



7th & 18th Green Replacement

During February the 7th & 18th greens will be taken out of play to renew & redesign the green surface and remove the water couch.

From February 1 the 7th will be taken out completely and 17A & 17B will be played.

A temporary green will be used on the 18th and the back tee used for the men. The ladies LM/ social tee will be used for the Ladies.

The two greens have been sprayed with roundup and around the 15th February construction work will commence.

If the 7th green is being worked on during the running of a men's competition then the 7th hole will be out of play and the entire men's field will tee off from the ladies' 8th tee when playing the 8th. This means we will play 8 holes on the front and 10 holes on the back.

During construction on the 18th care will need to be exercised as vehicle traffic will be on the course between the sand site behind the 16th green and the green under reconstruction. It is anticipated this traffic will travel down the corridor between the 1st and 17A fairways.

The Course Superintendent, Dave Buchanan estimates the growing time required before the replacement greens are playable at 12 weeks.

James Wilcher of Golf by Design has been engaged to reconfigure the putting surfaces of the two greens. Sternbeck Excavations from the Central Coast will do the green construction and we will use our own staff to install spray systems, seed greens and lay any surround turf that needs replacement.

Your co-operation whilst this necessary work is underway would be appreciated.

VALE

Longstanding member, **Phil Zeitsch** suddenly passed away just prior to Christmas. We extend condolences to his wife Marilyn, son Ryan and daughter Brooke.

Presentation Night

The Men's Presentation night (including dinner) will be held on 20th February 2010 at the Clubhouse.

Time: 7:00 pm for 7:30 pm

Cost: \$30 per person (recipients of awards are free)

Bookings (either individual or for tables) need to be made by 18th February 2010. Award recipients also need to advise their attendance.

Competition Fee Increase

On and from Tuesday 16th February competition fees will increase by \$1 to \$15. Competition fees have not increased since 2004.

Finance

BGC experienced the volatility that exists in the Club industry in November when a disappointing operating loss of around \$10 000 was recorded. This loss was primarily due to poor trading in the bar, bistro and gaming.

The profits from the bar, bistro and gaming are well short of covering the costs of operating the Clubhouse let alone generating a surplus to be applied on the course. This compares to 2008/09 when the profits from the bar, bistro and gaming were breakeven with the costs of operating the Clubhouse.

In December, trading conditions improved and for the period to 31 December 2009, the club is on target to meet its projected budget forecast.

Measures are being taken to ensure financial reporting of monthly results on a more timely basis.

Congratulations to Kieran Pratt of Victoria on winning The Greater Lake Macquarie Amateur Championship for 2010 with 21 under. The runner up was Brendan Smith with a score of 10 under. Julia Boland is the Ladies Champion (for the 3rd time) with 5 under from Stacey Keating on 3 under.

Bistro

The Board decided to discontinue dinner on a Sunday night in the Bistro after assessing results. For the Sunday nights in November (for which takings can be disaggregated) the takings were \$160, \$564, \$215 & \$326 respectively.

The Club pays double time for labour on a Sunday. The takings would not cover the cost of labour let alone the cost of food and overheads.

The Board fully accepts the need to provide a comprehensive food and drinks service to golfing members when playing but does not support golfing member's subs being used to subsidise a food operation that does not directly relate to providing a service for golfers!

The review of the bistro operation at the Club, under the Chairmanship of former Vice President, Tom Scott is nearing completion. What is clear, at this stage, is that the only night that the Bistro is profitable is Friday night.

The Bistro runs at a substantial loss when opening on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday nights for dinner (especially Saturday night). If you value this service get your family & friends to patronise the dinner service and ensure its ongoing viability.

Similarly, the daytime operation of the Bistro on a Monday is problematic when a function or corporate golf event is not booked or a social golf group is not playing on the course.

If you value the Bistro operation remaining open on all Mondays please drop into the Club for a lunchtime meal or snack.

Programme Books

The programme books will be available by mid February. A slight delay occurred because confirmation of the dates of the 2011 Lake Macquarie was needed from NSW Golf. (The Lake Macquarie events have been put back a week)

Roof Repairs

Tenders have been called to repair the roof above the foyer and offices to stop the leaks.

Course Master plan

The club is currently preparing a brief to enable it to call for tenders for the design of a Master Plan for the long term development of the golf course.

The timing and outcome of this project is dependent on our financial position but should all go to plan then it is expected that the Master plan would be in place prior to any further capital works on the course.

As funds become available, then this Master plan would form the basis for future changes to be implemented for holes and/or greens.

The Board is acutely aware that any changes to holes or greens needs to accommodate golfers of all levels while recognising the requirements for The Greater Lake Macquarie International Amateur Championship.

To this end, the Board will seek the involvement of and endorsement from golfing members of the Club for the Master plan.

Course

Around \$8831 additional expenditure was spent on seeds and fertiliser, including sprays, in the period from 1 July 2009 to 31 December. The Board believes this has been a worthwhile investment in the course demonstrated by how good the course is looking!

SICK LIST

Former Secretary Manager (from 1964 to 1984) and long standing club member, **Les Berry**, had to have a lower leg amputation and is now living at Forster to be closer to family. Members of BGC will certainly miss Les' involvement and we look forward to him visiting us.

Grace Clachan, a member since 1952, has undergone radiotherapy treatment recently. Gracie looks a million dollars and is her usual elegant self.

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