



Randwick Golf Club Quarterly September Edition

The Presidents Message

Hello Everyone,

Since, our last communication there has been a few things in air.

Where to start from? I can safely say there are many positives around us.

Let us start from most recent events-Ladies Charity day (Monday 21st August) & Cup 'N' Bowl (Saturday, 19th August).

I note with great pleasure that, ladies did raise approximately \$16,000/- this year again on their Charity day. That has to be on the back of a lot of hard work not only, by Ladies Sub-Committee but, all the ladies members across the board. The volunteerism shown by RGC ladies is unmatched. I know for the fact that, entire ladies committee do sacrifice their golf game on this charity day. So, kudos & hats off to you all. We are all very proud of you at RGC. The details of ladies charity day are included in the "Ladies Column" below by Marilyn Pacitti.

On Cup 'N' Bowl, I can't go past without mentioning smashing performance by Daniel Higgins. He really blew away everyone with his awesome performance. He won both Cup & Bowl with ease (winning by 6 strokes in both events) and in doing so, he has created a history too. See details about Cup & Bowl in Captain's Corner by club Captain Paul Johnstone.

We have newly updated 'Honours Board' displaying the names of all the winners since, 1960. Given the volume of names, Jeff Hunt under the watchful eyes of Alex Smith (Vice-President) have done tremendous job. It is admitted that, there are a few mistakes made & we are undertaking to make corrections ASAP. We are also making efforts to trace history of Ladies golf to create a Honours Board in similar manner. So, anyone who thinks she/he can help please get in touch with Megan Jennings or Michael Higgins.

New furniture & Shade Sails are up in balcony. There are many more upgrades for the club precincts and golf courses happening already or are going to happen very soon. More details of all these can be traced in reports of General Manager, Treasurer and Marketing.

The COURSE has been in good nick through the winter period & playing well and we can be proud of our GREENS.(Coring is only a small pain for the long health), Best complements were bestowed upon us by the captains of Penrith GC & Cronulla GC, two of the visiting teams of Masters Pennants. Both commented that, these are the best greens they have played for some time.

So, it was natural to think that we lean towards & renew **Green Options (GO)** contract. Was it automatic? No. The board did its due diligence before making a decision. We started the process almost 8-9 months ago. We looked at other credible alternatives if, they could better serve us by locating & calling them for expression of interest. There were three more GO like operators who expressed the willingness to engage with us. At the end of **process of 'Screening'**, GO was by far our best option on the scale of 'dollar for dollar' spending, rapports and knowledge of the course. So, your Board have approved GO for next three years.

Contract of Club's Pro Darren Buhagiar is also renewed for 3 years. Carts are now belonging to club and we would hope it make some gains for our bottom line.

The FINANCES of the club are showing encouraging signs and we have started seeing the light at the end of tunnel and we will endeavour to get into the black..

Our MARKETING committee along with our Pro Darren Buhagiar has done very good job in retaining with our membership. All the signs of positive prediction are there, to at least break even in our yearly subscriptions, if not gain on a few extras. This is very heartening, as trend throughout the golfing legions are opposite. (According to the latest report published by Golf Australia, a 0.8 % decline was seen nationally in 2016. NSW had a decline of 1.9%. Victoria and South Australia are only two states showing positive growths.).

Before signing off, on behalf everyone involved in RGC, I would like to WISH our General Manager, Michael Higgins a VERY HAPPY MARRIED LIFE in advance. .

Thanks everyone for your contributions, Enjoy the golf.

MADAN KANDARA
President,RGC.



The Captains Corner

Welcome to the Winter Wick. As always, golf at the Wick in Winter brings it challenges, such as cold (occasionally) and windy (always) weather. This has never been demonstrated more than at the recently completed Randwick Cup & Bowl, with the extreme wind blowing everyone bar one person off the course. That one person was Danny Higgins, who scored a huge win in both the Cup and Bowl, the first person to do so. Well done Danny.

Elsewhere on the course we have had our Masters Pennants break through for their first win in a couple of years against Leonay at Randwick. This was followed up with another win the very next week against Cronulla, two big upsets that were well celebrated by the team. Our Warren and Gibson Trophy teams are currently in the middle of their competitions, and are both in position to progress through if they win their next two games. Well done to all.

Our Four ball match play championships were completed in July. Congratulations to winners Steven and Michael Todd, Sid Pilbeam and Jeff Hunt, and Michael Feehan and Ken Graham. Our mixed foursomes was played in August, won by Paul Johnstone and Coralie Owen. Our next major event will be the Club Championships commencing at the end of November.

On the course much work is being done. As you would all be aware the drainage work commenced last year continues, with the 13th and 8th holes now completed. Greens will be renovated in September, and the 14th green will be increased in size in the same manner we used to increase our greens on the 7th – 11th holes last year.

On a somewhat negative note, I need to emphasise to all members the need to take care of our course. Often on a Saturday morning I'll see unraked bunkers, knowing that they have been raked by greenkeepers before play starts. Please remember the basics in course maintenance and etiquette, rake your bunkers properly, repair your pitch marks (and 1 other) on the greens, and repair divots.

And a reminder on slow play, we play ready golf at Randwick, and we keep pace with the group in front (not the group behind). If the tee ahead of you is clear, don't call up the following group (except on the first hole). Putt out, and head to the next tee.

Randwick Rules

Gardens – Players get relief from garden beds as GUR. Garden beds at Randwick (and other clubs) are defined as garden beds if they have a defined border. If there is not a border (stone, timber etc) then it is not a garden bed and is to be played as it lies.

Happy Golfing
Paul Johnstone
Club Captain – 206



Treasurer's 2 Bob's Worth

Dear Members,

As we head toward our final trading quarter for 2017 I am pleased to report the Club remains in a sound financial position. Bar, Course & Subscription revenues continue to improve with all reporting increases from the corresponding 2016 period.

Particularly pleasing is our golfing membership retention this year – we are on track to finally reverse the declining trend in subscription revenues we have experienced over many years.

Kristy continues to excel in our function trade with functions booked every weekend until Xmas. Our 2018 function book is also filling up fast. Functions are a key contributor to Bar & Gaming revenues so we will continue to invest in this part of our business. Air-conditioning units will be installed in our function area by commencement of the summer function trade for the comfort of our members and guests.

We are also investing in other areas of the Clubhouse and on the golf course. Shade sails & new outdoor furniture are now installed and external painting of the clubhouse has commenced. Bar and cellar refurbishments will commence shortly as will improvements to the Men's toilets. On the golf course we have continued with our drainage program on holes 8 & 17 as well as work to Tees on holes 1, 2, 4, 5 & 17. We will also continue with our greens expansion program and will replace the cyclone fencing on our 7th Hole.

The improved trading conditions have certainly assisted with these investments however would not be possible without the continued support of our members and guests. Management and Board continue to monitor revenue and expenditure with our goal to provide high standard, affordable facilities for the enjoyment of all members & guests.

Thank you again for your continued patronage and support.

Regards,

David Simmons
Hon. Treasurer.



Marketing's Moment

As all would know we are undertaking a revamp of the external of the Club along with that we will see new signage at the front of the club along with the Seahorse branding, this has been long overdue as the previous signs fading and having various phone numbers in which became quit confusing for patrons.

Coming into October and Day Light Saving we will be undertaking through PGA Australia "Month of Golf" in which allow families to come out and enjoy learning to play golf, this will incorporate a 6 hole competition , putting competition. 28th of October will also see the Club House transformed into a German Beer Hall for "OKTOBERFEST 2017".

Congratulations to Bob Cox for winning the Major Badge Draw \$2000.00 on the 10th September.

RGC promotion through "Golf Deals.com.au" has been drawing great interest in vouchers being purchased.

I would like to thank all the Members and Guests for their support and look forward to seeing all during Spring and Summer months at RGC.

Mark Rankin,
Marketing Committee



The Managers Monologue

Dear Members,

We are now heading into our warmer months, and I'm pleased to say that winter was quite a successful period for the Club, we were flush with functions, we had minimal rain meaning we had our golfers out regularly doing what they love, and we have managed to kick off club house and course improvements.

So at this stage I would like to thank all our members, our board members and sub-committees who continue to support the club and assist in any new endeavours the club is planning to take. I would also like to congratulate our lady members and committee members who once again have excelled in organising the ladies charity day for ovarian cancer and raising over \$16,000, job well done!!

Don't forget ladies and gentlemen coming up over the next couple of months, we have our RGC Oktoberfest day on the 28th of October, the event is free to attend and will be going all day! Following closely behind the 'Oktoberfest', we will have our Melbourne Cup golf day luncheon. Stay tuned for more information hitting the website this week.

Lots of exciting times are ahead here at Randwick Golf Club.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Michael Higgins

General Manager



The Pro's Prediction

CHIPPING TO THE RENOVATED GREENS

With the Greens being cored, chipping can be difficult to judge the bounce on the greens. To overcome this you can try chipping with a 8 or 9 iron to get the ball to roll to the hole, as these clubs will allow the ball to skid on the first bounce. The greens are slower which helps the running chip pull up quicker. Play the ball back in your stance with your hands in front of the ball at impact to get a consistent strike, this help the ball run forward and eliminates any spin.

Good golfing

Darren Buhagiar
Golf Professional



Randwick Ladies Charity Day-2017

On Monday 21st August 2017, we had our annual charity day. This is our 23rd year raising much needed money for worthy organizations that can benefit from our campaigns. This year our charity day raised approximately \$16,000.00 for Ovarian Cancer Awareness program.

Ovarian cancer is the eighth most common cancer and the sixth most common cause of cancer death affecting women in Australia

Early ovarian cancer reveals minimal, nonspecific, or no symptoms. The patient may feel an abdominal mass. As a result, most cases are diagnosed in an advanced stage because most ovarian cancer presents with a wide variety of vague and nonspecific symptoms,

There is currently no screening program for ovarian cancer available in Australia. There is no proven method of prevention. Oophorectomy (removal of ovaries) in women with a strong family history does not always prevent cancer. According to latest available figures -in 2014, there were 974 deaths caused by ovarian cancer in Australia (<http://www.cancer.org.au/about-cancer/types-of-cancer/ovarian-cancer.html>)

Our wonderful ladies' committee has worked very hard for several months to organize the sponsors for various Holes and other donations from the surrounding community before the big day. This year we harnessed the help of Kristy Strong - the club's advertising and promotions manager. And as always, the management team of Randwick Golf Club- Michael Higgins, Darren Buhagiar our pro and the club president Mr Madan Kandara have all contributed to this great day.

On behalf of Ladies Committee, Megan Jennings would like to express gratitude and heartfelt 'Thanks you' to all who have contributed and made this day such a big success.

I would also like to thank all the ladies who attended our charity day this year and hope they will join us again for many more charity day events in the future.

Marilyn Pacitti