was donated in 2016 by the family of the late Ken Leverton to honour the founding members of the Club. Ken was a 16 year old member when the Club was founded in September 1937. He was Club Champion in 1955, 1956 and 1959, and Captain from 1959 to 1961.

### L G McDonald Memorial Trophy

This stroke event is a singles knockout competition played off a maximum handicap of 36 for men, 45 for women, over a period of 4 rounds. The results in each round are determined based on the lowest nett stroke scores over 18 holes.

***A qualifying round to be played on 30 May determines the 32 players who compete for the trophy.***

Subsequent knockout rounds are played concurrently with scheduled stroke rounds with the field being reduced by half each time until an eight-person final is played on 5 September.

### John French Memorial Trophy

The John French Memorial Trophy is presented to the member with the highest aggregate Stableford points from their BEST 16 rounds in singles events held on Saturdays at Sandringham from the first competition in January through the last competition in September. Given the nature of the competition, it is hard to identify potential winners until near the end of the competition.

## The US Masters Sandwich Tradition

As we go to press the 90<sup>th</sup> US Masters is underway and you would be hard pressed to find an event that is more self-reverential of their traditions than Augusta National. Apart from the fact that the tournament itself is top of the tree for golf fans the Masters is marinated in a highly seasoned sauce of rules and traditions that include the drive down Magnolia Lane, the Champions Dinner, no phones or cameras on course, the green jackets, no running on the grounds and the introductions on the first tee – “Fore please. Now driving...”



One of the maybe lesser-known traditions is the on-site food in particular the sandwiches and especially the renowned *pimento cheese sandwich*. Served in a green bag (naturally) and costing only \$1.50



The Masters' recipe is secret, but pimento cheese is generally made with sharp cheddar, Monterey Jack, cream cheese, mayonnaise, diced pimentos, onion powder, garlic powder, and cayenne pepper and has a rich, creamy, and mildly spicy taste. The other popular sandwich is an egg salad also \$1.50.

To show how important the Masters hierarchy think about their on-course food here is a quote from Augusta National Chairman Billy Payne in 2007:

SANDWICHES	
☑ Egg Salad	1.50
☑ Pimento Cheese	1.50
Pork Bar-B-Que	3.00
Masters Club	3.00
Chicken Salad on Honey Wheat	3.00
Ham & Cheese on Rye	3.00
Classic Chicken	3.00

“We want the experience to not only be the best but to be affordable. And we take certain things very, very seriously. Like the cost of a pimento cheese sandwich is just as important as how high the second cut (of grass) is going to be.”

If you are really keen to try some Masters food, you could (if you are in the USA) order a *Taste of the Masters* pack which serves 12-14 guests and includes:

Egg Salad (24 oz.), Pimento Cheese (24 oz.), Cookies (12), Pork Bar-B-Que (24 oz.), Plain Potato Chips (6 bags), Bar-B-Que Potato Chips (6 bags) Masters Coasters (pack of 12), Hosting Kit Materials, Masters Branded Souvenir Cups (sleeve of 25) and Wax Paper (sleeve of 12 sheets)

Note: Bread and buns are NOT included. Not bad for \$US189 with free shipping!

### Rory's Champions Dinner Menu (r)

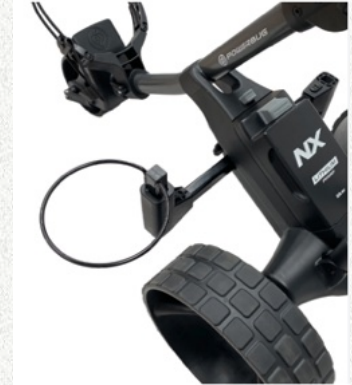
The Annual Champions Dinner menu always attracts lots of speculation with Rory McIlroy's effort this year highlighted by an appetizer of *Grilled Elk Sliders*. Maybe *Irish Champ* and *Brussel Sprouts* will also get people's attention.

Augusta National Masters Club Dinner April 7, 2026	
<b>Appetizers</b>	
<b>Peach &amp; Ricotta Flatbread</b> Balsamic, Hot Honey, Basil	<b>Rock Shrimp Tempura</b> Creamy Spicy Sauce
<b>Bacon-Wrapped Dates</b> Goat Cheese, Almonds	<b>Grilled Elk Sliders</b> Caramelized Onion Jam Roasted Garlic Aioli
<b>First Course</b>	
<b>Yellowfin Tuna Carpaccio</b> Foil Gras, Toasted Baguette, Chives	
<b>Main Course</b>	
<i>Choice of</i>	
<b>Wagyu Filet Mignon or Seared Salmon</b> Traditional Irish Champ, Sautéed Brussels Sprouts Glazed Carrots with Brown Butter, Crispy Vidalia Onion Rings	
<b>Dessert</b>	
<b>Sticky Toffee Pudding</b> Vanilla Ice Cream & Warm Toffee Sauce	
2025 Salon "S" Brut, Le Mesnil-sur-Oger, Champagne 2022 Domaine Leflaive, Batard-Montrachet, Puligny-Montrachet, Burgundy 1990 Chateau Lafite Rothschild, Pauillac, Bordeaux 1989 Chateau d'Yquem, Sauternes, Bordeaux	
Served in Honor of Mr. Rory McIlroy	



## Wednesday Whispers from the News' ace rolling reporter

• After finishing the second hole our protagonist went ahead to the third tee leaving his playing partners to putt out. On his way to the tee he came across a full sand bucket and a metal holder. Seizing the opportunity for a full sand bucket he swapped over the buckets. On the 7<sup>th</sup> hole Fred Cara owner of a GMI remote control buggy went missing back to the 6<sup>th</sup> tee looking for you guessed it a metal sand bucket holder and full sand bucket. "Oh yeah! Saw that back on the 3<sup>rd</sup> tee" he was told. Fred had sent his buggy ahead before putting out. Happy ending to this story as with a golf cart trip - the ring holder was still there complete with a half full sand bucket!



### Wednesday Players April Fools Day Special Event

On the eve of the Wednesday players inaugural 3 club event on April Fools day there has been some playful banter between players.

- Player R has signalled use of a high bred Driver/putter combination or the Drutter(right) causing suspicion of the big swing arc
- Player B is going for a gap wutter
- Player P is inspired to work on the Swiss Army club the Dredge
- Player B is wondering if 3 clubs and ham sandwedge would be allowed. At least they wont get hungry in the bunkers as they can eat the sand which is there.
- Player P is hoping that a hybrid will ramp the ball out of the bunker.
- Also watch out for the jesters crown for the last player to 3 putt.

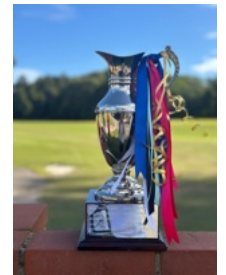


## Fairway News Contributions and Feedback

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)

## SGC Ladies on Tour – Gippsland 2026

The 2026 Sandy Golf Girls' getaway was held in the Gippsland village of Loch across several days in mid-March. Initially with four teams of four, ultimately fifteen dedicated golfers were involved in the fierce competition for the sought-after Claret Jug.



For the third year running, and as we've come to expect, the weather gods smiled on us, delivering clear blue skies and sunny conditions for our teams challenge. This year's captains were Jenni Clarke, Cathy Dixon, Jacqui Hastings and Christine Nicholson, who devised an imaginative format, played across two days, at Korumburra and Leongatha golf clubs. A few of us also played a warm-up nine holes at the picturesque Lang Lang course on the Friday afternoon.

A special shout out for our accommodation, at The Old Hospital, Loch. A converted hospital, the venue offers 13 rooms and ensuite bathrooms, which can be configured according to need, as well as a full commercial kitchen. Self-catering on our first night was a breeze, and we took full advantage of the various living areas and the deck, ideal for pre-dinner drinks and canapés. Cosy in the lounge after our Saturday evening meal, entertainment included the inevitable karaoke and a boisterous and noisy trivia quiz.



This year, our team names had a bird theme, with colours and shirts to match, the Magpies, the Red Robins, the Yellow-bellied Tits and the Blue Wrens. After competition on Day 1, played on the beautiful but hilly Korumburra course, the Yellow-bellied Tits held a convincing lead, setting up an intriguing challenge for our Sunday round at Leongatha. With our fitness perhaps not at its peak, most of us played in carts on Day 2, which incorporated a Secret Partners format, to add to the drama.



Well done Gail and Christine for walking the course on both days! A couple of outstanding individual performances saw the Red Robins overtake the Yellow-bellied Tits, to bring home the chocolates, and earn the honour of having their names engraved on the trophy.

Aside from the golf, we thoroughly investigated the wide variety of arts and crafts, culinary delights and treasures available in Loch. Enjoying evening meals at both The Winey Bear (great pizzas and cocktails) and The Loch and Key (wonderful local produce and an impressive wine list), we were well and truly impressed with this hidden gem of a village. The Distillery will have to wait for another visit!

Thank you to our tireless team captains for their enthusiasm and organisation, cementing this weekend into our annual golfing calendar. Plans for the 2027 competition are underway to be held in Queenscliff where we anticipate an even greater number of Sandy Golf Girls taking part.

Happy golfing.

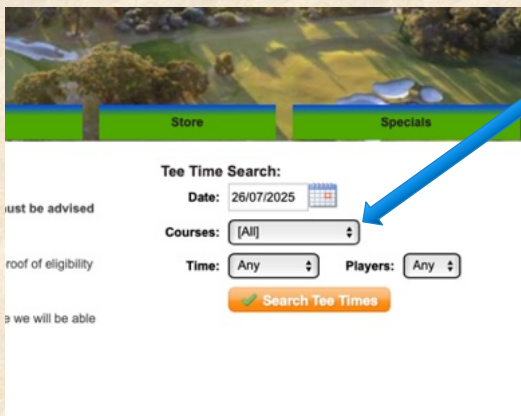
Fiona and Liz



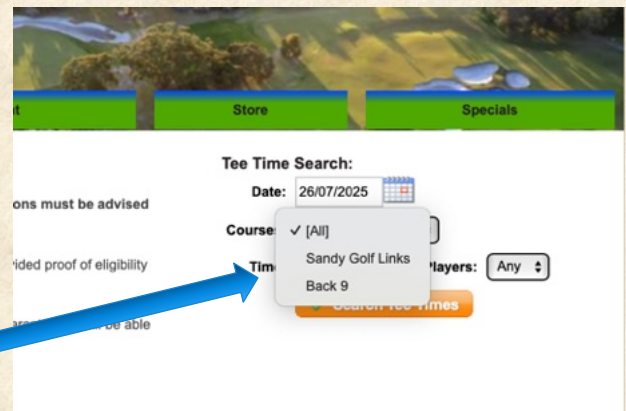
The mighty Red Robins (l to r) Liz Mann, Jacqui Hastings (C), Sarah Adam Gedge, Linda Best

### Reminder: Get the right course on Wednesday nights.

Take these steps to make it easier and quicker to find the right course and times when booking a round on Quick 18.



To see the 18-hole slots only first go to the top of the page and click on the box that says "Courses" (l)



The drop-down menu (above right) will show you options for All, Sandy Golf Links and Back 9. Click on the Sandy Golf Links and only the 18-hole spots and bookings will appear (right).

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="margin-right: 5px;">Jul 21 Mon</li> <li style="margin-right: 5px;">Jul 22 Tue</li> <li style="margin-right: 5px;">Jul 23 Wed</li> <li style="margin-right: 5px;">Jul 24 Thu</li> <li style="margin-right: 5px;">Jul 25 Fri</li> <li style="margin-right: 5px; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Jul 26 Sat</li> <li style="margin-right: 5px;">Jul 27 Sun</li> </ul> </div> <div style="margin-left: auto;"> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Next</span> </div> </div>							
Tee Time	Course	Booked Players	Players	9 Holes	9 holes Conc/Seniors	18 Holes	18 holes Conc/Seniors
7:32AM	Sandy Golf Links	SGC Mallen, David SGC Ford, Clayton SGC Lefebvre, James x 2		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
7:40AM	Sandy Golf Links	SGC McCarthy, John x 3 SGC Kinch, Mary		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## How's this for a trophy? The Bushranger Cup

Member Tom Tomlin bought this magnificent trophy along to the Club's social event. Tom was part of the four-man team that won The Bushranger Cup in 2025.

The Bushranger Cup is a four-man team event for social golfers. It was founded in 2004. Now conducted under the auspices of Bushranger Golf the Bushranger Cup is a private invitational event and according to the Bushranger Golf website:

"some people say, arguably the most sought after prize in the golfing universe."

Tom has competed in this event for over ten years which is a real shame that the photo I have is one with his eyes closed. Apologies Tom!



## Card Index vs Actual Play

Geoff Thornton has crunched the numbers and looked at how the course is playing compared with the indices on our scorecard. Data is from September 2025 to March 2026. The results look a pretty good match particularly for the purple tees.

		Men Purple			
Hole	Par	Av Score	Card Index	Effective Index	Easier (harder)
1	4	5.15	14	13	-1
2	3	4.12	13	14	1
3	4	5.29	10	10	0
4	4	5.56	5	3	-2
5	4	5.45	6	6	0
6	4	5.37	7	8	1
7	3	3.92	17	16	-1
8	4	5.57	1	2	1
9	3	3.83	18	18	0
10	4	5.34	8	9	1
11	3	4.39	9	7	-2
12	3	4.19	11	12	1
13	4	5.64	2	1	-1
14	3	4.22	12	11	-1
15	4	5.47	3	5	2
16	3	4.01	15	15	0
17	4	5.48	4	4	0
18	4	4.90	16	17	1

Women Orange			
Av Score	Card Index	Effective Index	Easier (harder)
5.90	9	10	1
4.61	15	12	-3
6.11	5	5	0
6.04	6	6	0
5.95	10	7	-3
5.94	8	8	0
4.28	17	17	0
6.39	1	2	1
4.05	18	18	0
5.93	7	9	2
4.81	12	11	-1
4.54	14	14	0
6.48	2	1	-1
4.51	16	16	0
6.37	3	3	0
4.52	13	15	2
6.22	4	4	0
5.60	11	13	2

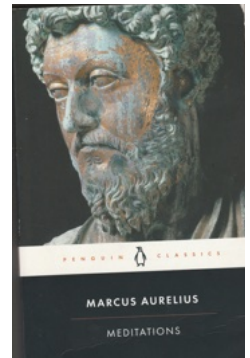
## What does Marcus Aurelius have to do with golf?

The Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius lived in a time before golf – I know hard to believe that such a time exists. Well before the Scots (or the Dutch) invented, regulated and popularised golf Marcus known as the last of the five good Emperors was busy fighting border wars but also writing philosophical texts which you may be surprised to learn did not mention golf. (He also appears briefly at the start of the first Gladiator movie before being assassinated by his son and big bad of the movie Commodus.)



So why is the good Marcus appearing here on Page 12 of a golf club newsletter? In this little section we're talking here about what kind of philosophy you bring to the golf course. Not whether you are a go for it no laying up kind of player or an always putt from 10m off the green type but more how do you deal with the highs and lows of the game and what school of philosophy influences your approach. How about the philosophy of which Marcus Aurelius is one of the leading proponents of – Stoicism?

Stoicism has a modern or small s connotation of supressing emotion but is actually an ancient philosophy centering on the pursuit of virtue, understanding and accepting what we can and cannot control, and living in harmony with the natural world. It values clear judgment, inner calm, and the courage to face life's challenges with integrity.



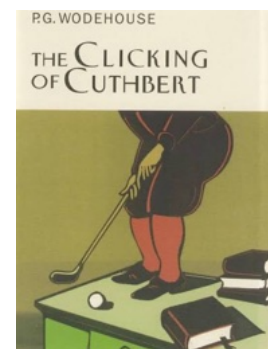
No lesser a golfer than Rory McIlroy has said that he has read Aurelius' most famous work his 12 books of *Meditations*. During the Ryder Cup in Rome (fittingly) in 2023 Rory said he had been reading the *Meditations* and studying Stoicism to help with his game in the cauldron of the Ryder Cup.

There appears to be a lot of synergy between Stoicism and golfs principles of playing the ball as it lies, self-reporting of penalties and the having to deal with what the elements throw at you.

There's even a book called "*The Stoic Golfer: Finding Inner Peace & Focus on the Fairway*" by Robert Sudha Hamilton. Intriguing chapter titles include: "Shit happens, Live with it." "Do we need a church of golf?", "Tether your camel" as well as Stoic exercises for golfers. There is plenty of other material linking Stoicism and golf in respected golf publications, on YouTube and the web more generally. Even famed British humourist PG Wodehouse references Marcus Aurelius and golf in his book *The Clicking of Cuthbert* (1922):

*"Whatever may befall thee," says that great man in his "Meditations", "it was preordained for thee from everlasting. Nothing happens to anybody which he is not fitted by nature to bear."*

*I like to think that this noble thought came to him after he had sliced a couple of new balls into the woods, and that he jotted it down on the back of his score-card. For there can be no doubt that the man was a golfer, and a bad golfer at that. Nobody who had not had a short putt stop on the edge of the hole could possibly have written the words: "That which makes the man no worse than he was makes life no worse. It has no power to harm, without or within."*



Here's a collection of some well-known golf axioms and quotes for the Stoic pantheon.

**Golf Sayings**

**Stoic Quotes**

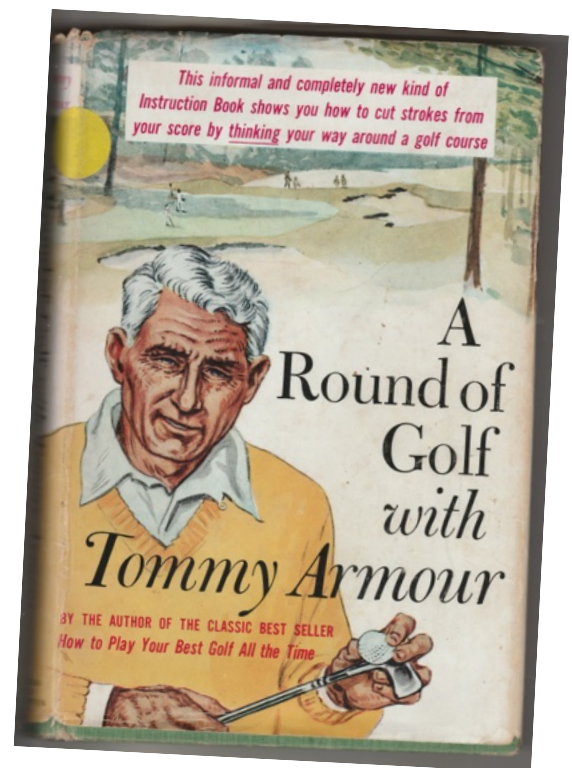
<p>"Golf is not a game of perfect" – Bob Rotella</p>	<p>"The impediment to action advances action. What stands in the way becomes the way." — Marcus Aurelius</p>
<p>"One of the most fascinating things about golf is how it reflects the cycle of life. No matter what you shoot – the next day you have to go back to the first tee and begin all over again and make yourself into something." Peter Jacobsen</p>	<p>"You shouldn't give circumstances the power to rouse anger." — Marcus Aurelius</p>
<p>"Success in this game depends less on strength of body than strength of mind and character." — Arnold Palmer</p>	<p>"Your mind will take the shape of what you frequently hold in thought, for the human spirit is coloured by such impressions." – Marcus Aurelius</p>
<p>"Golf... is the infallible test. The man who can go into a patch of rough alone, with the knowledge that only God is watching him, and play his ball where it lies, is the man who will serve you faithfully and well."-P.G. Wodehouse</p>	<p>"Externals I cannot control but the choices I make in regard to them I do control. Where will I find good and bad? In me, in my choices." – Epictetus</p>

**Speaking of venerable gentleman**

Known as the Silver Scot Tommy Armour was professional golfer who won three major titles and later in career he co-authored a book - *How to Play Your Best Golf All the Time* (1953) with Herb Graffis. Not the book pictured.

It became a best-seller and for many years was the biggest-selling book ever authored on golf and spawned a series of 8mm films based on the book. He also popularised the term the yips.

His grandson Tommy Armour III was also a PGA professional who won twice on the tour.



## Answers to Rules Quiz

### Question 1

#### Correct answer C – the longest club but not the putter

Explanation: See Definition of Club Length. Note whilst you can use a club with a head cover on it the head cover should not extend the distance which is measure from the butt of the club to its toe. The key thing is dropping in the relief area not seeking to extend that area by a few centimetres.

### Question 2

#### Correct answer B – where the ball last crossed

Explanation: The reference point for taking lateral relief is the estimated point where the original ball last crossed the edge of the red penalty area (Rule 17.1d(3)).

### Question 3

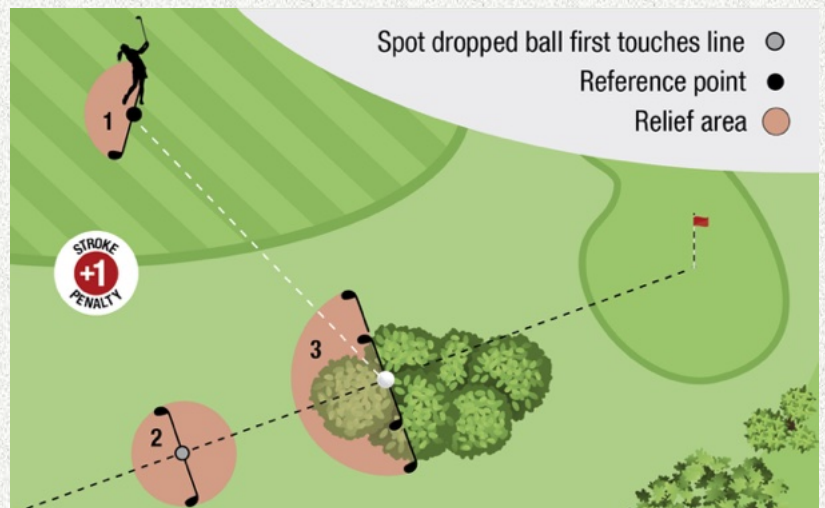
#### Correct answer B - from the spot of the ball

Explanation: See Rule 19.2. The relief area is measured from the spot of the ball.

This is shown as No 3 in diagram. The three options for relief in this situation where the ball is unplayable are:

1. Play again from the original spot
2. Go back on the line keeping the spot of the original ball in line with the pin
3. Take 2 club lengths relief no nearer the hole.

All options incur a 1 shot penalty



### Question 4

#### Correct answer A - You get two penalty strokes

Explanation: **In stroke play**, if a player who is starting a hole plays a ball from outside the **teeing area\***, the player gets the general penalty (two penalty strokes) and must correct the mistake by playing a ball from inside the teeing area. (See Rule 6.1b(2)).

**Note: In Match Play** there is no penalty, **but** the opponent may cancel the stroke: This must be done promptly and before either player makes another stroke. When the opponent cancels the stroke, they cannot withdraw the cancellation. If the opponent cancels the stroke, the player must play a ball from inside the teeing area and it is still their turn to play. If the opponent does not cancel the stroke, the stroke counts and the ball is in play and must be played as it lies.

\* See P14 for a definition of the "teeing area".

## 2026 Pennant Update

### *Seniors Team – back-to-back winners!*

The Seniors Team started the year in blistering form winning its first four matches to clinch a spot in the final with two rounds to go. Unfortunately, the wheels fell off big time in the last two rounds losing badly to Dorset (opponents in the final) and Glen Waverley. Only one match was won in those two rounds giving Manager Tony Pearce some real selection headaches for the final.

However just as they did last year after a heavy in season loss to our finals opponent the team dug deep and turned the tables in the final. Tony Pearce once again pulled the right levers at the selection table, and the team came away with a tight 10pts to 6pts victory – 4 matches went to 18 and 3 to 17.

In strong blustery winds Geoff Moule, Neil Evans and Chris Labour had comfortable wins. Big comebacks by Mark Johnson (2 down early in the back nine and won 3 and 1) and Geoff Thornton (squared his match after being 3 down with 4 to go!) secured key points as did George Andreetta's hard fought half. Our only two losses were decided on the 18<sup>th</sup> hole as last year's hero Paul Hurkmans and Bernie Bagley both lost 1 down.

Congratulations to all who played on the day and those others who played during the year.

This year's squad was:

Tony Pearce (Manager), Paul Hurkmans, Neil Evans, Craig Punshon, Paul Scanlon, Hamish Olgivie, Bernie Bagley, John McCarthy, Chris Labour, Andrew Smith, Mark Johnson, Geoff Thornton, George Andreetta, Guy Robertson, Geoff Moule.

### *Scratch Team*

The Scratch team started their season in fine style winning away at Altona Lakes but came back to earth in Round 2 losing at home to Westgate. They are still a chance to come through to the final although they have two games against top team Lakeside to negotiate.

### *Handicap Team*

The Handicap team has struggled in the opening two rounds losing at home to Ringwood and away to Creekside. Hopefully they can turn it around in the last four rounds.



The winning team (l to r): Mark Johnson, Bernie Bagley, Chris Labour, George Andreetta, Tony Pearce (Manager), Neil Evans, Paul Hurkmans, John McCarthy (Caddie) Geoff Thornton, Geoff Moule.

	Scratch (Div 2)	Handicap (Div 3)	Seniors
<b>Rd 1</b>	Altona Lakes(A) <b>W 9pts to 7pts</b>	Ringwood(H) <b>L 4pts to 12pts</b>	Forest Hills (H) <b>W 9pts to 7pts</b>
<b>Rd 2</b>	Westgate(H) <b>L 6pts to 10pts</b>	Creekside (A) <b>L 3pts to 13pts</b>	Dorset(H) <b>W 13pts to 3pts</b>
<b>Rd 3</b>	Lakeside (A) 12 April	Royal Park (H) 12 April	Glen Waverley (H) <b>W 9pts to 7pts</b>
<b>Rd 4</b>	Altona Lakes(H) 19 April	Ringwood (A) 19 April	Forest Hills (H) <b>W 11pts to 5pts</b>
<b>Rd 5</b>	Westgate(A) 26 April	Creekside (H) 26 April	Dorset(A) <b>L 0pts to 16pts</b>
<b>Rd 6</b>	Lakeside (H) 3 May	Royal Park (A) 3 May	Glen Waverley (A) <b>L 2pts to 14pts</b>
<b>Final</b>			Dorset <b>W 10pts to 6pts</b>

### Discussion Starter

#### CLUB SPIRIT – is there enough?

Although many members may be unaware, one of the most prestigious competitions in many Clubs' calendars is the annual Pennant competition.

It is unfortunate that our course managers do not appreciate the prestige this represents to the course and the Clubs who represent Sandy Golf Links.

Sandringham Golf Club, which has played at Sandringham Golf Course since September 1937, has enjoyed many Pennant premierships, the most recent being the Senior Pennant final on 9th April 2026, following up their premiership win the previous year.

The final should have been the ideal opportunity for members to support the team and the Club but we managed only one onlooker, who caddied.

This is just one example of the lack of involvement in the Club by members. Another is the poor attendance at the recent Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron function.

The opportunities to socialise have been severely reduced as a result of the course redevelopment and limits imposed by course management.

So it is important that the few activities we have are well-supported.

Geoff Thornton

*Let us know at Fairway News if you have some thoughts on how the Club can build more of a Club spirit or chat to one of our Committee members.*

## Club Championship Wrap

### Club Champion

Andy Moratis set the standard for this year's event when he shot a championship best 67 in the opening round. He led by 3 shots from 4-time champion Sean Paterson with 4 players a further 2 shots back. Sean closed the gap to 1 shot after the second round when he returned a 69. Andy struggled with a tooth infection but managed a highly respectable 71. The hoped for grandstand finish did not materialise as Andy shot 69 to Sean's 74 and won his second successive title by 6 shots. Matt Scott was third a further 8 shots back. Andy's total of 207 set a new Championship record on the new course beating the previous record of 214 set by Craig Brenner when he won in 2024. Sean could have been a bit closer as a double and a triple on the 8<sup>th</sup> hole in Rounds 2 and 3 cost him dearly.

### B Grade

It was a tightly bunched field after Round 1 in B Grade. Three players led with 82s (Craig Punshon, Mark Johnson and 3-time title winner Paul Scanlon) and there were 5 on 83. Craig's 83 in Round 2 enabled him to open a 2 shot lead over Peter Bowen who paired an 82 with his opening 85. Paul didn't play and Mark crashed out of contention. Geoff Thornton (83,88) was 4 shots further back. Craig appeared to be cruising to victory until disaster struck on the 6<sup>th</sup> hole (played as his 15<sup>th</sup> hole of the day) where he recorded a 10. Geoff Thornton loomed as a potential challenger until he also came unstuck on the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 8<sup>th</sup>. In the end Craig's 85 was good enough for a 4 shot win over Peter Bowen (87) with Geoff (85) two shots further back. Congrats to Craig on his first B Grade title.

### C Grade

Stephan Viewager made the C Grade title a one-horse race with a brilliant 77 in Round 1. Next best in the opening round were Simon Scott-Branagan (80) and Paul Norton (85) neither of who played the second round. Stephan's second round 87 saw him lead by 13 shots from Brian Falvo(92,85) with Colin Hockley (88,90) a shot further back. In the final round Stephan (89) cruised to the title by 13 shots from Alan Russell (97,86,86) and Bernie Bagley (91,92,86) who tied for second. Stephan's 253 for the three rounds was a new C Grade record on the new course beating the previous record held by Larry Stewart in 2022 by 13 shots. Congratulations to Stephan.

### Women's Open

Kate Caridakis has owned this title in recent years and her opening 78 gave her a 5 shot lead over Sarah Adam-Gedge. In Round 2 Kate and Sarah both repeated their opening round scores to give Kate a 10-shot lead. In Round 3 Kate stepped it up and her 74 saw her record a comfortable win from Sarah whose ultra consistent game saw her shoot 3 consecutive rounds of 83. Kate's total of 230 ranked 5<sup>th</sup> overall across all completed rounds men and women in this year's championships. Congrats to Kate on her 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive title.

## Club Championship Wrap Cont.

### President's Trophy

Stephan Viewager's brilliant opening round net 56 saw him lead by 3 shots from Tom Rogacki (59) with Geoff Maynard 3 shots further back. Tom closed the gap to 1 shot as he shot a net 64 to Stephan's net 66. Sean Paterson was now third but a distant 7 shots off the lead. Tom and Stephan went neck and neck in the third round with Tom's 67 drawing level with Stephan who shot 68. With both tied on 190 the title was decided on a countback which gave the nod to Tom. Congrats to Tom on the win and to Stephan for getting so close.

Note: the countback rules for this competition takes the back 9 scores for all three rounds.

### First Lady

The First Lady field was led by Jo Rogers(net 63) after the first round, but Jo did not complete the three rounds so there were 4 players at the top all within a shot – Kate Caridakis and Lynda Douch (net 68s) and Sarah Adam-Gedge and Liz Tanzimat (net 69s). Kate's second 68 helped her open a 2 shot lead over Sarah(69) and Lynda (70). Kate took out the double for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row when she shot a 64 to win by 7 shots from Sarah (69) with Liz 2 shots further back after a 67.

Congratulations to Kate.

### Clubs Championship Scores on the New Course

	Open	B Grade	C Grade	Ladies Open	Presidents Trophy	First Lady
2021	228	244	272	-	195	203
2022	229	250	269	265	192	202
2023	225	242	273	225	189	195
2024	214	247	283	225	191	195
2025	216	249	281	236	188	203
2026	207	250	253	230	190	200

\* Best scores highlighted.

## No Pink Day this year

The Club will not be holding a formal Pink Day event on the weekend of Mother's Day this year.

However, some of our sponsors have again graciously sponsored us for this year and the committee would still like to provide an opportunity to raise funds for the cause.

Details will be provided shortly but will likely involve an opportunity to make a set amount donation and for up to 100 members to receive a goody pack on the day and go into a draw for remaining lucky draw prizes.

Stay tuned.

## Rules Bonus

### 1. Can you retee if your ball is still on the tee box?

We've all had that near whiff when the ball just dribbles off the tee but stays on the tee box. So after you have overcome the stifled guffaws or in some cases outright ridicule of your playing partners can you retee the ball for your next shot?

**The answer is yes but, in most cases, probably no!**

The relevant rule is Rule 6.2b

“If the player's ball *in play* is in the **teeing area** after a *stroke* (such as a teed ball after a *stroke* that missed the ball) or after taking relief, the player may:

- Lift or move the ball without penalty (see Rule 9.4b, Exception 1), and
- Play that ball or another ball from anywhere in the *teeing area* from a *tee* or the ground under (2), including playing the ball as it lies.”

The key here is the definition of **teeing area**. **It does not mean the whole tee box.**

“The teeing area is a rectangle that is two club-lengths deep where:

- The front edge is defined by the line between the forward-most points of two tee-markers set by the Committee, and
- The side edges are defined by the lines back from the outside points of the tee-markers.”

**So yes you can retee but only if the ball is still behind the tee markers and not more than two club lengths behind or outside the tee markers.**

If you tee up behind the markers this rule could help but otherwise the shot that stays in the teeing area has got some crazy physics happening – Sir Isaac Newton, take note!

Thanks to member Demos Deliyannis for raising this issue.

### 2. What happens if you move your ball in your practice swing?

If you move your ball during a practice swing on the tee or the green there is no penalty. However if you move the ball during a **practice swing in the general area, a bunker or a penalty area there is one stroke penalty**. In the case of the general area and the green you must replace the ball in its original spot. In the case of the tee shot you can retee anywhere in the teeing area.

**Note: In all cases the practice swing does not count as a stroke.**

This issue came up in a senior pennant match this year.



Here's what you missed – or didn't depending on the evidence below!





Committee Corner  
Geoff Thornton, Michael Kent,  
Colin Hockley, Rob Harris,  
Michael, Christine Nicholson.

