

BOARDTALK

JANUARY 2007

Welcome all to the 2007 golfing year and thank you for being members of RMC Golf Club.

There are two changes to the Board of Management this year following the retirement of Greg Monteith from the President's role after 6 years of sterling service. Greg leaves a legacy of sound business management practices. On behalf of all members thank you Greg for your many hours of toil. John Webster has been appointed to the Board in the role of Sponsorship Director, welcome John. I have accepted the role of President with honour and thank all for the vote of confidence.

The Club also has a new Patron, Brigadier Mark Bornholt AM, and we welcome Mark and his family to RMC. Both Mark and his wife Karen are keen golfers with Mark already joining regular club competitions.

The Board held a planning meeting in December to review our strategic plan and establish an operating agenda for 2007. Each director is now completing their portfolio operating plan for the year so we can measure and report the outcomes achieved to you, the members, in future versions of **BOARDTALK**. In the next edition of **BOARDTALK** I will outline some of the actions planned. The major focus issues for this year are:

- revamp the Social Committee with a view to increasing the variety and number of member activities provided;
- membership growth and retention strategies;
- continue to present to all members an excellently maintained and presented golf course by a continuation of the current

sound management practices – including water management strategies;

- continue to maintain strong financial controls so that the club remains financially viable whilst maintaining an attractive membership package and range of services to members;
- appoint a Junior Liaison Officer to promote junior golf membership and tuition with two nearby High Schools/Colleges;
- enhance the profile of RMC Golf Club both internally via increased member services and externally through reviewing our reciprocal club arrangements and seeking opportunities via the District Golf Association to host events during 2007-2008;
- review and initiate a stricter policy for the collection of green fees from social players (an important component of our revenue stream); and
- encourage increased patronage by all members of club amenities, club sponsors and as volunteers to assist with the many tasks that will arise during the year.

Club Administration:

Sound administration and management processes and practices, led by Finance Director Pat Shearwood and Club Manager Robert Glover, continue to be maintained. Every effort is made to ensure that the club trades on a profitable and viable basis without placing undue burden on members. We do however need increased patronage from all members and the continued support of our valued sponsors.

The Course:

I am sure that members will agree that our course has been maintained in excellent condition despite the climatic challenges faced. Thank you to Director David Schramm, Course Superintendent Chris Ganderton, Apprentice GreenKeeper Toby Jamieson and Groundsman Bernie Bradley for their outstanding efforts. Comments from visitors and social players confirm that we have one of if not the best presented golf courses in the region.

Clubhouse and Surrounds:

Club Manager, Robert Glover and casual support staff Ben Elliott and Bernie Bradley continue to provide us with terrific front of house service

confirmed by the increasing number of social events being held in the clubhouse.

Now that the bar renovations have been completed we hope to be in a position during this year to upgrade facilities within the clubhouse by replacing the carpet and undertaking some painting works.

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”.

Practice Facilities:

It is great to see the practice facilities well utilized. The practice net made possible through the generosity of the Halloran Family has added to member facilities. Work is planned on the practice chipping green.

Sponsors:

As mentioned previously 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. Without the continuing generous support of our sponsors we would be unable to maintain the high standards we, as members, all enjoy. Sponsorship needs to be a mutually rewarding association. Therefore the Board encourages all members to show active appreciation to our sponsors by utilizing their products and services at every opportunity. The list of our current sponsors is posted in the Clubhouse and also appears in your Member’s Handbook so please support them as they support us. The Board expresses sincere appreciation to our sponsors.

Social Golfers:

Social Players are an important source of revenue to the club through their green fees and we should all encourage social players to our course. Social golfers are also a potential source of new 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. Over the recent public holidays some social players were found playing without having paid their green fees. In future tighter controls will be in place and a new sign erected reminding social players of their obligation. Continued failure by individuals to meet their obligation will result in bans being implemented.

Etiquette and Damage to Course:

I ask that all members respect the etiquette of golf and 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.

Pennants Season:

The 2007 District pennant season will commence shortly and on behalf of the Board I wish all participating members success in this competition.

It is my intention to produce ***BOARDTALK*** on a quarterly basis so your feedback on the content and format would be appreciated. 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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