

BOARDTALK

APRIL 2007

Welcome everyone to this edition of BoardTalk with a special welcome to all members that have joined RMC Golf Club since January. Thank you to all the members who took the time to provide feedback and comments on the January edition. The last three months have been relatively busy with the major emphasis on maintaining the course and surrounds despite the climatic conditions.

The new Board has quickly settled in and each director has critically reviewed their portfolio to identify key activities to be undertaken over this year. In the January edition I undertook to share with you some of the actions planned. Key initiatives underway include:

- The Social Committee has been revamped and is planning functions to be held during the year. Initially there will be a Trivia Night on the 25th of May (watch the Club Notice Board for booking details). Support for a possible Club Ball, to be held during 2008, is also being canvassed. The Social Committee is also continuing the monthly sausage sizzles.
- On the course several initiatives are in train with particular focus on improved water management and improvements to our bunkers.
- Increase member participation in our weekly Club competitions by varying the types of competitions played and through offering a diverse range of events. It is also planned to reintroduce the Thursday “Chicken Run” over Spring/Summer. The Club Captains are also endeavouring to identify ways of encouraging all new members to take part in our weekly competitions especially the Mixed Foursomes scheduled for Saturday 16 June 2007.
- Increase the number of Club Sponsors through the active assistance of members. In this regard a “Sponsorship Incentive Program” will operate during May and June. Full details will be available in the Club House in the near future (see Notice Board or ask one of your directors or Manager, Robert Glover).
- Membership growth and retention is critical to our future. The Social Committee recently completed a telephone survey of selected new members to ascertain what attracted them to RMC Golf Club and what other initiatives they thought may be appropriate to assist them settle into the Club and join in our competitions. The Board is also to undertake an advertising campaign later this month with a “special” membership offer in an attempt to attract new members. I encourage all members to “go out of their way” to make new members feel welcome and help them settle into the Club.

Club Administration:

Our sound administration and management practices continue to be maintained. As this paper goes to print the Finance Committee is preparing the 2007/2008 budget for presentation to the Board at our April meeting. Our budgeting process is rigorous and a fine balancing act to ensure that we continue to provide an attractive membership package and a course that offers first rate playing conditions whilst remaining financially viable. Every effort was made to ensure that we achieved a comprise that is in the best interests of the Club and beneficial to all members.

Unfortunately, an increase in membership fees is necessary to maintain the Course at present levels and to cover increased costs in fuel, the Fair Pay Commission pay rates, equipment provision and other trading costs. For the majority of members the increase has been contained to around 11% with the overall average increase across all membership categories contained to just over 12%. While the increase is regrettable it is however necessary given that the last increase in our membership fees occurred in July 2005. For the majority of members the increase approximates to \$1.00 per week over the year. The 2007-2008 schedule of fees has been posted in the Club for the information of members.

The Board will continue to make every effort to ensure that the club trades on a profitable and viable basis without placing undue burden on members. I ask that all members continue to show their support of the Club by increasing their patronage of club facilities and supporting club events including our competitions and social events.

The Course:

It is pleasing to see that our course has stood up well to the drought and continues to provide excellent playing conditions. From the compliments received from many guests and visitors to the club it is clear that we continue to have a course that more than holds its own with others in the region. As mentioned, in forthcoming months a number of bunkers are to be renovated to provide a more even base and new sand will be added to all. A few low-use bunkers will be replaced with grass swales. A number of paths are being upgraded and we also hope to be able to enlarge the 2nd tee so it aligns better with the green.

Members will have observed that a number of sprinklers have been out of commission for longer than we would have liked, due to a problem in sourcing the right replacement units. This situation has now been rectified.

Thank you to Course Superintendent Chris Ganderton and his able team of Toby Jamieson and Bernie Bradley for their efforts. Our Director of Grounds, David Schramm, is always keen to get input from members regarding the future development of the course and is seeking to reconstitute a Grounds Committee which has not existed for some years. If anyone is interested in joining this committee details can be obtained from a notice posted on the board in the clubhouse.

Clubhouse and Surrounds:

Thank you to Club Manager, Robert Glover and casual support staff Ben Elliott, Peter Turner and Bernie Bradley for their continued terrific front of house service. Our thanks and best wishes to Ben Elliott who leaves us this month to take up a career in the Real Estate industry. Welcome to Roland Herbert who joins us as Ben's replacement.

We remain hopeful that we will be in a position to upgrade facilities within the clubhouse (carpet replacement, cleaning of chairs and some painting) progressively over the next 6 to 12 months.

David Schramm and his band of volunteers have continued their tremendous efforts on the surrounds and gardens. Further enhancements are under consideration but these are dependent on member patronage of club amenities and "Gardenlotto". Thank you also to the Ladies Garden Committee for their continuing maintenance to the various gardens on course.

Practice Facilities:

It is great to see that the practice net continues to be well utilized. Revamp work on the practice chipping green will be undertaken as resources allow.

Sponsors:

During March we held our annual Sponsor Day to thank our sponsors for their continuing generous support of the club. Thank you to those sponsors able to join club members for an enjoyable round of golf followed by a barbeque, a great day. Our sponsors are integral to our financial viability. Their ongoing support enables the Club to continue to function effectively and achieve its aims and objectives. Current club sponsors are:

Pete's Golf Connection ACT (Major Sponsor)

A1 Plaques	Australian Defence Credit Union
Bellchambers Asbestos Removal	Bellchambers Pty Ltd
Boral Group	CA (Pacific) Pty Ltd
Clipsal Living Electrical	The Brassey of Canberra
Defence Credit Union	Discount Tyre Service Queanbeyan
Jesner & Kelly Printers	Lines Signs & Pavements P/L
Cadbury Schweppes Australia P/L	Scientific Pest Management
Terry Pullford Smash Repairs	Tip Top Bakeries Pty Ltd
Transact Pty Ltd (ACTEWAGL Retail)	Waco Kwikform

The Board expresses sincere appreciation to our sponsors. I ask members to show active appreciation to our sponsors by utilizing their products and services at every opportunity.

Can you help by introducing a potential sponsor to the Club? See the Notice Board or ask Club Manager, Robert Glover or one of the Board members for full details of the Sponsor Incentive Program.

Social Golfers:

Social Players continue to be an important source of revenue to the club through their green fees and we welcome these players and encourage them to consider becoming members. I encourage all members to interact with the social golfers that visit our course, especially the regular Sunday morning groups, with a view to encouraging them to join as members.

It is also important that we ensure that all social players honour their green fee commitment. All social players including non-members playing with a member are liable to pay green fees and must carry their receipt while on the course for production on request from any member or staff member.

Etiquette and Damage to Course:

I ask that all members respect the etiquette of golf and to encourage and assist new members as necessary.

Please also help protect the course by repairing divots with sand and pitch marks on the green, both yours and others. I also ask that all buggies be kept well away from the greens and from between the bunkers and greens. Bunkers should be raked after use and the rake left in the bunker pointing down the fairway.

Volunteers:

Volunteers are always needed to assist with a wide range of activities so I encourage you to “get involved” when the call for help is made. The more members able to help the greater number of things we can achieve. Any help is greatly appreciated.

Member Communication:

By the time you receive this paper our revised Web Site will be up and running. Thank you to Club Member, Dr Jenny Kesteven, for the many hours she has expended in planning and developing the site and for agreeing to be our initial Web Master. Further development work is planned including posting of the weekly competition results. Member feedback and comment would be greatly appreciated. Please visit our site at www.rmccg.com.au and e-mail any comments or suggests to Club Manager, Robert Glover or pass on your thoughts to any Board member.

I would welcome feedback and comments on the content and format of this edition. Is it informative and of value to you as a members? What changes and/or improvements would you like to see? The Board also seeks your feedback and comments on aspects where we can improve or on any issues of concern. Again thank you for your continued membership of our Club and until next time happy golfing.

Cyril Mitchell

Club President

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