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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I sit here contemplating my thoughts for this newsletter the regional lockdown caused by the DELTA strain of COVID 19 rolls on. Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the entire golf club workforce, led by Greg Nugent, for their efforts during a very challenging 2021. I wish you well and hope for an easing of restrictions allowing members to see you back at the golf club soon.

To the MGC members, despite the stress we all feel during the current health crisis, I hope you are coping well in lockdown and look forward to a rapid return to both the course and the club. Please be assured that your board and management are working diligently during lockdown to ensure a smooth and successful reopening when the time comes. To all of you who give time and effort in voluntary positions thanks again.

Given we were forced to cancel the members information session a quick update.

Honour Boards – given their significance, we only have one chance to get it right!

The new boards will soon be installed and most of the old boards will available to the members via on-line auction. Thanks to Marion Sargeant for her dedication to this project.

Cart Storage - the club cart usage and storage procedures have been updated to reflect demand and our desire to keep golfers playing. Extra cart storage at the golf club is now available.

Smokers – upgrades have been made the smokers area adjacent to the Pokies room, more to come.

We have endured a very difficult time with playing restrictions on the course and the club rarely being in a position to trade normally since reopening last Christmas. I do believe we have a bright future and hopefully a bumper summer is on the horizon post lockdown. Finally, while I appreciate that change is difficult in these times, I ask for your understanding and support going forward.

“The only constant in life is change” Heraclitus

Kind regards David Octigan

See you on the course.

## GENERAL MANAGER UPDATE

What an interesting year we have had so far. With lockdown then open then lockdown then open, it seems like we are on this roundabout for ever. Mixed messaging and confusion has added to what has been a very difficult time in the Land of Registered Clubs. We do see some light on the horizon however what that looks like will be interesting to observe. All we can do as a Club is keep planning for when we can start to trade at full capacity again but at the same time be flexible enough to change fixtures and events if required. We all share the frustration of not being able to use our facilities especially now coming into the spring when we should be building up to a very busy period.

What we need to do is focus on is how we can take full advantage of our ability to resume what may be normal trading as soon as possible. The definition of normal trading is difficult to understand but what we do know it won't look like it did before the COVID 19 pandemic. It will definitely include capacity limits, it may well include restrictions relating to vaccinations and or proof of negative tests. The capacity limits that the Government put in place during our opening period in between the current lockdowns were very stressful for staff and those trying to coordinate the numbers that we were allowed to have within our venue. Let's hope any instruction in relation to opening up from the state government will be easy to understand and implement.

In the times that we able to operate the performance of the Club was very encouraging with patrons embracing the new look. Our membership has increased at a very encouraging rate with a high take up in social memberships.

The Board has attempted 3 times to hold Member Information sessions for members but have been thwarted by lockdowns each time. These Member Information sessions are a very important tool to keep members updated and informed about happenings associated with the Club. These sessions plus the regular correspondence through newsletters and updates keeps members abreast with happenings within the Club. The Board is committed to these information sessions and establishing them as an important tool as part of the Boards Governance process.

The COVID 19 pandemic has been very hard on the hospitality sector and our Club has not been immune from this pain. Our Financial performance for the financial year has been severely impacted by the Pandemic. This coupled with the construction of the new Clubhouse and the establishment of the new venue has led to what is a very large hit from a profit perspective. However, during the time that we were allowed to be open for a significant amount of time our results were very pleasing with people embracing the new venue and the Club establishing a reputation as a place to dine and be entertained. Our numbers playing golf on the course were also higher during that period with good reviews received for our facility as a whole.

## ANNUAL MEETING 2021

The Clubs Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Sunday November 28<sup>th</sup>. We have a number of positions on the Board that are up for election. A vibrant Club needs a vibrant Board to lead it and any member that thinks they have something to contribute is encouraged to put their name forward for election.

If you are considering standing but do not know what the role of a Club Director entails, feel free to make contact with General Manager- Greg Nugent who will be only too happy to run through the role and responsibility of a Club Director. Nomination forms will be available in October.



While lockdown is definitely a pain it does allow us to complete so much more work with no traffic around. As soon as a lockdown was declared we went straight into maintenance mode. Coring of greens was completed which is always a favourite with golfers when this job is done. All fairways and tee have been aerated.

Fairways, tees and surrounds have been sprayed for any broadleaf weeds.

Tree pruning has gone well this year with any dead branches or trees removed. By doing this it helps us mowing but also makes for a much more enjoyable game of golf instead of searching for golf balls amongst the trees.

Path works have continued as we strive to make sure carts stay on course all year round. I must say a big thanks to our members this year for sticking to the paths and following directional signs. It really minimises damage and makes for a smooth transition into the spring. All barricades have been taking down and now that spring is here bring on the good weather.



## LADIES CAPTAIN REPORT

It is exciting that our revamped newsletter is now to include golf reports for our men and women, so that all our members can be kept up to speed of our golfing achievements each month. Sadly however, with all the Covid lockdowns, this first report for August 2021 has limited good news to report!

Covid continues to take its toll on many events that the ladies would normally participate in. Not the least, the cancellation for the second time, of the NE Championships which Mansfield was set to host this week. This event will not be rescheduled for 2021, but Mansfield will still be the host club in Sept 2022.

We also had the Country Championships at Cobram cancelled which quite a few of us had planned to compete in. Not to mention numerous bowls and tournaments which have bitten the Covid bullet.

Locally and on a positive note, we did manage to run the ladies' semis and finals, of the Bill Reardon Memorial Trophy. Shelly Comerford defeated Linda Terry and Linda Brook defeated Sheryl Sargent in the Semi-finals and then two weeks later, Linda Brook was in stunning form, to take the win in the finals against Shelly. Congratulations Linda on winning this prestigious board event.

In between lockdowns, we also ran our qualifier for the Royal Women's Hospital Golf Vic event and Linda Terry/Gayle Wells were the winning pair. Their result will be submitted to Golf Vic for comparison against other competing clubs, for the Victorian winner to be announced.

We also really enjoyed the social Vets BBB event at home with 8 mixed pairs having a fun day out. Everyone is keen to keep these events in the calendar and well done to Geoff Brown and Martin Slack for being the driving force behind them. We hope that we will see greater numbers of men and women pairing up to play these mixed events and so fostering greater rapport between our men and women golfers. Meanwhile, yet another NE Vets event was cancelled.

Finally, we were so disappointed to not be playing the Club (trainee!) Professional Irish Stableford day, as all the ladies were really looking forward to playing off the blue tees in this fun 4 ball format. But huge thanks to Blair for the great BBQ and bubbles, even if it all went Covid pear-shaped just as we were gathering!

Let's hope the lockdown is not too much longer, as the course has dried out and is looking fabulous – all credit to Tony and his team – and we are busting to get back out there!

Linda Terry

*We spoke too soon about the course drying out!!*



## MEN'S CAPTAIN UPDATE

Well, we started the month off with great hopes of playing golf and enjoying our wonderfully prepared course. However, all is not to be and once again we can look from afar but not enjoy.

Tony and the boys are doing an incredible job of getting the course to a stage where when we resume playing it will be there for all to enjoy.

Congratulations go to Fred Rogers on his July Medal win.

In the club match play event, we are still endeavouring to complete this event, with the following members to play in their respective finals.

"A" Grade – Mark Jones to play Tony Crawford

"B" Grade – Marie Walsh to play Josh Green

"C" Grade – Alan Parrott to play Steve Chisholm

"D" Grade – Don Clutter buck to play Daryl Horwood

Of course the other final to be rescheduled is the Bill Reardon Memorial Matchplay to be decided between Rod Sargent and Tony Crawford.

The proposed Irish Four Person event was looking to be a great event on Saturday, with the BBQ and drinks already going well thanks to Blair and his team. But alas we have had to postpone this event along with the August Men's medal sponsored by SBD Plumbing & Gas and many others until later in the year.

Unfortunately, the Vets golf at Jubilee was also a non-event due to the restrictions. This will possibly be an ongoing issue for Mansfield golfers in the coming weeks.

The results of the Men's Championships survey are inconclusive as there was a technical hitch in the mail send out. This resulted in many members not receiving the survey. A new survey will be forwarded in the coming weeks for the men to vote on their preference for the format of their championships.

Regards

Phil Conway



*Champ Winners  
M Jones, A Parrot, D Clutterbuck  
& M Walsh*



*John Plummer 18<sup>th</sup> tee*



*Peter Dolling on the second*

## MEMORIAL GARDEN

As part of the recent renovation, it was decided to place a memorial Garden next to the Alfresco area. The purpose of this garden is to be a living monument to pay respect to members that have passed away. We invite relatives and loved ones to approach the Club if they wish to place a plaque of remembrance in the garden. The garden should come into its own when Spring hits with full force and we hope that over the years it gets established as an important part of the Golf Club. The Golf Club has ordered 2 plaques remembering our life members that have passed away. We will continue to do this as a mark of respect for the amount of contribution that Life Members make to the growth of the Club.



## POINT OF SALE POINTS

With the new Point of Sale system installed in the Club members are now able to use their membership card to access discounts and accumulate points throughout the Club. The new system is divided into 2 areas POS Points and Wallets. The POS points are accumulated as you spend money throughout the Club (just like your Woolworths rewards card for example) these points have a usable life span and if not used are forfeited. The Wallet points that you have attached to your card represents money that you may have one as a golf voucher for example, it may also be money that you have put on your card or a gift voucher that you may have received and put onto your card. This wallet balance remains with the member and is not subject to an expiry date.

The POS points will expire on 31st December 2021. This date has been extended due to COVID to enable members to utilize the maximum period to use their points.

## MI GOLF SYSTEM

As part of the improvements that we are implementing to our members we have committed to offering a new golf platform (MI Golf) for our golfing members. This system is very user friendly and once fully installed will allow members to perform many more tasks than they were able to do under the old System. This system will be installed in 2 parts which has caused some issues and confusion. Phase one installation has been completed with Phase two looking like at this stage being installed in November 2021. The delay has been caused by the lockdowns in both NSW & VIC which does not allow the representatives to move around venues to ensure the installation is performed correctly.

We did experience some issues when converting yearly subscription payments from one system to the other. This resulted in some confusion with financial members being listed as unfinancial. We apologise for any anxiety and stress this may have caused members during this transition and we have now put in place procedures to ensure that this does not happen in the future. I would like to thank members who gave us feedback on these issues as it allowed us to rectify the issue quickly.

### EVENTS/ENTERTAINMENT CALENDER

- Oct 2021 - ABBA Tribute Band
- Nov 2021 - Oaks Day
- Jan 2021 - Outdoor Movie Night
- Feb 2021 - Neil Diamond Show
- Mar 2021 - Irish Night of Entertainment & Food
- Apr 2022 - Easter
- May 2022 - INXS Tribute Band
- June 2022 - Comedy Night  
- Wedding Fair
- July 2022 - Fleetwood Mac Tribute
- Aug 2022 - Recording Artist TBC
- Oct 2022 - Theater Night
- Nov 2022 – Queen Tribute Show

*If you have anything that you would like to contribute to the upcoming newsletter, please email the content through to [hello@mansfieldgolfclub.com.au](mailto:hello@mansfieldgolfclub.com.au)*

