

BOARDTALK

OCTOBER 2007

Welcome everyone to this edition of BoardTalk with a special welcome to all members that have joined RMC Golf Club since July. Thank you to all the members who have renewed their annual membership for the next financial year, your support is greatly appreciated. .

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Thursday 22 November in the club house commencing at 7.30 pm. I encourage all members to attend so that first hand knowledge of club activities and future planning is gained. As part of the AGM process the annual election of Board Members, Men's and Women's Match Committees and the Women's General Committee will be held. In this regard nominations must be in writing on the prescribed form and nominated and seconded by eligible members. Copies of the prescribed form are available on request from Club Manager, Robert Glover. Nominations close at the close of business 1 November 2007. If necessary a ballot will be conducted between 15 and 22 November 2007. The Annual Report for 2006/2007 will be available in the club house from 15 November 2007.

I thank members for their patience and perseverance with the lack of floor covering to the lower level of the club. It is hoped that this issue will be resolved within the next month. In the future it is hoped to reduce some of the cost associated with providing this newsletter using electronic delivery. To do this we need to update club records to include member's e-mail addresses. To collate e-mail addresses I ask that members provide their electronic contact details to Club Manager, Robert Glover, by e-mail at rmcgc@bigpond.com.au

Club Administration:

Club management practices continue to be closely monitored to ensure that we operate within budget parameters.

Membership renewals for 2007/2008 are currently below budget expectations as a result of some past members being unable to continue their membership mainly due to age and/or health issues. I ask that every member help with our membership numbers by endeavouring to introduce one new member to the club over the next year.

Members will have noticed a new touch screen has been installed in the kiosk. This screen cost just under \$1000.00. I ask that members please remember that it is a touch screen and that it is necessary to allow the computer time to respond to requests once the screen is touched. Please refrain from placing undue pressure on the touch screen.

We have a supply of Polo golf shirts and caps available for members to purchase. They are great value and worth a look. Currently we are looking to source RMC GC logo ball markers. These will make great gifts for visitors and friends at a reasonable price.

The Course:

The arrival of spring has meant increased activity for our Course Superintendent, Chris Ganderton, and his maintenance staff. All greens have been cored, fertilized and top-dressed, greens surrounds have also been cored and tees and fairways aerated and fertilized. The Board would like to thank the band of volunteers who turned up to help with the coring of the greens – many hands did make light work.

All we need now is rain and unfortunately the winter has not been kind in this regard and we move towards summer with a course that is already dry. We are more fortunate than some other golf clubs in the district in that we have access to recycled water and while this means we do not face the potential dramatic restrictions (particularly if Level 4 is introduced) of some clubs, we are nonetheless required to ensure that we are economical with our use of water. To this end the Board has developed a Water Efficiency Management Plan to ensure that our use of water is both effective and responsible. Members may have noted strange objects sitting on top of poles near the 5th green and on the 9th tee. These are rain sensors that automatically switch off the course sprinklers in the event of rain. We can only hope that in forthcoming months they are regularly required to do their job!

Notwithstanding the rather bleak weather outlook members can be assured that the number one priority for the Board is to have our course in as good condition as possible. Members can help by ensuring that divots are filled on the fairways and pitch marks repaired on greens. There has also been a disturbing increase in the number of cigarette butts being discarded on the course, in particular around (and in some instances on) greens. These are not biodegradable and are not picked up by the mowers so members who smoke on the course are requested to ensure they dispose of their butts in an environmentally responsible manner.

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. Roland Herbert has recently resigned and we wish him well for the future. Roland's shifts will be covered by Peter Turner so we will see more of Peter around the club which is terrific for members.

David Schramm and his band of volunteers have continued their tremendous efforts on the surrounds and gardens. By now members will have noticed that some of our pavers have been delivered. Thank you to those few members that have been assisting with the sorting and stacking. As there are many more to be sorted and stacked any help members are able to provide for a few hours would be greatly appreciated – many hands make light work. We need to complete the sorting and stacking before we are in a position to commence the paving of the terrace area.

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.

Around the Greens:

Championship Events

The Men's and Women's Club Championships comprising 72 holes of Stroke play will be held on 20-21 and 27-28 October. Men's nomination forms are available from the Bar Manager, while women members place their name on the list in the Ladies Room notice board. As these are the premier events for the Club we would like to encourage all members to nominate to ensure that we have a large field of competitors across all grades/divisions.

On Sunday 25 November, the RMC Men's Open championship will be held over 18 holes. Last year, 112 district golfers contested our Open Championship with RMCGC members well positioned amongst the prize winners.

All these events are generously sponsored by Pete's Golf Connection. Remember you have got to be in it to win it!

HIO Achievers

Since the last edition of *BoardTalk*, five club members have recorded a Hole-in-One. Congratulations to Glen Hyde, Guy Swift, Roger Wong, Charlie Champion and Lesley Drummond (her second HIO in 18 months) on their achievements.

Just a reminder that any member who achieves a Hole-in-One in competition on a hole measuring over 130 metres for men and 100 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.

2008 Pennants Campaign

In 2008 RMCGC is entering two teams in the District Golf Association (DGA) Pennants competition. Members wanting to nominate for the B Grade Handicap or the Senior Masters Handicap teams should contact the Captain. The seven week B Grade home and away season commences on Sunday 2 March and runs through to 20 April. The five week Senior Masters season commences on Thursday 6 March.

Social Activities:

A successful Trivia Night was held on 21 September with over 50 members and friends enjoying a great night and some walking away with some terrific prizes. Thank you to our many sponsors who supported this night and to the members who participated on the night. Vice President Glen Hyde and his team are planning to hold two similar nights during 2008.

The Thursday "Chicken Run" is due to kick off shortly. It will operate for a total of 20 weeks as a 9 hole event. Further details will be displayed in the club house shortly.

On Melbourne Cup Day the club will hold an 18 hole medley event (shot gun start) followed by a chicken and champagne lunch, this is always a great day. This year the Cup Day has been declared a Public Holiday so if you wish to take part please place your name on the list on the club notice board to ensure that you do not miss out on a game.

Glen and his team would welcome 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 welcome another new sponsor to the Club. Urban Contractors Pty Ltd has signed on as a Corporate Partner. If you have a need for some landscaping or concreting please give Urban Contractors a call on 6249 1815.

Can you help by introducing a potential sponsor to the Club? Please let Club Manager, Robert Glover or one of the Board members know if you are able to help.

Practice Facilities:

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. 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:

Unlike that other Scottish game of whisky drinking, excess in golf is not injurious to the health.
Sir Walter Simpson