

# BOARDTALK

## APRIL 2010

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

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 5 March, a very successful event;
- Arranging a New Member Information function held on Thursday 29 April; and
- Continued with the Spring/Summer "Wine Run" which concluded on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March. It was again pleasing to note an increase in the popularity of the Wine Run over the summer months. The format is expected to return for the 2010/2011 Daylight Saving Time period.

### Club Administration:

As members are aware our financial resources are limited and this presents many challenges in meeting the various needs of the Club, member services and being able to continue to trade as a viable business. Strong controls are in place to ensure that we operate within budget constraints and operate on a sound financial footing.

The Board has completed the budget process for the 2010/2011 financial year. Our budget process is meticulous and an exercise in precise calculations to ensure that we continue to provide an attractive membership package, a course that offers superb playing conditions and remains financially viable. Every effort has been made to achieve a compromise that is beneficial to members and in the best interests of the Club.

This year, unfortunately, the combination of the costs of club operations and the declining trend in membership numbers necessitates an increase in membership fees. In the year ahead we are faced with increased costs in statutory obligations, trade engagements generally and the need to continue our plant and equipment upgrade program. Our sources of income are limited to membership fees, sponsorship, green fees, competition fees and a small return from shop/bar trade. By far the largest contributor to our income is membership fees.

In considering an appropriate membership fee for the year ahead, across the various membership categories, full consideration was given to what we offer as a golf club, the overall membership package offered and our competitor activity. For the majority of

members the increase equates to less than \$0.50c per week. **The Board also took into consideration that our fee structure was unchanged last year as a measure of support to members.**

Our budget has been predicated around the following foundations:

- That at least 95% of current members renew their membership in 2010/2011;
- That we are able to achieve a net increase in membership of a minimum of 50 by the end of December 2010;
- That members will increase their support of the Club via the use of the Rewards and Incentives Package (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 expectations.

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 2010 - 2011 schedule of fees has been posted in the Club for the information of 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 are reminded 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 continuation 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 2011 – 2012 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 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 2010 advertised via the Canberra Times;
- A letter box drop – thank you to all those members who assisted by delivering flyers around their suburb. In excess of 3000 flyers have been distributed
- A “Member Information Night” was held on 29 April with potentially 15 new members attending. Thank you to the Members that attended to provide assistance on the night.

The most successful form of attracting new members is through our existing membership. I ask that all current members help our Club to grow by introducing at least one new member during the next year.

## The Course:

Over the summer months we experienced some burn off on a couple of greens. Thanks to a combination of efforts by our course staff and timely rain this has now been rectified. Generally over the summer the course held up very well and over the past few weeks has been in excellent condition.

Members will have noticed that we have lost some of our trees and we are hopeful that the dead trees will be removed over the next few months. We are presently undertaking a review of trees around the course.

The upgrade of our irrigation system is now complete and we continue to closely monitor our water usage.

Members will have notice that work has commenced on some of our tees. This preparatory work relates to the Course Rating component of the new handicap system. Additional work will be carried out over the coming months and we expect to have all the required changes completed over the winter months. Ongoing maintenance work will continue around the course as resources permit.

The course continues to be well presented and provides fantastic playing conditions week in week out. Thank you to Chris, James and Bernie for their continued efforts. Thank you also to Director of Grounds, David Schramm, for the steps at the back of the 9<sup>th</sup> tee box.

## Clubhouse and Surrounds:

Continued thanks to Ian, Adam and Bernie for their front of house service. Unfortunately Adam will be leaving us in the near future to take up a supervisory role with the Weston Club.

Congratulations Adam on your new role, we wish you every success and thank you for the way you attended to your duties since joining us in February 2009.

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.

Also a special vote of thanks to David Schramm for the tremendous work he has carried out on the club surrounds. The new pathway, gravel area and the drainage work has greatly added to the presentation of the surrounds. The majority of members would be unaware of the many hours of labor David contributes to the club for the benefit of all members and I thank him on behalf of all members for this “labor of love”.

## Around the Greens:

Over recent months there have been some incidents of breaches of golf etiquette. The breaches noted relate to the pace of play, bunker care and a failure to replace and repair turf. I take this opportunity to remind members that we all accountable to follow the appropriate etiquette requirements when on the course. Please ensure that you use the following tips which should make our golf more enjoyable for all members:

### **Pace of Play – Tips to Avoid Slow Play:**

>Be ready to play at least 5 minutes before your tee time.

>At the completion of each hole players should move promptly to the next tee. Quickly determine the order of play with the nominated player teeing off as other players in the group mark score cards.

>Walk quickly between shots.

>Be ready to play when it is your shot.

>Do not address the ball too long. Be ready to execute your shot as soon as you are set up.

>Do not take more than ONE practice swing.

>Do not mark your card while on the green.

>Hole out short putts, unless you will be standing on a player's line.

>Do not leave your golf bag/buggy at the front of the green.

Always leave it to the side nearest tee.

### **Bunker Care:**

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.

### **Replace & Repair Turf:**

Damage to greens caused by ball plug marks should be repaired with a pitch mark repair fork or tee. To repair plug marks commence at the back of the pitch mark and push forward with the pitch repairer or tee. Do not lift upwards bringing the soil to the surface. Attend to all sides of the mark, easing the turf forward to replace the damaged area. Complete the repair by tapping down with a putter.

Care should be taken not to damage greens with particular attention to:

- Not dragging golf shoes;

- Not leaning on a putter or flagstick particularly when removing the ball from the hole;
- Not to damage the hole when removing the flag stick;
- Not standing too close to the hole;
- Repair any spike marks around the hole after all players in the group have holed out.

On the course if, in playing a shot, turf is cut or displaced the turf should be replaced and carefully repaired. Any remaining divot must be repaired and if necessary the hole filled with sand. All players are expected to carry and use a sand bucket.

**Please note that non-metal spikes are preferred on the course to protect our greens.**

To assist in the presentation of our course please also correctly dispose of cigarette butts and bottle tops and place any rubbish in the bins provided around the course.

## **From the Men's Captain: 2010 Pennants Campaign**

Our B Grade team captained by Bruce Ironside is currently battling away hoping to again qualify for the semi-finals of the DGA pennants competition and we wish them well in their endeavour. Unfortunately the Senior Masters team failed to fire this year but big things are hoped for 2011. Thank you to all team members and team captain Peter Fields for representing our club in 2010.

### **DGA District Stableford competition**

The DGA District Stableford competition will be held again in 2010. All RMC members participating in the Club's normal Sunday competition will be eligible to enter. Dates of each of the five rounds will be advised in the near future. Please refer to the Club notice board for further information.

### **Frank Rundle Memorial MatchPlay Championship**

The nomination sheet for the 2010 Frank Rundle Memorial MatchPlay Championship has been posted on the notice board. Nominations close on 2 May and the draw will be announced by 5 May. Competitors are reminded that all round matches are to be completed by the scheduled dates to avoid disqualification. The entry fee of \$10.00 is payable at the bar at the time of nominating (no fee no play).

## **From the Women's Captain:**

The Ladies Open Championship was held on Saturday 13 March with entries from RMC, six district clubs and 3 clubs from outside the district. The numbers were down on the previous year, but that seems to be the trend with all clubs this year. The Open Champion was Lesley Drummond from RMC, while the overall net winner was Rhonda Waller from Mollymook, who is also a member of RMC. Very favourable comments were received on the condition of the Course on the day.

The Ladies are currently competing in the District Bronze Shield Pennant and are doing well.

On Thursday 20 May there is a Guest Day at RMC with a 9am shotgun start. The Ladies invite a guest from another club to partner them in a 4BBB event. This is then followed by lunch catered by the Ladies. Any RMC lady wishing to play in this event should put their name on the time sheet on the Ladies

Notice Board. If a partner is required please see the Ladies Captain.

A welcome back to Sue Manning who has been unable to play for about eight months due to a wrist injury sustained on the Course last year.

We extend very good wishes to Henny Oldenhove who has sold up and leaving town shortly for the warmer northern climate. Henny served for several years as Lady President and made a valuable contribution to the Board with our business plan.

## **HIO News**

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

Murray Crooks	- 14 <sup>th</sup>	- 2 January
Werner Binder	- 11 <sup>th</sup>	- 30 January
Sue Strang	- 11 <sup>th</sup>	- 4 February
Anthony Haigh	- 5 <sup>th</sup>	- 7 February
John O'Connor	- 2 <sup>nd</sup>	- 10 February
Brigid Malley	- 5 <sup>th</sup>	- 3 April

## **Social Activities:**

Thank you to all those members that supported the Easter Raffle, the ladies raised over \$500.00.

## **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)