



Newsletter, May 2019

Vol 3, No.4

President's Report

Last month, I made particular mention of “the friendly vibe, welcoming spirit and camaraderie that typifies our Club” and the need to maintain these characteristics. Within the spirit of camaraderie we benefit greatly from the powerful element of “volunteerism” that thrives within our Club. In attending the recent Axedale Anzac Day wreath laying service and then participating in our Par 3 golf day in aid of Bendigo Legacy, and hearing club member Steven Lee AM [President – Bendigo Legacy] speak so poignantly about the selfless sacrifice made by so many of our servicemen and women over the years, I was prompted to reflect and ask is there another aspect to this other than our Club showing respect to those who served and especially to the fallen.

Whilst the risks associated with the selfless service of our Defence Force personnel are far greater, and are a significant defining point worthy of our eternal respect, the “selfless service” principle flourishes within our Club and is also deserving of respect. We are blessed to have so many contribute so willingly to the management and operations of our Club, often at personal expense [by either providing time/expertise and/or money]. It has been “estimated” that the monetary value of the annual volunteer contribution made by Members is in excess of \$250,000 – or roughly \$600 per Member). So next time you are considering whether to volunteer or assessing the contribution made by volunteering, it may be worthwhile to consider the following quotes –

Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in”. Author Unknown“

Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless – Sherry Anderson.

“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time, they just have the heart” – Elizabeth Andrew

Once again competition activity has continued unabated and the Anzac Day Par 3 was a memorable event. Our “Land Army” girls and their rendition of all the wartime classics, led by our in-house theatrical director Raye Fleay was a highlight as was the fast Par 3 challenge held on the 18th at the end of the day.

Special thanks to Ruth Iser and Fred Kath for their promotion and organisation of the event.

Men’s Pennant has now ended and whilst none of our teams are contesting the finals, we thank all those who volunteered their services and particular Rod Jacobs [Co-ordinator], Allan Andrews, Hayden Nielsen and Stuart McGibbon for their professional approach in organising our teams. Our Women’s teams have performed most creditably and are all well in the running for the finals.

Finally, congratulations to David Baillie for his Monthly Medal win [83/66] and Fred Kath [2109 Captains Trophy winner].

Good golfing

Andrew Watson.

and – “A stroke maybe replayed if interrupted by gunfire or sudden explosion” – Local Club Rule – Rhodesia, 1972.



Camaraderie and volunteerism personified! Many kitchen hands make light work - the crew from the Pro-Am day in January.

Lady President's report

Ladies, back to the late start for golf now that winter is just around the corner.

Golf was actually cancelled on Wednesday 1 May as the 18th green was flooded when players arrived. An hour later when leaving it had actually cleared thanks to the good drainage system.

As I write, there were just two more rounds for Pennant with Div 1 – Axedale 1 tied with Neangar Park in first spot on 9.5 and Axedale 2 tied at 2nd also with Neangar Park on 8. Div 2 – Axedale 3 leading on 11.5 from Belvoir 7.5 and Axedale 4 is 6th on 4.5.

An excellent representation from Axedale with four teams playing in two divisions. Good luck for the rest of the competition, ladies.

MLC Advice, one of our very generous sponsors, is hosting a seminar for Axedale Members on Tuesday 4 June at the Julianna Inn commencing at approx. 5.30pm with canapes and drinks, then presentation commencing at 6.00pm until 7.30pm. They will be addressing proposed changes for retirees in the next financial year. A list is on the board near kitchen for anyone who would like to attend. Hoping for approx. 20 to 30 people.

Ladies' next event will be The Federation Bowl on Friday 7 June, generously sponsored by Life Member Wendy Neilsen. Make a note in your diary, ladies.

Thank you to our ladies for representing Axedale at all the district clubs in their events. We need to continue doing this to keep our district golf thriving, and they value our support as we do theirs.

- Helen Martin

Asphalting is on the right track



ABOVE: The base for a good job. Bobcat driver extraordinaire Mick O'Connor makes short work of laying road base for the track alongside the 12th.

The aptly named Golfing Pathways project is well underway following an all-day effort by our Tuesday volunteers on 7 May.

With the considerable assistance of Mick O'Connor on Bobcat, we managed to box up and lay road base on the 12th and 14th as well as the rear of the 6th tee. Fortunately the grounds staff were able to roll 12 and 14 just before Friday's rain set in, so everything is set up for 'first asphalt' on Monday 13th.

Work will continue, with new paths will also be installed on 4, 9, 10, 17 and 18. Mick will be busy again on some of these sections, this time on an excavator as well as the Bobcat, so plenty more work to go yet.

The project looks likely to cost around \$70,000 including the \$45,000 grant we received from the federal Building Better Regions fund. The Club will contribute the balance of funding plus considerable volunteer labor.

In total we will reconstruct some 800 linear metres of paths, concentrating on the steeper sections subject to water erosion. This work will be doubly valuable, as our volunteers currently spend many hours reconstructing gravel paths after heavy rain. This time will be better allocated to other course improvements.

Golfing Pathways fits with the Committee's master plan to ensure Axedale is the region's premiere member club.

Handicapping changes are on the way

A single World Handicap System (WHS) is on its way, with full implementation scheduled to take place in Australia in late-January or early-February 2020.

Many of the changes are technical and will be of more interest to handicappers than golfers, but there will be some changes we mere mortals will notice.

1. Consistency will be better rewarded. GA has been aware for some time that the existing system produces a competitive advantage to the inconsistent player over the consistent player and has been looking for a way to address this. A new Soft Cap of three shots will improve the equity of Australian handicapping. A GA Handicap will continue to increase at the current rate of 100% of the '8 of 20' calculation UNTIL it reaches three strokes above the best GA Handicap from the previous 12-month period. Above this point the GA Handicap will only be permitted to increase at a rate of 50% of the '8 of 20' calculation.

In other words, your 'bad rounds' will not increase your handicap as quickly.

2. The Daily Handicap calculation will be changed to incorporate the difference between the Scratch Rating and the Par. To determine a WHS Daily Handicap, GOLF Link will start by performing the exact same calculation as now. Then it will simply adjust this amount by the difference between the Scratch Rating and the Par. For example, if your Daily Handicap under the existing GA Handicap System is 15, the Scratch Rating is 72, and the par is 70, you will have two shots added to your Daily. In this example, you'd play off 17 because the course is rated two shots harder.

3. GOLF Link will apply an automatic additional reduction to your GA Handicap if you return an 'exceptional score'. This regulation currently operates in Australia as an optional feature for clubs, but will become automatic. An 'exceptional score' is at least seven strokes better than your GA Handicap. If your score is seven to 10 strokes better than you will do an additional one shot. Come in 10 shots under and you'll do two.

TAYLOR'S TRIVIA TEN NO. 31

1. Of which state is the kangaroo paw the floral emblem?
2. Which Axedale golfer struck "gold" recently with a glorious hole in one at Welshpool?
3. What word literally means "harbour wave"?
4. Who were announced as joint winners of the Newcombe Medal for 2018 at the Australian Tennis Awards in November?
5. Which chess piece is the most mobile?
6. What film won the Best Picture Oscar at the recent 91st Academy Awards?
7. Who has been selected to represent Australia in the 64th Eurovision song contest?
8. What is the national bird of New Zealand?
9. Last year, who won Australian golf's most prestigious individual honour; the Greg Norman Medal?
10. Born in Kent, England, my parents separated when I was four. I moved to Australia in 1982, with early roles on Home and Away and Brides of Christ. My role in the Hollywood film Mulholland Drive brought me critical attention. My other films include The Ring, 21 Grams, King Kong, Eastern Promises, The International and The Impossible. Who am I?

ANSWERS AT FOOT OF NEWSLETTER

From the Skippers

MEN'S CAPTAIN: Rod Threlfall

Over the past few months we have made some slight changes to Saturday afternoon registrations. I believe this is benefitting our volunteers who work in the Captain's office and in turn getting the field playing soon after midday. We've reduced the workload on volunteers by setting up the competition early and registering morning players without them having to place money in the green fee box. A big thank you to Lady Captain Jan Walklate who has been critical in getting this new practice started and operational.

All players are reminded that we need to arrive and be registered to play by 11.30am to ensure a timely send-off for all players.

The Singles Knockout competition is now into the quarter final stage and some close matches have been fought out over the past few weeks. There were a few teething issues to get the first round played and we all learned lessons which hold us in good stead into the future for this and subsequent competitions. I have placed a fixture of matches on the notice board for all members to view.

Pennant matches have all been played and although no men's teams from Axedale will be competing in the finals, it is comforting to know that all players in all teams competed with great enthusiasm for our club. I would like to thank Rod Jacobs for all of his work as pennant coordinator which has provided our club with another level of professionalism in this regional competition.

Presentations after golf on Thursdays and Saturdays have provided all Members in the clubhouse an opportunity to share stories and mix with fellow members. This truly is one of the great advantages we have over other clubs and I have noticed an increased level of comradeship during these times.

We really do have a unique and eclectic group of Members who mix in this situation very well.

All Members seemed to have adapted to the new rules implemented in 2019. I have witnessed many players who now like to putt with the flagstick still in the hole. There is an interesting story in the May issue of Golf Digest which outlines a study carried out on putting with the flagstick left in the hole. It is worth a read and in a nutshell suggest that putting averages have not changed when the flagstick is left in the hole.

The change was designed to speed up play and I believe it has had a positive effect in that regard with players not required to wait for someone to 'grab the flagstick' before putting.

Some players however still need to give thought to changing how they go about some of their current practices to quicken their play. This can include:

- Be ready when it is your turn to hit.
- Mark your scorecard after your tee-off or before you leave the putting green whilst waiting for others in the group to complete the hole.
- Where you park your golf buggy or cart can also affect the time it takes to depart the green.

Slow play will affect all in the field which in turn affects results at the end of the day. I ask all players to think about how they might be able to speed up their own game to support a quicker and more enjoyable experience for all players.

LADIES' CAPTAIN: Jan Walklate

Congratulations to Anne Telford & Bud Winther who have qualified to play in Royal Women's Hospital 4BBB final at Southern Golf Course later in the year.

Pennant is continuing – with the last round before finals being played at Belvoir next week. We are assured of a team in the Div 1 final but it is not clear yet if that will be Ruth Iser's Splash or Sue O'Connor's Wombats.

In Div 2, Purdy's Birdies need a win at Belvoir to be a chance of making the final, whilst Minne's Mashers are out of the race for this year.

The Club has been represented well with seven pairs participating in the Drummond 4BBB at Bendigo last week. We have 12 women in four teams playing in the Yvonne Boyd Bowl at Neangar this Friday. Ruth Iser and Loretta Prowse won the two-person Ambrose at Marong on Tuesday of this week.

Numbers continue to be good, though last week (8/5) no comp was played due to the weather. As this was medal day, May's medal will be played in conjunction with first round of the championships on 22 May.

May Saturday Medal Qualifier – Therese Lynch

We have a busy month ahead of us with

- Singles knockout qualification

- Club Championships
- Federation Bowl on Friday 6th June
- Silver Spoon qualifiers



Volunteering in style

The Club recently took delivery of a new 'stretch limo' golf cart. This vehicle will be multipurpose, ferrying our Tuesday volunteers and their gear around the course, transporting golfers to and from the cart shed, and acting as 'drinks waiter' for special events. Pictured are chauffeur Rod Connelly and passenger Ian Kerr, both former presidents and both stalwarts of the 'Tuesday Mob'.

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

Welcome to Graeme Robertson

Upcoming events

LADIES' CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Hit that practice fairway, ladies, your Championship starts on Wednesday 22 May and runs for the following two weeks.

MEN'S CANADIAN FOURSOMES CHAMPIONSHIP (27 HOLES)

Saturday 8 June. The 27-hole event hits off at 9.30am. An 18-hole Canadian foursomes will be played in the afternoon as a separate event.

COUNTRY TOURNAMENTS

The Winter country tournament season is now underway. Please check the notice boards in the clubrooms for details.

LADIES CLINICS

As arranged.

Trish Shanahan continues to do a fabulous job of introducing ladies to the game and to our Club. For inquiries about these clinics and introductory games, please email Trish at shanast@bigpond.com

ANSWERS TO TAYLOR'S TRIVIA TEN NO.31

1. Western Australia 2. Pam Davies 3. Tsunami 4. Ashleigh Barty and Alex de Minaur 5. Queen 6. Green Book 7. Kate Miller-Heidke 8. Kiwi 9. Minjee Lee (She is the third recipient of the medal following Jason Day in 2015/2016 and Marc Leishman in 2017.) 10. Naomi Watts



Peter Hoskin's refrigerated transport company is a leading sponsor of the Club. Cool Frog aims deliver refrigerated freight throughout Victoria and does travel Interstate, mainly to Sydney. For friendly, efficient service, give Pete a call on 0427 500 651.

The Club is very grateful to Peter for his continued support.