

BOARDTALK

JANUARY 2008

Welcome everyone to this edition of BoardTalk and to the 2008 golfing year.

There are three changes to the Board of Management this year. Gail Dau has been elected Women's President, Peter Fields has been elected Director of Finance and Terrick "Skip" Smith has been elected Director of Sponsorship. Welcome Gail, Peter and Skip.

Our previous Women's President, Henny Oldenhove retired from the Board after five years in the role. Henny's contributions to the Board and the Club will be greatly missed and on behalf of all members I thank Henny for the many hours she donated to the club.

Pat Shearwood, our previous Director of Finance, has elected to take a well earned rest from administrating the Club's finances. Pat has been involved in the Club's administration for in excess of 20 years with nine of those years as Director of Finance. In this time Pat has made immeasurable contributions to the running and development of our Club. Her commitment and dedication to RMC Golf Club is without peer and, on behalf of all members, I thank her for the many hours she has generously given to the club.

Thank you to those members that responded to the request in the October Boardtalk to provide their e-mail address enabling them to receive this edition electronically. Hopefully we will be able to expand on this form of delivery in the future to reduce cost. Members are reminded that Boardtalk and

other club information can be accessed via our website at rmcgc.com.au.

.Club History:

We are intending to write the history of our Club and would appreciate members coming forward with any memorabilia they may have that would assist in this task.

Alternatively, if any member is aware of any information sources could they please let us know. It is planned that the history, when completed, will be made available for members to purchase but this is some way into the future. Club Member, John Purser, has agreed to take on this labour of love and is seeking to obtain as much background information as he can to incorporate into the work. If you are able to assist please let me know or provide your contact details to Club Manager, Robert Glover, so John can make contact. John on behalf of all members good luck with this project and thank you for agreeing to take on the task.

Club Administration:

Close control continues to be maintained over all operation areas to ensure that we operate as effectively as possible within our available resources.

The 2008 Members Handbook will be available from the club by the time this edition reaches you. Please pick up a copy for future reference.

Members may recall that in the last edition I indicated that the Board was investigating ball markers with an RMCGC logo. Unfortunately the type of marker we planned on introducing proved to be cost prohibitive

so the Board has taken a decision not to proceed.

Membership:

We are continuing our drive for new members in 2008 and remind everyone that we should be actively encouraging friends, family and colleagues to come along and see what RMC GC has to offer. Our website has been up and running for some time now and the easiest way to provide people with information is to direct them to www.rmccgc.com.au. Our website has downloadable membership forms, events and brilliant colour photos of the course and facilities.

The Course:

We have been fortunate over the past few months to receive good rain and it is pleasing to see an expanse of green rather than the strips of fairway that we have become accustomed to in recent years. This, however, has brought with a phenomenon to which we are somewhat unaccustomed – ROUGH! We now have some players commenting that the rough is difficult to get out of and the question asked whether it will be cut shorter. Chris Ganderton and his staff are working flat out to keep up with the level of growth that the warm, wet weather has brought. Cutting rough is a lot like painting the Sydney Harbour Bridge – it is a never ending job. I think everyone will agree that some long rough is inevitable and the fairways and greens are benefiting greatly from the natural water that the rain provides.

Much of the rain that we have had has fallen in large “dumps” and has meant that we have suffered some erosion, particularly on paths. We will be looking to see how improvements can be made to course drainage to better protect our paths. Rain has also impacted adversely on some of our bunkers, both in terms of compaction and sand movement. Bunker maintenance is very

labour intensive, but every effort is being made to keep them in good condition.

Cigarette butts continue to be discarded on the course particularly around the greens and tees. They are not biodegradable and not picked up by the mowers. At this time of year they may also be a potential fire hazard. It would be appreciated if members that smoke dispose of their butts in an environmentally responsible manner.

We also ask members to please carry and use a pitch repair tool. It only takes a few seconds to repair a pitch mark but 30 days for a plug mark to grow out if it is not repaired.

Clubhouse and Surrounds:

Continued thanks to Club Manager, Robert Glover and casual support staff Peter Turner, Bernie Bradley and Toby L'Estrange. Toby joined us in December and we welcome him to our staff roster. Members will be aware that Peter Turner has been absent for the past few weeks due to health reasons. Peter is slowly recovering and we wish him well for a speedy return to full health.

Thank you to the Ladies Fund Raising Committee for their efforts and all members who support the various fund raising activities. Through this committee a new refrigerator and stove have recently been purchased for the kitchen. Continued thanks also to the Ladies Garden Committee and David Schramm for the presentation of the gardens and surrounds. The many visitors to our club over the festive season commented favourable on the presentation of the surrounds and the course generally.

During 2008 we plan to make a number of improvements both on the course and around the clubhouse. We are close to having enough pavers to commence laying around the clubhouse. This will include improving the general drainage in the BBQ

and beer-garden area and making the area generally more attractive.

Members will have seen that shrub planting in the garden area next to the 9th green has already commenced and will continue. It is hoped that eventually this area will be "native woodland" that will attract more of the beautiful birds that inhabit Duntroon. We are also exploring means by which we can best replace the pine trees that have died during the drought and also a longer term tree replacement program. The area between the 5th and 14th tees will also be cleaned out and upgraded and pathways improved.

The Captains - Around the Greens:

2007 Champions:

Prior to the 2008 Men's golfing program commencing on Sunday 3 February with the conduct of the first Monthly Medal event, I think it appropriate to record our congratulations to the following winners of the major championships in 2007:

Club Champion - Chris Ganderton
Open Champion - Jason Nikolic RCGC)
Foursomes Champions - Chris Ganderton and Bernie Bradley
MatchPlay Champion - Sydney Smith
Joint Eclectic Winners- Barry Gray and Chris Ganderton

HIO News

In 2008 a new Hole-in-One (HIO) arrangement has been entered into with the Defence Force Credit Union. Full details will be placed on the Club notice board in the near future.

Unfortunately the list of HIO achievers has dried up with only one member (Lesley Drummond) achieving the feat since the last edition of BoardTalk.

Australian Open Volunteers

A small team of RMCGC members attended the Australian Open in December as

volunteer course marshals. Captain Sam Malone obviously picked up some tips from the professionals as his very next outing at RMC resulted in a net 58 for 46 stableford points. Any member interested in joining the RMCGC team for the 2008 Australian Open likely to be held at the Australian Golf Club in Sydney is encouraged to contact Sam Malone for details

2008 Pennants Campaign

The 2008 Pennants campaign commences on Sunday 2 March. John Williams will manage the B Grade Handicap team during their six week home and away season. The five week Senior Masters season commences on Thursday 6 March. We wish all members representing RMCGC in these events every success during the campaign.

DGA Matters

The ACT Monaro District Golf Association (DGA) is planning to hold a Rules Seminar and Information night in the first quarter of 2008 which will be of interest to RMCGC members. Details of this event will be posted on the Notice Board when available. The DGA has also allocated a round of the ACT Junior Week of Golf to our course on Wednesday 8 October.

Local Rule Change

A drop zone has been implemented adjacent to the garden bed that runs between the pathway leading to the 5th/14th tees and the 9th/18th greens. Details are posted on the Club Notice Board.

Social Activities:

A successful end to the 2007 golf programme was highlighted by the numbers participating in our Melbourne Cup event/luncheon and the end of year Christmas Hamper Days. The number of golfers taking part in these events, particularly the Melbourne Cup field was extremely pleasing. Monthly BBQ's will continue in 2008 and we thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you around the hotplate this year.

The weekly 9 Hole "Wine Run" is now up and running and will continue until the end of daylight saving time. Initial support has been pleasing and we are hopeful more members and social players (yes the event is open to social players) will take part in the coming weeks. See the Club notice board for details.

Glen and his team are still seeking feedback on the feasibility of holding a Club Ball during 2008. Please let him know if you would support such an event.

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.

I am delighted to announce that Pete's Golf Connection is continuing their association as the Club's major sponsor in 2008. Please remember to reciprocate the generosity of our major sponsor by purchasing all your golfing equipment from Pete's. I am also pleased to welcome another new sponsor, Prestige Metal Works, to the Club. If you are in need of some metal work please give Prestige a call on 6280 8770.

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. Over the festive season members of

the Board patrolled the course as Course Marshalls at selected times and disappointingly found some non-members on course who had neglected to pay the green fee due. Course Marshall activities will continue at selected times and I ask that members assist in this important function by ensuring that their guests pay green fees.

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

Captain's Quiz:

How many...?

- a) Pimples on a golf ball
- b) Strokes would you have to take to get par on a 197-yard hole
- c) Greens at St Andrews
- d) Golfers are invited each year to compete in the World Matchplay Championship
- e) Golfers represent their continent in each Ryder Cup
- f) Strokes did Herman Tissies take at the Postage Stamp, Royal Troon, during the 1950 British Open
- g) Majors did Ben Hogan win
- h) Holes were there on the original St Andrews course.

The first person to provide all the correct answers to Captain Sam will win two golf balls.

Quotable Quotes:

"Golf is a game whose aim is to hit a very small ball into an even smaller hole, with weapons singularly ill-designed for the purpose".

Sir Winston Churchill (courtesy of member David Sobell).