



Newsletter, Spring 2020

Membership surges during COVID

Numbers top 450 as competition resumes

From the President

The COVID pandemic continues to dominate the Club's operations and planning. Whilst competition golf was forcibly paused, and our income suffered, the silver lining was a surge in membership that has seen total Member numbers shoot past 450, a massive increase on the 365 at last year's Annual Report time.

The return of competition on 17 September was a milestone that we hope won't be repeated - that is, we hope we are back for good. Whilst we were fortunate to be able to play social pairs, competitive foursomes is a return to the Real Thing! Well, not quite the real thing ... we still eagerly await the resumption of 'clubhouse life', although it seems this might yet be months away. Still, spare a thought for our Melbourne brethren who have been without golf of any sort for two months and face at least another month on the sidelines.

Match Committee will now determine what of the 2020 program can be completed. Women's championships will begin next Wednesday and the Men's title is likely to proceed in November, albeit on a course compromised by fairway redevelopment works. We have, though, reluctantly decided against the Annual Tournament scheduled for October. We

plan instead to combine it with the Autumn 2021 tournament in a 'festival of golf' that can hopefully include a bigger social element.

We also remain hopeful of conducting what would be our third Pro-Am. We have talked with Golf Australia and the PGA and have pencilled in a tentative March/April date for the event. Our sponsors have been notified and a good proportion of them have already committed to the event should it proceed. Symes Motors and BMW are keen to proceed, so fingers crossed.

This newsletter contains important information about the fairway redevelopment program planned for the next few years, initially on the 'river side' of the course before moving across the road to completion. As you will see, this will cause some disruption, but we are confident we have plans and processes in place to ensure enjoyable, competitive golf can continue throughout. The end result will be much-improved surfaces that will escalate our course to the next level.

Work on the expanded Captain's Office is almost completed, thanks in large part to the work of Club volunteers. Builder Sean O'Connor has been incredibly generous with his valuable time and painter Reece Thompson also put in hours of work – thanks to both men. The air conditioner was donated by Race Services and we thank John Neylon for his continued support of the Club.

Thanks also to the Captain's Office volunteers who are ensuring the Club receives all green fee income and that the course flows well in busy times. This income has been invaluable to us during the pandemic, so your time is being well spent. The Captain has just put out a call for volunteers to run competition Saturdays, so please consider helping out.

The Club has seen an incredible influx of new Members, due in part we think to the forced closure of other sports. At last year's AGM, we had 365 Members; as I write we sit at 450. This is great for the Club and is a ringing endorsement of the golfing conditions we are able to present. As 'normal' golf returns, we will be keeping a close eye on the logistics involved in putting together large fields. Even before the pandemic our Saturday numbers were more than 150. The Captains and the Committee will be watching closely to see how numbers go as we emerge from lockdown. I suspect our online booking capability will be essential to however we build our Saturday fields.

Unfortunately, even the relaxed restrictions will not enable the Club's AGM to be held face-to-face. Instead, we will be forced to hold an online Zoom meeting (details soon). This will enable us to conduct the business required of an AGM, but will be lacking any atmosphere, which is particularly unfortunate given we are proposing Life Memberships for Loretta Prowse and Tony Lindrea. The Club will ensure these two wonderful contributors will be celebrated should the membership ratify their nominations.

ALLAN ANDREWS

Fairway program approved

FROM COURSE CHAIRMAN LEX JOHNSTONE

Firstly, a big thanks to our Ground Staff Dylan, Glen and Chris for their work over the last few months. Through uncertain times, they have continued to present the course in great condition. As the weather warms and an above average Spring rainfall is predicted, our ground staff are working hard to keep on top of our rough areas as well as having the course regularly presented well for members. Increased green fee traffic has been great for the Club, but the increased traffic has meant a change in some work practices to dodge the traffic a bit. A nice problem!

Observant Members will have noticed plenty starting to happen around the course as we embark on our five-year development plan.

Over the next few years, you will see some enlargement to tee areas, some strategic tree removal to improve fairway and green surfaces, a number of new trees/shrubs/ground covers appearing in 'non-golf' areas, and fairway, fringe and green nurseries being developed near the practice fairway.

Most importantly – and to be truthful, most disrupting – will be the fairway resurfacing program that will kick off late in October and continue on the 'river side' of the course for the next two years before moving across the road to completion. While this program will

include rolling hole closures for a couple of months at a time, it will provide the biggest and most lasting benefit to Members ... no more patchy Poa and muddy winter lies!

General Committee this week signed off on the river side fairway plan, which will begin next month with a couch chosen from our trial beds on the practice fairway. For much of the next two Spring/Summers two holes at a time will be closed and we will play temporary layouts to complete our 18 holes. The full schedule appears below, but to give you a feel for how it will work:

- Next month we will close and poison holes 8 and 17. These were chosen because they are, for different reasons, the most difficult holes on which to grow grass: 8 is shaded and gets wet, 17 is in full sun and is dry and compacted. If we can grow good surfaces there, it will give us great confidence in the program.
- While this work goes on, the 4th hole will become two holes – a par 4 to a temporary green, then a par 3 to the existing green.
- The 15th will be, likewise, a par 3 to the top of the hill, then a par 4 to the main green.
- The par of the 18 holes will be 66.
- The Match Committee has rated this temporary layout to ensure handicaps accurately reflect the relative difficulty of permanent and temporary holes.

At this stage, this season we will be completing just these two fairways. It will give us a chance to evaluate the process and progress before launching into the next stage, likely to be in the Spring of 2021. It will also provide us with sufficient fairway area to then be self-sufficient in providing our own grass sprigs.

While all this is going on, there will be plenty of work elsewhere, including completing the construction of the 19th hole at the end of the practice fairway. This will be used as a 60-110 metre par three that will be used as needed during the fairway program. It will also allow us to close a hole for a day/week/fortnight to complete works, if needed

A big thanks to Sean and Mick O'Connor for their amazing generosity in assisting us to construct the 19th hole with their time, expertise and machinery. It is much appreciated.

A bent grass nursery for greens renovations will also be established later this year.

Our fescue grass nursery behind the cart shed has already been seeded and should be

starting to shoot in the next week. This grass is non-invasive – unlike couch – and will be used to replace greens surrounds over the next few years.

Tees will also gradually be levelled and renovated, including extensions in some instances. You might notice the pegs in front of 12 & 14 indicating where those tees will reach to as we aim to spread the wear and tear of increased golf traffic.

We are also using these projects as a chance to clean up our dirt piles along the practice fairway and give that area a big tidy-up over the next few months.

Course improvements will not be limited to 'grass'. Course Committee has completed walks of the first seven holes with Superintendent Dylan Knight to develop ideas about how to improve playability and challenge. Eventually we will have a plan for every hole.

While all this development work is underway, maintenance never goes away. Early in September our staff completed root pruning around every green and some fairways. Our trees are a feature of the course, but they are thirsty beasts and from time to time we need to cut roots that suck moisture from greens and fairway edges. This will not harm the trees but will improve golfing conditions.

Speaking of trees, one of our aims is to better highlight the natural features of the Axedale Reserve on which the course is located. We have already started selective removal of trees to expose natural rock faces and the original river redgums that give the reserve its character. A good example can be seen along the creek on the 4th where the removal of sheoaks has revealed the beauty of the far bank. Scrubby trees are also being removed in front of the 8th tee to expose rock formations and the original tree specimens in the area.

We are acutely conscious that removing trees removes wildlife habitat, so we've already started a planting program in off-course areas. You'll notice lots of frost guards between the 1st and 3rd holes where 60 bird-attracting shrubs and ground covers have been planted. Acacias and eucalypts have been planted between 2nd/17th /18th. In this area, some suckers will be removed in coming weeks to allow the more established trees/saplings to flourish. Small flowering shrubs have also been planted in garden beds at the tennis court and 9th and 15th tees. Blue wrens and honeyeaters can often be seen feeding on them. Thanks to Owen and Ken for their efforts in these areas.

Oh, and if we didn't have enough to be going on with, our fairway mower died this week, so

the boys will shortly have a new toy to play with – a John Deere hybrid (fairway/surrounds) mower will arrive soon. Fortunately, Dylan had done plenty of homework on a range of machines and price options prior to this time so sourcing our new machine has been a fairly smooth and quick process.

Our irrigation system will also undergo a full check over the next month with an aim of ensuring 100% efficiency over the upcoming watering season.

All this work costs money – lots of it – but it has all been budgeted and is within our means ... no need to go into debt. This is really important for the future of the Club and the Course and General committees are focused on our Club vision to be the region's top member club ... and that means spending your membership and competition fees on better golf and amenities.

LEX JOHNSTONE



Newly planted trees on the steep hillside between the 18th and 2nd

PLASTIC DRUMS LOOKING FOR HOMES

The Club is offering 10 plastic water drums to Members for free. The 200-litre containers were filled with a wetting agent and have been thoroughly rinsed. Just let the Secretary know if you'd like one or two - secretary@axedalegc.com.au

FROM THE CAPTAINS

New scoring system up and running

Golf has been a little different in recent weeks since the stage 3 restrictions were implemented, however Members have adapted to playing in pairs and have enjoyed being in the open air playing the sport they love.

In recent weeks there have been two Holes in One; both Peter Stringer and Gary Day have hit the ultimate shot and enjoyed the experience of scoring an Ace!!

The Men's Singles Knock Out event has progressed to the Grand Final match, where Rod Jacobs will play against Reece Thompson on Saturday 26 September. All qualifying players have been really co-operative in arranging and playing these matches in recent weeks and they should be congratulated in keeping this program alive in 2020.

The 2020 Annual Tournament is proposed to be folded into the 2021 Autumn Tournament as a 'festival of golf'. More information as planning evolves.

The renovation of the Captain's Office is nearing completion and Members will have noticed we have moved our equipment into the new office. We are now operating from the renovated office which has more room, is brighter and allows volunteers to move freely to service Members and visitors.

The operation of the computer scoring system is also being trialled with Members learning how to enter a competition, print a scorecard and lodge their scorecard after their game.

One of the new scanners is faulty and arrangements are being made to return it for replacement. All other equipment works as it should and Members seem to be enjoying the simplicity of the whole process which this system provides.

We have also been developing a new / changed green fee card and these are now being used for GF players. The card has a copy of the course map which is more relevant than local rules and allows visitors to navigate our course more easily.

Members will have noted new NTP markers in use on the holes where these are traditionally used. These are hard plastic markers on which players write their name on the sheet attached to the marker and place the marker in the putting green using the attached spike. We believe these markers will reduce the time required to finalise this current process and also lift the general look and feel of the current markers to a more professional standard. (Please ensure the marker is not positioned on a direct line to the hole from the tee - we don't want any potential holes-in-one thwarted. Place it equidistant from the hole but off the direct line.)

We have asked Stephen Amos to join the Match Committee for the 2020/2021 year. We also see Steve as a future captain of the Club. He has experience at Pyramid Hill, is enthusiastic and keen to be involved at Axedale.

Chris Beames has been lost to the MC and moves to the Course Committee. Chris contributed to the MC over the past two years and it was great having his thoughts as a younger member who has had some great experiences at other golf clubs. We take this opportunity to thank Chris for his service to the MC.

Finally, the women's Club Championship hits off this coming Wednesday (23 September). Good luck to all players. The men's title is scheduled for November.



The new Captain's Office is much larger and features a central island bench as a working area - very handy for setting out cards when compiling a shotgun start ... remember those?!

Forget all you thought you knew about ...

Snakes alive!

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article totally changed my understanding of snake bites. It was written by Rob Timmings, who runs a medical/nursing education business Teaching nurses, doctors and paramedics. Given snakes are often spotted on our course, this is well worth taking a few minutes to read.

In Australia ...

- 3000 bites are reported annually.
- 300-500 hospitalisations
- 2-3 deaths annually.

Average time to death is 12 hours. The urban myth that you are bitten in the yard and die before you can walk from your chook pen back to the house is a load of rubbish.

While not new, the management of snake bite (like a flood/fire evacuation plan or CPR) should be refreshed each season. Let's start with a basic overview.

There are five genus of snakes that will harm us (seriously): Browns, Blacks, Adders, Tigers and Taipans. (Editor's note: Axedale golfers don't need to worry about Taipans or Adders ... well, maybe just those who can't add up their score!)

All snake venom is made up of huge proteins (like egg white). When bitten, a snake injects some venom into the meat of your limb (NOT into your blood). This venom can not be absorbed into the blood stream from the bite site. It travels in a fluid transport system in your body called the lymphatic system (not the blood stream).

Now this fluid (lymph) is moved differently to blood. Your heart pumps blood around, so even when you are lying dead still, your blood still circulates around the body. Lymph fluid is different. It moves around with physical muscle movement like bending your arm, bending knees, wriggling fingers and toes, walking/exercise etc.

Now here is the thing. Lymph fluid becomes blood after these lymph vessels converge to form one of two large vessels (lymphatic trunks) which are connected to veins at the base of the neck.

Back to the snake bite site. When bitten, the venom has been injected into this lymph fluid (which makes up the bulk of the water in your tissues). The only way that the venom can get into your blood stream is to be moved from the bite site in the lymphatic vessels. The only way to do this is to physically move the limbs that were bitten.

Stay still!!!! Venom can't move if the victim doesn't move. Just in case you missed that ...

Stay still!!

Remember, people are not bitten into their blood stream.

In the 1980s a technique called Pressure immobilisation bandaging was developed to further retard venom movement. It completely stops venom /lymph transport toward the blood stream. A firm roll bandage is applied directly over the bite site (don't wash the area).

First aid for a bite victim

Three steps: keep them still.

Step 1

Apply a bandage over the bite site, to an area about 10cm above and below the bite.

Step 2:

Then using another elastic roller bandage, apply a firm wrap from fingers/toes all the way to the armpit/groin. The bandage needs to be firm, but not so tight that it causes fingers or toes to turn purple or white. About the tension of a sprain bandage.

Step 3:

Splint the limb so the patient can't walk or bend the limb.

Do nots:

Do not cut, incise or suck the venom.

Do not EVER use a tourniquet.

Don't remove the shirt or pants - just bandage over the top of clothing.

Remember movement (like wriggling out of a shirt or pants) causes venom movement.

DO NOT try to catch, kill or identify the snake!!! This is important. In hospital we NO LONGER NEED to know the type of snake; it doesn't change treatment. Five years ago we would do a test on the bite, blood or urine to identify the snake so the correct anti venom can be used.

BUT NOW ... we don't do this. Our new Antivenom neutralises the venoms of all the five listed snake genus, so it doesn't matter what snake bit the patient.

Read that again - one injection for all snakes! Polyvalent is our one shot wonder, stocked in all hospitals, so most hospitals no longer stock specific Antivenins.

Australian snakes tend to have three main effects in differing degrees.

- Bleeding - internally and bruising.
- Muscles paralysed causing difficulty talking, moving & breathing.
- Pain

In some snakes severe muscle pain in the limb, and days later the bite site can break down forming a nasty wound. Allergy to snakes is rarer than winning lotto twice.

Final tips: not all bitten people are envenomated and only those starting to show symptoms above are given antivenom.

Did I mention to stay still.

Rob Timmings

Kingston/Robe Health Advisory

AND IT'S A WARM AXEDALE WELCOME TO ...

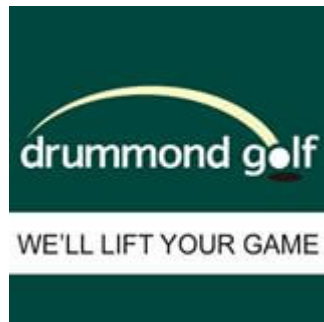
Welcome to new Members:

Luke Salvador, Junior
Shane Carmody
Paddy Carmody Junior
Hunter Austin Junior
Jacob Floyd Junior
Tom Floyd Intermediate
Anne Robinson
Michael Dee
Nicholas Stagg
Dane Spear
Sam Isbister
Jack Byrne, Junior
Mitchell Dole, 6-month member
Tobie Travaglia, Junior
Bartholemuw (Bart) Leahy
Jaidi Jackson-Leahy, Intermediate
Floyd Cartner, junior
Max Quinn, junior
Daryl Rady
Andrew Smalley
Zach Grieve, junior

Lachlan Mynard, intermediate
Zach Makeham, intermediate
Rowan Warfe
Bailey Warfe, junior
Gavin Beever
Brian Anderson
Basappa Girish
Dylan Burchell
Elizabeth Stringer
Noah Layton, junior
Noah Warfe, junior
Jill Baldwin
Patrick Kenny
Margaret Cheshier
Stuart Cheshier
Lachlan Beever
Michael Stiggants
Lila Keck (junior)
Peter Burt
Peter Cooney
Tim & Julie Doye

Jack Lacey, junior
Josh Evans, intermediate
Daniel Whiting, intermediate

Riley Roberts, Junior
Mitch Hannaford, Junior
Henry Edwards, Junior



Thanks to Drummond Golf Bendigo principal Chris Wilkinson for his continued support of the Club. We are fortunate to have a specialist golf store in town, so please support Chris. Shopping online does nothing for the town or our sponsor.
