

# BOARDTALK

## OCTOBER 2008

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 renewed their annual membership for this financial year, your support is greatly appreciated. .

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Thursday 20 November in the club house commencing at 7.00 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 30 October 2008. If necessary a ballot will be conducted between 13 and 20 November 2008. The Annual Report for 2007/2008 will be available in the club house from 13 November 2008.

### **Club Administration:**

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

Membership renewals for 2008/2009 were 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.

The long awaited enhancement to our Power Golf functionality is nearing fruition and hopefully will be fully operational after the Club Championships have

been completed. Please watch the Club Notice board for full details in due course.

Members will have noticed that the new touch screen has been installed on the wall. This has been done in an attempt to reduce the amount of pressure being placed on the keyboard. These screens cost over \$1000.00 to replace so I ask that members please remember 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.

### **Clubhouse and Surrounds:**

As members will have noticed the gardens are looking a real treat thanks to David Schramm and his small band of willing volunteers. The paving project on the terrace is now complete and has added to the general look and feel of the surrounds. It is now planned, resources permitting, to upgrade the outdoor furniture and install a sail over part of the terrace.

Further paving is to be undertaken progressively as time and volunteer resources permit

### **Membership:**

Thank you to those members that took the time to respond to the Membership Survey. We received a total of 111 responses and it is pleasing to note that the majority of members are generally satisfied with the way our Club operates and the playing conditions provided. The main areas of concern were the condition of the bunkers and the clubhouse facilities. Some members have provided comment as to what actions they would like to see taken. In terms of the bunkers some corrective action has already been

implemented and I am sure that members will agree improvement has been achieved. With regard to the clubhouse facilities we are somewhat restricted in what we are able to do as the building is a Commonwealth asset. We are however, conscious of the need for some remedial work and options will be investigated over the coming months. All the feedback provided by members will be utilised by the Board when determining how best to allocate available resources to the many competing priorities. As promised in the last edition following is a summary of all the replies received on a percentage basis (please note that the percentages do not always add to 100% as some members did not respond to all questions):

<b>COURSE</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>NEEDS ATTENTION</b>
Greens	81.08%	14.41%	0.90%
Tees	67.57%	27.03%	1.80%
Fairways	84.68%	14.41%	0.90%
Bunkers	27.93%	47.75%	20.72%
General			
Facilities	62.16%	25.23%	8.11%
Practice			
Facilities	58.56%	35.14%	1.80%
<b>COMPETITION &amp; COURSE ACCESS</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>SOCIAL</b>
Organised			
Competition	77.48%	1.80%	9.01%
Sufficient			
Variety	73.87%	11.71%	
Social Player			
Access	16.22%	0.90%	
<b>CLUBHOUSE / BAR &amp;</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>ADEQUATE</b>	<b>UPGRADING</b>
Clubhouse			
Facilities	36.94%	46.85%	4.50%
	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>NOT USED</b>
Bar Hours	73.87%	1.80%	11.71%
Information	84.68%	2.70%	
Value for			
Money	85.59%	4.50%	
More Social			
Activity	13.51%	56.76%	

It is pleasing to see a good number of members taking advantage of their Member Gift Voucher. It is hoped that a percentage of the visitors will become members.

## The Course:

Spring is with us. Fortunately we have received reasonable rain and the course is already responding.

All greens have been cored, fertilised and top-dressed – with the help of a number of volunteer members - my thanks to all concerned. The tees and fairways have also been aerated and fertilised so the course is well set up for a good growing season. The rebuilt tees at the 2nd and 3rd/12th have taken well and will continue to improve. The couch grass is already showing signs of good growth which will further improve our fairway coverage and also make our course more drought proof.

From the recent member's survey it is clear that bunkers are an area of concern to players. Without doubt, bunkers are the most difficult part of the course to maintain. Despite efforts in the past to improve drainage, our clay soil makes this difficult and on some greens it is not possible to irrigate the surrounds without water entering the bunkers. Work is now complete on leveling, and in some instances deepening, the bunkers which should help to ensure more even sand cover, particularly after rain. With regular sand top-up we hope this will make our bunkers more consistent.

On behalf of all members I would like to thank the Commandant and the Management of RMC for the removal of the dead trees from the course. This has removed a potential future safety threat to players and also opened the way to replace the trees. The Board will continue to liaise closely with RMC on a tree replacement program so that both the integrity of the golf course and beauty of the RMC precinct remains protected.

Over recent months we have been able to obtain suitable (and affordable) replacements for some of our older equipment. We have replaced the 9 year old fairway mower with a newer one and sold two of our 30 plus year old tractors and replaced them with a much newer front-end loader that will double as a back-up for our general purpose tractor. We have also replaced the gang mower that is used for the first cut of the rough. Our equipment fleet is now more modern and in better condition than before.

The move of the men's and social 3rd tee took effect from 11 October. The women's 3rd tee remains unchanged. The opening of the northern lane of Morshead Drive means that traffic is now closer to the course and while movement of the tee does not remove the risk of a sliced drive leaving the course, the improved alignment angle minimises this risk as much as is possible under our current course layout. The new

boundary wire fence is now the Out of Bounds line for the 3rd/12 hole and players are requested to not attempt go outside the fence in order to retrieve golf balls

## **The Captains - Around the Greens: Men's Captain: Major Events**

Since the last edition of *Boardtalk*, the Foursomes Championship has been conducted resulting in yet another win for Bernie Bradley and Chris Ganderton. RMCGC also staged a very enjoyable Holden Scramble event in September and we propose to make this a regular feature of our annual golfing program. The Club Championships will be conducted over the next two weeks followed closely thereafter by the RMC Open on Sunday 23 November.

Members are also encouraged to come along and join in the fun at the Club on Melbourne Cup day. We will be conducting an individual stableford medley event with a shotgun start at 9.00 am followed by a chicken and champagne lunch, and not to forget Greg Monteith's infamous Melbourne Cup sweeps. Nominations are now being received on the start sheet on the notice board.

## **2009 Pennants Campaign**

Nominations are invited from members interested in representing RMCGC in the 2009 Pennants competition. The Club will be represented in two divisions, the B Grade Handicap Division commencing on Sunday 1 February and the Senior Masters Handicap Division played over a five week period commencing on Thursday 5 March 2009. Please see the notice board for details

## **HIO Achievers:**

Since our last edition we have had two Hole-in-One Achievers. Congratulations to Members Murray Crooks who aced the 5th and one of our sponsors, Tony Slater, who aced the 16th. This is the first ace on the 16th since the Defcredit Challenge was introduced. Congratulations Murray and Tony.

## **Women's Captain:**

Another busy golf season is nearing completion, having completed all external competitions to date. The fields remained reasonably constant throughout the season with between 16 and 24 players playing regularly on Thursdays and Saturdays. The 9 hole competition has remained very popular.

Our annual Guest Day was held at the end of August and we had 44 players entered, 22 of whom were visitors from other clubs. This year, the decision was made to only have one Guest Day (on a Thursday) instead of the two as in previous years.

The Club's annual Foursomes Championships were held in August. The Club Champions and winners of the Women's gross event were Halina Dix/Pat Shearwood, and Sue Lowes/Sue Manning were the winners of the Nett prize. The weather was kind to us this year and, of course, the Sunday afternoon tea was a highlight. Next year, the event will be played on two consecutive Saturdays, which appears to be a popular decision for both the women and the men.

The Royal Canberra Challenge Bowl was also held in August (a very busy month) and a team of four players represented our club at this event. The team consisted of Rhonda Waller, Sue Collins, Helen Holzapfel and Sue Manning, and achieved a fourth place out of 23 teams, with Sue Manning winning the gross event for her division. A good result.

The annual Peugeot Classic was held in September over two days. This is an event sponsored by Peugeot where every person entered receives a Callaway ball and marker. At the end of the year, each person also receives a prize pack from the Canberra Peugeot dealer, which, in the past, has been balls and a golf towel. The winners of this event may be eligible (depending on the overall score) to go to Sydney to play off for the State Final. Down the track, the winners of the National event are flown to Paris for the world championships. This year, the winners of the RMC event were Sue Strang, Carole Stevenson and M Thomas.

The annual Matchplay Championships has been played throughout the year and the final was played between Helen Holzapfel and Cate Kershaw. This year's winner is Cate Kershaw.

This year, the 9 Hole Championships is being played over four consecutive Thursdays instead of the two of last year. 10 members have entered for the whole competition and some others are playing in the daily events. Both the 9 hole and the 18 hole championships prizes (except for the trophies) will be presented on the last Sunday of the major championships.

A total of 24 players have entered the major Championships this year, which is a very pleasing result from our small regular fields. I would like to thank all those who have participated in this and other very important events of our golf calendar, as without your support we would not be able to hold these competitions. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have helped out during the running of these competitions as well as the internal golf calendar.

My many thanks also to Robert, Chris, Bernie, Toby and Mark for their hard work and dedication in the clubhouse and around the course. I am always being complimented, by visitors, on the excellent condition of RMC Golf Course.

## **Social Activities:**

The Tuesday/Thursday "Nine Hole Wine Run" commences this month and details are displayed in the clubhouse. This fun event is open to both members and social players (no handicap required) so why not enter.

On Melbourne Cup Day the club will hold an 18 hole individual stableford event (9.0 am shot gun start) followed by a chicken and champagne lunch. This is always a great day. As cup day is again a Public Holiday make sure you get your name in early so you do not miss out on a great day.

## **Sponsors:**

On behalf of the board of the RMC Golf Club, we extend to our sponsors our sincere thanks. Without their sponsorship, RMC Golf Club would not be the club it is today. Members are encouraged to utilise our

sponsors whenever the need/opportunity arises. As our sponsors support us, we should support them wherever possible.

Can you help by introducing a potential sponsor to the Club? Please let Club Manager, Robert Glover or Sponsorship Director, Skip Smith know.

## **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 guests.

## **Volunteers:**

Volunteers are always welcome and volunteering is a great way to become active within the Club. Please consider what skills you can contribute to the life of our Club.

As always I would welcome feedback and comments on the content and format of this edition. With the Club Championships due to commence in the next week I wish all players a successful tournament and happy golfing.

*Cyril Mitchell* - Club  
President Mobile contact 0400 006 542

## **Quotable Quotes:**

"Have you every noticed what golf spells backwards?"  
Al Baska, American Writer.