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From: Owen Davies <secretary@axedalegc.com.au>  
Sent: Thursday, 9 April 2020 8:11 PM  
To: Owen Davies  
Subject: AGC Member update  
Axedale Golf Club

Member Update, April 2020

From the President

Hello All

Not quite two weeks without golf, but already it feels like months. I'm sure you share my frustration about not being able to play.

Current advice is that golf clubs are to remain closed until midnight on 13 April – next Monday. Whether we can reopen then is uncertain given the Premier has warned of further restrictions; we continue to monitor Government and Golf Australia communications and will provide you with an update immediately we receive one.

The Committee has developed protocols for resumption of social and competition golf. These will reinforce social distancing and minimise infection possibilities. As we might need to revise them depending on Government advice, we will announce them only when advising play can resume.

Our Superintendent Dylan has advised he will be able to have the course reopened within two days of being notified of a resumption date. With Chris and Glenn on enforced holidays, Dylan has been working alone until Chris returns to work next week. The course is actually looking great, particularly after receiving more than 80mm of rain. There is water in the creek, so beware when you do get to play again!

Financially we will certainly take a hit; we are currently receiving none of our regular competition/bar/Social Club income. Thanks to growing membership and the healthy competition numbers prior to the shutdown, we were actually ahead of budget, but this will provide limited cushioning. The Club has been able to access Government crisis funding and this will be of help in paying our staff and helping us through this crisis. Nevertheless, there will be an impact – we just don't know the extent of it yet. It has become apparent, though, that we will not be able to continue to employ three staff in the long term. Committee will review this situation over the coming months as more factors become known and will keep staff and members informed as we go.

Committee continues to work in the background to keep things moving while golf is suspended. We have ordered the new entry/scoring system – which will feature scanned scorecards for quicker processing – but have paused installation to avoid paying monthly fees for a system not being used for competition. Plans have been drawn up to extend the Captain's Office and these have been accepted by the Reserve Committee of Management. I'm keen to keep this project moving.

The greatest anxiety at present is not knowing how long this hiatus will last for. Will we have golf again in a week? Or a month? Or six months? Nobody can answer that. Your Committee's focus is threefold:

- Maintain the golf course to be competition-ready in the shortest time.
- Ensure the Club is financially sound at the end of this crisis.
- Plan for resumption not only of competition, but of the social life of the Club.

All I can do is ask you to hang in there until we get through this. Make sure you and your family are safe and well and we will see you 'on the other side'.

Course report follows.

ALLAN ANDREWS

## COURSE REPORT

The break in golf has given the course a rest and has provided an opportunity for some renovation and repair work not normally possible in the weekly flow of competitions.

With recent rains, only limited watering will be required between now and the end of the irrigation season on 15 May. We haven't used all of our water right this year so will be able to carry unused allocation into the 2020/2021 season.

With no players on the course, we have been able to water, day or night, with the treated water from Coliban's storage dam, saving our river water allocation.

In February, we purchased a secondhand verti-drain machine, which Dylan has repaired and reconditioned. For a total cost of \$2300, we have a very useful machine on hand to completed tee, green or fairway verti-draining at any time required. A similar second machines goes for around \$10,000.

Our greens have all been vertidraind to a depth of 150mm to improve water access to the roots and all greens have been heavily dusted this week to promote continued growth and surface smoothness.

Larger bare patches on greens were seeded a week ago and with no traffic, we have had a good strike. Dylan has also been plugging lots of smaller bare spots. With a dose of fertiliser and a light scarify later this week, our greens should be in really good shape within a week or two. Irrigation heads around our greens will be levelled as required.

Fairway irrigation heads are also being levelled as required. All par 3 tees are being oversown with a fescue blend to try and get a better year-round cover. Tees will all be top-dressed as well. No traffic on the tees will enable the seed to sprout and grow uninterrupted for a few weeks.

A broadleaf spray will be applied course-wide to manage weeds. Murphy's Law – but the weeds have prospered in the rough with no regular traffic! Lots of cleaning up has been completed in and around our heavily treed areas.

All machinery will be serviced during this break and we will continue to clear out lots of unwanted items and rubbish from around the shed area.

Like all members, our Course Committee can't wait to get back out there. Our aim is to provide a course in great condition for normal golf to resume on.

Kind regards

Course Committee

Owen Davies

Hon. Secretary Axedale

Golf Club

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