



GLADES GOLF TALK

MELVILLE GLADES GOLF CLUB INC., BEASLEY ROAD, LEEMING
Email: admin@melvilleglades.com Ph: 08 9332 7333 Fax: 08 9332 7989

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From the President - Bill Heron

The 2008 Golf Season is now well underway and I hope that Members have been able to get plenty of golf in whilst we have had comparatively fine conditions.

Your Board has been actively pursuing an acceptable Course design that will allow a methodical update to a course that has largely remained unchanged since 1968, The most recent and hopefully the last iteration is now on display in the Club Foyer.

The revised design seeks to introduce some modern concepts that will provide more variety to the par 3 and 4 holes in particular as well as addressing some safety concerns that have developed with the introduction of modern equipment and the length that many golfers are now achieving. Members are encouraged to carefully examine the proposed design now on display, a briefing night to explain the rationale behind the changes and to receive Member comments will be held towards the middle of July.

The Men's Pennants have now started and this is the Club's first time in A Grade for many years. It is unfortunate that for a number of reasons four of our winning team from last year are not available for all or part of the Season but this will create a chance for some of the younger players to put their hand up. I am sure the Players will appreciate it if any Member was to come along to watch them during the short season.

The Ladies Pennant Team continue to enjoy success in their Pennants and we all hope for another Pennant soon.

Directors have given more specific comments on their portfolios elsewhere in this Newsletter and I commend their comments to you.

Good luck and good health to all Members for the rest of the 2008 season.

House Directors Report

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members for giving me the chance to be Director of House at our great golf club. It is indeed a most rewarding and challenging position, as I work with the support of an enthusiastic and energetic committee to plan a variety of exciting social functions, for all members to enjoy.

The Mothers Day Luncheon proved to be a success and we are certain that all the Mums who were present enjoyed the treat of having a meal prepared for them as well as their champagne gift. A lovely way to celebrate their very special day.

It is pleasing to see lots of members on Friday evenings, all no doubt hoping to win the maddeningly elusive jackpot; surely it must be drawn soon. Of course as many of you know the jackpot went off on Friday July 4th. Congratulations to the lucky winner whom I am delighted to report was a regular Friday evening visitor.

Of course there are other raffles on offer on Friday nights and you don't even have to buy a ticket to win some of the prizes, you just need to be there.

I hope that you are enjoying the new Friday evening buffets, and delighting in watching our chef carve the roast meat. Please remember that your guests are always welcome to attend any of our social functions and in fact we encourage all our members to use this facility, as it will only enhance the services we are trying to implement at the Club.

It was most pleasing to see so many members and their friends at our recent Quiz Night, and as all those who attended this fun night agreed the balloons were an enormous success. I do thank you for your support. This support, coupled with the generosity of many members who so willingly donated prizes and time, resulted in a most profitable evening. Your House Committee was absolutely delighted with the result, well done and a big thank you to you our members. Also congratulations to the winning teams.

I am sorry to announce that we decided to cancel Christmas in July, however we hope to bring you lots of exciting functions later on in the year.

The members of the House Committee hope that you have all enjoyed the first half of this year and look forward to sharing even more fun times with you all in the latter part of 2008. See you at the Club House

Trish Ditz—House Chairperson

Pro Shop Report

We are happy to officially welcome Richard Ball to our staff in the role of Teaching Professional, who we feel very fortunate to have on our team. Richard is a current member of the Australasian PGA Tour and has been playing successfully as a tour professional for the last 10 years. He won the SA PGA and led the NSW PGA after the first round with a score of 62. He has worked as a teaching professional at Castle Hill Golf Club in Sydney and at Mt Lawley Golf Club here in Perth. A beautiful new daughter Emma has lured him to spend more time at home and 'get a real job'!

Richard's primary role is to increase our teaching capacity to 7 days a week so that you can come for a lesson when it's convenient. Richard will also focus on bringing in non-members via clinics and individual lessons, as well as working in the shop. Our hope is that this will generate greater demand for membership. So if you have any friends who need help with their golf or might be interested in learning via a clinic, please get in touch with the pro shop staff.

**Ritchie Smith
Head Professional**



MATCH

Well that's the fastest three months I can ever remember. There have been a lot of suggestions ushered around and most if not all are in hand for review and possible change. However one thing is certain the changes won't happen in 5 minutes and I know that is frustrating but unfortunately that is how the wheel turns. The main concerns appear to be with Sunday golf, Presentations and dare I say it "SLOW PLAY".

Slow play is the oldest chestnut in this club and when you talk to Members they claim that when they play at other clubs it never happens, well I can tell you that it does.

The biggest contributor to slow play is television. You may laugh but it's true. We have many players that stand behind the ball and "picture the shot" but it turns into a full length movie, people who "plumb bob" their puts from 1 foot to 75 feet, people who want to look at a putt from back, front, sideways and across before missing it.....again. All those things are what the pro's do and unfortunately many people mimic them but half the time they don't even know what to look for but the pro's do it so it must be good.

If you have played here for 3 or more years on a regular basis you should know the greens like the back of your hand and it should only take a few seconds to confirm your knowledge and pick a spot to aim at. It shouldn't take 1 - 1 1/2 minutes to miss a putt, we can miss them much faster than that, I know we can. We lose too much time on the greens. If each group can save 45 - 60 seconds on every green that's about 15+ minutes less per round.

Sundays have always been a problem as there are no office staff working to process cards and prepare the presentation sheet because Sunday is not part of their working week. We also seem to have issues with the small trade groups that play on Sunday's and whilst they are important to us we are looking at better ways to accommodate them and our Members who wish to play on Sunday mornings.

Pennants will be underway by the time you read this and I hope you have been able to go along and support our players, both senior and junior. We have lost some of our more experienced players which means that as we are now in division one they will have their work cut out but I know they will give it their best and I wish them every success.

The Seniors Amateur Championship was a great success with many compliments on the course and some raving reviews about Nancy's various burgers and roast beef and gravy rolls. Well done Phil and Nancy. I am sure we will run this event again next year and achieve even better results.

Unfortunately the Men's Foursomes event was cancelled due to a lack of support. We will try to reschedule the event later in the year, hopefully with many more nominations.

Results of major events played to date are:

Seniors Amateur Championship: Alex Cleave (LKCC)

Diggers Cup Winner: Lindsay O'Meara.

Matchplay Champion: Mike Lee

Founders Cup Winner: Bruce Lee Steere

Melville Glades Amateur Open: Matt Jager (MGGC)

Champion of Champions: Matt Jager (MGGC)

Peter Doherty
Mens Captain



NEW MEMBERS

Welcome!

NEW MEMBERS NIGHT
Tuesday 12th August
Keep an eye out for your Invitation

FROM THE **GENERAL MANAGER'S DESK**

Thank you to all of the Members who have made me feel very welcome since my arrival. Members will have seen a number of new faces around the place in the last 6 months, so please make welcome Andrew Calverley (F&B Manager) and his assistant Aleysha Campbell, Brendan Gill has moved on and will be replaced soon by Liz Brennan in the Administration area. We have trialed a new concept for the newsletter delivery, as feedback from Members has been positive to the electronic process with Email, use of our website and hard copies being available around the clubhouse. If you want a copy posted, please call Administration on 9332 7332 and we will send one out in the mail for you..

A big thank you to those who attended the recent Members Information Night relating to the Course Improvements the Club will be undertaking in the future. We hope you had your queries answered..

Kind Regards
Mike Brunswick—General Manager

Ladies Captain

The year to date!

Even with the cold weather and rain the fields on Tuesdays and Thursdays have been very good with an average of 90 ladies playing with some very good scores.

This year the ladies had two teams in the Outer Suburban Pennant competition and one team in the Metropolitan competition. While we didn't win a pennant the teams were all very competitive and enthusiastic. Thank you to all players and caddies.

For the first time in many a year the ladies played a Russian Stableford. It was a success and there are plans to make a Russian Stableford competition a regular fixture.

The 36 hole Foursomes Championships was held on 26th June and the gross winners were Lea Mias and Sue Plug and the Tee Tree Gully Plate (36 hole nett) was won by Nena Katnic and Lois Lively. All who played should be congratulated on successfully completing such a tough competition.

The Club Championships commence on 5th August with two rounds of stroke and 3 rounds of match play. If the entries received so far are any indication we should have a very successful Championship. Jemma Partridge will be defending her title.

32 ladies went to Manjimup and played in the Regional Seniors. Melville Glades was well represented in the winners circle and the usual good time was had by all and we can't wait for Harvey next year.

Judy Wootliff, Janice Bonser and Mary St Peter have joined the Hole in One Club and are to be heartily congratulated.

If the rest of the year is any indication of the good golf so far then we are in for a great year.

Good golfing.

Jan O'Meara—Ladies Captain



From the Course Superintendent

In this edition of the club news letter I would like to go over a few items.

The grass trees that died over the summer have been replaced with stock from the bushfire area on the 17th.

This winter season we have used a pre emergent chemical to control winter grass on fairways. This means it will control the winter grass before it germinates. Winter grass is an annual weed that will always be with us as there is no permanent solution.

This year the problem of winter grass on fairways is much better due to the switch of chemicals.

You will have noticed a lot of activity on the 8th fairway during the past week. This is the new temporary green and tee to be used during the course upgrade. The green will be Penn G2 bent grass.

The tee will be winter green couch.

There will be a temporary green constructed also on the 13th for later use.

The new nursery will serve us well over the course up grade period and well into the future eliminating the need to lift grass from around the course.

We are now moving closer to starting the course upgrade and I am hoping any work done on the course will cause minimal inconvenience to playing members.

At times there will be heavy machinery moving about the course and at all times the players will have the right of way.

However I urge all players to use good safety principles and be aware of large earthmoving equipment when playing in areas of the course where work is in progress.

I trust together we will get through this stage with out any problems.

Phil Moylan

Junior Report

We currently have 15 juniors with a handicap of 10 or less and 2 of our junior girls, Aimee Woosnam and Whitney Harvey have recently been selected in the 2008 State Schools Girls Team to play at Yoon in Queensland. Congratulations to you both.

Congratulations also to the following juniors selected in this years pennant teams. Josh Van Vogel Poel and Jayden Putland both selected in our Senior A Pennant Team.

Michael Houwen (Junior Captain), Paul Dawson, Daniel O'Connor, Michael Manley, Justin Quah, Rhys Werndly, Aiden Tuana, Cameron Symonds, Julian Netto, Stewart Rankin and Todd Hepden will make up our Junior Pennant Team.

It has been great to see the senior members that have a junior in their groups, helping and assisting with their development and education. All of our Juniors are willing to listen and learn from you our senior members. The juniors are the future of our Club so your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

I know I mention this every news letter but the sponsorship of senior members for our Junior Sunday Competitions is gratefully appreciated and accepted with thanks.

On behalf of the junior committee, also wish all our members of our Pennant teams, good luck and good golfing.

Kevin Hills
Vice Captain

Course Report

Thank you.

Every time a golfer ventures on to a golf course, it is inevitable that damage will be caused when playing shots. Divots on the fairways and in the rough, pug marks on the greens and feet marks and divots in the bunkers and so on. To those members that make every effort, every time, to repair their damage, a Big

Thank You.

There are also members at Melville Glades that are very conscious of how easy it is to accidentally damage areas around and or to the hole on our greens. Either by flag sticks not being carefully replaced in the hole or with their hands as they remove the ball after sinking their put or by standing too close to the actual hole which damages the surface.

To all of those members that are always very careful when coming in contact with the hole on the green, again a Big **Thank You.**

The careful members are those that recognise that there will always be someone coming behind them who will play on our tees, fairways, bunkers and greens that have every right to expect the entire course to be in the very best condition possible.

However, regretfully we also do have some members that fall outside the careful kind who can be very careless and can cause damage to the course in many ways which if not repaired by them will spoil our golf course which disappoints us all.

Interestingly, when one member does neglect their responsibilities when playing in a competition, there will usually be two or three other members with them who watch what they do and say nothing!!!!

It amazes me how the plastic sand containers on the men's par three tees can get smashed with a golf club after one player hits a bad shot and when they are left in bits and pieces all over the tees, it appears other players in the group have turned a blind eye.

It is up to all of us to play our part. I know it can be hard to remind another player what is required, but sometimes it needs doing, maybe they didn't know what they did was wrong. Sand containers aside. During the wetter months it is necessary that we paint blue traffic control lines around the greens. These are not to be crossed by any form of wheeled buggy wherever possible.

If you are in the careful category, well done and **Thank you.**

Otherwise if you feel you could do more in any way at all, either by repairing your own damage, damage left un-repaired by someone else or by encouraging others to do right thing, then you will certainly leave a more favourable mark on our golf course that will be appreciated by everyone.

Be keen to be seen doing your bit, it's not hard and everyone will benefit.

Thank you. **Rob Smith—Director Course**

REMINDER—HALF MOIETY

Members are reminded that as at 1 July, all monies outstanding are due to be paid. This includes payments from Members who choose the Half Moiety Payments.

Please contact the General Manager if you have any concerns over the payment of your fees.

Melville Glades Golf Club gratefully acknowledges our Club Sponsors for 2007

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Membership and Marketing

It is the aim of the Membership Committee to increase the number of members by up to 100.

As at the 10th June 2008, Memberships are currently 1,018 (men 800, ladies 218). (2007 was 1026 - 813 men and 213 women).

The fall in memberships of Golf Clubs is a world wide phenomenon, so we must look for new ways of attracting members.

Australian society is changing and we need to be alert to these changes if we are to attract new members (e.g. The birthrate is falling; the household is shrinking; young Australians are getting married later, etc. etc.)

Factors that contribute to these changes include:

(a) **Availability of Men and Women**

Thirty years ago young couples would regard having children as a normal expectation and would start having a family in their early twenties. In those days almost 90% of Australians were married by the age of 30 and 90% of births were to women under 30. (Both these figures have since dipped below 50%). Hence parents are tied down at a later stage in their life.

(b) **Availability of Women**

Twenty years ago 57% of women in their twenties were in the workforce. Today it is 75%.

76% of women in their fifties are now in the workforce compared with 52% in 1986.

(c) **Grandparents** (Historically a key source of memberships).

The current generation of grandparents has created one of the most formidable army of volunteers Australia has ever seen. In their teens thousands they are the unpaid helpers who make the lives of many of today's working mothers manageable.

In many cases this deprives the grandparents from playing golf on a regular basis.

(d) **Housing** (a positive)

About 50% of all Australian households now contain only one or two people. The low birthrate and high divorce rate (especially among older people) both contribute to smaller households.

By 2026 the ABS predicts that 34% of all Australian households will contain just one person and the average household will be down to 2.2 persons.

With little or no gardens or family to worry about, there should be more time for golf.

We welcome input from members with ideas on how to attract new members. You can email me on dgore@bigpond.net.au or go direct to the Club.

Don't forget that with the introduction of a new member you receive a discount on your fees for the following year.

Daryl Gore
Vice President and Chairman of Membership
and Public Relations