

BOARDTALK

APRIL 2009

Welcome everyone to this edition of BoardTalk with a special welcome to all members that have joined RMC Golf Club since January.

The last three months have been relatively busy with the major emphasis continuing to be on maintaining the course and surrounds.

As indicated in the January edition Vice President Glen Hyde has now resigned from the Board effective from the 24th of March. Glen held the position of Vice President for the last 3 years. Previously he served as the Men's Captain for a period. On behalf of all members I extend thanks to Glen for his years of commitment and the contributions he has made to our Club.

In accordance with the Constitution, SGT Mick Spring has been appointed to the Vice President role for the remaining term of the current Board. Mick has been a Club member for some years and has actively supported the Club in various facets during this time. Welcome Mick to the Board we look forward to your positive contributions.

The Board has been busy and active since the last bulletin with some of the actions in train including:

- A review of our Sponsorship Packages with a view to increasing the value of sponsorships to both our sponsors and the Club;
- Hosting our Annual Sponsor Day on Friday 6 March, a very successful event;
- Holding our first Trivia Night for 2009 on the 3rd of April, a great night with fantastic prizes on offer thanks to generous sponsorship support;
- Hosting our first New Member "Get Into Golf" function on the 20th of February. Our next New Member night is planned for Friday 1 May as part of our initial 2009/2010 new member promotional activities;
- Continued with the Spring/Summer "Wine Run" which concluded on the 2nd of April. It was pleasing to note an increase in the popularity of the Wine Run over the summer months. Vice President Mick would welcome member feedback on the format for this event over the 09/10 Daylight Saving Time period;
- Completed the purchase of new tables and chairs for the terrace area. Thank you to the supporters of Garden Lotto and the Ladies Committee for their contribution towards the cost of this improvement; and

- Arranged an update of Club shirts for both ladies and men. A small supply is available for purchase by members.

Club Administration:

Members will be aware by the time they receive this bulletin that our current Manager, Robert Glover, is leaving us towards the end of June to move into retirement and follow his passion for travel. Robert joined the Club in July 2005 and during his time as Manager has initiated many changes. I know he will be greatly missed by members. Thank you Robert for your commitment to the Club during your term as Manager and, on behalf of all members, best wishes in your retirement. May all your travel be hassle free and enjoyable.

Robert's replacement is Ian Cutler and we welcome Ian to the team. He is expected to take up duty during the last week of June. Ian has been a member of our Club for some 12 years and will be known to many members. Please introduce yourself to Ian during a visit to the Club. Also please bear in mind that Ian will need a little time to settle into his new role and to get to know individual members and our Club systems and procedures.

As members are aware the current economic environment presents real challenges that require prudent financial management to ensure that the Club continues to operate on a sound financial footing. Strong controls are in place to ensure that we operate within our budget constraints.

The Finance Committee has completed the budgeting process for the 2009/2010 financial year and submitted the budget to the Board for ratification. The Board subsequently accepted the budget as submitted. Over the past few years the Club has followed a rigorous budgeting process and this has again been the case. Given the somewhat uncertain times every effort has been made to ensure that the Club will be in a position to meet all its trading commitments when and as they fall due from normal trading. For this to happen requires that all members fully support the Club facilities and events during the year. Our budget has been predicated around the following foundations:

- That at least 97% of current members renew their membership in 2009/2010;
- That we are able to achieve a net increase in membership of a minimum of 60 by the end of December 2009;
- That members will increase their support of the Club via the use of the Rewards and Incentives

Package being introduced (details under Membership below);

- That we are able to achieve an upturn in the number of members regularly participating in our weekly competitions;
- That we continue to receive the current level of support from our sponsors;
- That we maintain our current level of green fee income from visitors to our course; and
- That we are able to contain our costs in line with overall expenditure being experienced in this current year.

When forming the budget the Board carefully considered the financial profile of our membership noting that many are dependent on fixed incomes and the impact this is having in the current economic conditions. After a careful and detailed review of the Club's financial needs over the next financial year the Board reached a decision to maintain our existing fee structure for the next year. In reaching this decision the Board is confident the Club will continue to trade on a viable basis subject to the fundamentals outlined above being achieved.

Every effort has been made to ensure that we achieve a comprise that is in the best interests of the Club and beneficial to all members. The Board is sensitive that the impost often falls upon the members that support the Club best and we thank these members for their past and continuing support. Increased membership support and participation is critical to our goals being achieved.

Members will note when they receive their membership renewal invoices around mid June that we have provided a breakdown of how the fees are utilised in meeting the club's trading commitments. The 2009-2010 schedule of fees has been posted in the Club for the information of members.

Members are reminder to maintain their personal details on Power Golf. Updates can be completed on-line. Please also note that if you select the "Show my Contact Details" box your contact details will be available to other members.

Membership:

The continuing decline in membership numbers is of concern and requires that we all take positive action to reverse this trend. In an attempt to both reward existing members while attracting new members the Board has approved the introduction of a Rewards and Incentives Package as follows:

- Green Fee Vouchers – to maximum value of \$25.00 to enable a member to host a guest for a free round of golf. To redeem their voucher members must accompany their invited guest for the round of golf;
- Bar Reward Card – entitles members to a free drink to the value of \$5.00 for every \$50.00 spent over the bar;
- Introduction Bonus – a \$50.00 discount off the 2010 – 2011 membership fee for any member that

introduces a new member who takes out a minimum 12 month membership; and

- Family Discount – a 25% reduction on the standard membership category fee for each additional immediate family member who takes out a minimum 12 month membership.

These inducements will only work if they are actively utilised by members.

Other incentives being utilised to attract new members include:

- A discount "Special Offer" of 14 months membership for the cost of a 12 month membership for any new member joining during May 2009 advertised via the Canberra Times;
- A letter box drop – it is planned to undertake letter box drop of 5000 flyers promoting membership of the Club. Member support is required for this promotion. If 100 members support the initiative by "dropping" 50 flyers into their neighbor mailboxes the task will be achieved;
- A "New Member Night" barbeque planned for Friday 1 May using the flyer and the Canberra Times advertisements as the invitation source. It would be hoped members will also help promote and support this event;

The most successful form of attracting new members is through our existing membership. Please help our Club to grow.

The Course:

Although we have continued to experience dry conditions the course has held up very well thanks to the efforts of Chris, James and Bernie combined with our ability to access recycled water. All visitors to our course are extremely complimentary of our playing conditions.

Members will have noticed that each of the areas where trees have been removed have now been covered with top soil and declared GUR until further notice.

Over the next few months work will be undertaken on upgrading our irrigation system. This work is necessary so that we are able to use our water resource more efficiently. The upgrade is also necessary to enable us to comply with revised watering regulations being implemented by Defence Support Group. Initial work will entail automating the current manually operated systems with an anticipated completion date of the end of June 2009. Further upgrade work is expected to take place between June and December depending on the supply of adequate water pressure. The Board is in ongoing discussions with Defence Support Group with assistance from the Commandant's office.

Ongoing maintenance work will continue around the course as resources permit.

Members are reminded to try and avoid damaging the new trees along the 3rd/12th fairway (we have already lost one) and other new trees around the course.

Some other issues that continue to detract from the presentation of our course are:

- 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
- Bunkers – 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. Bunker rakes should be placed in the bunker with the handle facing down the fairway.

Clubhouse and Surrounds:

Continued thanks to Robert, Adam and Bernie for their front of house service. We welcome Adam who joined us early in February replacing Mark Herrick.

Mark left us to take up a management position in the hospitality industry and we wish him every success.

David Schramm and his band of volunteers continue their tremendous efforts on the surrounds and gardens. Thank you to all involved in the Ladies Garden Committee and to all those members that support Garden Lotto.

Members have not doubt noted the improvements to our barbeque area. Thank you to our sponsor Prestige Metal for donating the material and carrying out the work. The stainless steel looks fantastic and completes the overall terrace area.

Further work is planned around our terrace area as time and resources permit.

Around the Greens:

From the Men's Captain: 2009 Pennants Campaign

As was the case last year, our B Grade team has qualified for the semi-finals of the DGA pennants competition. The team, captained by John Williams, is confident they can reach the finals this year and we wish them well in their endeavour. Unfortunately, despite winning their first three matches of the season, the Senior Masters team failed to qualify for the finals.

DGA District Stableford competition

The first round of the 2009 DGA District Stableford competition will be held on Sunday 10 May. All RMCGC members participating in the Club's normal stableford competition on this date will be eligible for entry into the event. There is **no** additional cost to RMCGC members to participate in this District competition. Please see the notice board for further information.

Frank Rundle Memorial MatchPlay Championship

The draw for the 2009 Frank Rundle Memorial MatchPlay Championship has been posted on the notice board.

Competitors are reminded that all first round matches are scheduled for completion by the end of June. An entry fee of \$5.00 is payable to Sam Malone or can be left for his attention in an envelope at the bar.

From the Women's Captain

Despite the hot weather the women's competitions resumed on 6th February, although not all played 18 holes. Saturday 7th was a different story and insufficient numbers for a competition. Since then the competitions have been played on the appropriate days.

The Ladies Open Championship was held on 14th March with 70 entries but only 67 starters. The winner was Jane Skiperdene of Yowani. The day was very successful and thanks go to the Match Committee and the volunteers who raked bunkers and spotted.

A survey was held amongst the women members to ascertain their views on the Ladies Championship which have in the past been conducted on two consecutive weekends in October at the same time as the men. This survey resulted in a 63% of first preference votes (76% of first and second preferences) going to play being held on two consecutive Thursday/Saturdays. As a consequence of this the Ladies Championships will be held in October on Thursday 22nd, Saturday 24th, Thursday 29th and Saturday 31st. Working women will be given the opportunity to play in early time slots like 7am on Thursdays.

The women's Guest Day on 23rd May has been changed from a 4BBB to Canadian foursome with groups of six. All play is off one tee following the men at 10.40am as normal.

The Meeting of Lady Members in March was very successful and it is planned to continue this on an annual basis, but in October which will enable input into the annual program.

At the Ladies Meeting it was agreed that Ladies competitions on Thursday for the winter i.e. June, July and August will commence at 9.30am. All Members please note this change.

HIO News

Our Hole-in-One sponsor, Defence Force Credit Union has agreed to continue their sponsorship of the Hole-in-One Challenge on the 16th Hole during 2009. Full details are posted on the Club notice board.

Congratulations to the following members that have achieved a Hole-in-One since our last edition:

| | |
|------------|-----------------------|
| Tom Rickit | 5 th hole |
| Sue Lowes | 11 th Hole |
| John Burke | 5 th hole |

Local Rule Change:

All areas where trees have been removed have been top soiled and are declared GUR until further notice.

Members are reminded that the recently installed fence on the 3rd/12th fairways is a boundary fence and therefore the rules applying to out of bounds are applicable. .

Members are also asked, for safety reasons, **not** to cross this boundary fence to retrieve errant golf balls .

Social Activities:

Our **Trivia Night** held on Friday 2nd of April was a great success. Thank you to the various sponsors of the night for their generous support and to Gail, Sandi, Nick and Glen for organising the night.

The next new member night will be held on Friday 1 May and existing members are welcome to join us for a barbeque with our new members (see Club Notice Board for details).

Thank you to all those members that supported the Easter Raffle. The winners were Noni Fenwick (1st prize) and Pam Emery (2nd prize).

Sponsors:

The Board expresses sincere appreciation to our sponsors. Again I ask members to show active appreciation to our sponsors by utilising their products and services at every opportunity. Our sponsors are integral to our financial viability. All sponsor contact details are available on the "Corporate Partner" page of our web site.

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. 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.

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. Any help is greatly appreciated.

As always I would welcome feedback and comments on the content and format of this edition. Again thank you for your continued membership of our Club and until next time happy golfing.

Cyril Mitchell

Club President

Mobile contact 0400 006 542

Thanks to Captain Sam for the following gems of golf and what it all means:

Golf can best be defined as an endless series of tragedies obscured by the occasional miracle, followed by a good bottle of beer.

Golf is the only sport where the most feared opponent is you.

The best wood in most amateurs' bags is the pencil.