

Sandgate Golf Club Newsletter

13 February 2016

The Committee would like to welcome everyone to the 2016 golf season at Sandgate. We hope you had a great festive season and are looking forward to playing good golf in the coming year.

Welcome to new members – Welcome to all new members of the Club over the last few months. We hope you all enjoy your experience at Sandgate and hope you find many new friends amongst us.

Opening Day - The Opening Day of the 2016 Season was held on Saturday 30th January. The Honour board event was won by Ms Vivienne Lloyd and Ms Annette Seeto for the ladies and Pat Brohman and Alan Schwartz for the men. The event was sponsored by our Club Patron, Mr. Greg Lane who came down to present the winners with their prizes at the end of the day. Congratulations to the 4 winners and thanks to Greg for the prizes and for coming down to the Club to present them on Saturday afternoon.

Sandgate Cup – Will be held for the men on **Saturday April 9th**. As per previous years this is a major fundraising event for the Club. Visitors are welcome and we are likely to have a full field for the event. We will need assistance with doing some jobs on the day, even an hour or so would be appreciated. If you are able to help out on the day, please place your name on a list that will be placed on a notice board in the Clubhouse in the next couple of weeks. More details on this will follow as the date draws closer.

8th Green redevelopment – Thank you for your patience whilst we wait for the 8th green to stabilise and improve from the recent redevelopment. As you might be aware, the work is being done in stages to limit the amount of disruption to the hole. It is coming along well. Eventually the cart path will be taken away from the green towards the fairway bunker and then around the back of the green so that the landing zone in front of the green will not be unduly worn by traffic.

Water update – As you would all be aware by now, our course is being watered with the water taken from the underground water source near the 7th fairway. It is stored in the huge 252,000 tank near the 1st tee and is currently being used to water the tees, greens and fairways during the week. Steve Jeffery advises that at the moment we are using 65,000 litres, twice a week to water the tees and greens and 70,000 litres to water the fairways, also twice a week. No town water is currently being used on the course at all!! Up until late last year we didn't have the ability (couldn't afford it) to water the fairways, and we were just watering the tees and greens using town water. So the next water bill we receive should be dramatically cut and of course the presentation of the course continues to be maintained to a high standard, that we are starting to get used to. Things should only continue to improve as Steve's team look at improving areas that need leveling and grassing areas that are patchy and bare. Thanks to the State Government for the Grant, this will hopefully ensure that we can a) keep the grass we have on the fairways alive that has traditionally died off during the drier months and b) improve the quality of the course over all for many years to come.

Greens program – The greens are currently being rolled once a week and are mowed every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and on Project Days. Bunkers are also raked on these days as well. Steve advises that he and the Team have 1 ton of gypsum and fertiliser in the shed ready to go when required. At the moment the team is struggling to keep the grass under control on the fairways, which is certainly a nice problem to have now we have a good, cheap water supply.

Speed of play – We have all heard it before. "It's not me, it is my playing partners". "It's my day and I will take as long as I like". "The group in front are running". There are a number of reasons for a group to fall behind, but despite those reasons there are two things every golfer should remember. Your place in the field is right behind the group in front, not just in front of the group behind, and developing an awareness of what is going around you. If your group is falling

behind then the first two players to putt out should go on ahead and tee off on the next hole. We need to very conscious of this fact as we move into the cooler months as the daylight hours drop off and traditionally the number of players we have on the course increases. Thanks for your attention to this very important issue!

Fixture Book – The 2016 Fixture booklet was issued last week. Thanks for the feedback that some of you liked the new larger size as it is a bit easier to read, and of course the others that preferred the smaller size of previous years. This year the cost to the Club for the Fixture Book was nothing, so we have saved quite a few hundred dollars this year by not getting them professionally printed in the smaller size. Those members with access to the internet will also be able to view the Fixture Book on the website in the very near future, and also the “Monthly Calendar” which appears when you click on the “Fixtures” Tab on the website. This will be kept up to date as we move through the year. Please note there was an error made in the Fixture book for the Men’s Pennants team. On both Sunday August 14th and 21st the starting times of the matches are 7am and not 11am. My apologies for the error, and sorry Donny no you can’t start at 11am!

Pro Pin – It was raised at the AGM in December that some members did not realise that the proceeds of the “Pro Pin” in the Saturday competitions actually go to assisting the Pennant’s Team when they compete later in the year. For just \$1 you have the chance to win 6 Titleist Golf Balls if you finish up closest to the Pin on the nominated hole of the day. This is open to both men and ladies.

Monthly Medal Barbeque – Whilst we talk about Fundraising, a huge thank you to Gavan and Trent Knapp, Bruce Andrews and the other helpers from time to time who help out by hosting the Sausage Sizzle on Monthly Medal days. Last Saturday the profit was around \$180, which has brought the total profit for all of the barbeques to over \$2,000 since Gavan and Trent started them. This money goes straight to the Club and of course is used to help improve the quality of facilities provided at the Club and on the Course. Thanks to Gavan for a great idea!

Committee for 2016 – Thanks to the following people who are representing you by being on the Management Committee for the Club for the current year. Please feel free to talk to one of the Committee if you have an item to discuss or an idea to share – we are here to help you as best we can.

President - Peter Watson	Vice President - Lex Hughes
Treasurer - Peter Coddington	House Director - Kevin Madsen
Course Director - Steve Jeffery	Mens Captain - Brett Forrest
Ladies Captain - Vicki Gannon	Mens Vice Captain - Col Gilmore
Ladies Vice Captain - Diana Little	Handicap Manager - Bob Gannon

Website – Our website www.sandgategc.com.au is being maintained again this year with details of the competitions to be played in the coming months. Another popular page to visit is the “Results Page” which contains a listing of all the previous competitions held over the last 18 months or so. New results will be posted online before 7pm on Saturday evenings following the competition and as soon as I can get them uploaded during the week. This newsletter is also displayed on the website, click on the “Home” page and then “2016 Newsletters”.

Guests - Saturday's Competition is for members and their guests only. Guests must be accompanied by the member who has asked them to play with them. Visitors must have a current AGU Handicap to play.

Car park – The Committee has noticed the difficulty in getting a car park and how many cars are being parked on the footpath in Friday Street, especially during the transition between the morning and afternoon fields on a Saturday morning. At the Committee meeting held on Tuesday, the Committee decided to get a plan drawn up (hopefully by an experienced member of the Club) to redesign the car park so that we can maximise the space available to us. This may

include removing the gardens and shrubbery in the middle and towards the boundary fence that we share with the houses. This should open it up more and allow more cars to park in the same space. The Committee decided to set aside \$10,000 in Funds to be used in the next Financial Year to remove the gardens, level the car park and spread "Road Base" over the new areas. If Funds allow, this may be commenced earlier in the year. More to come in the near future!

Course maintenance – Unfortunately it has come to the Committee's attention that some member's are not carrying a sand bucket with them and repairing their divots when playing on the course. With the course looking so good at the moment, we want to keep it that way and we ask all members to please abide by this request. Please also encourage those in your playing group to follow this rule if you see that they have forgotten to repair their divot during your round. Also the bunkers are not being raked by our own members. We initially thought it was a Friday afternoon social group problem, but our President and of late our Apprentice Groundskeeper Trent, have both raked the bunkers first thing on a Saturday morning and when they have returned an hour or so later, it has been noted that there are footprints in them which have not been raked. Again, please encourage your playing partners to rake up after themselves if you notice that they are in a bunker and don't use the rake when they have played their shot. It is only common courtesy to do these things to keep the course in as good condition as we can. We appreciate your assistance with this!

Motorised carts and single person buggies – Quite a few Committee members, staff and even other member's have told me about some members being seen driving single person buggies across the fringes of the greens (2nd / 11th) (4th / 13th) for example and the motorized carts as well (particularly on the back of the 7th green near the 8th tee). Another area of concern is where the men have been seen driving across the ladies 18th tee, which is directly in front of the Men's 9th tee. These actions are all causing unnecessary wear and tear on high traffic areas and the Committee would like to remind all players that it is their responsibility at all times to keep motorized carts at least 10 metres from all tees and greens (except where a designated path exists). Single person buggies should never be ridden on a green, or the fringe of a green – please go around. Action will be taken when people are seen to be not following these rules from now on.

Facebook – A Sandgate Golf Club page has existed on Facebook for some time, but only late last year was it "taken over" by the Committee and it is now under our control. This means that we can use this page to advertise our course a bit better, both on Facebook and of course to the local community. We also plan to recognise major competition winners to the Club's members and to their Facebook friends, which we did for the winners of the Opening Day Event on Saturday 30th January. So if you or your partner/spouse is "on" Facebook, please "like" the Club's page and you will receive a notification when we post something on the site. A great way to keep in touch with what is happening at YOUR Club!



We hope you all have an enjoyable year of golf at Sandgate this year!

Brett Forrest
Mens Captain

Vicki Gannon
Ladies Captain

(On behalf of the Management Committee).

