

PITCH & RUN

Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of the Warrnambool Golf Clubs newsletter "Pitch and Run". Currently I see this as being a bimonthly publication, but if there is an interest with sufficient input we may see a move to a monthly circulation.

So how has this newsletter come about? As background to this question, during my working life one of my pet hates was staff having a Friday afternoon dump in my office where they would spill all their complaints from the week, give no thought to a solution, & then expect me to single handedly fix them before they returned on Monday. I quickly adopted the mantra - *"if you are not prepared to be a part of the solution you forfeit the right to complain!"* Little did I know that the tables would be turned on me so effectively in retirement.

As chance would have it, a late Friday afternoon meeting with our Manager Cathie West, to voice my concerns about what I perceived as a lack of communication with members on key issues, led to me being bitten right royally on the rear end (figuratively speaking) by my work mantra. My intent of having a quick, short sharp & shiny Friday arvo bitch & run with Cathie, has now morphed into me becoming the inaugural editor of the aptly named newsletter, *"Pitch & Run"* (Well done Cathie – we obviously went to the same management school!)

So here we are. The purpose of Pitch & Run is to help disseminate information & news to all members from the Committee, its subcommittees, the Captain, Course Superintendent, our Golf Professionals & others. Members can also have input with news & humorous happenings around the club forwarded to me for inclusion.

If you want anything included either approach me directly or via email at rhysrb21@gmail.com.

Cheers

Rhys Boyle

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REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

We are getting close now to the first group of land settlement payments coming through from the Mervue Estate development. The first priority will be to pay back the bank loan of \$495,000 to the Bendigo Bank. This will save the Club around \$2,000 per month on interest charges.

The Committee is currently seeking quotes to improve the surface of the pathway leading from the 7th tee. The steep decline can make this path a bit tricky to navigate and the Women's Sub-Committee have generously offered to direct their 2019 fundraising efforts towards the cost of this project. Thank you Ladies!

Effective immediately, the Thursday Pro Comp is open to all members in the Ordinary and Intermediate categories of membership, both male and female. The recent release of the Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission report entitled "Equal Opportunity in golf", as well as a recent court finding of discrimination against Royal Queensland Golf Club, prompted a review by our Committee of Management of golf course accessibility to members within the playing rights of their chosen category of membership. This review highlighted that our female members in the Ordinary and Intermediate categories of membership were disadvantaged on a Thursday. Female members in those categories pay the same amount of membership fees as their male counterparts and yet are not able to access the golf course on a Thursday for 18 holes of golf, particularly outside of daylight savings time, as is the case for men. All other days of the week allow both genders to access the golf course for an 18 hole round of golf at some time during that day, as long as that day is within the playing rights of the member's category of membership. It's not about competition access, but golf course access.

What should you do if caught out golfing with lightning nearby?

Hold your 2 iron in the air, because not even God can hit a 2 iron!

Therefore, the Committee of Management, in consultation with our Golf Professional, Craig Bonney, have agreed the Thursday Pro Comp is available to any member regardless of gender to enter on the timesheet and in the competition. There will be no separate competition for female members, the Thursday Pro Comp will run as usual. The Warrnambool Golf Club is an inclusive club which aims to comply with the Equal Opportunity Act 2010.

Vision 2025

Statistics reveal that the percentage of golfers who are women/girls is approximately 20% and this number is decreasing.

It is the goal of Golf Australia to

“Transform the sport of golf into one that is highly engaging, accessible and fully inclusive for women and girls”.

In striving towards that goal Golf Australia have developed their Vision 2025 strategy and are presenting this via a series of roadshows across the country. This presentation was held in Warrnambool earlier this month and challenged us to think about the reasons why women/girls are not playing golf and to think laterally about how this could be addressed.

Importantly, Golf Australia have asked that we take note of the legislative requirements relating to equal opportunity for women and girls in golf. Guidelines have been developed which the Warrnambool Golf Club will consider and implement changes as required.

It is proposed that a Vision 2025 working party be set up to brainstorm and progress the strategies at Warrnambool. If any member would like to participate or have any ideas, please see Cathy.

Further reading:

- [Growing Golf in the UK](#)
- [Equal Opportunity Guidelines](#)
- [Vision 2025: The future of women and girls in golf](#)

Sheryl Nicolson
Lady President.

Hello from James the Chair of the Vets

If you are over 55 you can play in the Vets. We start at 9am on Tuesday, you can book through the portal online . We have nearest the pins on all the par 3's and nearest the pins, second shot on 8 and 16. We have about 70 starters each Tuesday. The ages are from 55 to 97 year-old Jack Bullen . We are about to challenge Port Fairy on May 21 and we will go over to Port Fairy on November 11 for the reverse game.

Thankyou
James Moran
Chair of the Vets

Just wondering....

***If the point of golf
is to hit the ball
less, then do I win
if I don't play at
all?***





Good Friday Competition

Thank you to Helen Fagan for organising, yet again, another excellent event on Good Friday. Teams of 4 battled in an Irish 4BBB to win great prizes and then to be treated to hot cross buns afterwards. If you haven't played in this event before, put it on your calendar for 2020!

Congratulations to the winning team of Judy Kerr, Karen Jenkins, John Gillin and Lefty Wright !

From the Women's Committees

The focus of the Women's Committee has been to support major events throughout the year while raising the much needed funds for our golf club. Due to the generosity of time, expertise and donated goods, this year to date we are demonstrating a profit of over \$7000. One of our major fund raisers, Amenities Day is to be held in June.

The Women's Match Committee have just been able to add a **9-hole competition** within their usual Wednesday's 18 hole comp. This enables those who struggle with the 18 holes, for whatever reason, or perhaps those who are just working their way into competition golf, to participate. The competition is structured so that the social aspect after golf is maintained for all players. If you are interested in playing, please contact Lauren on 0438627467.

This year the women have two Div 1 teams, one Div 3 team and a Sunday pennant team. Our Div 1 teams have been doing very well, but have recently had to play each other. This was a long and tough battle, with obviously one team the winners. Details remain a mystery. Our Div 3 team is on top of the ladder and will be playing the 2nd place markers, Lake Bolac, next week. The Sunday Pennant team is a combined Warrnambool/Cobden team and are already winners!

Sheryl Nicolson

Captain's Report

Warrnambool has 5 men's pennant teams, with 2 sides in Division 1 and one in Division 2 (due to the promotion of our winners from Div 2 and 3). We also have a Div 1 and 3 handicap.

It is also of interest to note that our Div 3 handicap is where our younger players compete. This year Jeremy Mitchem is looking after these players who started off with a 5-0 win against Port Fairy. The team is made up of Jeremy, Tayne Perry, Eric Smith, Nyall Gurry and Fletcher Mitchem.

Regards, Colin

Greens Report – April 2019

Mild weather over the past two months has seen a slow-down in the turf growth rate in most areas and the rough is still not really growing which is helping us to concentrate on closely mown areas. The recent rain and cooler nights have helped with green speed and has sustained the greens and fairways with us only needing to water the tees on the odd occasion. The feedback from members is that the course was in great condition for the club championships.

Greens and course

We have recently fertilised all the greens and will start fertilising the fairways soon when favourable conditions present themselves. Planning spray days in Warrnambool is never easy with ever changing weather conditions and forecasts. Following fertilising we will spray areas for broadleaf. It is not a major problem at the moment but if we can stay on top of it the presentation of the course is always better.

We have recently gone over all the sand scared areas removing weeds, tidying up the sand and ensuring that there are no under cut edges where balls can get lodged.

Machinery

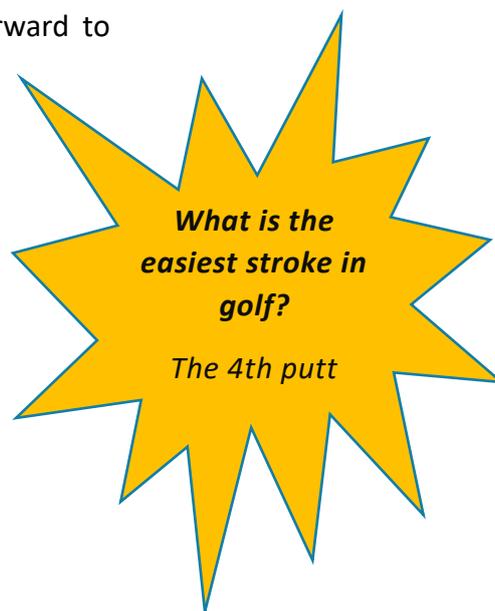
We have replaced 2 of our main cutting machines in the past 6 months, the surrounds mower and more recently the greens mower. All reports are that we have seen a significant improvement in the surfaces that these mowers service. Our aim going forward is to regularly turn-over our fleet of mowers so we can continue to present our golf course in the best possible condition year-round.

Staff

We welcome our new apprentice, Tom Mahony, who started with us on 25 March. Tom has been working one day a week at Port Fairy Golf Club as part of his VCAL studies this past year as well as volunteering at his local cricket club helping to prepare the turf surfaces. Tom is settling into his new role very quickly and we look forward to having him as part of our hard-working course maintenance team.

David Warnaar

Course Superintendent.



From Bonza...(aka Craig)

Hi members,

What a **Masters** week it was! Congratulations to Marc on making the cut which would not have been easy, the more rounds he gets under his belt around Augusta will certainly give him the experience to one day put that green jacket on.

I'm sure you all are just as proud as I am with the way he plays & conducts himself on the world stage.

Coming in to winter we have all our **new waterproofs** arriving soon.

This year we are doing a Club merino wool jumper with or without logo.

All sizes are due to come in where you can try, pick colour & size.

Prices are \$129 or \$139 with Club logo.

When it comes to a putter always try before you buy.

Never buy a putter until you have had a chance to throw it!

Just a quick reminder that if you are playing social golf **please call the proshop** to see if any events are on to avoid disappointment, sometimes we have some large group bookings which are not put on the website calendar.

May race week will be busy so it will be important to book in.

Thanks for your patience over the busy periods as everyone likes to play when the weather is at our best.

Good golfing, Craig Bonney

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Got something to buy, swap or sell?

Contact Rhys on rhysrb21@gmail.com