

# BOARDTALK

APRIL 2008

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 continuing to be on maintaining the course and surrounds.

The new Board has quickly settled in and each director has reviewed their portfolio identifying key focus areas for attention as the year progresses. The year ahead will be busy and we will ask for assistance from members to complete some of the tasks planned. Some of the activities planned for the year ahead include:

- Two Trivia Nights with the first of these scheduled for Friday 2 May (watch the Club Notice Board for booking details) and get in early so you don't miss out. The last Trivia Night was a great success and enjoyed by all that attended.
- Enhancing the clubhouse surrounds by laying pavers. This is a particularly large volunteer undertaking and assistance will be required. Thank you to those members that have helped sort and stack the pavers to date. If anyone has a spare hour or so we have more that need to be sorted and stacked before we are in a position to start the laying part of the project.
- On the course initiatives will continue to improve our bunkers. There will also be some changes to a couple of our tee boxes (particularly widening of the 2<sup>nd</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> tees). Water management strategies continue to be a high priority.
- The Spring/Summer "wine run" has been reasonable well supported. We are now to review how we might improve the format for the 2008/2009 season. Any feedback or suggestions from members would be greatly appreciated.
- The Board is seeking to identify how we can build participation in weekly competitions particularly through encouraging new members to take part. Suggestions or feedback on how we can better attract new members to competitions would be welcome.
- Sponsorship is integral to the healthy life of our club and we would like to attract more sponsors. If you can assist please contact Director of Sponsorships, Skip Smith.
- Membership growth and retention continues to be a major focus as our numbers continue to decline. The Board has approved a "special offer" membership campaign drive to be launched later this month in an endeavour to attract new members. We will also provide each existing member that renews their membership for next year incentive "gift voucher" encouraging members to introduce a friend to our Club.
- Thank you to those members that have provided feedback and suggestions on issues relating to the club. Thank you also to all the members that have provided their e-mail contact details enabling electronic delivery of this communication.

Our January experience indicated that we have a significant number of incorrect e-mail contact details in club records. I ask that all members that did not receive an e-mail in January please update their contact details with the Club Manager, an e-mail will suffice.

## **Club History:**

John Purser has commenced the task of pulling our history together. Unfortunately, to date information sources have been limited and John is now seeking as many contributions as possible. Members who may be able to assist are asked to leave any documents or data and/or their contact details with the Club Manager.

## **Club Administration:**

Prudent management controls continue to be maintained to ensure that costs are contained wherever possible and to make certain that we operate as effectively as possible.

Members will have noticed that actions have commenced adjacent to the 3<sup>rd</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> fairway, between the fairway and Morshead Drive. This has necessitated a change to the course boundary along this fairway with the Out of Bounds moved inside the walking track as dictated by the white marker pegs. Significant work will be taking place along Morshead Drive over the next 9 months as the roadway is widened. There should be only minimal, if any further impact, on the golf course whilst the work is underway. **Members are requested not to enter the area beyond the course boundary, currently marked by a single wire strand fence, as this is a construction site. As work progresses the course boundary will be marked by the construction of a 2 metre high fence that will run the**

**length of the fairway.** Although some trees will be removed from the road side of the walking track to allow for the widening of Morshead Drive we believe that the remaining trees will provide sufficient protection to prevent errant golf balls entering the new widened roadway. However, we ask that members take every precaution to ensure that their golf balls remain in play. A photo plan of the work to be completed is on display in the Clubhouse for the information of members.

The Club Finance Committee has completed the budgeting process for the 2008/2009 financial year and submitted the budget to the Board for ratification. The Board subsequently accepted the budget as submitted. 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 compromise that is in the best interests of the Club and beneficial to all members.

Unfortunately, the rising cost of club operations when combined with the declining trend in membership numbers will require an increase in membership fees. We are faced with increases in stock prices, fuel costs, course maintenance costs (machinery parts and fertilizers etc) and an anticipated increase in our salary and wage bill to comply with Fair Pay Commission pay rates. Over the next few months it is necessary to upgrade some of our course plant and equipment with expected costs in excess of \$45,000. For the majority of members the fee increase has been contained to around 5.50% or approximately \$0.58 cents per week. The Board has also taken the decision to increase the competition fee from \$6.00 to \$7.00 to provide an enhanced (albeit small) total prize pool/ball run. This fee has not changed for some years and the decision to implement this increase was based on member feedback/suggestion.

In establishing the 2008/2009 budget the Board carefully considered the general financial profile of most members noting that many are dependent upon fixed incomes. The Board, in approving the increases, was sensitive that the impost often falls upon the members who support the club best and we thank these members for their past and continuing support. Members will note when they receive their membership renewal invoices in mid June that we have endeavoured to provide a breakdown of how the fees are utilised in meeting the club's trading commitments. The 2008-2009 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.

### ***Membership:***

As indicated above our membership numbers have declined with overall numbers falling by some 13% since June 2006. The Board is hopeful that the new member special will attract interest over the next two months. Our 2008/2009 budget expectations have built in an expectation of a 5% increase in new members by 30 June 2008. For us to achieve this goal requires the help and assistance of all existing members in identifying and introducing new members to our club. To assist existing members introduce a potential new member the Board has approved a free round of golf for a visitor to our course when accompanied by the member. As each member renews their membership for 2008/2009 they will be issued with a Member's Gift Voucher entitling the member to invite a visitor to join them for a round of golf. The Member Gift Voucher is only valid when the visitor is accompanied by the member for the round. I encourage all members to get behind this incentive and take every opportunity to introduce a new member to our Club

### ***The Course:***

Congratulations to Chris, Toby and Bernie for the condition of our course. Over the past 2 months I have received many compliments from visitors about the playing conditions we enjoy.

Over the next 3 months, as equipment becomes available, we are upgrading our fairway mower, the gang mower, and change over our existing front-end loader for a smaller unit to provide greater flexibility, purchase a new generator and purchase a second hand cart with small trailer. These upgrades are necessary as the existing equipment is either beyond repair and/or continually breaking down. It is important that our course plant and equipment be reliable so that the course can be maintained as and when required.

Over the next few months we will continue to work on the bunkers with improved shaping in some cases and more sand added to others. We also plan to undertake work on the 2<sup>nd</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> tee boxes.

Further work will be completed on our irrigation system as parts become available. Members will have noted the seepage on the 3<sup>rd</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> fairway. Corrective work will be completed once we are able to locate the source of the seepage.

In addition to the above works the usual maintenance program will continue so that the course presents the best possible playing conditions to members.

A couple of issues that continue to cause problems and or spoil the presentation of our course:

- Pitch / Plug marks – please ensure that you repair your pitch plug marks on the course and greens;
- Cigarette Butts / Bottle Tops – please correctly dispose of these items; and
- Bunker – please rake the sand towards the middle or front of the bunker after playing bunker shots. Please do not rake the sand towards the back of the bunker.

### **Clubhouse and Surrounds:**

Continued thanks to Club Manager, Robert Glover and casual support staff Bernie Bradley, Toby L'Estrange and Mark Herrick. Mark joined us in mid February replacing Toby who has returned to University in Sydney and we welcome Mark to our staff roster. Members may have noticed Peter Turner visiting the club occasionally as he continues his recovery. It is great to see Peter up and about and we wish him continued improvement.

David Schramm and his band of volunteers continue their tremendous efforts on the surrounds and gardens. So that the work of this dedicated band can continue, we require members continued support of "Gardenlotto" and other fund raising activities undertaken by the ladies. Thank you to all involved in the Ladies Garden Committee. The laying of the pavers will be a major project which we hope to commence over the next couple of months. Thank you to those members that have assisted in sorting/stacking the pavers. We still have some way to go with the sorting/stacking process and we expect additional pavers to arrive over the next week or so. Once we have completed the sorting/stacking and the site preparation work we will be in a position to start putting down pavers. Thank you to one of our sponsors Prestige Metal Works for the work they have donated to the club recently. This work includes providing and installing new guttering to the storeroom and making and donating the new shoe cleaner.

### ***The Captains - Around the Greens:***

Members may be aware that the Men's Club Captain, Sam Malone, has been absent due to health reasons for part of the last quarter. It is great to see Sam back on the course over the last two weeks. In Sam's absence thank you to Vice Captain, Bruce Ford, and the Match Committee for ensuring that our competitions continue to run smoothly.

The Pennants are underway and, at the time of writing, the B Grade team is undefeated. Well done team, keep up the good work. The Senior Pennants team achieved one draw and a few close matches as many of pennant players were absent during the season.

Nominations are now open for the members annual Frank Rundle Memorial Match Play Championship with a closing date of 19 April. You have to be in it to win it.

The RMC Women's Open was held on 15 March with 66 entries and 50 players on the day. The cancellation rate was mainly due to the hot weather (34 degrees). The Open Championship was won by Jane Skiperdene from Yowani.

Due to a lack of players this year, RMC has opted out of all Women's Pennant competitions. Although the women started in the weekend Brindabella Shield, we had to withdraw towards the end of the season due to the lack of available players.

### ***HIO News:***

The Defcredit Hole-in-One Challenge is now up and running on the 16<sup>th</sup> Hole. We are still waiting for the initial winner.

Congratulations to the following Hole-in-One achievers since the last Boardtalk: were:

Hazel Wright	5 <sup>th</sup> Hole 22 March
Ron Curran	5 <sup>th</sup> Hole 30 March

### ***Holden Scramble:***

The Club has registered to take part in the Holden Scramble this year. We are hosting an open scramble event on Sunday 21 September 2008. I encourage all members to consider participating so mark the date in your diary. Further details will be provided nearer the event.

In early March, due to our participation in the Holden Scramble, a free coaching clinic was conducted by a NSW PGA Professional Golfer. Some 25 members took part and all indicated they found the clinic well worthwhile.

### **Social Activities:**

The Daylight Saving Time Wine Run concluded on 27 May. We will now complete a review to ascertain what we need to do to improve the event to increase member support. If you have any thoughts or feedback please let Vice President Glen Hyde know.

Planning is well under way for the next Trivia Night scheduled to be held on 2 May. I encourage members to book early to ensure a seat.

The lack of feedback in respect of a possible Club Ball would indicate that we do not have sufficient interest to proceed.

### **Sponsors:**

Thank you to all sponsors for their continued support of our Club. During March we hosted the annual Sponsor's Day and it was great to see the majority of sponsors make themselves available to take part. An enjoyable day was had by all who took part.

Please continue to support all our sponsors by actively promoting their services whenever the opportunity arises.

### **Social Golfers:**

It is pleasing to see that social players continue to support our Club. These players are an important source of revenue for the Club and every social player that visits our course is a potential member. Please make social players welcome and encourage them to take up membership.

Just a reminder that all social players must pay green fees before they commence their round. This applies equally to members guests.

*Cyril Mitchell* - Club President

Mobile contact 0400 006 542

### **Quotable Quote:**

"Golf is a game invented by the same people who think music comes out of a bagpipe". **Lee Trevino**

**Thanks to Member Jim Fleming for this contribution**