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To: Owen Davies
Subject: AxedaleGC Newsletter Summer 2019

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Newsletter, Summer 2019

Not quite Summer?

Not quite, no - but this week's weather will ensure it feels like Summer has arrived. The newsletter is a little early but contains some important information about slow play, your handicap and future events.

Picking up the pace

Tips to avoid Slow Play

By AGC Captain ROD THRELFALL

Slow play on the golf course is usually a habit that a golfer acquires over time, as he or she acquires bad habits. In fact it could be the result of the golfer never having been taught

proper golf etiquette. This means a slow golfer can usually be “cured” of his/her habits. Of course, that golfer has to be aware that he/she is slow, and that's where buddies come into play.

But as we often take a look at other golfers on the course and notice the things they do to slow down play, so should we also take a look at ourselves.

Be prepared to accept feedback from your playing partners to improve your pace of play.

Ready Golf – we have all heard this said but what does it mean? Players should play from the tee, fairway or putting green when they are ready, so long as it is safe and legal for them to do so. Your Committee wants you to adopt this as standard practise.

Maintain a decent pace – you don't need to run, but keep up with the group in front of you, even if there is no pressure from the group behind you.

Forty seconds to play your shot – players should minimise their pre-shot routine. Forty seconds is a maximum. Undertake steps as you approach your ball – what's the distance? what club will I use? what hazards are in front of me? Prepare to get the correct club from your bag.

Watch the ball ... after it has been hit! – Where possible (eg. on the tee) all players in the group should try to watch where a player's ball ends up. This can save search time.

Three minutes to search for your ball – Your marker should take the time so the three minutes is not drawn out longer. Do not call the following group through just so you can extend your search.

Play a Provisional if you believe your ball may have gone OOB. Take the time to play a provisional if there is any doubt, don't just hope!

Position your clubs for a quick departure from the green – Assess the best position for your clubs as you arrive at the green so that, as soon as the putting is complete, you can clear the area. Do not stand marking scores whilst the group behind is waiting.

Get a player teed up quickly – If your group is falling off the pace, ensure one of your group is ready to tee off immediately they reach the tee. That player should mark the score from the previous hole after they have hit off, not before. To save more time, the first two of your group to putt out can move to the next tee while your partners putt out.

You can putt with the flagstick in – There is no penalty for striking the flagstick when putting. There is no need to wait for other players to arrive if you are on the green and ready to putt.



Three minutes from the time you reach the search area ... and no calling through the group behind so you can extend your search time. If it's lost, it's lost - get over it and move on.

Understand the new World

Handicap System

And take note ... your GA will increase

The new World Handicap System takes full effect in Australia on 30 January. What will this mean for you?

Most aspects of the handicapping will not change, but there are some important changes that you will definitely notice. We explain in detail below, but In short:

- 'Playing a blinder' will immediately see your handicap reduce by one or two additional shots to the normal reduction – **Exceptional Net Score**.
- If you are playing poorly, it will take you longer to 'go out' – **Soft Cap**.
- Everyone's GA handicap will increase slightly due to **Changes to Handicapping Formulas**.
- Calculations will be changed to ensure that you must score 36 points to 'play to' your handicap. No more wondering why 32 points failed to move your handicap.

Exceptional Net Score

Playing a 'blinder' will incur an extra handicap reduction, perhaps ironically titled a 'Bonus Reduction'. If you score seven-to-10 strokes better than your GA Handicap, Golf Link will apply an automatic additional reduction of one stroke to your GA Handicap. If your score is more than 10 strokes better, you'll lose two strokes. To establish whether a score is exceptional, Golf Link will compare your GA Handicap at the time the round was played with the number in the 'Sloped Played To' column for that round.

Soft Cap of 3 strokes

This will work in conjunction with the current Hard Cap of five strokes. Your GA Handicap will continue to increase at the current rate of 100% of the 'eight-of-20 scores' calculation until it reaches three strokes above its best point from the previous 12 months. Once in this new Soft Cap zone, your GA Handicap will only be allowed to increase by 50% of the calculated

amount. For example: Your 'eight-of-20 scores' calculation is 17.2, but your best GA Handicap from the previous 12 months is 11.2, which is six strokes fewer. Your GA Handicap calculation becomes $11.2 + 3 + (50\% \text{ of } 3)$ to equal 15.7 (1.5 shots fewer than it would be under the current formula).

The introduction of Exceptional Net Scores and Soft Caps is to address a competitive advantage enjoyed by inconsistent golfers over consistent players. Great rounds will immediately make it more difficult to win next time; a longer run of ordinary scores will be required if a handicap is to blow out to its five-stroke limit.

Changes to Handicapping Formulas

There will be two technical adjustments to the formulas for working out handicaps. The 0.93 Multiplier will be transferred out of the GA Handicap calculation and into the Daily Handicap calculation. As a result, your GA Handicap will be calculated simply by averaging the best eight of your most recent 20 results – and therefore will be slightly higher. Your GA Handicap will then be multiplied by 0.93 when your Daily Handicap is worked out. The net effect is zero.

The other adjustment will ensure 36 Stableford points means you've played to your handicap no matter what the course of its scratch rating. No more wondering why your handicap didn't move when you had just 32 points!

So what is the actual change? The Daily Handicap formula will include an adjustment when the Scratch Rating is different to the Par. For example: Scratch Rating 73, Par 70 – Daily Handicaps will increase by 3* (ie $73 - 70 = +3$). Scratch Rating 68, Par 70 – Daily Handicaps will decrease by 2* (ie $68 - 70 = -2$). Note: *the Daily Handicap calculation usually produces a number with multiple decimal places, which is then rounded to a whole number; in some cases the rounding will soften the impact of the adjustment by 1.

Why these changes?

Why is this change being made? The constant feedback GA receives is that it is challenging to explain to golfers that 36 points or net par is often not the measure of whether they have played to their handicap. It all depends on whether there is a difference between the Scratch

Rating and the Par. Where Scratch Ratings are higher than Pars, some players do not get/accept that their handicaps do not increase even though their best scores are no better than about 32 points. Where Scratch Ratings are lower than Pars it can appear odd when regular scores of 37 or 38 points are not reducing handicaps. GA says it appreciates that this appears to be inconsistent and confusing to many people – GA understands the importance of making the game less complex where it can.

First key benefit. This simple change will make 36 Stableford points the universal measure of whether a player has played to their handicap, regardless of the course or set of tees.

Second key benefit. Comparing results in multi-tee and mixed-gender competitions will be made simple.

For those who love detail, following is an example of the new Daily Handicap calculation (from 30 January): Your GA Handicap is 15.2; Slope 124; Scratch Rating 72; Par 70. The WHS Daily Handicap is: $(15.2 \times 124 \div 113 + (72 \text{ minus } 70)) \times 0.93 = 17.37$ (which rounds to 17). If you shoot 36 points off 17, you have played to your handicap.

The WHS

The R&A and the United States Golf Association (USGA) have worked together with golf's major handicapping authorities to develop a single World Handicap System (WHS) for the game. Golf Australia (GA) is one of the organisations that has been closely involved. The WHS will take full effect in Australia on 30 January 2020.

MEN'S G.A. HANDICAP					DAILY HANDICAP			
10.9					SLOPE RATING <input type="text"/>			
					FIND SLOPE RATING			
ROUND	ROUND DETAILS	HANDICAPPING SCORE	DSR	SCRATCH RATING	SLOPE RATING	PAR	DAILY HANDICAP	ADJUSTED SCORE
1	13 Apr 17 Patterson River GC (White) Competition Par, Score -1	35	69	70	130	72	13	8
2	12 Apr 17 Eastern GC (White, East) Competition Par, Score -4	32	68	69	120	72	11	8
	5 Apr 17							

Around the golf course

Plenty of run on the fairways at present - and no wonder given our October rainfall was just 10mm, down on average by 31.3mm. The fairways are prepared in such a way as to maximise the benefit of straight hitting, with the longer rough pulling balls up short as it should. The general rule of thumb is that missing the fairway should in theory result in a 'half shot' penalty.

Our greens health did deteriorate later in the month with curative applications needed to control *Rhizoctonia* and *Pythium* spp. Both of these diseases are very common in heavily thatched greens turf. It was early in the season for these diseases to appear but it appears we have had control with the chemistry. A follow-up application was applied, then moving forward will be full preventative targeting.

All couch grass has made significant improvements in the past few weeks and is the focus of the season with fortnightly fertiliser applications and pest control.

Members will have noticed that scarifying of tees has begun. This will continue throughout the season up until the New Year then continue after the Pro-Am (23 January).

New pins have been installed to add a touch of class. This has caused some chit-chat re the removal of the older style with the location balls. I hope we can all agree that the new style takes the club to new level, and we can all continue to play golf happily. Feedback on the pin placement sheets provided for round one of 'the clubbies' was positive.

The reserve Committee of Management recently approved the installation of the practice fairway irrigation and preparation work is already underway. Once the sprinklers are in, we will take delivery of Santa Anna sprigs and get them struck and growing during the Summer.

The Committee has also approved other suggested course improvements. Shrubs between the 9th and 10th have been removed (and potted on for future use) to open up this aiming area from the 9th tee. An area surrounding the men's 7th tee has also been opened up. Gradually we are pruning trees and shrubs to 'head height' to allow better visibility across the course. Discussions about other measures are being held.

- Dylan Knight, Course Superintendent



New markers are far out!

Members will notice new distance markers on the sprinkler heads - thanks to Captain Rod for sourcing these. Any guesses as to how many had to be affixed? Answer at foot of email.



Megan becomes a MoM

Megan McPherson was crowned 2019 Medal of Medallists in the first week of October, beating a quality field in this prestigious event.

One of our newer - and dare we say younger? - members, Megan's game has shown rapid improvement, culminating in her victory.

Tourney winners are grinners



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

Linda Andrea added more silverware to her collection with victory in the Ladies 18-Hole Stroke event at our Annual Tournament in late October. Vice-President Peter Hoskin presents her with a golf shirt donated by good sponsor Drummond Golf.

Brendan Larkins - now of Gisborne but well-known to Axedale as a former Pennant player - is presented with the J.G. Mill Cup as winner of the revamped 27-Hole format. Larkins tied with Neangar's Shane Muir before triumphing on the third play-off hole when Muir's fluffed pitch shot opened the door.

Young gun Jazy Roberts teamed with Dad Jason to win Saturday's GCV Mixed Pinehurst title played in conjunction with our own event. The Roberts shot a fine 75 but only just held off our own Carmel and John Harrison, whose 77 was enough to take out the nett event.

The Harrisons and the combination of Annette Holmes and Stephen Jeffrey won the GCV trophy for the best two combined scores of the host club in the Pinehurst.

October tournament a hit

AGC President Allan Andrews hailed the decision to move the Annual Tournament to October as a success, with 314 players competing across the four days of golf. While final numbers are still being run, the Tournament was also a financial success.

"With tournaments everywhere seemingly in decline, the Committee decided to trial a couple of major changes - the late October timing and the reduction from 36 holes to 27 in the J.G. Mill Cup," Allan said. "We are encouraged by the results and believe there is a foundation to build on."

Our Match Committee is conducting a review of the entire Tournament and will bring any recommendations back to the Committee for consideration.

Double trouble for Min and Hosko



Did anyone get the number of that truck! It certainly wasn't a Cool Frog vehicle that ran over the top of Peter Hoskin and Robin Minne, but they were flattened nonetheless, going down 7-6 to the ruthless lads - Kerr and Martin - in October's final of the Doubles Knockout. One of these two proclaims to be the Club's best golfer. The other is second best. We'll let you work it out.

Monday golf trial cut short

Committee called an early halt to the trial of Monday golf based on three factors.

Firstly, numbers for the five Mondays played were very disappointing, with a high of 18 and a low of just 10 players. This was despite a pre-trial survey indicating we could expect fields of around 30 initially, building over time.

Secondly, running a Monday competition requires volunteers to set up and conduct the day, then process results. We ask a lot of our volunteers and it seemed a poor use of their time when numbers were so low.

And thirdly, our Member Handbook listed Twilight Golf to resume on 4 November. Committee felt it should adhere to this format, in which numbers are consistently higher than those experienced in the daytime trial. This was borne out when 30 players teed it up for week two of Twilight.

We hasten to add this is not the death knell for new competitions, including perhaps Monday golf in future. Factors we need to consider are the time of year (September/October has a lot of golf crammed in), competing 'attractions' (Vets, for example, play mostly on Mondays), and player demand for additional golf (we've had a suggestion of a Sunday competition).

Committee will continue to evaluate our calendar and to seek your feedback.

Women's President's report

A very busy month In September featuring our Spring Luncheon on Friday 13th September followed by the President vs Captain's Day on Wednesday 18th then the Champagne Splash golf day on Saturday 21st September.

A huge thankyou to Past President Raye Fleay the Director/Producer of the show for the Spring Luncheon. A wonderful job Raye and as usual these events are not possible without our wonderful volunteers. A lot of work by so many and a great result – raising over \$4,500. A big thankyou to June Andrews of Napier Park Funerals for the generous sponsorship and also June's participation in the show.

A special thankyou to the Men who came out and cleaned up after the show - this allowed the girls to let their hair down and enjoy the after-party.

Another wonderful day was had by all at our Champagne Splash Day sponsored by Members Debbie Kesper and Janelle Brennan.

This is a day all our ladies look forward to and enjoy – thanks Deb and Janelle.

After all their work during September the ladies had a well earned break with our annual golf trip to Rich River. As usual these events don't just happen so many thanks to the ladies who organised this trip.

The break doesn't last long as we came back to the Annual Tournament commencing on Wednesday 23 October.

Helen Martin
President



All-sports. Oh, and some golf was played, too

They're good sports, these Axedale golfers, and it seems like any sport will do ... as long as it involves ridiculous fashion! Steve Lee's Richmond jumper will require surgical removal after his Tigers again saluted in the Big One.



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

Welcome to new Members:

Martin Allan

Chris Campbell

Stephen Amos

Andrew Collins

Ben Haines

Seeking volunteers for holiday roster

With the course likely to attract a significant number of Green Fee players over the festive season, the Club seeks volunteers to man the Captain's Office during key times.

Your duties will be to open clubhouse, put out one cart, collect Green Fees, direct players to tees (if required) and sell drinks from pre-prepared esky.

If you are experienced in the Bar and believe the number of players makes it worthwhile opening the Bar, then you can do so.

Thanks to those Members who have already volunteered; a roster will come out in the next few weeks. If you can do a turn, please email secretary@axedalegc.com.au or text/call me on 0418 521 817.

- Owen Davies, Hon. Sec.

DATE	7.00am – 10am Two required	10am – noon	Noon – 2.00pm
Mon 23 December	One spot filled		
Tue 24 December			
Fri 27 December	One spot filled		
Sun 29 December	One spot filled		
Mon 30 December			

Tue 31 December	One spot filled	Filled	Filled
Wed 1 January (Social Club event to be confirmed)			
Fri 3 January (Ladies 12-hole comp)	One spot filled		
Sun 5 January			

Upcoming events

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS, Men (Saturdays 16, 23 & 30 November)

Stroke and count putts; December Monthly Medal on 30 November

WOMEN'S SATURDAY CHAMPIONSHIPS (Saturdays 9, 23 & 30 November)

White course.

NATURAL HAZARDS Final day (Sunday 24 November)

4BBB Stableford. Barbecue to follow - please advise attendance to Lesley Secretary for catering.

Elvey or the

LADIES CHRISTMAS LUNCH (Wednesday 11 December)

Pinehurst (chase partners); shared lunch

TWILIGHT GOLF CHRISTMAS BREAKUP (Monday 16 December)

LADIES CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON (Axedale Tavern; par round to precede)

MEN'S MIDWEEK CHRISTMAS 4-PERSON AMBROSE (Thursday 19 December)

SYMES MOTORS BMW AXEDALE PRO-AM (Thursday 23 January 2020)

Watch for details of volunteer roles, out soon.



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.

How many distance markers? 163



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