

BOARDTALK

JULY 2007

Welcome everyone to this edition of BoardTalk with a special welcome to all members that have joined RMC Golf Club since April. Thank you to all the members who have renewed their annual membership for the next financial year, your support is greatly appreciated. In this edition I have included some of the highlights from “Around the Greens” in an attempt to share some member successes or milestones with all members. It is planned to continue this in future editions.

Your Board has continued to implement initiatives and actions designed to enhance our course and club in an endeavour to ensure all members receive value for membership. Some of the actions completed and/or underway since my last report are:

- Our web site www.rmccg.com.au has been launched, thank you to Club Member and Web Master, Dr Jenny Kesteven, for the many hours she has expended in planning, developing and launching the site.
- Introduction of the Members “Sponsor Incentive Programme” open to any member for introducing a new “signed” sponsor to the Club. Full details are posted on the club notice boards.
- Completed a review of our course usage to ensure that the time the course is available for play is maximised.
- Introduced our redesigned score card.
- Commenced some renovation work within the club house – dismantled, cleaned and reassembled the chairs and commenced re-carpeting. Member’s patience during the re-carpeting process is greatly appreciated, we hope to have this work completed within the next few weeks.
- On going improvements to our course as detailed later in this report.
- Installation of EFTPOS facilities for the benefit of members.

Club Administration:

Sound administration and management practices continue to be maintained. Our 2007/2008 budget has been adopted by the Board and will ensure that we are able to maintain an appropriate financial footing over the coming financial year. As this report goes to press membership renewals are being received in line with expectations. I am hopeful that all current members will maintain their association with the club by continuing their membership. I encourage all members to assist in growing our membership base by introducing one new member each over the next year.

The Course:

It is very pleasing to see how our course and greens continue to provide excellent playing conditions. The course now reflects the fact that we are in the depths of winter, with the couch grass dormant and frozen greens and bunkers offering yet a further challenge to players, particularly those that brave the early mornings. Members may have noticed that a number of dead trees have been removed and further removals are scheduled during coming months. No doubt members have also noted the improvements made to those bunkers where renovation work has been carried out. This renovation work will continue over the next few months until all bunkers have been renovated. The grounds staff has been busy trimming trees on the 6th/13th and the 8th/17th fairways. We expect that the current drop zones on the 7th/16th will remain in place for a period, to allow grass to recover. Similarly the new grass swale at the 17th green will remain GUR until the area is consolidated.

On behalf of Members and the Board my thanks to Member, Mike Sainsbery, for his kind donation of time, effort and materials that has allowed a number of rotten timber course signs to be replaced. The Director of Grounds is working to gradually install new signs on all tees over the next few months. Also on behalf of Members and the Board I acknowledge the anonymous generous donation that has contributed to the bunker restoration programme.

Thank you to Course Superintendent Chris Ganderton and his able team of Toby Jamieson and Bernie Bradley for their on going efforts.

Clubhouse and Surrounds:

Thank you to Club Manager, Robert Glover and casual support staff Roland Herbert, Peter Turner and Bernie Bradley for their continued terrific front of house service. Thank you also to previous staff member Ben Elliott who has continued to provide assistance.

David Schramm and his band of volunteers have continued their tremendous efforts on the surrounds and gardens. A major task to commence shortly is paving of the terrace area and David will be calling for volunteers to assist in this significant job. Details are on the club notice board, please assist by volunteering a few hours of help.

Further enhancements to our clubhouse and surrounds are dependent on member patronage of club amenities and "Gardenlotto".

Thank you also to the Ladies Garden Committee for their continuing maintenance to the various gardens on course.

The Captains - Around the Greens:

Championship Results:

The first of our major Championships – the Mixed Foursomes – was held on Saturday 16 June 2007. Twenty six members participated in the event which was won by Bernie

Bradley and Halina Dix. We would like to see more members nominate for future mixed events.

The annual Eastlake Challenge held on Sunday 8 July was won by RMC Golf Club. This was followed by the President v Captain's Day held on Sunday 22 July resulting in a narrow win to the Captain's team (well done team).

Hole in One Achievers:

In recent weeks we have had a spate of Hole-in-One achievements. Tom Rickit got the ball rolling on 9 May when he struck gold on the 16th green with a nine iron. Two weeks later Bob Webster was elated when his nine iron aced the 14th green. John Williams continued the trend with a wedge at the 5th on 10 June followed a week later by Mike Sainsbery when he put it in for an ace on the 11th with a nine iron! Congratulations to these members.

Just a reminder that any member who achieves a Hole-in-One in competition on a hole measuring over 130 metres for men and 110 metres for women is eligible to join in the benefits of the Elliot Rocke Estate Hole-in-One Club. These benefits include a gift pack of Elliot Rocke Estate premium wine, a letter of congratulations with their exclusive hole-in-one club membership and a personalised certificate signed by the NSW Golf association and Elliot Rocke Estate.

Timesheet Changes:

Members will have noted that there have been some minor changes to the timesheets, in particular the start times for the afternoon fields on a Wednesday and Saturday. With a view to maximising the usage of the golf course, these tee times have been brought forward by approximately 30 minutes until further notice.

Etiquette and Damage to Course:

I ask that all members respect the etiquette of golf and to 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. Bunkers should be raked after use and the rake left in the bunker pointing down the fairway.

Social Activities:

The following events / functions are being planned or considered:

- Trivia Night to be held on Friday 21 September (deferred from May). Tickets are limited and will be keenly sought so organize your table early to ensure you do not miss out.
- A Club Ball to be held during 2008 if there is sufficient interest and support from members. Please contact Vice President Glen Hyde to indicate your interest.
- Thursday "Chicken Runs" will re-commence in October.
- Monthly sausage sizzles are continuing, thank you to those members that are supporting this concept.
- **Lucky Seven** - Life member Betty Lawrence celebrated a unique milestone on Saturday 7/7/07 when she turned 77 years young. Betty's fellow members and friends celebrated the occasion with a surprise birthday party at the RMC Clubhouse that afternoon. Congratulations Betty.

Sponsors:

The Board expresses sincere appreciation to our sponsors. Again I ask members to show active appreciation to our sponsors by utilizing 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.

Welcome to new sponsor Vardia Flowers, Gifts and Hampers. Vardia are offering members a 5% discount on their produce range (flyers are available in the clubhouse).

Can you help by introducing a potential sponsor to the Club? See the Notice Board or ask Club Manager, Robert Glover or one of the Board members for full details of the Sponsor Incentive Program.

Practice Facilities:

The practice net continues to be well utilized. Revamp work on the practice chipping green is in our restoration programme and will be undertaken as resources and time permit.

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. 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.

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 next major tasks are the paving project and the annual greens restoration project (see notice board for volunteer lists). The more members able to help the greater number of things we can achieve. 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

Quotable Quotes:

They say “practice makes perfect.” Of course, it doesn’t. For the vast majority of golfers it merely consolidates imperfection. Henry Longhurst.

Relax? How can anybody relax and play golf? You have to grip the club, don’t you? Ben Hogan.