

NEWSLETTER

November 2022



Tasmania
Golf Club

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Tasmania Golf Club

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Hi everyone, welcome to the November Newsletter. We have had a very busy couple of months and are looking ahead to another big couple of months. Thank you all for the love for the last newsletter and I hope you enjoy reading this month's edition.

Julia Narracott, Editor

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The 2021/22 AGM was held last Tuesday, 25 October, with our financials showing a profit of \$345,668 (a similar result to the profit of \$356,813 achieved last year). This year's result has helped us considerably in continuing the reduction of our debt to the National Australia Bank. In fact, at the time of writing this report we had a credit balance, a far cry from the \$1.2M we owed in 2015 (see Treasurer's report for details). This is a tremendous outcome and with our key performance indicators: wages, membership levels, course usage, and hospitality all tracking well, things are looking good for 2022-23.

Credit for the excellent financial result is due to the strong and professional financial management led by our Finance Director, the focus and resolve from our Board, and the fantastic support the Club has received from Staff, Volunteers, the Pro-shop, and you, our Members. Thanks to all!

This success provides us the opportunity to change our future focus. Most members will recall the financial situation we were facing in 2015, where we were deeply in debt and were considering possible Joint Venture proposals and even the sale of the Club.

I am pleased to say that things have changed dramatically, and the Club is now very much viable. We are no longer looking at just maintaining the Club as it is, but are now focussing on course improvements and investment in infrastructure. We are keen to restore our Club to its rightful place amongst the best in Australia.

South Eastern Traffic Solution

The South Eastern Traffic Solution ('the Road Project') and the consequential redevelopment of the 1st, 2nd, 16th & 17th holes and changes to the practice fairway remain major issues confronting the Club.

The negotiations with the Government over the last five years have, on the whole, been productive with an agreement reached between us and the Department of State Growth (the Department) on the work to be undertaken. This includes the Government's adoption of the plan for the 1st, 2nd, 16th, and 17th holes and practice facilities as developed by Ben Davey (Contour Golf Design) and endorsed at a member's forum on 5th May 2020.

A major area of concern remains the lack of agreement on the level of compensation. Discussions are ongoing between our Solicitors (Simmons Wolfhagen) and the Office of the Crown Solicitor with a validated claim for compensation due to be lodged by us in the near future. Advice from Simmons Wolfhagen is positive regarding the willingness of the Government, to accede to a realistic and validated claim. Current work timelines provided by the Department indicate that no work will commence on the course redevelopment prior to 23rd August 2023. It is disappointing that the commencement is again being delayed. The delays have in no way been caused by the Club.

Course Master Plan

A Members' forum was held on 6th September 2022 to discuss the proposed redevelopment of the course. Our course architect, Ben Davey, presented a proposed concept plan to the approximately 50 members in attendance. Members provided: comments, suggestions, and overall endorsement of proposed changes.

Ben has since provided an updated draft of the concept plan. Copies are on display in the clubhouse and available from the Office.

I believe that we need to factor in the replacement of our old and inefficient irrigation system as a very high priority.

Club Championships

Club Championships over recent years have seen a significant decline in the number of players. The Club is keen to maintain the championships and has provided the opportunity for more players to participate has been provided. Essentially, the 2022 championships will allow:

- all annual members the opportunity to play, and
- provide alternative days to play for those not able to play on the primary days.

This has resulted in more people playing with 18% of the Mens and 15% of the Women's field taking advantage of the changes.

I am aware that these arrangements have caused a range of opinions from those supportive, to those against the change. The current arrangements will be openly reviewed after this year's event.

The Board

I acknowledge the retirement of our Captain, Peter Volker. Peter has been the longest-serving Captain in our history. Thanks to Peter for his efforts and wish him well in his retirement from professional work, in about 3 weeks' time. With extra time on his hands, will his golf go to a new level!

Our new Captain, Ben Hayes has commenced, and am sure that I share the views of all members in wishing Ben all the very best in the role.

The Club also welcomes new members of the Board: Liam Tollard-Williams and Jack Milbourne.

The TGC Board members are:

- Tom Barwick (Participation & Membership & Grants)
- Les Hadley (Business Management & Treasurer),
- Lynne Page (Women's representative),
- Andrew Todd (Secretary, Clubhouse & Hospitality),
- Ben Hayes (Captain),
- Jack Milbourne (Social Media & Business Management)
- Liam Tollard-Williams (Junior Development)
- and myself

John Milbourne, President

Hunter Gillard off to the USA

Hunter is heading over to Kennesaw State University on a Golf scholarship for 4 years on January 4. This has been one of Hunter's goals since year 8 of High School so he is very excited and nervous. Kennesaw is just outside of Atlanta in Georgia and is a Div 1 college. TGC wishes him all the best and will be following his exciting endeavors.



CAPTAIN'S CORNER

R H Roberts Trophy

After beating Huon Valley, 1 up after 19 holes in the semi-final, Eli Monaghan and Hunter Gillard were up against a very experienced team from Royal Hobart in the final, Colin and Toby. Royal had beaten Claremont 7&5 in their semi, so had a long rest to prepare for the final.

After going two up early. In the match, the boys just couldn't sink birdie putts and Royal rallied with exceptional short iron play, to go one up after 9. The boys won the 12th to square the match. Then they took the 15th with a birdie. After a great chip from Hunter on the par 3 16th, Eli holed a difficult putt. A par on the 17th sealed the match.

Hunter and Eli are probably the youngest team ever to represent the Club in a senior tournament. They qualified in first place and held their nerve against more experienced opponents in Huon Valley and Royal.



Course Handicap Index

Does anyone have a favourite hole on the course?? Not so much the most picturesque or most memorable, but one that you know you will walk off with at least 2 points – if not more – before you tee off. Well, neither do I. However, I do have some holes that I find easier/harder than the respective index. This may be due to the individual nature of all our golf games but could very much well be due to the raft of changes in the course in recent history – specifically the tree removal program during 2018. There is no doubt that the clearing of trees has changed how some holes are played – for better or worse. With this in mind, I felt it would be prudent to review the course index and see if there have been any significant changes.

Historically this task would be tedious, going through multiple scorecards of differing handicaps over varying weather conditions. With the use of MiClub, average score data can now be produced in seconds. This can be filtered to specific handicaps, different tees, and a custom date range.

There is no single official way to determine the index of a golf course. It can be as simple as the average score on each hole, or as complex as breaking down to each individual handicap. GA has a guide that separates average scores into 1-6, 7-12, and 13-18 groups. From this, you can see what the hardest 6 holes for the 1-6 group are, and there is your 1-6 index. This progresses to the 7-12 group as the next 6 hardest and finally holes 13-18. This makes sense given the people most impacted by the ranking of the 6 hardest holes are those individuals off 6 and under.

For the red tees, I looked at splitting the handicap range differently based on the spread of our players. There were minimal cards available for single-figure players so the data was inadmissible. For the reds, I reviewed handicap groups of 0-18, 19-26, 27-36, and 36+ to formulise the rankings.

Once we have found the best method to determine the index, it would be a task taking 5mins to update periodically. The increased use of the app and ease to print scorecards with selected data would allow for ease of change and hopefully only minor teething problems when integrated into daily competitions – and more importantly those high stake side games!

The following tables show the raw data for all competition rounds for the White and Red tees over the last 12 months as extracted from MiClub:

Men's White Tees

Hole	Hole order	Par	Index	Average Strokes	Variance	Effective Index	Difference
1	1	4	18	4.58	0.58	17	-1
2	2	4	13	4.86	0.86	14	1
3	3	5	12	6.12	1.12	9	-3
4	4	4	5	5.28	1.28	4	-1
5	5	3	4	4.13	1.13	8	4
6	6	4	11	4.95	0.95	11	0
7	7	4	10	5.14	1.14	7	-3
8	8	3	8	3.97	0.97	10	2
9	9	4	1	5.51	1.51	1	0
10	10	4	3	5.24	1.24	6	3
11	11	3	16	3.45	0.45	18	2
12	12	5	14	5.9	0.9	13	-1
13	13	4	2	5.34	1.34	2	0
14	14	5	17	5.71	0.71	16	-1
15	15	4	15	4.8	0.8	15	0
16	16	5	6	6.32	1.32	3	-3
17	17	4	7	5.26	1.26	5	-2
18	18	3	9	3.93	0.93	12	3

Women's Red Tees

Hole	Hole order	Par	Index	Average Strokes	Variance	Effective Index	Difference
1	1	4	16	5.55	1.55	15	-1
2	2	4	9	6.01	2.01	11	2
3	3	5	4	7.7	2.7	1	-3
4	4	4	1	6.59	2.59	2	1
5	5	3	17	4.2	1.2	17	0
6	6	4	7	6.16	2.16	8	1
7	7	4	6	6.36	2.36	4	-2
8	8	3	15	4.22	1.22	16	1
9	9	5	12	7.12	2.12	10	-2
10	10	4	18	6.44	2.44	3	0
11	11	3	3	3.81	0.81	18	0
12	12	5	13	7.16	2.16	9	-4
13	13	5	14	7.01	2.01	12	-2
14	14	5	11	7.26	2.26	6	-5
15	15	4	10	5.83	1.83	13	3
16	16	5	5	7.18	2.18	7	2
17	17	4	2	6.32	2.32	5	3
18	18	3	8	4.63	1.63	14	6

It is proposed the handicap index for use in competitions will be updated annually, with effect from the 1st of December each year (the first day of Summer).

Australian Junior Amateur

The Club has been invited (and has accepted the opportunity) to host this event from Monday 10th – Friday 14th April 2023. This event is one of the premier amateur events on the Australian Golfing calendar. Previous winners include stars of Australian golf like Adam Scott, Brett Ogle, Peter O'Malley, Robert Allenby, Stuart Appleby, Jason Day, Cameron Smith, and Ryan Ruffles. Also current female tour players: Minjee Lee, Celina Yuan, Grace Kim, and Karis Davidson. Any member interested in volunteering to assist Golf Australia in running the event please put your name forward to the Office.

Who am I?

Firstly, I would like to thank Peter Volker for his extended years of volunteer service to Tasmania Golf Club as Captain. I have been in this job for what feels like 30 seconds and 30 years at the same time, so have rapidly developed a huge appreciation for the job Peter (and all other previous Captains) have done.

For those who don't know me, I am a husband and father of a 5yo girl. I work as a local Physiotherapist who has returned to a nice Monday-Friday work life after spending 10+ years traveling with professional sporting teams. The regular weekend golfing hasn't exactly helped the scoring... I didn't grow up as a golf tragic, but (un)fortunately I have become one since taking it up approx. 5 years ago.

The position of Captain was not something I had any interest in doing initially, but after talking to several playing partners it has progressed into where we are now. After years of being involved with team sports, the one thing golf misses for me is that "club" feel. I took up the position of a pennant captain last year with the goal to have all divisions playing for Tasmania Golf Club – not multiple different teams that just shared the same coloured shirt. This is something I am passionate about and will continue to encourage with upcoming tournaments that members of Tasmania Golf Club are involved in. I do not know everything, and this is very much a steep learning curve. My actions will only ever be in the best interest of Tasmania Golf Club and as such hopefully the best interest of our members. I look forward to open discussions with members over the coming months.

Ben Hayes, Captain

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Clubhouse and Surrounds

The men's amenities update project is now completed. Many thanks to Mike Street for his management of the project and for achieving great results in these difficult construction industry times. The project was funded by a grant for \$31,000 and required an additional \$10,000 of club funds. The walkway renovation project is continuing, with the next stage involving floor leveling, drainage, and new ends to the cart shelter. Regrettably, the swallow nests have returned. If any members have expertise in solving bird nesting problems, can you please contact the office? On the positive side, the swallows feast on mosquitos. The kitchen roof leaks have been repaired by member Matt Fahey. A plan is now being put together to eliminate the many remaining leaks as well as installing overflow pipes for storm events. A quote is being prepared for repairing the holes in the bitumen roadway and carpark. A general rubbish removal and tidy up campaign around the clubhouse and superintendent's house has been requested and planned for some time. A start date is yet to be advised.

Andrew Todd, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

The trend in revenue growth across all areas of our business has continued in the first quarter of FY2023, with forward golf bookings looking positive for the next few months. There has been major expenditure around the clubhouse with the men's toilet area completed and repairs to leaks in our roof. As we move into a challenging higher inflation environment, we are focusing on maintaining margins and controlling costs. We currently have \$115,000 cash in the bank more than our loan, earning interest. With reference to our strategic direction, we are planning our priorities over the next five plus years, with particular emphasis on course improvements and irrigation replacement. This will entail significant expenditure, requiring continuing profits to fund.

Les Hadley, Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP & PARTICIPATION

Work is to be undertaken shortly to develop the fixtures for next year. A collaborative approach involving: Captain, Superintendent, Women's representative, and the Participation & Membership working group. The intention is to look at optimum timings for events that match in with course maintenance requirements.

Looking after the Course

We all have been disgruntled with bunkers that have not been raked, divots not replaced and plug marks in greens not repaired. Members are asked to consider and respect the course in the same way you would your own front yard.

Bunkers: There are few things more infuriating than having your ball lodge in someone's footprint. This can be simply avoided if all players used the rakes to smooth the bunkers after they have played out. It is also important in looking after the bunkers to enter from the lowest point and leave the same way. NOT climbing down the face like we often see when watching golf on TV.

Plug Marks on Greens: Members are requested to look for any plug marks their ball may have caused on greens and repair them. If you are unsure of how to do this, the Pro-shop staff would be pleased to help. Alternatively check out videos like "Golf Rules: Repairing your pitch marks correctly" on YouTube.

Repairing Divots: Members are strongly encouraged to fix their divots. This requires sanding the replaced divot, not just replacing it or not just sanding the hole. There are a variety of techniques used. It is important to: firmly replace the divot, sand around its edges, and smooth out the sand.

Tom Barwick, Membership and Participation

WOMEN'S REPORT

The interclub **Scratch Foursomes** competition in the South concluded at the end of August, with finals played at our course. We had finalists in Division 1, Jenny Geappen and Paulla Read, who fought hard but unfortunately lost on the 18th hole to the players from Royal Hobart Golf Club. Marg Leary also played and won with Paulla in Division 1 in the first round.

Our players are looking forward to the **Championships**, which for the first time will be a multi-day event. This is to enable players who are working or studying during the week to participate, with the final day on Tuesday, November 8th. With some forward planning, many of our weekend players will be able to play on that day. It's always a good opportunity for us all to be together, to celebrate the wins and think of what might have been!!!

Our **AGM** was held on October 25th. We have received several nominations for the Committee. Prior to the formal business of the meeting, there were presentations of some trophies. Thanks go especially to Nicky Chapman, who undertook the secretary role in addition to being Vice-Captain after Sally Koltoft moved interstate. Nicky is now our new Captain, and I wish her all the best in that role. The Women's Committee is as follows: Jenny Geappen, President; Felicity Gifford, Secretary; Nicola Chapman, Captain; Patricia Fairbairn, Vice-Captain; Sharyn Finlayson, Treasurer; Mary Kent; Lynne Page; Helen Healy.

Our club has been represented at the **Barclay Shield** final at Ulverstone Golf Club, by Carol Field, Lynne Martin, Jenny Geappen, and Julia Goss. The final was won by players from Thirlstane Golf Club. I believe it was very wet and difficult golf. (More difficult than usual!!). Jan Rodgers represented us on Monday 24th October, in the Silver Spoon Final for the South. This event was held at our club and was won by Vicky Knight from Claremont. Selections were held on Thursday 6th October for the **Bronze Stableford**, to be held at Riverside Golf Club. Two players with handicaps between GA 25.4 and 54.4 were selected to represent the club at the State final on November 14th. They are Ruth Harrison and Cindy Johnston.

For a number of reasons this year, we will not be holding the **Hobart Financial Planning Day**, sponsored by Paul and Jenny Geappen. This day has been an excellent fundraiser for the club and we are very grateful to have had this support from Jenny and Paul. Jenny and Paul are still keen to support the club but this may be in a different format in the future.

Dan's Army.

We often see the volunteers working on Thursdays, and at other times, and really appreciate the fantastic work they do. We are lucky to have a group of people willing to put in their own time for the benefit of all of the club members. A huge thank you to you all, from the women at TGC.

We had a very successful **Melbourne Cup Day** competition and well-attended lunch, with sweeps and a spectacular raffle prize won by Betty Clennett. The best hat competition was won by Deb Huck, with a very creative millinery extravaganza! Special thanks to Gerard and his staff who provided an excellent meal for us all. We appreciate having such flexible hospitality staff who can offer great options for special events when required.

Mackenzie Wilson seems to have settled in well in the US; playing in her first collegiate tournament, the Payne Stewart Memorial she finished in the top 5. We'll follow her progress with interest! The photo below is from Instagram. We also congratulate Mackenzie for her recent hole-in-one. I received the following from her dad Kier, to update us all.

She is very busy with Uni and golf but loving life in the US and is really happy with the move to Wichita. She has had some good results on the golf course finishing 4th in the first tournament, 14th in the second, and 24th in the third, with the team winning the third event which they haven't done in 5 years. Mackenzie has met and exchanged numbers with Katherine Kirk who lives in Wichita.

She has two more events before coming home for Christmas. If anyone would like to keep up to date with her results, Wichita State Athletics have an App (Go Shockers) or <https://goshockers.com/sports/womens-golf>.



Felicity Gifford, Women's Secretary

CLUBHOUSE NEWS

Show Day

The feedback that we have received from our recent Show Day Ambrose event has been extremely positive and certainly gives us a strong platform to work on with future events to ensure they continue to be a key day on the TGC events calendar.

To all the volunteers, sponsors, and those that played on the day, a special thank you to you all. Your support was greatly appreciated.



Restaurant

Our head chef has produced a new menu for the restaurant with some tasty new dishes added to complement some of the tried and trusted items. It has been great to see more members using the restaurant of late and bringing their family and friends in to enjoy the great food and service that we offer.

If you are intending to come in for lunch and dinner, I suggest you book as we are coming into the busy part of the year and have several dates already booked out.

CLUBHOUSE NEWS

On course

Don't forget that there are options for you to order food and drinks on the course ready to collect after 9 or 18. Please call ahead on 6248 5098 and allow up to 20 minutes from when your order is placed to collect from the Spike Bar. Available: Wednesday-Saturday 10:00am-5:00pm and Sunday 10:00am-2:30pm.

Men's Club Championships

It is great to see the vehicles on display in support of our naming rights sponsor, JMC Volkswagen, on the days of the championships and we thank them for their sponsorship.



Gerard Hanks, Operations Manager

SUPERINTENDENT'S COURSE REPORT

Greens have had a second application of sand as of Sept 29th & with the grass growth gradually becoming more active, we would expect daily temperatures to increase over the next month to help the recovery process accelerate. A final light sand dusting was applied to all greens on the 17th & 18th of October. With plenty of rain to help the sand soak in, the greens should be in very good condition throughout the club championships.. Through the leadup to CC, we will lightly groom & broom & roll greens, and gradually lower mowing heights to provide a smooth roll & manageable pace suitable for all players.

We also need to factor in potential windy conditions that often occur throughout late Spring / early Summer. In years past we had adopted a regular sand dusting program which was successful in keeping the putting surfaces firmer with a good smooth roll. We will be re-introducing this program from the end of CC & continuing through into pre-Winter when turf growth slows. This program will be an ongoing part of our regular green maintenance process.

The club has approved the purchase of a Pro-Core machine (pictured below) so we can do regular aeration on greens, surrounds, tees, etc. as required rather than hiring equipment, which isn't always suitable to our preferences & timing. Until that machine arrives, we will schedule in advance a light mini-tine aeration for early Feb & late March & followed by the sand dusting process. This will be preferable to the previously "normal" renovation program of an Autumn & Spring intensive process that takes longer for the recovery process. Other new equipment on order are 2 new roughs mowers, a greens roller, & sprayer. Delivery times are not certain, although the roller is scheduled for late Dec - early Jan. The others are anywhere from 4 weeks to some months. TBA.



Dan Gilligan, Superintendent

Ongoing Improvement

To continue to improve we need to explore new and innovative options regarding: course, hospitality, sponsorship, recruitment of new members, fixtures, membership models, fundraising, increasing course usage and new revenue streams. Members with any ideas or suggestions are encouraged to contact Board members directly, or via the feedback@tasmaniagolfclub.com.au email address.

New Models



Brand new Volkswagen Touaregs available for delivery this year.

Free 5-year Care Plans and drive-away
offers on 2022 models. *

Contact us now to experience the luxury and
refinement of the powerful Volkswagen Touareg.

Find out more at: jacksonvolkswagen.com.au

* Conditions apply.

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