

NEWSLETTER

July 2023



Tasmania
Golf Club

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Hi all,

Welcome to the July 2023 Newsletter. I said this in the last edition (and as Ben has mentioned in his section), but what a very big few months we've had at TGC: the pennant season for both the Men and Women, the Australian Junior Amateur held in April, improvements around the clubhouse and course, a very busy restaurant, the list goes on and on! Everyone has worked extremely hard during this time to ensure events and refurbishments have been smooth and successful, so a massive thank you to you all.

A reminder that 2023-24 Membership Subscription notices were sent out a couple of weeks ago. If you have not received your notice, please contact the office as soon as possible. If you are not continuing your membership, you **MUST** advise the office in writing immediately, to golf@tasmaniagolfclub.com.au.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, our social media pages are one of the best places to stay up to date with what's going on at the club, updates, etc.

Follow our Facebook page 'Tasmania Golf Club' and our Instagram [@tasmaniagolfclub](https://www.instagram.com/tasmaniagolfclub).

Julia Narracott, Editor

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Road Project

Progress remains slow, with the delays caused by the Environment Protection and Biosecurity (EPBC) Act and the acquisition of Airport land on the corner of Pittwater Road. These issues are being dealt with by the Department of State Growth and are outside of our control.

Work is continuing on the development of a report from Jeff Blunden (Golf Business Advisory Services) on levels of compensation for the Club including the Pro-shop as a result of the Road Project.

Course Equipment

With the recent acquisition of the 2 brand new roughs mowers, we have successfully renewed our complete fleet of our major on course equipment from the dilapidated gear that we had in 2015 we now have: Greens Mowers, Surround mowers, Roughs mowers, tractor, tip truck and greens roller that are safe and reliable. For those members that can remember back, this is a huge step forward.

Course Superintendent

Following Dan Gilligan's decision to retire we are in the process of filling the role. The recent advertisements attracted a strong field and are close to making an appointment. I anticipate an announcement next week.

Members Forum

A members Forum will be scheduled in early September. The main focus will be on the Course Management plan. Additionally, members will have the opportunity to discuss the Road Project and any other issues. More on this shortly.

John Milbourne, President

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

It seems every newsletter I'm starting with "It's been a big few months at Tasmania Golf Club". With that in mind, it has been a big few months at Tasmania Golf Club... We have had the completion of the GST Pennant Finals, as well as the GT State Pennant Finals – with the results below:

- Division 1 defeated Claremont 5-2 in the GST Final.
- Division 2 defeated by Huon Valley 4-3 in the GST Final
- Division 3 missed out on the final by 0.5 points, finishing 3rd.
- Division 5 missed out on the final by 1 point, finishing 4th.

Congratulations to all Pennant players for 2023 who represented Tasmania Golf Club, and especially to Josh Spaulding, Eli Monaghan, Paul Read, Andrew Phillips, Dylan Backhouse, Stuart Bonnitcha and Craig Christie for their GST Final win.



Unfortunately, in the State final played over 36 holes at Mowbray Golf Club, our Div 1 team went down to Prospect Vale Golf Club 4-3 – with the result literally down to the final putt. Well done to those who travelled up.

The club's mixed foursomes championship was held in April with 14 pairs competing. Congratulations to Sharon Rooney and Myles Chapman for their gross win, and Helen and Michael Healy for their nett win. There have been discussions in the background looking at ways to increase participation in this event going forward with the hope of increasing the field and creating a great day for all involved.

Tasmania Golf Club also hosted the Australian Junior Amateur Championships in early April 2023. We had a full field of athletes from all over Australia, as well as a scattering of international golfers. Congratulations to Ann Jang (NSW Golf Club) and Zack Swanwick (Napier Golf Club, NZ) for their victories. Congratulations to our members MacKenzie Thomas and Eli Monaghan on their fine performances. A big thank you to all those who provided their time and knowledge to the event.

More recently, congratulations to Nicola Chapman and Paulla Read for winning the Division 1 Scratch Foursomes against Royal Hobart GC, held at Claremont GC. Well done ladies.



Off the course, there has been just as much happening. There has been a working group setup to go through the course masterplan design by Ben Davey. This group consisted of Andrew Phillips, Graeme Corney, Peter Volker, Nicola Chapman, John Milbourne and myself. The majority of conversations so far are about developing core principles for the design around aesthetics, cost of implementation, cost of ongoing maintenance and playability. These discussions have been positive and have been relayed back and forth to the course architect for consideration. One area of interest is between the 15th and 16th holes, and how we can use this to better the hole.

One thought is to have an area of “broken ground” where balls are easily found, but not specifically easily played. This type of area can also be considered between 1,18,16 hole complex instead of (or in conjunction with) currently planned fairway bunker complexes. We are looking at turning the area between 15 and 16 into “broken ground” shortly as a trial to look at all 4 philosophies of aesthetics, cost to implement, cost to maintain and playability.

In conjunction with the above, we have also looked at commencing other work surrounding the course redesign that can be done in-house whilst waiting on the SETS project. The 2 most visually obvious ones at present are

- the all weather synthetic strip on the practice range, this will provide members with benefits now, when the driving range is being redeveloped and down the track and
- the and the redoing of the now 10th tee with a laser level and instant turf. The renovation of this tee is most exciting to me personally, as if successful enables us to rebuild tees across the course in a manner that fits with the future of the club whilst also addressing a major issue raised by members in previous surveys about the condition of the tee beds.

Another major change at TGC is the re-routing of the course in conjunction with the redesign.

As you would be aware on 1 st July the course was re-routed with the 9s flipping along with the re-route of the former back 9 holes (10,11,12->15,16,17->13, 14->18). This is designed to break up the period of up and back holes, as well as removing 3 consecutive par 5 holes for the women. The next step is construction of the forward tees on the now 7th and already constructed forward tee on the 18th.



This will see these holes as par 4s for the women and reduce the par to 72 as is the case for men – resulting in the ability to “de-gendify” tees and simply have front, middle, back, tips. This will take a little extra time and effort specifically around having the course rerated by Golf Australia for handicapping purposes. Following the new routing and Saturday single tee starts at 8 minute intervals we continue to monitor pace of play issues and are reviewing arrangements as we get towards more daylight hours. This will include optimum time intervals and 2 tee starts. The split tees will return in August at 10-minute intervals with the likelihood of reverting to single tee starts for 3 months every year (May, June July) to allow maximum members the ability to play Saturday competitions.

Finally, to finish on a negative, a little gripe about course pride and maintaining our course. During the AJA we had a lot of unrepaired divots to our dismay. Our members were fantastic in repairing these in the weeks following to the stage where the course showed no evidence of the event being held (apart from tee beds...). However, recently, the divot problem is back, and we can't blame AJA or cruise ships – this is a member problem. The new signs shown in the previous newsletter are due to arrive in the upcoming weeks, but remember....



Until next time,

Ben Hayes, Club Captain

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Clubhouse and Surrounds

Parking spots adjacent to the front door of the clubhouse are reserved for senior (>70 years) hospitality customers' usage whilst they are in the restaurant. Members who do not satisfy the above criteria are advised NOT to park in these spots when playing golf.

Work has recently been completed in the carpark to repair a 90 sqm section of the carpark which had broken down.

Welcome to Phil Heaton our new part-time Maintenance Officer. The role will focus on clubhouse presentation and ensuring our utilities are operating properly. Another priority will be to manage a major clean-up and rubbish collection involving both the clubhouse and rubbish piles/collections adjacent to the entry road repair

A quote has been accepted for roof work to fix buggy room leaks and front gutter leaks. This repair has taken place during the first weekend of July. The camera security system is currently being examined with a view to upgrading the system to provide greater coverage including 1st and 10th tees.

The fire detection/monitoring system is currently being examined with a view to adding smoke detectors. Many thanks to Leigh Finlayson for his ongoing assistance.

Many of the clubhouse lights are very old fluoro tubes which are expensive to replace and "run" versus LED lights. The halogen spotlights are also expensive to "run". A project is underway to consider and cost transition to 100% LED.

An assessment of the extremely deteriorated clubhouse roof window frames is also underway to identify an appropriate resolution.

Annual General Meeting

The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 24th October 2023.

Reports from the Board will be tabled including important updates on the state of our finances, the South East Traffic Solution/highway project and the Course Master Plan.

As per our constitution 3 of the Board positions and the President's role will be open. This means that current incumbents may re-nominate and/or new nominations invited. Nominations will open in early August.

Pedestrian Safety

For safety reasons and for courtesy of others, members are reminded that carts are not to be driven through the covered way between the pro-shop and clubhouse doors.

Please ensure that carts are driven around the putting green outside the flag poles when moving to the 1st tee and from the 9th green to the 10th tee.

Andrew Todd, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

A "draft" Profit and Loss report for the year just finished, FY2023 has been completed. All revenues showed an increase over the prior year: Green Fees were up 36%; bar trading up 17%; and kitchen up 20%. Despite extra expenses for improvements and repairs and maintenance around the clubhouse and for the purchase of some course equipment, we have come in ahead of budget. Savings included water and interest costs.

Purchases through the year included some second-hand equipment: a tipper truck, Toro workman, and greens roller as well as two new roughs' mowers and a new greens roller. Given the increasing demand for motorised carts, we also purchased four more of these.

With the current level of inflation and significant cost increases, the Club needs to be vigilant and look at ways we can maintain our strong financial position. While our cash position fluctuates, we currently have \$250,000 in the bank earning interest.

Les Hadley, Treasurer

JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT

Salamanca Inn Junior Scholarship

A round of applause for the winners of the Salamanca Inn Junior Scholarships, Mackenzie Thomas and Koby Wegman. They have shown exceptional talent and dedication to the game of golf, earning them this well-deserved recognition.

But the journey doesn't end here. To all young golfers out there, take inspiration from these rising stars and let your passion for golf soar high! Let's keep swinging and encourage more juniors to embrace the game of golf!



We have had an extremely productive couple of months or so for junior golf, namely hosting a junior clinic ran by PGA member Adam Holden and sponsored by Nick White and the Tasmania Pro Shop which took place during Australian Junior Amateur championship. The clinic was a great success, with 14 My Golf junior golf members taking part in the two-hour clinic, which saw participants take part in a range of long game activities on the range before moving to the practice green to practice their short game skills. On behalf of Tasmania Golf Club, we would like to thank Golf Tasmania, Golf Australia, Adam Holden, Nick White, and parents who made the clinic possible.

Additionally, Tasmania Golf club have also welcomed Powercom as a major junior sponsor going forward, Powercom Junior Holiday clinics will be hosted each school holidays for Golf Tasmania My golf junior participants. The first two Powercom junior holiday clinics were hosted on Monday the 24th of April and Monday 17th July, and were a great success. The Holiday clinics allow junior participants to develop their skills in a relaxed and accessible environment. PGA Member Adam Holden will host each clinic with future dates to be provided.



Liam Tollard-Williams, Junior Development

ON COURSE ACHIEVEMENTS

Following the re-routing of the course the first hole-in-one occurred on the 17th (old 8th) by Max Coventry. A few days later, course stalwart David King also had a hole in one. Congratulations to Max and Dave. Don't forget to tag us in your Facebook or Instagram posts if you do get a hole in one!



WOMEN'S CLUB CAPTAIN REPORT

In June, the Golf Southern Tasmania Scratch Foursomes were held over 3 weeks. Our club entered 3 divisions this year: unfortunately, Div 2 women lost in the 1st round and Div 3 women lost in the 2nd round, but Div 1 won 3/2 with Paulla Read and Nicola Chapman winning the final against Royal Hobart Golf Club at Claremont Golf Club. Thank you to those women who played in the competition.

Paulla Read was selected to join other women in the North vs South Plate competition; it was great to have a Tasmania GC player in this competition, which is for women with handicaps of 15 or less. Unfortunately, the southern team lost the competition.

In this year's pennant we entered teams in 3 divisions. Our Div 2 team went close to competing in the final. At the end of the pennant competition the women who played pennant had a Pennant Lunch together.



Last year we lost a long-time member Chris Doonan, so we recently held a Memorial Day for her and other members we have lost. We played a par plus, one of Chris' favourite games, and we had a donation box from which the women raised \$207 to donate to the Cancer Council. Thank you to all who contributed on that day.

From funds raised from the Hobart Financial Planning invitation day and the monthly Medal raffles, the women have purchased new chairs for the seating outside the putting green. They have arrived and have now been placed. Happy golfing.

Nicola Chapman, Women's Club Captain

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

Would you be interested?

The TGC ladies' committee is looking at ways to help all of our members improve all aspects of their golf game & knowledge. The following proposals have been suggested.

Ladies Golf Development Day

Proposal 1 – Would be held on a Tuesday morning, starting around 8:30, and would include the following:

- On-course Clinic with our golf pros for about an hour and a half.
Depending on the numbers, there would possibly be two groups. Pros would endeavour to pass on tips for better golf, touch on general rules, etiquette, care of the course and how to keep up a good pace of play.
- This would be followed by morning tea
- Then a fun 9-hole golf competition with a few shenanigans & prizes to enjoy the day.

Twilight Ambrose Competition (9 holes) & Golf Quiz Night - Open to Both Ladies & Men

Proposal 2 – This would probably occur on a Friday night perhaps late Jan/Early Feb

- Would be a 4pm start with a 9-hole Ambrose Competition with teams of 8. Your team score will be adjusted by how well your team (table) does in the Golf Knowledge Quiz. So if you've all had an average game of golf, you can redeem yourselves by having a good quiz score. Perform well and you can win points to come off your golf score and win the game.
- Would endeavour to pull out the wine, cheese & crackers - maybe some oysters around 6 pm. People could order a meal from the restaurant if they would like to.
- Quiz would start around 7ish.

The aim of this proposal is to get everyone brushing up on their golf knowledge, rules & trivia in a fun format.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call me, Sharyn Finlayson on 0488 044 648, or ask one of our lady committee members.

Look forward to hearing any other ideas or suggestions.

Sharyn Finlayson, Women's Committee

CLUBHOUSE NEWS

Restaurant

Wow! What a big couple of months we have had in the restaurant.

We continue to receive great feedback from diners and with many of these advising that they have heard about us from family and friends, so the word is spreading fast what a great place TGC is to come and dine.

July is also looking rather busy with many people coming out for our Christmas in July menu that we are offering throughout the month (please advise when making a booking if you wish to order from this menu).

Why not come in and see what people are talking about?

Staff

Due to increased growth in the business, we continue to add to our staffing levels.

You will see a couple of new faces behind the bar so please make them feel welcome and we are adding another chef to our kitchen team. The new chef's name is Robert Gregg, and he will be joining us from the Horseshoe Inn. We believe that Robert will be of valuable assistance to our head chef Andrew, who along with the rest of his team, have been working tirelessly to ensure TGC continues to offer a high standard of food.

Weddings/Parties/Functions

The last few months have seen us host a range of special occasions.

If you have an event coming up, why not contact us

operations@tasmaniagolfclub.com.au to see what we are able to offer.

Mother's Day Lunch

What a great result from our recent Mother's Day lunch. With over 140 people in attendance and the potential to have plenty more if we had the space, the feedback received both on the day and since was extremely positive. A great job from all staff involved on the day.

Father's Day Lunch

Save the date, Sunday 3rd September.

Menu is now available to view on our website, and we suggest to book in early to avoid disappointment.

Live music at TGC

We recently tried some live music at TGC and what a great response. This, along with a tapas themed menu (alongside our regular restaurant menu) and some bar specials seen just over 80 people in for dinner alongside some of our members on the bar side enjoying what we had on offer.

This has given us the confidence to try this again and we will be giving it another go on Friday 11th August.

Music will be provided by Louise Goich and Paul Byrne.

There will be a beer tasting on the night courtesy of guys at The Albert Brewery and the kitchen team will be coming up with more specials for the night as well. If last time was any indication, I would suggest to get a table together and make your booking as soon as possible.

Home Hill Wine Dinner

Friday 28th July sees us host a dinner with Bec from Home Hill Winery. The dinner will involve a 4-course menu (canape, entrée main and dessert) along with wine from Home Hill and some great insight from Bec. Menu and pricing will be on our website under the restaurant tab. Spots are limited, so don't leave it too late to book.

Salamanca Inn Junior Scholarships

Through the generosity of member Phil Fuglsang, Manager of the Salamanca Inn, we have introduced scholarships for two of our leading juniors (1 x female and 1 x male).

We are pleased to advise that the scholarship winners for 2023/24 are Mackenzie Thomas and Koby Wegman.

Each recipient will receive the following thanks to Phil and his team at Salamanca Inn:

- Membership of TGC for 2023/24
- A premium logoed shirt and cap
- A premium logoed golf bag
- Assistance and support with their golfing journey
- Name on the Salamanca Inn Junior Scholarship honour board

The Salamanca Inn Scholarship has been established to recognise and support our most promising young golfers, providing golf equipment and incentives to assist in pursuing their golfing aspirations. Thanks again Phil for your continued support.

As the 2022/23 financial year has now ended, I would like to thank all staff, members and the Board who have assisted in making the last year a success and look forward to your continued support.

Gerard Hanks, Operations Manager