

Club News ~ February 2018

President's Pitch

Well it appears that the wet season is finally upon us. It seems that all we needed to do was schedule our first two big competitions for the year, our two Holden Scramble events! Fortunately, we still got both fields away for two successful events. Well done to all involved, particularly the mixed field on Australia day with all of the 14 teams booked in turning up and completing their rounds, all through some 'questionable' weather.

In the past month the new committee has set the ball rolling on some new and existing plans and ideas. The renovations of the downstairs area of the club house continues with plans to be up and running by early March still the grand plan. This will include our new golfing system and its related benefits.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank our patron Peter BRERETON on two fronts. Firstly, in relation to all of his efforts on our current renovations. He used a good chunk of his own holiday time away from work to complete the work for the club. I am sure most of you have seen the work completed thus far and can attest to the high standard achieved so far. Peter has also nominated and been accepted as the newest member of the Golfing Committee in the position of House Director. Thank you for your commitment to the club in both of these areas.

On a related note to our renno and associated software upgrade, please be aware that there may be some downtime with the website and its functionality (i.e. booking tee times and the like) when the upgrade occurs and we move from the old to the new system. We will do everything we can to minimise this if and when it occurs, but members need to be aware this may be one of the teething issues with the upgrade.

I am also in the process of completing an updated flyer with our current sponsorship, advertising and corporate opportunities for members and the committee to provide to current and potential companies or individuals seeking these opportunities. While the committee will always drive these endeavours by targeting and seeking out what opportunities we can, it is in the interest of all members to support the club in seeking out these opportunities. By the end of this month after our next management committee meeting this document should be completed and available for distribution.

Having as many sponsors as possible for our weekly competitions and also our larger events, both increases the variety of prizes available, but also gives us the ability to increase the overall prize pool and the value of the prize pool. As per the flyer, we are more than happy to accept not only financial sponsorship, but just like the recent 'Elgas Stableford', a donation of goods, vouchers or branded products from the sponsor's business is a great alternative. Speaking of the 'Elgas Stableford', I am reliably informed that my offside, El Capitan, was 'sizzling' out there that day and was a worthy winner of the BBQ and accessories. Congrats mate, great to see you hitting them well again!

But on a serious note, getting as many advertisers as possible increases the club's bottom line which gives us overall flexibility to improve the club. For all of our bigger ticket items and projects, we generally rely on winning grants or paying off loans or leases for these purposes, but having frequent cash

injections increases our flexibility on this front but also assists in relation to our daily operations.

We will attempt to always have some of these flyers on hand in hard copy at the club to hand out as required, but if any member would like an electronic copy to forward to a potential sponsor, just let us know and we can make that happen.

As always, if there is anything you wish to discuss with me, don't hesitate to stop me for a chat if you see me around the club house or flick me an email and I'll get back to you as soon as I can. So until next month, happy golfing!

Fleety

Anthony VAN FLEET, President

president@gordonvalegolfclub.com.au

Next Working Bee:

Sunday 25/02/17

7am – 9am

*9-hole competition and BBQ
included for all volunteers upon
completion*

Captain's corner

Welcome to February's Captains corner. Last month was a challenging month with the rain finally deciding to turn up. However, we didn't have to cancel any comps and still had good numbers to our events. We tried a Par (+,0,-) event and will also have one coming up in this month.

Leigh from Golfworld has come on board to sponsor our Monthly cups and with 55 player's congratulations to Rob Riggells for taking out January's comp scoring with a 77/63 net. We held a women's only and mixed Holden scramble. The mixed Holden scramble was held in atrocious conditions with 14 teams showing up, I can't thank everyone from players to anyone that helped me get my first major event completed.

The Winners were Rob Riggells, Justin Elms, A Thomsen and Chook Hendrie beating Ty Williams, myself Jay Lloyd, Aaron Thomas and Phil Gallen on a count back. The winners now representing Gordonvale in the regional final at Paradise palms on the 15th of April. The women's final was won by a combined Babinda team.

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With our new golf software nearly here new golf events will be used once the new system is up and running. Exciting times coming up for the club and golf. Please be patient while we get this up and going.

One last thing as the rains come the course has started to green up and our green staff have put a lot of effort in to getting our greens presentable and soft. Could we all please repair pitch marks on greens and carry a sand bucket and fill any divot marks on the fairways.

If someone has anyone in mind to sponsor our golf or events could you get in touch with anyone from the committee. The sponsorship flyer is almost ready so this could also be handed out to any potential sponsors.

Last month was a good month and looking at this month it's only going to get better. Happy golfing and look forward to seeing you on the fairways at Royal Gordy.

Lloyd, Captain.

captain@gordonvalegolfclub.com.au

Gordonvale golf club is on Facebook!



Like, share and check in! Help the club increase its social media presence. Let's show everyone what we have to offer.

From the office of the Minister for Finance

As members may recall, a survey was circulated at the club in relation to member's satisfaction levels of certain aspects of the club. While the majority of the results were not too surprising, there were some unexpected results. The committee has taken on board the results and will take action where appropriate and possible. Some of the concerns have already been actioned prior to the results being known (this newsletter and the variations to weekly comps for example), and others, such as the software and the issues it will resolve, are currently progressing.

The full survey results are available at the clubhouse for your information and review.

Members are also reminded that if you are on the original membership renewal schedule, that the time to pay your membership dues is rapidly approaching.

Those who have not yet renewed and have their contact details up to date should have received or very shortly receive their renewal notice in the mail.

If your contact details have changed over the past 3 years then I advise you contact the girls and make sure that it is up to date.

Members who do not pay on time are deemed financial, and lose playing rights.

Dave MULLINS, Treasurer

accounts@gordonvalegolfclub.com.au



Tales from the Red Tees

Still not much to report from our part of the world as we have not really started this year's competitions. We did host our first 'Ladies only' Holden Scramble on Sunday the 21st of January and even with the threat of rain, we did get a field of 8 teams competing on the day. Congratulations to the winning team of Gabrielle ANTHONY, Patsy HANNAM, Christine TREVENEN and Helen MCLELLAN and to all other players and teams who participated on the day.

Thankyou go out to all the staff involved and also to Dave MULLINS for all of their hard work on the day. Also a big thankyou to Irelands Holden for the additional prizes and for the vehicles displayed for the event.

Important information for those ladies who are available or who have expressed an interest, our ladies match play pennants are quickly approaching. The first round is going to be at Mareeba on the 11th of March followed by the 25th of March at Half Moon Bay. The interclub is then back at Mareeba on the 21st of April.

Until next month,

Edna ATKINSON, Ladies Vice-Captain

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GORDONVALE GOLF CLUB
FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

**2018 NRL FOOTY
TIPPING**

Round 1 Thursday 8 March

\$20 Entry Fee

Tip Online at
http://www.footytips.com.au/comps/Gordonvale_Golf_Club

or submit entries weekly at the clubhouse

News from the Greens Keeper's shed

Rain, Rain, Rain; it seems that our prayers were more than answered. We were chasing a bit more of the wet stuff to help green things up a little and help combat some of the issues we were having, like the dry patch on the greens, but it seems mother nature over did things and we now have the issues associated with too much rain and not enough sun. While the course and greens are well and truly green enough again, we are having to fight back against the resultant moisture issues.

We have begun to attack things with fungicide and target the invasive weeds and grasses in the greens now that it is dry enough to do so. We are also due for our monthly Verdraining of all the greens this week. With our regular outside assistance from Tony, a slight modification has been made to the fertilising routine now that the wet has hit. The aim is obviously to maintain the greens while also doing so in the most productive and cost efficient way possible.

The bunkers are now back in play and will be until such time as the next big lot of rain hits. The new bunker rake has proved its worth in the way it returns the bunkers to play in a better fashion, but the time they were out also shows why they are a

priority for us when we can secure the funding to fully overhaul them.

Overall the course has fared well with all the rain, draining well after each big hit and returning to play as quickly as could be expected.

So for now we will just be trying to stay ahead of the mowing while continuing to try and move the course forward. We are obviously looking forward to the first of the monthly working bees and we encourage all members to become involved in the development of the course.

Rob and Howard, Head greens keeper and Greens Director

Working bees and volunteering

Remember, as of this month the club will be commencing our monthly working bees. They will be the last Sunday of EVERY month between 7am and approximately 9am.

To encourage participation, we are planning to have a free chook-run-style inside the track 9-hole comp and a BBQ after each working bee. The included reminder will be in each newsletter to confirm the date for the following month.

We hope to see as many of you all as possible come down where and when available. While we do not expect every one there every month, we appreciate what ever assistance you can give to the club.



Well, if you can't move the ball closer to the hole,
can you move the HOLE closer to the ball?

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Green Pin Zones Introduced

As most of you will have seen, we have recently introduced a 'pin zone' system for our greens. Each green has been broken down into three 'zones' A, B & C. They are divided into roughly thirds either front to back or a front or rear third and the rest in half, depending on the size, shape or features of the green.

The intent of this introduction is twofold. It obviously presents a more professional appearance but also can assist in pace of play. Pace of play can be assisted by having green zones as it generally eliminates or reduces the time taken in trying to work out location and accurate distances to pins. It will assist in eliminating the need for range finders in situations where you are on or nearby the 100m or 150m marker lines or if you need to measure, then knowing the pin location more accurately can eliminate indecision over club selection.

There are A5 coloured and laminated pin zone maps permanently in all of our hire carts already. There are also free A7 size black and white copies available in the club house for all other players.

We also plan to have coloured and laminated A5 (\$1) and A6 (50c) copies for sale for those who would like one. If they are not already there by the time of the publication of this newsletter, they will not be far off.

There are already maps in a couple of locations posted around the club that you can take a photo of with your smart phone as another option and it will be posted to the club's Facebook page to download to your phone.



Sponsorship Opportunities



The club has multiple sponsorship and advertising opportunities available, ranging from event sponsorship to oncourse or roadway visible advertising. Details and costings available at the club or can be discussed with members of the committee or staff at any time. If members know of any sponsorship opportunities, a flyer that can be taken and given to prospective sponsors is currently being developed.

New Member Referrals

In an effort to increase our membership, the Management Committee has agreed to trial a new member referral reward programme. Any member who finds and refers a new full member to the club will receive a \$50 bonus into their prize account. Each member will be entitled to this bonus for referring up to three new members per calendar year. This referral system is effective immediately and any referrals made prior to the new software coming in will be honoured once implemented as that is how the prize accounts will be operated.

So if any member knows of anyone that is considering becoming a member of a golf club, what better motivation than a \$50 bonus and helping grow your club at the same time?!

Casual club house positions

The committee is currently seeking expressions of interest from members or anyone else that a member may know, who would be suitable for the purposes of being trained for casual club house work. We are looking to train at least two or three people in basic clubhouse operations for general coverage for our two hardworking girls, Bel and Kym. Both the girls have some leave planned for the near future, but we also need to give ourselves flexibility in staffing going forwards.

Basic requirements to be considered would be a current RSA certification and any references or an accompanying resume would be of assistance. Any inquiries can be directed to info@gordonvalegolfclub.com.au or directly to the president or treasurer.

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RULES OF THE MONTH

So you're on 17 and decided to play horsie by hitting into the racetrack (lateral hazard defined by red stakes), what are you going to do?

You can either play it as it lies or take relief by proceeding under rule 26.1 'Relief for ball in water hazard (including a lateral hazard)':

1. Stroke and distance: return to where you last hit, add a stroke and re-hit
2. Drop a ball within two club lengths of the point where the ball entered the hazard, no nearer the hole.

The normal other option of dropping no closer to the hole while keep the point where it entered the hazard and the hole directly in front due to the location and shape of the hazard itself is not available in this situation.

So you've measured two club lengths from the point of entry into the hazard, but if you drop anywhere in there, the posts and/or rail of the track will impede your swing. What do you do? Drop there and have an impeded swing? Drop at the nearest point not closer to the pin that your swing is not impeded? Neither.

If you choose to not re-tee or play it as it lies you must drop a ball within two club lengths of the point where the ball entered the hazard, no nearer the hole, irrelevant if your swing will be impeded.

Once you have dropped, your ball is now back in play. As you now have a ball in play, you can deal with that new situation and proceed by way of rule 24-2 'Immovable Obstruction' - Interference by an immovable obstruction occurs when a ball lies in or on the obstruction or when the obstruction interferes with the player's stance or the area of their intended swing.

Relief from immovable obstruction: Except when the ball is in a water hazard or a lateral water hazard, a player may take relief from interference by an immovable obstruction. The player must lift the ball and drop it, without penalty, within one club-length of and not nearer the hole than the nearest point of relief (It is the point on the course nearest to where the ball lies: that is not nearer the hole, and where, if the ball were so positioned, no interference by the condition from which relief is sought would exist for the stroke the player would have made from the original position if the condition were not there.

The nearest point of relief must not be in a hazard or on a putting green. When the ball is dropped within one club-length of the nearest point of relief, the ball must first strike a part of the course at a spot that avoids interference by the immovable obstruction.

So your second drop would then be within one club length of the point where you swing or stance is no longer impeded by the rail or posts, no closer to the hole.

So there you go, it may take two drops but that's how you legally get back in play; if you're not having a crack from in the track that is.

Pace of play and closure times

There have been some minor issues of late in relation to pace of play and also closure times of the course and clubhouse that need to be mentioned and resolved.

In relation to pace of play, can players please be considerate of others on the course, particularly those behind you. Remember that your place on the course is behind the group in front of you, not in front of the group behind you. Please use common sense when on the course, if a group of the same size as yours, or more so a smaller group, is continually right behind you, please consider letting that group through, or at the very least ask. Par threes are generally the best opportunity to do so.

In relation to completion of competition rounds and the time to do so, the last group of the day **MUST** complete their round by 5:30pm and have their cards in by 5:40pm. The staff at the current time have hours allocated up until 6pm on both Thursday and Saturday so the timings are obviously working around that and also leaving time for drinks after your round if you so please.

If the last groups of the day choose to group together, the committee has no issues with this as long as rounds are still completed in time. The only consideration for these groups is losing the right to play through groups in front. At the current time the last tee time each day is 12:30pm, which is more than enough time to complete a round if everyone monitors their pace of play and lets groups play through if required. If you feel 5 hours is not sufficient to complete your round, please book an earlier tee time.

On all other days, flags will generally be out until 4:30pm, as long as there are players still on the course, as the normal knock off time for the girls is 5:00pm.