

LEONGATHA GOLF CLUB
newsletter



February 2012

855 Koonwarra-Inverloch Rd Leongatha South • Tel: 5664 3314 • Fax: 5664 3377 • lgc@skymesh.com.au • www.leongathagolf.com.au
PO Box 578 Leongatha 3953

PRESIDENT'S REPORT—Ron Paice—Vice President

I'm writing this report on behalf of Chris, who has taken drastic action to avoid writing another report. Chris unfortunately had a heart attack on Friday 27 January and is now recovering after receiving a stent. However, he has been ordered to play no golf for a month. Everyone at the Club wishes Chris a speedy recovery. I think that will be the hardest part of the recovery. By the way, Bob Cathie had a similar operation and is in the same ward – daily Board meetings are taking place!!!

This year, the summer months, weather wise, were better than last with the course standing up extremely well to the heavy traffic and the bar and shop takings meeting budget. The Board thanks the greens and house staff for a great effort over our busy months putting in extra hours and giving great service to our visitors.

The next few months will be a really busy time with the South Gippsland Classic in February and the Victorian Country Women's Tournament in early May. Both these events give us a great chance to again showcase our course to a wider audience. Once again the various committees will be calling for volunteers to help spruce up the Club House and surrounds, prepare the course and assist the event on the day as spotters or catering for the event. I thank everyone who has put up their hand in the past and will do so in the future. It's a REAL asset in our Club.

Currently working bees are planned for Friday 10th February for preparing for the South Gippsland Classic and Monday 26th March for the Victorian Country Women's Tournament. No doubt other assistance will be needed.

The last golf year we ran the raffle as part of the Tournament but as this placed too much pressure on the organisation it was decided to run an annual raffle separately. This is now planned to be during March, April and May with the 1st prize being **A TOYOTA YARIS 3 DOOR AUTOMATIC HATCH with an On-Road Value of \$19,938**. We have been able to achieve this by participating in the Rotary Clubs of Monash Community's Raffle. For every ticket we sell the Club receives \$1.54 as Rotary's prime focus is to organise the raffle for the benefit of community clubs and organisations. The remaining funds go towards the prizes, printing and other administrative expenses. The funds from the raffle will go towards the Bunkers renewal program.

New Signage on the path to the 10th Tee



Please assist with finding New Sponsors for our Club

We now have the opportunity to have more Tee/Course signage on the Course. By finding a Sponsor the Club receives valuable income, enabling all of us to further enjoy our great Club.

Please look for any possible Company or Business you may be associated with or do business with, putting them forward to become a Sponsor.

For only \$495 they would receive a Tee/Course sign 1200mm x 250 mm. on the Course. Additionally they would Sponsor 2 competition days with their proceeds paying for Grade Winners and NTP/DTL balls. If they desire to provide goods or their own, then we would receive approx..16 prizes/vouchers to the value of \$30 each. The advertising/exposure for these businesses with their signage in our Club/Course is worth more than the \$495 cost we require.

All we need from you is the initial introduction to a prospect, I will do the rest. Just e-mail me their contact information for my follow-up. pdhorman@bigpond.net.au

Remember how important it is for all of us to increase our income to the Club from our Sponsor Agreements.

Peter Horman



m 0411 172 553
ph 03 56 743 165

LEAVER LANDSCAPES

LADIES REPORT

Prior to Christmas we had some special days in the Clubhouse.

Presentation Day was reasonably well attended. Thanks to all the sponsors who continue to support us.

A lot of preparation went in to organizing our Annual Christmas lunch. As a result we had 68 ladies present, and they enjoyed the excellent catering of the "Gilded Lily".

During the afternoon a display of Antique buttons was presented by Sue Nelson, the wife of Richard. It created a lot of interest and made a great social talking point. Great atmosphere ! Thanks Sue.

The following Friday was the Senior Ladies of South Gippsland Annual Christmas lunch. Approx 45 attended and the meal was very ably catered for by Rebecca and Wendy. Thank you to Wendy for volunteering her culinary skills, and thank you to Bec for organizing all those delicious salads etc. Compliments were many.

Drummonds will be sponsoring our Opening day so we are hoping for a very good field.

February is the 60th Anniversary of Lyle Hawkins golfing career, so we congratulate her on that achievement. She is a staunch supporter of our Club and we wish her well and hope that she will continue golfing well into the future.

Summer golf has seen a lot of handicap reductions and since we started using the new 75 Red Course ratings, players have reduced further.

The RM Hodges Mixed 4BBB Stableford was won by Steve & Debbie Miller on c/b from last year's winners Glen Marsham & Rebecca Wilson and Peter & Sharyn Rayson.

Since Christmas we our fields have been a little below our normal weekly average but have included quite a few men, which is good.

Two highlights of the holiday golf were Eagles scored by Anne Gibson, Sat 31st Dec on the 17th hole, and Val Brydon, Wed 4th Jan on the 13th hole. Congratulations girls!

An increasing number of ladies are playing in the Thursday competition. This is being encouraged by Captain Toni and myself. If you miss out on Wed Golf you can play Thursday.

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First Aid notice to all members. Antihistamine tablets and cream are available from the bar. We have had three occasions when these were needed.

We are also gearing up for the **VICTORIA GOLF LADIES CHAMPIONSHIPS, on the 1st and 2nd of May.** This will be a chance to show case our course, This is a prestigious event for our Club. Members will be called upon to volunteer for the many tasks that will need to be done for that event.

I am looking forward to a great year and hope that you will all improve your golf and continue to enjoy the friendship at the Leongatha Golf Club.

Loris J Clark
LGC Lady President

New Signage on the 13th Tee

WFI Insurance sponsor our Green Flags on the Course. We appreciate their continued involvement with our Club and have given them exposure with this Tee Sign as gratitude.



MANAGER'S REPORT

Hi to all members,
What a great summer we are having and I hope you all had a wonderful Xmas and New Years with your families.

The golf course as been extremely well utilized over the holiday period by members and visitors and full Credit to Dylan, Dennis , Sam and our volunteers for presenting our course in a professional and most enjoyable manner, Great work team and I look forward to hearing more positive reports back from our members and visitors throughout the year as we really do have a stunning golf course in a very divine setting.

Thank you very much to the members who returned the LGC survey, as the return was very positive with 78 surveys received. We appreciated your taking the time and more important, the care for your club and its future. We are currently putting together a team to use the results from our survey to help us with our strategic business plan for the golf club as this request occurred frequently in our results. If being a part of this team, sound of interest to you, and you have expertise in this area , I would love to hear from you.

A very big thank you to all our precious volunteers who successfully ran our 27 day Summer Short Shot events. As some days were busier than others, which is the nature of this industry, its was wonderful to see new faces of young and old

participating in these events and enjoy a sausage or two!. This was a first for the club and we look forward to refining this for next year. Thank you very much to the kindness Of Andy Cairns from A Slice of Paradise Bakery in Inverloch for sponsoring this event with daily lunch vouchers. Please support his bakery when next passing by, I can very much recommend the Curry Pie or two!

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE – Members—Here’s your chance to receive vouchers for the bar and shop simply by signing up a new full, country, district, intro or pay and play member before 31st June 2012 . That’s right, if you are the proposer you will receive \$50 credit and the seconder will receive \$30 credit. Please support our club membership drive for the future of the club. **CONGRATULATIONS** to Mark Edwards and Ken Gardner for being the first members to receive these benefits, most appreciated.

COMPS DRIVE - until 30th June 2012, any Member who brings a paying guest and plays in our 18 hole comp will receive a comp ball or tap beer/house wine voucher for themselves and their guest. So grab your partner, neighbour, friend or golfing buddy and join in our fun and social comps.

BEGINNER WOMEN GOLF CLINICS - We are running a 5 week beginners women’s golf class from 10-11.30am starting Friday 24th Feb. If you know of any women who are interested in learning the game from scratch or refreshing their skills, this is an ideal fun and friendly class to join, as this will be very much the focus. There will be morning tea at the end of each session, and an oncourse experience on the final day. Please see myself for more information and if you are able to help out with growing and nurturing this group.

The South Gippsland Golf Classic 4BBB event on Friday 17th Feb is once again at our club. Please support this by entering and enjoying our course in tournament conditions.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY..

WORKING BEE

Friday 10th Feb 9am – Cleaning up for SGG CLASSIC
Monday 26th March 9am – painting, general cleaning, gardening etc. for WOMENS COUNTRY TOURNEMENT

HELPERS NEEDED

Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd May- spotting, car park, kitchen etc. for WOMENS COUNTRY TOURNEMENT.

Any help is greatly appreciated as these events expose and profile our golf course and club to the greater golf community. Please advise any of our staff if you are kindly able to help out.

A reminder that you are welcome to purchase alcohol from our bar as we are fully licensed . Unfortunately this does not allow for you to bring your own alcohol on to the premises. Please respect this and abide by it.

Wishing you all a great year for reaching your goals with your golf, meeting new friends through the club and having fun.

Michael James Cull

GREENS COMMITTEE REPORT

Turfing of the 4th and 16th tees was carried out by a working bee and our ground staff on 7th December. Many thanks to all the members who participated. Both tees have responded well and are a big improvement.

The main pump for irrigating the course is in need of repair and cannot be operated at normal capacity. As a consequence our staff has had to do extra watering from the small dam and this requires very early starts can take up to 8 hours to complete. It is hoped that the main pump can continue to be operated through the rest of this watering season. It will then be given a complete overhaul.

A machinery problem has occurred with the fairway sprayer. A new pump/motor has had to be installed at a cost of \$3,500.

Allan Stewart is unable to continue as a permanent volunteer. Alan has for many years worked on maintaining the course and repairing the course machinery. His contribution to the Club as an unpaid volunteer and highly skilled mechanic has saved the Club many tens of thousands of dollars.

When the fairways were being planted with Santa Ana Alan provided the essential backup for our staff in keeping the machinery working and assisting with maintenance around the course. Without his work the project could not have been completed. Thank you Allan for all your help over the years.

Volunteers are urgently needed to carry out rough cutting and general assistance around the course. All applications will be successful. Please let Dylan know if you can help out.

Drainage of the area between the 8th green and the 9th tee will be installed in the near future. This will eliminate the wet area and complete the work at this section of the course.

The greens have almost completely recovered from the attack of pythium on the 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 8th greens. Their recovery was extremely well managed by our Staff.

The 6th fairway hill has been given extra fertiliser and mowing has been suspended in order to assist in reducing the runoff of balls. It is now playing much fairer.

Spraying of paspalum and blackberries has been carried out by volunteers. Thanks to Alan and Col Sperling, Bob and Bruce Cathie and Fred DeBondt.

A drainage pipe has been salvaged and reinstalled at the 11th tee to direct water away from the path

Keith Godridge—Greens Committee

MEMBERS WANTED

We are looking for members for the marketing committee, the tournament committee and to assist in running the raffle.

Interested members please give their names to our Manager Michael. Thanks

Ron Paice—Vice President

MENS' GOLF

Hope all have come back eager to get into the regular golfing format after the Christmas/New Year period and to enjoy a variety of golf competitions a number of which will be played for the first time at the Club. There will also be ample opportunity to work on handicap improvement through the usual stroke, stableford and par competitions. For all the details refer to the 2012 Handbook.

The January monthly medal was played as a par event and although the traditionalists would prefer every medal to be a stroke event many clubs vary the format to give all members the opportunity to win a medal and in July a stableford monthly medal is programmed. The January winner was Leon Collier with +3.

The last board event for 2011 was the R and M. Hodges 4BBB Mixed Stableford event held in December and was won Steve and Debbie Miller. For 2012 this event is programmed to be on the earlier date of the last Sunday in September.

Get ready to organise a partner for a Men/Ladies/Mixed 4BBB Stableford to be held on Saturday February 25 which will be generously sponsored by Leongatha Fresh Meat and Fish Supplies.

The first board event for the year is the A E Edney 4BBB Par to be played on Saturday March 3 and the Club Championships begin on Saturday March 17.

The date for the start of pennant is not far off and this year we are free of the struggle to field a Division 1 team and should be able to field strong teams in Division 2, 3 and 4. Division 2 starts on April 1 and Division 2 and 3 start on March 18. The finals for all divisions are on May 20. If you are interested in playing pennant add your name to the list on the notice board or contact me if you have any queries.

Good Hitting
Barry Stevens - Captain

***A Slice of Paradise
Bakery***
3 Williams St 5674 2500 INVERLOCH

Veterans Report

15 Leongatha Veterans played at Lang Lang on 10th January 2012. DTL Balls went to D Clemen 35pts, R Bride 34, P Horman 34, R Martin 34, M Oliver 34, K Finney 33, R Davies 32, F DeBono 32

Next Event Korumburra. 9th February

P.Horman/I.Murchie

ANNUAL TOURNAMENT

Our Annual Tournament was a resounding success. Having a wonderful sponsor like **Phaser/Sunplussolar** meant we were able to organise the whole Tournament knowing all of our expenses were fully covered. Thanks to Peter Cannon for his support. The Club truly appreciates his generosity.

The Tournament Committee, the Men's and Ladies Golf Committees, The Board, our ever giving staff and the many volunteers who did all the behind the scenes jobs are to be thanked for their wonderful support of the event. The Greens Staff did a brilliant job of presenting the Course and keeping it looking great. Without all of you, these things cannot be successful or even happen.

This year the weather was kinder than last and our numbers were a big improvement over last year. We had 111 players on Saturday, 120 players on Thursday with Friday attracting 64 players and Sunday 56 players. Overall a great response which saw golfers from several Melbourne Clubs come to our Course along with several from other District Clubs and other country Clubs. There were many kind comments on the excellence of the Course from our visitors, with many promises to return next year. We have a solid base to keep building this event into a major event for Country Golf.

The Tournament Dinner was well attended and once again, the band, the food and the atmosphere were all a credit to Debbie Miller and her band of helpers.

In terms of Financial success, the Club will make a profit of approx \$10,000 which far exceeds our takings from a normal week in November. However, even though the finances are welcome, they are not the only positive thing coming from the Tournament. The opportunity to showcase our Course and our newly renovated Club House far and wide has many benefits. Meeting new people, making new friends, being able to promote the Course and Club and the happy camaraderie that is generated by an event like this are all unseen, but keenly felt additional gains which are positives for the Club.

Overall, a very successful event which caters very well for both male and female golfers. Thank you all for your support of this important even in our Club's Yearly Calendar.

Carol Sowden
Chairperson
Tournament Committee.

