

PORT MACQUARIE GOLF CLUB LTD

PRESIDENT: Bill MacDonald CAPTAIN: Keith Heap EDITOR: Gordon Bain

NEWSLETTER

February – March 2010

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

As we commence the new decade may I, on behalf of, myself and the board of directors of the Port Macquarie Golf Club wish all members, guests and visitors to our Club a very happy, healthy and peaceful new year.

This year is a very eventful period for our club as it is the club's 100th year and there are many events organised to help us celebrate this magnificent achievement. Should you wish to find out more details of the upcoming events then either the office staff or our club captain Keith Heap are the people to discuss these events.

If you are a first time visitor to our club I know you will enjoy our golf course and be very well looked after by the staff of the Bar Mr. Dean Noble, or Mr Rob Mooney for catering and Pro-shop with our head professional Mr Ben Hamilton.

We on the board are very proud of the way in which the club is run at all times throughout the year and of the staff that we have in place to look after your needs and ours.

With the trivia and raffle draw on Wednesday night and the meat raffle and members draw on Friday night there is always something going on in the clubhouse and visitors and members are invited to attend, plus the excellent food prepared by the resident caterer Mr. Rob Mooney.

For your golfing requirements contact Ben Hamilton the head professional or his staff and they will do their best to fit you onto the course.

Any enquiries about membership should be directed to the General Manager Mr Trevor Haynes, Donna or Glenn in the front office.

So in closing once again may your year be as you would choose and good golfing

Yours Thankfully

W.B. MacDonald
President Port Macquarie Golf Club

TIP FROM THE PRO:

With changes to the groove design in wedges a hot topic at the moment, now might be a good time to try to use less spin when playing a chip shot.

Many players still use this chip and run technique used mainly with 7 or 8 iron, because it is a lot easier to play a running shot than relying on your lob wedge to throw the ball up to the hole.

After you work out where the ball needs to land. Set up with a 7 iron and grip the club half way down the grip. Set your feet close together and position the ball inside your right foot. Swing the club like a putter keeping your hands leading the club through impact. Run the ball to the hole, don't always lob it up the green.

Remember to try it in practice before you implement it on the course.

Need a lesson, contact the pro shop.

THIS MONTH'S SPECIALS

With the New Year under way most golf companies have new release products hitting the market place. Now might be a good time for you to pick up a good deal on superseded models. Come in and see us in the Pro Shop.

Taylor Made Burner models reduced to clear.

Taylor Made R9 Driver now \$499

Cleveland Drivers, Save over \$200 Now \$259

Great savings on Golf Bags

Sue shot GPS 8850 \$349

Floor Stock Only.

Ben Hamilton
Holed out Golf

COURSE SNIPPETS:

Where has all the rain gone? We have just experienced a very strange twelve months of weather. The general patterns could not have been predicted. This causes headaches all round as the course staff endeavour to present the course in its best possible condition.

For the record we received in excess of our annual rainfall of 1540mm in the five months from February 09 to end of June 09, this caused a significant number of washed out days, with no golf. Since June 09 only 400mm rainfall has been recorded

making us rely heavily on our bore, which has been operating 24/7

The low rainfall in the second half of the year, combined with the extended very hot summer we are currently experiencing has had the green staff on their toes.

We were fortunate the irrigation system was replaced before this summer, as we would have been in all sorts of trouble if the old system was still in place and we could have been looking at replacing more than the 4th Green.

Replacement of the 4th Green is scheduled for April this year. An inherent problem exists with the soil used in construction of this green, all of which will be removed with the reconstructed green being built to American PGA specifications. The existing mounding and bunkering will stay in place. Turf from the nursery has been used to replace damaged sections of this green, bringing it back into play for a short period of time. Meanwhile the temporary green short of the 4th will be used from time to time and during the green reconstruction. When time permits and extension to the practice tee to the right of the 13th fairway will be carried out. This will allow for winter wear to be spread over a larger area.

An additional native grass plantation similar to the one at the back of the 4th Tee has been constructed in the area between the 17th green and 18th Tee area. An extension cart path is also being included. Significant projects are usually not programmed over the summer months as all staff are busy mowing and time is paramount due to short working weeks caused by public holidays though December and January. Never the less some small jobs have been attended too. The whole 10th Tee, front section of the men's 12th Tee, the ladies tees on 16th and 17th have, been levelled and the original good turf replaced plus additional turf in places. The men's 17th tee is next.

Removal of the dead aggressive waterlilies, which keep rising from the bottom of the first pond on the 7th hole, is a continual process. We will eventually beat this problem

The fountain in the second pond is due for removal and replacement of filters. It has been operating in a dam that was below optimal level for some time.

Monthly vertti-draining and sanding of greens is being carried out, with bunker renovations continuing.

STIMPMETER:

We are taking a weekly reading from a stimpmeter, which will be displayed in the Pro shop. This will give an indication to members of the speed of the greens. The reading is taken on a Thursday after the green has been mown. These readings

generally range from 214cm to 366cm (7 feet to 12 feet) depending on many factors. Experience shows that trying to keep the speed above 305cm(10 feet) on a consistent basis usually causes difficult to manage turf problems and is not recommended. Note that during the course of the day as the turf grows the speed of the greens can decrease by up to a 100cm (39 inches) depending on the type of turf and the season.

Neil Stevenson – Course Chairman

Report from Course Manager:

Rainfall:

January saw only 46.5mm rainfall recorded over the course. This is well below the monthly average of 153mm

Greens:

The greens are currently being cut at 4mm. Due to the excessive humidity over the past several months all greens have suffered to a degree from pythium and anthractnose. Pythium has been a constant problem throughout the entire season while anthractnose has only spored in Mid January in the older greens with poor drainage and high percentages of winter grass.

4th Green and Temporary

The last week of January saw further break out of pythium in the 4th green. Prior to this the green was recovering well, however the breakout was severe even though weekly applications were being applied.

The temporary green has caused some major problems. Surface water has been unable to penetrate through the soil. Site tests have shown deposits from the old retiling mining operation below the surface. A major vertti draining has since taken place to break up the area below the surface.

Report from the Treasurer:

The following is a report on our results to end January 2010 against our budget.

(000's)	Budget	YTD	Diff
Income:			
Bar	139	138	-1
Poker Mach	308	379	71
Course	1076	1187	111
Total Income	1655	1826	171
Expenses			
Course	701	712	11
House	433	410	- 23
Admin	256	230	- 26
Total Expense	1391	1353	- 38
Net Profit	264	473	209

YTD 2009 actual, stood at \$251, so we have achieved a significant YTD improvement on last year of some \$222. Significant areas are Poker Machines, Course and the savings in House and Administration, principally under wages. We will keep you informed on our financial progress, but all in all we are confident that we will not see a repeat of last years loss result.

GOLF CART INSURANCE:

Members, who house their motorised Golf Cart or Bike within the Cart Shed, need to be aware that the Club's Insurance does not extend to their Golf Cart. However it does extend to their Golf Clubs, an excess does apply. Usually insurance for your Golf Cart can be arranged as an addition to your household policy. If not the Golf Club can arrange individual cover on your behalf. The cost being \$150.00 per annum and you need to make arrangements at the office.

PAY AS YOU GO GOLF:

The Club has agreed to become involved with the above scheme to coincide with subscriptions due for our next financial year. Benefits for the Club Member include a spread of fees etc over a period between four and ten months. Members can choose the number of instalments they want. There is one simple registration form and no invasive credit assessment process. There is a cost of about 10% being a processing charge paid by the member.

WELFARE OFFICER:

Alf Wallis is the Club's volunteer Welfare Officer. He is a likable type who will go out of his way to visit those members who are unwell or incapacitated. If you are aware of any member who might benefit from a visit from Alf, please give him a call. He can be reached through the Club or at home on 6582 6776

AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sunday 22nd August to Thursday 26th August
Port Macquarie golf club has been fortunate enough to host the Australian Schools Golf Championships in this our centenary year. Each state runs the event only once every six years and this is the second time in the past three occasions that Port Macquarie has been selected to host the New South Wales event. The last instance was in 1996 and a number of members will remember what a wonderful week the players had in our beautiful town. Thus it is a rare opportunity

to witness the best of Australia's golfing future.

The championship brings together sixty of the very best of our junior golfer from NSW, QLD, VIC, WA, ACT and SA. It is extraordinary when they all compete in the one event. The players have gone through a testing selection process just to be selected for their state and are highly motivated and talented golfers, Most of these juniors will attempt to make a career out of their golfing talents. Some will have success on the various tours in Australia and overseas. Others will achieve at the highest level and be rated in the top ten in the world. These juniors will win tour events or even one or more of the major events around the world. Greg Norman and Karrie Webb are two names that spring to mind as past competitors. In 1996 a young Adam Scott was named player of the tournament here in Port Macquarie.

In coming months members will not only be given the opportunity to behold the talents of these juniors but will also have the opportunity to host them in your home for the duration of the championships. For those who have billeted players in the past they recognise what a truly wonderful and memorable experience it can be. Further details will follow soon, if you wish to assist with billeting.

MATCH:.

Pennants 2010
Pennants began 6th February, and we wish all players much success.
Junior Seaside Classic 2010
This event took place on 28th February.
Our thanks to coordinator Kel Tremayne ably assisted by Phil Pye.

Beverley Park Visit No 51
Our visit to Beverley Park will take place on March 6-7 2010

Coordinator is once again Neil Stevenson

Battle of The Hastings:
Set for Saturday, 13th March. Teams to visit Wauchope have been selected.
Coordination is by Vice Captain Dave Harris.

NSW Senior's Tournament
This event was run over 54 holes from 2nd March. It is pleasing to report that past Club Champion Brian Sams was successful in winning the tournament by four shots.

ONE TEE START:

The one tee start over the Christmas January period was a successful innovation and assisted the club with green

fee income. It depends on the days that the holidays fall. Next year may see some change in that the one tee start might be restricted to the Christmas New Year break only. More on this as the year progresses

Captain Keath Heap is once again hospitalised with his ankle. By the time we go to press he will be home after a further operation. This will fix his problems completely and he will soon be back at golf.

He has been very patient during his long convalescence and will soon grace our fairways.

Handicap Changes:

The first stage of the changes to the handicap system will be introduced on Friday 9th April 2010.

Only two aspects of the system will be changed at this stage. They are

1. The CCR will no longer be used for men and handicapping will be done using the AMCR and AWCR. This change was, made by the women in 2007.
2. The USGA's rolling sample method will be used. IE: A player will be handicapped on his/her best ten scores from his/her last twenty rounds.

On a player's GolfLink record the key number will be the figure in the "played to" column. This number will be the difference between the player's score and the AMCR or the AWCR. On 9th April GolfLink will adjust these numbers for previous rounds.

The average of the player's best ten rounds from his/her, last twenty rounds, will be multiplied by 0.96. All digits after the first decimal place will be disregarded. This will be the player's exact handicap.

There will be a variation of the system for players with less than twenty rounds. Full details of the handicapping system can be obtained from the Golf Australia website.

PMGC Centenary:

This year is our centenary year and a number of special events are planned. NSW Senior Championship – since played. Australian Schools Championship 22nd to 26th August. WGCNC Tournament 10,11 & 12 August

Australian Vet Championships 8th to 12th November.

Our birthday is 2nd July, which is a Friday. On Saturday 3rd July we will have a formal dinner to be attended by members and invited dignitaries. A medley four ball, with shotgun start, will be held the next day.

A week of golf will be held from 14th to 20th November and will include an informal social function (party)

HOUSE MATTERS:

The current Friday Night \$10000.00 give away, will finish on 9th April. As you would know it involves \$1000.00 given away each Friday night, in segments drawn each half hour except during the raffle. At the end of the night we have a \$300.00 guaranteed give away.

Entertainment on Friday's has proven very popular. On 19th March we have Johnnie Blomfield, followed by Gary King, then Betsy, with Balance Duo completing our current promotion. Free raffles continue on Wednesday, just swipe your card at the door and collect your tickets. We have over \$500 in prizes every Wednesday.

Friday Night raffles continue with a heap of meat trays and other prizes to the value of \$1400.00.

We run the Courtesy Bus on Fridays, from 5.30pm. Just phone the Club to Book. 6582 0409

Members Draw:

Friday	\$3700.00
Wednesday	\$1700.00

Bar Specials:

Rothbury Estate – Chardonnay or Cabernet Merlot

Save \$24.00 – at \$132.00 per case.

Website:

www.portmacquariegolf.com.au

Don't forget to use the club's website, for all sorts of useful information. Such as:

Coming events
Social events
Golf Time Sheet, bookings and Golf results