

BOARDTALK

AUGUST 2008

Welcome everyone to this edition of BoardTalk with a special welcome to all members that have joined RMC Golf Club since April. Thank you also to all members that have already renewed their membership for 2008/2009. I am hopeful that everyone will renew for the new year. I take this opportunity to remind members that the one month period of grace to renew expired as at 31 July 2008. Therefore, members that have not yet renewed are ineligible to take part in Club competitions and must pay green fees as a Social Player if using the course.

Since the last edition your Board has continued to work towards implementing various improvements and enhancements. Some of these, that follow, will be readily evident:

- The initial paver laying project has been completed thanks to David Schramm, Trevor Brereton and the band of volunteers. The rail to the ramp was supplied and installed by one of our sponsors, Prestige Metal Works. Tony and Brian thank you for the great job. Thank you also to all members and visitors for their patience and forbearance for the disruptions to our Club House access during this work. Further paving will be laid during the warmer months.
- The majority of our tee boxes now have new signage in place. Thank you to the combined efforts of Mike Sainsbury and David Schramm.
- On the course improvement work continues on our bunkers with restoration work commenced on some of the tees.
- Carpeting of the clubhouse has been completed, thank you to sponsor, Chester Cheater (Chesta's Floors) for the assistance provided with this project.
- Some of the guttering has been replaced with assistance from sponsor, Prestige Metal Works who also supplied the internal rail separating the break in floor levels. Prestige Metal Work also made and donated the new shoe cleamer that resides next to the terrace door.
- Efforts to increase our membership base continue and all new members are now being contacted by telephone as they join to ensure we meet their needs. Existing members renewing their membership are receiving a "gift voucher" together with a discount offer from new sponsor The Teddy Bear Shop.
- Attempts to identify ways to attract increase participation in our weekly competitions continue. It is pleasing to see some of our new members now joining in competitions and I encourage more of our new members to take part. I know that all existing competition players would welcome the opportunity to assist a new member attain their handicap.
- Members that have provided their e-mail address to the Club Manager should now be receiving Boardtalk via e-mail advice.

Club History:

John Purser is continuing his task of putting our Club History together. John has designed a questionnaire to be distributed to members that is intended to act as an information gatherer. Please keep an eye out for this questionnaire, complete one and return it to the Club. Every little bit of information gathered will help bring this document to fruition.

Club Administration:

Sound management practices continue to be followed to minimise costs and ensure that we operate on a positive financial basis. During the course of this financial year we will be upgrading some of our plant and equipment that has reached maximum usage. This is to ensure that we are able to maintain our course in the best possible playing condition.

Members will note that the work continues adjacent to the 3rd/12th fairways. As the work continues we expect only minimal disruption and/or impact on the course. Part of the work will see a permanent boundary fence installed which will eventually denote "out of bounds". Pending this fence being installed I ask that members refrain from going beyond the present "single wire strand", the current "out of bounds", to retrieve errant golf balls. This request is made in the interest of the safety of players. Over the coming months the Board, in conjunction with the Royal Military College, is looking to plant new trees in this area - working to an approved list of suitable trees. To ensure that as far as possible we prevent golf balls from travelling beyond the course boundary use of the existing 3rd tee is to be discounted for male members and all social/green fee players. These groups will be required to use the existing 12th tee as a combined 3rd/12th tee box. Women members participating in competition play will continue to use the 3rd tee box. These changes will be implemented in the near future.

Shortly we will be introducing an enhancement to our Power Golf functionality. When upgraded members will be able to, via way of our existing web site, link into Power Golf to book tee times, view competition results, access individual member messages, view their ball/prize register, update personal information on-line and pay their accounts on-line. As part of the upgrade the present booking sheet will change to a daily "24 hour booking sheet" that will cover Men's and Women's tee time bookings and Social bookings. Member on-line access will be activated by password protection. It is expected that the enhancements will be in place by the end of August. Club notice boards will provide full details in due course.

Membership:

To those members who have taken the time to complete the Member Survey and provide their feedback/comments thank you. At the time of writing not all the responses have been tabulated or analysed but I am pleased to note that of those responses processed the majority agree that they are receiving good value for money for their membership subscription. A summary of responses for the key aspects in percentage terms follows. Please note these percentages do not always add to 100% as some members did not respond to all questions.

COURSE	GOOD	AVERAGE	NEEDS ATTENTION
Greens	80.33%	18.03%	1.64%
Tees	63.93%	34.43%	3.28%
Fairways	81.97%	16.39%	3.28%
Bunkers	27.87%	49.18%	22.95%
General Facilities	62.30%	26.23%	11.48%
Practice Facilities	59.02%	37.70%	1.64%
COMPETITION & COURSE ACCESS			
	YES	NO	SOCIAL
Organised Competition	83.61%	1.64%	11.48%
Sufficient Variety	81.97%	9.84%	
Social Player Access	14.75%		
CLUBHOUSE / BAR & FACILITIES			
	GOOD	ADEQUATE	UPGRADING
Clubhouse Facilities	34.43%	50.82%	8.20%
	YES	NO	NOT USED
Bar Hours	78.69%	1.64%	9.84%
Information	88.52%	1.64%	
Value for Money	86.89%	4.92%	
More Social Activity	16.39%	68.85%	

It is the Board's intention to fully analysis all responses and prioritise those areas where the majority of members feel improvement is required. Obviously there will be competing priorities and a limitation to available resources, both financial and time, that will need to be managed. Some members, where identification has been provided, may be contacted direct to seek clarifications and/or be given direct response to an issue raised.

An overall summary of all responses received, in the same format as provided above, will be outlined in the next edition. We also hope to include a priority listing of the key items identified by the majority of members as requiring attention incorporating a timeline for corrective action.

The Course:

Continued thanks and congratulations to Chris, Toby and Bernie for their efforts in maintaining our course. Congratulations also to Toby for his continued success with his apprenticeship commitments.

The course is in quite good condition for this time of year. Greens and fairways are holding their colour well. The lack of serve frosts is a welcome change for this time of year and the recent rain will help to promote good spring growth. Lack of growth on the greens means that pitch marks stand out more. Therefore it is important that all marks be repaired, where possible ensuring that the dislodged grass is returned to its original position. Similarly it is important to repair divots on the fairways and use sand to fill holes. The Course Superintendent recommends that when filling divots with sand any excess be flattened with the foot as mounds of sand blunt the blades on the mowers.

Members may have noticed that some trees have been pruned near the 2nd and 12th tees to remove obstacles to tee shots. Work to improve these tees is also scheduled to take place over coming weeks. You may have also noticed that the dead and/or dangerous trees have been marked indicating they are scheduled for removal. As far as possible the tree removal program will be undertaken with a minimum of disruption to members however the agreement under which these trees are to be removed may cause some interruptions and I ask that members bear with the Board should this occur. The Board is now investigating possible options for a tree replacement program. We are restricted to the type of trees that can be planted and are taking advice on the most appropriate site for each tree type. Should any member wish to donate a tree to the replacement program please contact Director of Grounds, David Schramm, to discuss the tree type and timeline.

Clubhouse and Surrounds:

Continued thanks to Club Manager, Robert Glover and casual support staff Bernie Bradley and Mark Herrick.

As mentioned earlier the paver project is now well advanced and again a special vote of thanks to David Schramm and Trevor Brereton for their tremendous efforts in laying the pavers. Thanks also to the many members who assisted in sorting and cleaning the pavers. I am sure that members will agree the outcomes to date are a terrific improvement to our Club House surrounds.

Thank you also to the Garden Committee for their continued untiring work in the various gardens.

The Captains - Around the Greens:

Major Events

The RMC GC Championship season commenced in June with the staging of the Mixed Foursomes event - won by Glen Hyde and Betty Turner. This was followed by the Canadian Foursomes held in July - won by Chris Ganderton and Jenny Kesteven. During July a team representing RMC GC members had a narrow victory over the Eastlake Social Golf Club in the annual contest for the Knocker Kirby Shield. Preliminary rounds of the Frank Rundle Memorial Matchplay Championship are also well advanced.

Members are reminded that a Holden Scramble event is to be held on Sunday 21 September. Nomination sheets and information flyers are available at the bar. As this event has not been on our calendar for some years it would be terrific to have a full field taking part. The event is a 3 person team Ambrose. Why not get a team together and register.

2008 Pennants Campaign

The RMC GC B Grade Pennants team performed strongly in the 2008 Pennants season; winning five of its six home and away matches and making the semi finals for the first time in the Club's history. Unfortunately the team was unable to carry their good work through to the finals and went down to Queanbeyan in its semi final match. Unfortunately, the Senior Masters team didn't perform as well throughout the season and is looking towards having a consistent base of competitors to call upon in 2009. Nevertheless, congratulations are extended to all members who represented RMC GC during the 2008 Pennants season.

Women's News

Nine of our women competed in the annual two day Women's Open Event at Pambula Merimbula on 5 and 6 July. Denise Bott played extremely well and won the daily and weekend events for her division. Well done, Denise. The rest had a jolly time.

HIO News

Since our last edition of Boardtalk, four members have qualified for recognition on the Hole-in-One Honour Board. Congratulations are extended to Vince Thompson, Hazel Wright, Ron Curran and Tony Sibraa on their achievements.

Kiosk problems

Members will have noticed that we have experienced a major technical problem with the touch screen kiosk over the past few weeks resulting in the computer being returned to the supplier for repairs. As the suppliers have indicated that the cause of this problem is excessive pressure on the screen, I request that all members treat the touch screen with a little more care when it is returned from the computer hospital. Just remember, it is a TOUCH screen, and does not need to be pushed heavily to get it to respond.

In the course of these Kiosk difficulties, we have noticed a number of handicapping anomalies to members' individual records. Those anomalies that have been brought to our attention have been rectified.

DGA Matters

A number of RMC GC members attended an ACT Monaro District Golf Association (DGA) organised Rules Seminar night in May this year. This was a very informative evening which hopefully will be repeated in the not too distant future.

Sponsors:

Thank you to all sponsors for their continued support of our Club. It is with great pleasure that we welcome 3 new sponsors to the Club and thank them for their support:

The Teddy Bear Shop
Grace Smash Repairs
AAMI Insurance

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 and guests.

Cyril Mitchell - Club President Mobile contact 0400 006 542

Quotable Quote:

“The secret of golf is to turn three shots into two.” Bobby Jones.

Thanks to Captain Sam for this contribution.