



Newsletter, Winter 2020

The Winter of our discontent ...

Actually it was the Autumn of our discontent, but that's nowhere near as catchy, nor is it Shakespearean.

Seven weeks without golf - how on earth did we get through it?! Actually, judging by scores since play resumed, many of us didn't get through it ... but at least we're playing again.

So, not a lot of actual golf news in this Winter edition, but we do lead off with huge news on the sponsorship front.

Our biggest ever sponsorship deal

Fosterville Gold's three-year commitment

From the President

The Club is thrilled to announce a major new partnership with Fosterville Gold Mine ('Fosterville').

Over this year and two more, Fosterville will provide the Club with significant funding for our planned clubhouse extensions/remodelling. The Club will recognise this contribution by naming Fosterville Gold Mine as its Platinum Sponsor.

During the current calendar year, Fosterville will provide an initial \$25,000 to fund the muchneeded renovation and extension of the Captain's Office, as well as the construction of a decking area overlooking the 18th green.

In 2021 and 2022, Fosterville will contribute similar funding towards a major extension of the clubhouse that will incorporate new cart storage. These funds will be augmented by Club contributions; we will also seek Government funding if available.

Goldmine General Manager Ion Hann said: "Fosterville's investment into local communities is underpinned by our strong social responsibility strategy. We appreciate the significant contribution of the Golf Club to the whole Axedale community and being able to assist in its growth and development is something Fosterville is immensely proud of."

Plans are now being drawn up and builders have made an initial assessment of the work required on the Captain's Office and deck. Once plans are finalised, they will be released to Members seeking Expressions of Interest in winning work. The Club Committee strongly believes construction and supplies should be sourced from within our own Member/Sponsor base.

This is not Fosterville's first involvement with the Club. The Company provided funding that enabled us to replace the decaying bridge across the 9th hole creek with a solid structure renamed The 9th Bridge that displays a sign acknowledging Fosterville's contribution.

We are fortunate to have Fosterville operating within our community. The Company is a major employer in the district, with around 770 employees, and makes a tremendous contribution to the broader community through its Partnerships and Community Grants Program. We are thrilled that it acknowledges our Golf Club plays an important role in the lives of Axedale residents and our own 370 members and look forward to working with the mine operators.

Footnote: I'm also delighted that Ion is joining as a full Member. We look forward to welcoming him aboard.

About Fosterville Gold Mine

We talk about Axedale being Bendigo's best-kept golfing secret, well for years Fosterville was probably its best-kept business secret. But with the Club's membership growing strongly and Fosterville employing some 700 Bendigonians, word is now well and truly out on both.

Fosterville is operated by Kirkland Lake Gold Ltd, a growing gold producer operating in Canada and Australia that produced 974,615 ounces in 2019, with target production for 2020 of 1,470,000 - 1,540,000 ounces. Kirkland's production profile is anchored by three highquality operations including, the Macassa Mine and Detour Lake Mine, both located in Northern Ontario, Canada and the Fosterville Mine. All three mines combine free cash flow generating operations, substantial in-mine growth potential and attractive regional exploration upside to drive continued growth well into the future.

The Fosterville Mine is a high-grade, low cost underground gold mine featuring growing gold production at increasingly high grades. And there's no shortage of the stuff - reserves of 2.7 million ounces already and lots of exploration still to be done.

ALLAN ANDREWS

FROM THE ARCHIVES ...

2020 Autumn Tournament





This all seems so long ago, but it's important to note our major winners for the 2020 Autumn Tournament played in mid-March.

TOP: Evergreen Tuesday volunteers 'Rocket' Rod Connelly and Mick Purdon were the narrowest of winners of the Peter Kealy Memorial for the best aggregate score over the Friday/Saturday comps. Their 83 won on a countback.

ABOVE LEFT: Winners of the Friday women's 4BBB with 47 points were Loretta Prowse and Rosemary Griffen, pictured with sponsor Brian Retallick from Camden Way.

ABOVE RIGHT: Evergreen four-ball pair Len Rodda and Geoff Arundell took out the Friday men's event with 45 points.

BELOW LEFT: Women's 4BBB on Saturday was comfortably won by Linda Andrea and Emma Dorrington with 46 points.

BELOW RIGHT: Grant Lane and Darren Hocking narrowly won the Saturday men's event with 45 points.



ABOVE LEFT: So near and yet so far. Winners of the Women's Aggregate were Pam Davies and Mandy Hamilton. Their 83 points tied for the Peter Kealy Memorial, but they missed out on the countback.

ABOVE RIGHT: Triple treat ... Irish 3-Ball winners Alyson McCulloch, Ann Whiting and Ruth Iser. Their winning tally of 80 points was helped along by a 10-pointer on the 12th where Ruth's birdie and Aly's par both netted four points and Ann tapped in for a four-for-two. They also rattled in nine points on another hole.

Progress on course

FROM COURSE CHAIRMAN LEX JOHNSTONE

Course Committee has provided General Committee with a comprehensive course improvement plan to be undertaken over the next decade. It covers eight major areas of improvement:

Course Committee has provided General Committee with a comprehensive draft course improvement plan to be undertaken over the next decade. It covers eight major areas of improvement, including fairway resurfacing, greens and surrounds improvements, tee levelling, irrigation improvements, machinery replacement, paths/bridges and improvements and developments to the overall layout, including the construction of a par 3 on the practice fairway that will act as a '19th hole' to be brought into play whenever we need to close a hole for works.

As you can see, this is an extensive and expensive wish list that Committee will discuss at the June meeting. The program must be agreed and budgeted so we can stage improvements in a way that enables large scale works whilst retaining the playability of the course. No one pretends there won't be some disruption; our aim is to keep it to a minimum. Other clubs have done it - so can we.

Eagle-eyed Members will have noted some of the work going on around the course, in particular the removal of 13 sheoaks along the creek boundary on the 4th which has revealed the natural beauty of the granite boulders and river redgums flanking the creek. Tuesday volunteers also removed hundreds of suckers on the hillside between the third and sixth and further work will be done to open up this area. We have also removed some failing wattles at the corner of the eighth which will allow more sunlight on to what has proven a difficult area to grow grass.

Part of our plan is to plant out non-play areas with local habitat plants to encourage birds and small wildlife into the course. Course Committee is consulting with Ken Morrison and Brian Fry about suitable species. We are fortunate to have the likes of blue wrens and firetail finches on the course and with correct planning we can expect to see bird numbers and species increase.

Better golf, though, is our key aim and we will be talking to Members about how best to tackle the big task of resurfacing our 12 non-par-three fairways to provide improved Summer and Winter conditions. This Winter seems set to provide an ideal test for the five couch species we have sown on the practice fairway and in Spring we will select a 'winner' to become our dominant grass.

Your post-COVID golfing holiday?

Kings of Aussie courses

Cape Wickham links on King Island regularly tops the list of Australia's best courses. Not far behind it is its sister course Ocean Dunes, with both courses hugging the rugged coastline shaped by the winds and pounding surf of Bass Strait. Virtually every hole on these majestic courses commands a spectacular view.

In March, a lucky group of 20 mainly Axedale golfers were fortunate enough to enjoy four days on the island, staying at the Currie Hotel and playing both courses twice. The weather was kind and in an extraordinarily lucky break, Tasmania closed its borders because of COVID on the day the boys flew home. Thus, they were the last group for months to come to play these superb links.

It is difficult to exaggerate the experience of playing golf pretty much as the Scots intended it to be played, with the vagaries of wind and undulating links land dictating the shot to be played. Cape Wickham and Ocean Dunes are not impossible for average golfers ... as long as you select the appropriate tees. They are fair but demanding of concentration and thought. Our golfers generally scored pretty well and if you are worried about your score you can always play an Ambrose to ensure everyone enjoys the experience.

Who knows when King Island will reopen to golfers, but it is well worth considering a golfing holiday to this beautiful island. Oh, and there is other stuff to do besides golf!

Below are some of Peter Andrews' photos from the trip to whet your appetite.



On the beach ... literally. The 18th is Cape Wickham's signature hole, with the beach alongside the fairway in play. Only problem is, it's about a three-metre drop! In the picture above, imagine hitting off from the far end of the beach and up on to the higher fairway. Not everyone negotiates it, as shown below where Sheldon Carter recovers from the sand. Even 17 times Club Champion Lex visited the beach and had to clamber back to safety. Once all that is negotiated, it's on to the massive undulating green, shot here from the clubhouse above.





ABOVE: The undulations were a constant test - in fact some of our Members were so intimidated by the practice green at Ocean Dunes that they refused to attempt it. Out on the course was a little friendlier ... a little. And as far as bunkers go, this one on the 1st at Ocean Dunes took some beating, dwarfing John Torney whose tee shot was a little errant.

BELOW: Links land and the intrepid group that took it on.



COVID remains a threat

Whilst it is tempting to think we have beaten the coronavirus, it remains a threat and is likely to do so for a very long time.

For the foreseeable future, the current precautions will remain in place at the Club:

- > Register for ALL golf - we must have a record of who is on the course for tracing purposes.
- > Maintain social distancing - crossed putters held high is a nice way to finish a round and acknowledge your playing partners: Let's make it an 'Axedale thing'.
- > Observe all on-course restrictions - flag in, smooth bunkers as best you can, etc.
- > Finally, we encourage all Members to download the COVIDSafe app on their phones.

The game giveth ...



And the game taketh away!

The pain and the glory of golf. Ian Martin shows off his hole-in-one trophy awarded just before lockdown, whilst it was all too much for one visitor to the course. We've all felt that way at times.

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

Welcome to new Members:

James Brown

Darron Batties (Country)

Sue Bice

James Pearce (Junior)

Sam Whitfield

Mick Martin

Evan Davies

Bronwyn Davies

Tom Davies

Cale Urwin

Adam Robins

Ion Hann

Harvey Gallagher (Junior)

Lincoln White (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.

