

Sandgate Golf Club Newsletter

18 April 2015

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 2015 Season was held on Saturday 31st January. This event was an honour board event and is sponsored by our Club Patron, Mr. Greg Lane, a Solicitor in Sandgate. The 4BBB Stableford event with trophies for both men and ladies was won this year by Rod Ashman & Jeff McGrady with a score of 46 points. Sue Henningsen and Bev Cox won the ladies trophy on a count back with a score of 38 points. Well done to you all!

Sandgate Cup – Was held last weekend on **Saturday April 11th**. It was a very successful day with 123 players from Sandgate, Nudgee, Bribie Island, Yeppoon, Gales, Ashgrove, Rowes Bay and Parkwoods Golf Clubs taking part. The winner this year (for the third year in a row) came from the Nudgee Golf Club, Mr David Edwards. David often plays in our monthly Project Days so he is a fellow well known to Club. Congratulations David! Runner up this year was Mr Michael Jeffery (Steve's brother) from the Yeppoon Golf Club. The best Gross score went to Mr Russell Skennerton of the Ashgrove Golf Club on a count back.

No shows on our number one day of the year – A disappointing side to this great event, was that 8 members from our own Club failed to show after having had their names down to play. We heard from one member who had extenuating circumstances and there was some confusion over another, but the other 6 members we didn't hear from at all. This was extremely disappointing as we had 8 members and visitors on a waiting list that we could have called as late as Friday afternoon and offered them a tee slot, if we had some advance notice that these 6 or 7 gentlemen would not turn up at their allotted time. This cost the Club \$120 in lost competition fees alone, with more money in BBQ sales, drinks, raffle tickets etc, so all up it cost the Club around \$200 in lost revenue.

Something similar happened at the Trophy/Christmas Function/Dance night last year so this has led the Committee to make the decision that next year we will insist that the Sandgate Cup competition fees will be **payable 7 days before the Cup** is held and will be non refundable for people who do not show up on the day. We regret that this step is necessary but the Committee has a duty to ensure that we have a full field, to allow everyone who wants to play in the Cup to play and to also maximise our takings on the Club's biggest day of the year.

Having said that, the Match Committee was extremely happy with the way the day was run and a huge thank you to everyone who did something to help make the day a success. This included people acting as marshals, took the comp fees, started the field, cooked the BBQ, sold drinks, wrote up the results on the board, stayed until the presentation etc. **THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED ON THE DAY**, especially the ladies who didn't play but still came down to lend a hand!!

A special mention must also be made about how great our course looks at present and how it was presented on the day. This is of course thanks to the wonderful rain that Mother Nature has given us in the last couple of months, but also due to all the wonderful work Steve Jeffery and his team (Kevin Green, Lindsay Sundgren, Kevin Madsen when time permits and the newly appointed trainee Trent Knapp) have been doing to improve the course and having it look as good as it does. WELL DONE TEAM – we appreciate your efforts!

5th GREEN – It was great to be able to use our new 5th green for the first time instead of the temporary one at the front. As I am sure you all appreciate it will still take a few more weeks or so for this green to fully stabilise and become a top

quality green like our 9th / 18th has. Thanks to all for your patience and understanding whilst this occurs and for enduring the temporary green in the lead up to the opening of the new green.

Water update – The Committee has undertaken further investigations with regard to the bore water situation, with the latest report suggesting that the quality of the water has improved since the first test was undertaken last year (when the Brisbane area was in the grip of a major dry spell and the surface water in the dams had almost disappeared). With this good news in mind and the fact that we have the opportunity to submit another grant application, the Committee has agreed to submit a grant for approx \$35,000. If the application is successful, the Committee will further consider using the money from this grant to assist to fund the purchase and instillation of a 252,000 litre storage tank to hold the water from the underground bore that is situated near the pond which runs between the fairway and the railway line of the 7th fairway. If successful, we would then have the facility to store water from the bore when the water is of good quality and use the water to sustain the course during the dry periods when our grass suffers and has traditionally died off. There isn't much more we can do until we hear if the grant is successful or not, but we will keep you advised as events occur.

Compulsory call Up on the Par 3's – PLEASE USE SOME COMMON SENSE – In the last newsletter we said the following....Please remember the rule we instigated last year about calling up of the following group when playing the Par 3's. Please stand behind the back of the green when the following group play their shot, and then resume play as soon as the last player in that group has played their tee shot.

This newsletter we are adding - **Please use some common sense** when following this guideline. Always remember that it is your duty to keep up to the group in front of you, so that if the group in front of you is near or past the bend in the 8th fairway, and your group is about to start putting out on the 7th green, it does not make sense to call the group behind you up to play their tee shots, as it means you are getting further behind the group in front of you, and this will just slow down the whole field behind your group. In this example, your group should putt out, make your way to the 8th tee, tee off and try to make up lost ground as quickly as possible.

Increase to Prizes for Saturday – Good news!! The Committee has been considering increasing the prizes awarded to both the Men's and Ladies Saturday Competitions over the last couple of months. We included looking at the prizes handed out by other clubs in their competitions as well as our own ratio of prizes awarded to competition fees received. At our most recent meeting on Thursday night, the Committee agreed to increase the prizes for each grade for the men (A, B and C) and the two Divisions (1 and 2) for the ladies to include a **runners up prize of \$20 each grade / division**. This means that the winner of the Men's Competition for each grade (A, B and C) will still be awarded the \$40 prize (credit off next year's fees), and now the Runner Up for each grade (A, B and C) will receive a \$20 prize (credit off next year's fees). The Ball Run down (\$2 credit) to approximately a fifth of the field remains unchanged. The details of the Ladies prizes for Saturdays is still to be confirmed and Vicki will announce this to the ladies shortly. **These changes will come into effect from 1 July and applies to the Saturday competitions only.**

Thursday Men's Club Day Competition – The Committee also decided to raise the qualifying number of players required to play in the Men's Thursday Monthly 'Club Day' Competition to 32 (up from 25), before the field will be split into 2 Divisions for the calculation of prizes. Once again the Committee reviewed the payout figures of the competition and considered the change would more fairly distribute the level of prize money to members. Once again this change will **come into effect from 1 July**.

Website – Remember to check our website www.sandgategc.com.au to see the results of competitions played during the week and in particular the popular Saturday comps. I try my hardest to get the results loaded by about 7pm on a Saturday evening, so I encourage you if you have internet access to look to see how you performed against the rest of the field in the Comps. We have also used the site to broadcast whether the regular Saturday competitions are on or off

and whether buggies are allowed on the course or not on the recent wet Saturdays we have had in the last couple of months. (Look at the home page and also a page that is found under "Course" and "Current Conditions"). This is a good way we can get news through to the members in a cost effective and efficient way, so if you have internet access, we encourage you to use this method to stay in touch with what's going on around the Club. The more the site is used, the more we will see the benefit in keeping it up to date.

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. Whilst on the topic, we have noticed that the number of little green buckets are disappearing from the course, so please remember to return the bucket after your round is completed. We understand that social players may be responsible for this more than our members, and we will mention this to social players when possible.

Seen the mulch? – Hopefully from afar as you walk to you ball in the middle of the fairway and not because you had to hit from off it from under the trees! The Mulch helps with the maintenance of the course and stops the guys from having to mow hard to get into places, like between the trees where no 'good golfers' should be anyway. The latest ten (yes 10) loads of mulch were kindly donated and delivered to the Club by **Andrew Anderson of Northside Tree Services of Bracken Ridge**. If you need some tree trimming done at home or know someone that does, why don't you give Andrew the opportunity to quote on the work? Support someone who supports the Club! Thanks Andrew! Andrew's business is located at **245 Norris Road Bracken Ridge, and his phone number is 3261 1476**.

Competitions – Just a reminder that we hold the following competitions at the Club and we welcome Members and their guests to play at any relevant time;

- Saturday (both men and ladies)
- Monday Men's Veteran's competition (Over 55 years)
- Tuesday (ladies)
- Wednesday Medley (both men and ladies)
- Thursday Club Day Medley (1st Thursday of the month – both men and ladies)

Plus the Tuesday / Thursday Social Club plays every Tuesday and Thursday. Please see Kevin, Wendy or a member of the Committee for further details.

We hope you continue to enjoy your golf in the nice, cooler weather on a great looking course at Sandgate!

Brett Forrest
Men's Captain

(On behalf of the Management Committee).

Vicki Gannon
Ladies Captain



