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Tasmania
Golf Club

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Tasmania Golf Club

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Dear Members,

Welcome to the August 2024 Newsletter! I want to thank you all for your patience and understanding with the delay of this edition—I'm thrilled to finally share it with you today.

As you'll read throughout this newsletter, 2024 has been another extremely busy year so far. Our course has seen significant changes and meticulous maintenance, while our restaurant and function spaces have been buzzing with activity. I want to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks to our incredibly dedicated staff and volunteers. Your hard work and passion are evident in everything we offer, making Tasmania Golf Club a standout destination for both members and visitors. We are truly fortunate to have such a phenomenal team working behind the scenes.

The coming months are set to be just as exciting, with every department gearing up for another packed season. Some of the events on the horizon include the AFL Grand Final Day celebration, our annual Showday Ambrose, and the Men's and Women's 2024 Club Championship. Be sure to follow us on social media for the latest updates—there's plenty to look forward to as we head toward the year's end.

A special mention to member Pam Whittaker, who celebrated her 90th birthday on the 14th of this month! Pam has been a member at Tasmania Golf Club for 56 years and continues to play every week!

Pam was celebrated with a 9-Hole Ambrose and some lunch and cake in the clubhouse afterwards on Tuesday 13th August. Thank you to the women who organised the fantastic celebration for a fantastic member! We're very lucky to have members like Pam at the club. A thank you to Golf Australia for recognising Pam's special day and sharing on Facebook.



Road Project

I am often asked about progress on the "Road Project" and the effects on the Club. The simple answer is: progress has largely stalled. Information provided to us from the State Government is that the project is being held up by the Commonwealth in dealing with environmental issues on the adjacent Milford Property. While this is very annoying and restricts us from tackling some aspects of the Course Masterplan, the inaction by the Government has only had minimal impact on the club. The frustration due to the lack of progress remains front of mind. A meeting with the Government will be convened shortly to investigate whether there is any scope for aspects of the course redevelopment not affected by the environmental issues to be progressed, for instance, the commencement of building the new dam on the left-hand side of the 6th hole.

Members may have noticed survey stakes along the road-side of the 13th hole, these relate to the proposed compulsory acquisition of a strip of land along the boundary. Essentially it would entail about a 10m encroachment from about 150m from the 13th tee to about 100m short of the green. The safety and playability issues are important factors, and we have requested that State Growth engage Ben Davey, our course architect to consider the implications and provide a solution that would not be detrimental to the Club. It is understood a report has been provided to Government, while we have not been privy to the report, believe redevelopment is possible and would likely provide an outcome acceptable to the Club.

Life Membership - Albie Francis

I am very pleased to announce that the Board has approved the nomination for Albie Francis to become a Life Member of the Tasmania Golf Club. Sincerest congratulations to Albie. For those not aware, Albie has been a member of the Club for over 38 years and has provided exceptional and outstanding service to the Club. In particular, his work in repairing (or should I say in some cases, resurrecting and renewing) equipment and making it serviceable has been outstanding. He had also been involved in numerous construction projects around the Club and regularly he has, in addition to working on projects at the club, taken equipment home to repair, rebuild and renew; motors, gearboxes and the like.



In the recent past, the Club was in financial difficulties and was not able to invest appropriately in equipment replacement; this rendered us vulnerable to breakdowns which occurred frequently, with Albie fundamental in fixing things. His ability to fix things has been of huge value to the club and contributed significantly to our ability to survive in the period 2010-2020. It is conservatively estimated that his assistance has saved the club in excess of \$100,000. Additionally, Albie has over the last 9 years been a valuable member of the Thursday volunteer group, where he as an 84 year old has more than held his own against much younger volunteers.

Thanks Albie for your support!

Course

On 1st July we saw the retirement of Dan Gilligan, our longstanding Superintendent. A special thank you to Dan for your service to the Club, especially during times when we were unable to provide appropriate financial assistance to: staff, replace archaic equipment, and maintain the course. It is a credit to Dan for the way in which the course has been presented during his tenure. Thanks, Dan!

It is now 1 year since Ben Stacey took over the role of Superintendent. I congratulate Ben, his course staff, and our volunteers on the work undertaken over the last year in the first stages of the implementation of our Course Masterplan. As discussed elsewhere in this newsletter we have made considerable change and on the verge of more changes, including the removal of the pine trees on 1st, 4th and 8th holes.

It is planned for these trees to be removed this week. While we have contractors on-site, we will be removing some black wattles and blackwoods that don't fit with the course plan. Members should be aware that the removal of these trees will likely have effect on how the course plays and that it may take a little while until new plantings and "waste areas" are established. I seek members tolerance as we progress these improvements.

John Milbourne
President

Whilst I'm sure it feels like forever since you've read something, there have been multiple editions that didn't quite make the editors cut! The club has had multiple championships run and won, along with some fantastic individual performances in this same period. Given the time frames, there is no way I can acknowledge everyone without missing some out. With that in mind – rather than rehashing the last 6-9 months, let's look forward.

Ben Stacey has provided a Superintendent's Report which should provide the details of what has been happening at the club, so again I won't rehash that. I would like to thank the members for their patience over the past 6 months whilst the 17th has been out of play. There have been some life-changing memories on 18a – some first aces – along with some horrible memories with plenty of 3,4 and 5 putts! We live and learn from how the redevelopment of the 17th took place, and whilst it has been significantly longer than desired for multiple reasons, we felt we needed to make sure it was done correctly and not rushed. I'm sure we can all agree that standing on the rebuilt 18th tee is now one of the most picturesque views on the course, and the surrounding turf is just, well, pretty.

The hope is that every tee bed will be rebuilt/turfed in this manner – although that will be an ongoing project for several years. The front tees on 7, 12 and 18 will be hydro-seeded in a similar way over the next few weeks as the weather warms up and hopefully put in play during spring. This will then have our course as a Par 72 off the predominant tee blocks (i.e. White and Blue for men and Red for Women) – and all tee blocks will be rated for Male and Female golfers alike. When the 17th hole opens, we will get out full course back for at least the duration of summer, which I'm sure is exciting for everyone – especially those eying of a course record!

The next major project (which will likely predate this newsletter) is the removal of the 3 large pins on the 1st/18th, 4th and 8th holes. There are multiple reasons for this which have been discussed to death, and whilst the holes will play differently, there will be ongoing works to improve the playability of these holes. Following this, there is further likelihood of the removal of the wattles and blackwoods throughout the course as part of the course masterplan.

Lastly – we are getting close to Club Championship season. The dates are published on the golf calendar for both the Male and Female championships. The Female Championships will kick off on November 3rd and run until the final round on the 19th of November. The Male Championships format will change slightly this year, with Rounds 1 and 2 being a Saturday/Sunday doubleheader (starting Nov 23rd), followed by the next 2 Saturdays. The hope is that the final round being on a Saturday will encourage more members to stay for the afternoon and support those playing. As per last year, the Female Championships will have alternate days on a Sunday for Rounds 1-3, with a compulsory round 4 seeded draw on Tuesday the 19th. The Male event will have alternate days on the preceding Friday (R1 and 3), and the following Monday (R2) with the Final round to be played on the Saturday only. Further details to come.

PS – Red Flags are coming back...

Ben Hayes
Club Captain

Dear Members,

I apologize for the delay in providing this update; it has been a busy time on the course. Over the past few months, we have undertaken several significant projects, notably concerning the 17th hole, the 18th tee, and the 14th tee. Here is a summary of our recent activities and improvements:

Project Updates:

17th Hole Reconstruction:

- Work on the 17th hole commenced in early March. This project involved removing the original turf and thatch, reshaping, and constructing all bunkers, and installing new irrigation.
- We have installed a double-fed ring main around the green with 75mm poly pipe and the latest Toro Infinity heads. These heads can be adjusted down to 7 degrees to counteract wind effects. The number of sprinkler heads around the green has increased from 4 to 12 (6 for the green surface and 6 for the surrounds). This upgrade is set to enhance turf quality and playability while reducing water usage by about 30% through more efficient and precise watering.

Hydroseeding with New Equipment:

- After consolidating and shaping the areas, we used a new Vortek hydroseeding unit purchased in February. This acquisition is intended to save long-term costs on contractors, considering the number of upcoming projects related to roadworks and master plan improvements.
- We applied a blend of pure fescue—Red Creeping Fescue, Chewings Fescue, and Fine/Slender Fescue. This selection was made for its appearance, durability, drought resistance, and disease tolerance, which will reduce maintenance needs and help maintain the course in excellent condition.

Historical Grass Trends:

- Historically, Tasmania Golf Club maintained pure fescue on most surfaces, except for greens. Over time, other grasses like Rye, Poa, Kikuyu, and Couch have infiltrated our fairways, tees, and surrounds. The new pure fescue blend on newly constructed areas will assist in managing these invasive grasses and keeping the surfaces weed-free.
- Although fescue grasses remain visible on most of our fairways, they are sometimes obscured by weeds. A recent trial on our 11th hole using Fusillade was successful in targeting and removing invasive weeds such as Kikuyu and Poa Annua, leaving a significant amount of fescue grass behind.
- Moving forward, we will blanket spray 2-3 fairways at a time to eliminate weeds and then oversow with fescue to fill any gaps. Pure fescue surfaces offer numerous benefits and can be likened to links courses in Scotland and Australian courses like Barwon Heads, Cape Wickham, and 7 Mile Beach.

Completion Timeline:

- We anticipate reopening the 17th hole between mid-late September. While much of the work has been completed, we need to ensure fair playing conditions on the right-hand side of the green. It is intended to have longer grass towards the bottom of the slope to arrest balls just missing the green and redevelopment of the previous penalty area into a playable waste area. Thank you for your patience as we work to enhance the course.

Additional Improvements:**New Sand and Rubbish Bins:**

Our staff and volunteers have crafted new sand/rubbish bins and bucket holders to replace outdated units. We have already replaced bins on the 1st, 2nd, 10th, and 13th holes and plan to continue these upgrades throughout the year.

Tree Removal and Planting:

Today, Monday 25th August, and Tuesday 26th August, we have contractors scheduled to remove the pine trees on the 1st, 4th and 8th holes.

We are progressing with the removal of unwanted wattles to promote native grasses and eucalypts. We plan to plant around 30 Tasmanian Blue Gums where wattles have been removed, aiming to attract more native birds, such as the swift parrot. Additionally, mulching the undergrowth along the coast next to the 3rd, 5th, and 6th greens has improved airflow and sunlight, which should enhance these surfaces in the coming months.

Looking Ahead:

We are looking forward to the warmer weather and the planned greens renovations in late August. Additionally, we will complete the construction of forward tees on holes 3, 7, and 12, with hopes to have them open later in Spring.

New Staff:

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Sam Sartori as our new Deputy Superintendent/2IC. Sam joins us from Kingston Beach and brings 18 months of construction experience from the 7 Mile Beach project. An avid golfer, Sam may be seen on the course in the afternoons honing his game. Please extend a warm welcome to him.

Xavier, who joined us earlier in the year, has quickly become a valued member of our team.

Thank you for your ongoing support and patience as we continue to improve the course.

Ben Stacey
Course Superintendent

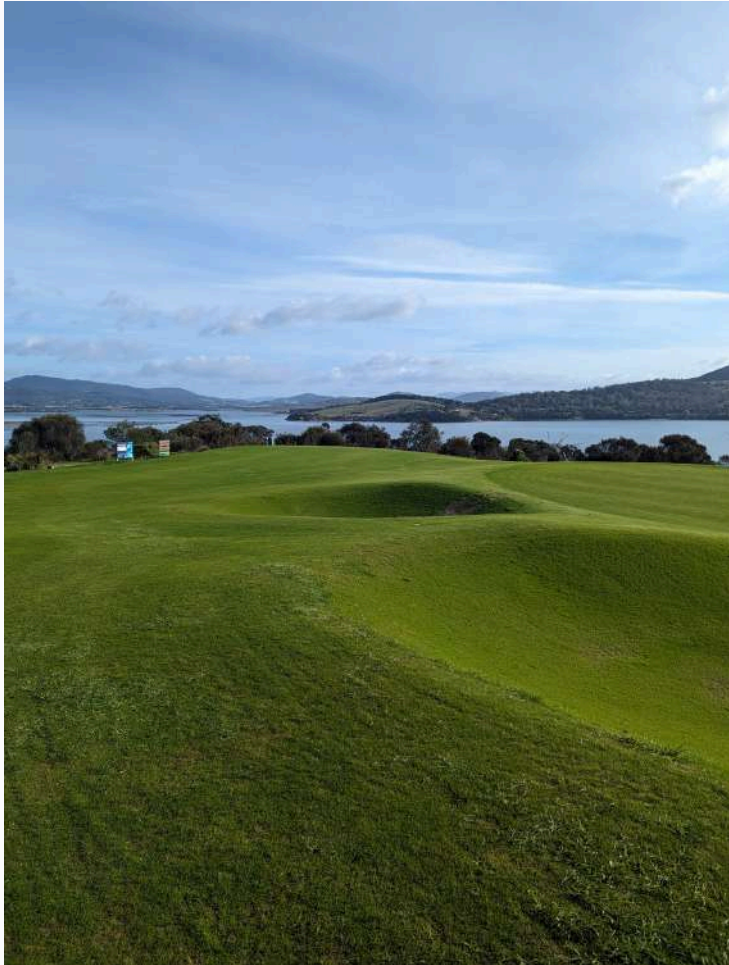
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Despite the winter chill, PGA Professional Adam Holden has kept the momentum going with his outstanding junior holiday programs, including the popular Powercom Solar Junior Holiday Clinic. The turnout has been fantastic, with many young golfers returning for more sessions, eager to start their golfing journey right here at Tasmania Golf Club. Be sure to follow our social media for updates on upcoming junior clinics scheduled for the next school holidays.

A special congratulations goes out to Tasmania Golf Club junior member Audrey Long, who made us proud at the Tee Mates event held at Ulverstone Golf Club on Sunday, August 18th. Audrey clinched the 18-Hole Girls Nett title with an impressive score of 76. Well done, Audrey—your hard work and dedication are truly paying off!



Liam Tollard-Williams
Junior Development

ADULT CLINICS

A reminder to all members that the Pro Shop holds clinics on a weekly basis to help you keep on top of your game.

Mondays at 1pm

Wednesdays at 1.30pm

Saturdays at 9am

Sundays at 10am

Clinics run for an hour and the cost is \$25 which includes a large bucket of balls. One of our PGA professionals will come along and give you some pointers. Bookings advised. Call into the Pro Shop for your range balls. Every first clinic of the week will be focused on short game.

JUNIORS

The Pro Shop conducts clinics each week on a Sunday for all juniors as well as a junior competition on Saturday afternoons. The cost of the clinic is \$10, and the competition is \$5. Please call into the Pro Shop to register. The first junior clinic needs to be registered through Golf Australia's website. Juniors must be members to enter the Saturday competition. Feel free to call the Pro Shop for details.

Saturday Competition at 3pm

Sunday Clinic at 1pm

RANGE BALLS & BUCKETS

The Pro Shop asks that all range users please return buckets to the Pro Shop after using. Unfortunately, we have had many instances where we have had members taking our buckets home or keeping them in their car for their own personal use. It is also unfortunate to witness members taking our range balls from the boot of their cars (sometimes in our buckets) or from their golf bags and going straight to the range.

We would like to make the members who are doing this aware of the huge cost the Pro Shop is incurring as a result of their actions.

We offer a full service to our members and would appreciate it if these members would bear in mind how difficult they are making it for other members as well as us at the Pro Shop.

We would like to thank the members who are doing the right thing for their support and also the members who kindly collect other member's buckets from the range and return them to the Pro Shop.

CLUB FITTING & SALES

We would like to remind our members that we have 3 PGA Professionals available to take them through the club fitting process and club purchases. We pride ourselves on being able to match prices as we are in a buying group that allows us to have better purchasing power than most other retailers.

As fully trained PGA Professionals, we are able to offer an educated fitting process that incorporate analysis of your swing to determine the best outcome for the customer.

We conduct all our club fits on the driving range which simulates real golfing conditions.

Emily White
Manager
Tasmania Pro Shop

Exciting Developments at TGC

The past few months have been a whirlwind of activity at Tasmania Golf Club, with some remarkable milestones achieved. We've been thrilled to see our restaurant bustling, with over 100 diners on multiple occasions. This is particularly encouraging given that many in the industry have reported a quieter period recently. With warmer weather on the horizon, we're optimistic that this positive trend will continue.

To keep things fresh and exciting, we're introducing a range of new offerings across the club. These include more food options in the Spike Bar, regular specials in the restaurant, the addition of new beer taps, and beer, wine, and spirit tasting nights. Be sure to follow us on social media to stay up to date on all the latest events!





Enhancements to Our Service Providers

In our ongoing commitment to excellence at the club, we've made some important changes to our service providers to ensure the highest standards are maintained.

Cleaning Services

We've recently partnered with Broadscope Facility Services after parting ways with our previous contractors due to performance concerns. The difference in cleanliness has been noticeable, and we're excited to share that Broadscope will also be joining us as a sponsor for the 2024/25 season. If you're in need of reliable cleaning services, feel free to reach out to me for a recommendation.



Broadscope
FACILITY SERVICES

Pest Control

We've transitioned from Flick Pest Control to Tas Pest, a local company led by Tim Manns, a fellow golf enthusiast. Tim's company will also be supporting us as a sponsor for the upcoming season, further strengthening our community ties.

Additional Updates**Advertising**

You may have noticed the new advertising trailer along the 5th fairway. We've entered into a beneficial arrangement with Claude Neon, thanks in large part to member Phil Hoggett. His expertise in negotiating and reviewing service agreements was invaluable, and we appreciate his contribution.

Kitchen Equipment

To support our growing operations, we've upgraded our kitchen with a new walk-in cool room and a separate walk-in freezer. These additions are crucial for maintaining our high standards. A special thanks to Mark Burns and the RBR Refrigeration team, the crew at Murtec, and Brad Dutton from Reward Hospitality for their assistance in making this upgrade a reality.

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Beverage Prices

Please note that, due to a recent CPI increase, there will be a slight increase to beverage prices starting Wednesday, August 28th.

Your Feedback Matters

We're always eager to hear from our members. If you have any suggestions or feedback, please don't hesitate to reach out. You can email me directly at secretary@tasmaniagolfclub.com.au or speak to me in person. Your input is invaluable as we strive to make TGC the best it can be.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the club!

Gerard Hanks
Operations Manager