

CAPTAIN'S MESSAGE

An update was recently provided for members on the preliminary planning for our proposed clubhouse improvement project. The original trigger for the proposal was the need to provide more storage for golf bags, electric buggies and ride-on carts. During our investigations it became clear that, particularly with the increased usage by members, the clubhouse suffered several other shortcomings including:

- lack of locker room comfort and space
- inefficiencies associated with duplicated kitchen and catering operations
- deteriorating general structural integrity of the heritage building
- ineffective heating and air-conditioning and poor acoustics, particularly in the dining room
- the need for a more functional dining room and upgraded toilet facilities
- poor administration area layout.

In addition, general comments by members over many years suggested there was a strong desire to:

- improve the views over the course, especially from the bar
- enlarge the pro shop with appropriate storage and private areas
- improve the outdoor areas and make them more usable
- provide a more suitable area to cater for the increased demand for events, private functions, bridge and other activities.

A strategic planning subcommittee, chaired by Andrew Bell, was established to look at options and report to the committee. The subcommittee's brief was to develop a plan that addressed all the existing shortcomings through a renovation and restoration of the clubhouse. At the same time, the plan needed to ensure the clubhouse retained the charm, individuality and atmosphere we all enjoy and be financially responsible.

We expect to be in a position to present these concept plans and costing models to you in the near future. Let me once again remind you that there will be ample time for discussion and suggestions before a final presentation and voting on this very important project.

Brian McNamara
Captain

ASSOCIATES COMMITTEE

Meredith Bunn has resigned her position on the associates committee for personal reasons. In accordance with the by-laws for the administration of associates' affairs, the associates committee can appoint an associate member to fill the casual vacancy. The associates committee advises that Joanne Cheetham has been appointed until the next associates AGM, at which time she will be eligible for re-election.

RELM DRAIN

Observant members may have seen water seeping from the bank of the Sam Wilson Dam at one location near the corner of the dogleg on the 7th hole.

Don't be concerned. Our engineer designed and installed this drainage system into the dam wall during construction so that moisture trapped between the compacted new dam wall and the liner could escape without affecting the integrity of the wall. Members may possibly see damp patches in this area for some days after rain.



The Sam Wilson dam ready for storm water. We may never see the bottom again! We are still managing the vegetation works that we committed to during the planning and construction of this water storage.



The clubhouse renovation and restoration proposal would see the existing clubhouse footprint largely unchanged.

YOUNGER MEMBERS

SAVE THIS DATE – Friday 21 October 2011

The third annual Younger Members in Business Golf Day is fast approaching. The format will be a 4BBB Ambrose Teams Format followed by drinks, panel discussion and dinner. Younger members and up to two guests per member are encouraged to participate. To register your interest, please book online, send an email or call the club on 5984 2226.

WHAT DO MEMBERS THINK?

We have been testing a three-tee start system on the course to see if this would satisfy our desire to get more members comfortably playing on the course at the same time. We have used the 1st, 15th and 11th tees as starting points. Comments from members about the effectiveness or otherwise of these trials are welcome.

Over the next 12 months the committee will be considering the effectiveness of our existing match play index following a question at this year's AGM. The existing match play index attempts to evenly spread handicap strokes given in match play over the entire 18-hole round. An alternative thought is that strokes given in match play should have some relevance to the difficulty of each hole.

Comments by email are preferred – club@sorrentogolf.com.au

GOLF COURSE WORKS

Course staff will continue with significant vegetation works during the remainder of the winter. There will be some clearing of dead or degraded vegetation as well as scheduled offset and plantation works associated with our dam construction permits.

The 17th green will be reurfed starting in early September. When completed, this will only leave the 10th and 11th greens to be done. The surrounds of the 17th green are infested with Parramatta grass, which will also be eradicated as part of this project. While working on the 17th green, we will take the opportunity to rebuild and reurf the 18th tee complex. As usual, these green and tee works will require use of temporary green and tees for about four weeks.

AUGUST SOCIAL EVENTS

Sunday, 7th August -

Progressive Mixed Golf & Lunch

Wednesday, 10th August -

Cock of the Walk Golf & Dinner

Friday, 12th August -

Carvery Dinner including Captains shared table

Saturday, 13th August -

Chefs Master Class and Dinner

Friday, 19th August -

Dinner and Jazz evening featuring "Mrs Sippy"

Friday, 26th August -

2 Course Dinner including Captains shared table

Sunday, 28th August -

Guest Morning Golf & Luncheon

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday, 1st October -

Grand Final day luncheon

Wednesday, 12th October -

Cock of the Walk Golf & Dinner including the Great Australian Shiraz Tasting

Saturday 15th October -

Fun with the Rules of Golf – and Dinner

Friday, 21st October -

Younger Members in Business Golf and Dinner

Sunday 30th October -

Wendy Stapleton Dusty Springfield Show (fully booked)

Tuesday 1st November -

Melbourne Cup Day Golf and Luncheon
(Bookings Open 15 August)

Saturday 31st December -

A New Year's Eve Event (Bookings Open 15 August)

HANDICAPPING CHANGES

Golf Australia (GA) has provided an update on progress being made towards implementing changes to the new GA Handicap System.

Last February, the GA Board adopted a draft set of first principles (subsequently endorsed with some slight modifications by each member association) that should govern a handicap system. During March, discussion groups and forums were held with clubs and member associations. This was done in conjunction with a visit from a senior USGA official, where background information was exchanged to provide an understanding of the Australian golf club and competition culture. At the conclusion of the visit, it was conceded that the USGA system was not adequate to deal with large field net events.

GA then agreed to analyse every competition over the past three years from 15 different and diverse clubs across the country by testing a range of different variations to the current 10 out of 20 sample method. The aim was to find a method that would satisfy an overriding principle of "affording each player in a competition field a reasonable expectation of winning or placing well if that player plays reasonably better than their handicap". After an exhaustive analysis, GA believes it has now arrived at an appropriate method for adoption. GA subsequently tested that method at several other clubs and the proposed changes stood up. GA believes that the proposed changes will work well in the Australian golf scene.

It has been announced that there will four priority amendments to the GA Handicap System:

- Alter 'Best 10 of 20' to 'Best 8 of 20'.
- Change the Bonus for Excellence multiplier from 0.96 to 0.93.
- Introduce an Anchor, which will prevent a player's handicap from increasing any more than four strokes beyond their best exact handicap from the previous 12-month rolling period.
- Golf Link will cap the score that goes into a player's handicap record at no more than the following amount over the course rating: 50-women; 40-men.

These four priority amendments will come into effect on Wednesday 21 September 2011.

GA also confirmed that the following will NOT be a part of the new system:

- Most Likely Score.
- Required handicapping of novelty competitions.
- Handicapping of ALL non-competition scores.
- Handicapping of match play scores.
- Handicapping of a score returned by a player who plays alone.

More detailed information and regular updates are provided on the GA website: www.golfaustralia.org.au.



Some of the touring party on John Horvath's 2011 British open tour during their round at Turnberry. From left to right - Richard Jellis, John Horvath, Hillary and Chris Yencken



John Parker, John Horvath, Malcolm Bamford and David Geer.

GREEN FEE CHANGES

The standard of our golf course is as good as it has ever been. This is not surprising, as in recent years we have completed a significant staged course improvement project, including:

- installation of a computerised irrigation system
- conversion of fairways and tees to Santa Ana couch grass
- major rejuvenation of vegetation
- construction of additional water storages
- replacement of our green surface with A1 bent grass.

These works have been completed at a cost of more than \$3 million, primarily financed through members' subscriptions and levies. We believe the standard of our course and service warranted a review of the green fee terms for visitors (unaccompanied by a member). Effective 1 November 2011, the green fee will increase to \$120 per player for a golfing guest unaccompanied and not introduced by a member (up from \$55).

We will honour all existing visitor bookings at the present agreed green fee and we will also continue to accept bookings from visitors during off-peak times at the current green fee up to 31 October 2011.

We have also been concerned that in the past the differential between the member's guest green fee and the unaccompanied visitor green fee was too slim (the current green fee is \$40 for a member's guest compared with \$55 for a mid-week visitor). There will be no change to the member's guest green fee of \$40 mid week and \$45 for weekends, public holidays and the January peak season. With appropriate promotion and packaging, the committee believes that this change will not adversely affect the income generated from visiting golfers. In recognition of our long association with several regular groups and some wholesalers, we will offer 'Advantage' packages at less than the new green fee rate.

We will also be introducing a new golf package for unaccompanied members' guests, ideal for those times when a member would like to introduce one or more visitors to Sorrento but cannot physically accompany their guests. This is to be called 'Member's Guest Visitor Package' and allows up to 16 unaccompanied members' guests to play at Sorrento in non-peak times at a cost of \$75 a player

Members should note that guests introduced under this system may not play on more than six occasions in any financial year, regardless of who is introducing that person.

In summary, green fees from 1 November 2011 will be:

Green fees for members' guests:

- Mid-week accompanied guest (maximum three), \$40 per guest (no change)
- Fourth and additional guests (mid-week accompanied), \$75 each
- Accompanied weekend and summer guest (maximum three), \$45 per guest (no change)
- Twilight accompanied guest (after 4pm, maximum three), \$15 per guest (no change)
- Member's Guest Visitor Package vouchers for unaccompanied guests off peak (maximum 16), \$75 per guest.

Green fees for non-members

- Unaccompanied visiting golfer mid-week, \$120 per player
- Unaccompanied players – regular clients, wholesalers, customers, etc. 'Advantage' arrangements including off-peak specials (when available) – price variable

The committee believes that these changes will more appropriately position our club as one of the premier golf destinations on the Mornington Peninsula and in Victoria.



EASTER JUNIOR RESULTS

9-hole Provisional Juniors

Best boy: Christopher King
Best girl: Emily Boyce
Good performances from Annabel Joubert, Isabel Gray, Kenneth King, Sophie Joubert, Zac Vogue

18-hole Nett for Provisional Juniors

Winner: Samantha Leigh
Runner-up: James Leigh
Third: Tim Breadmore
Good performances from Alex Joubert, Andrew Leigh, Archie Trotter, Fraser Prendergast, Hannah Richards, James Fink, Rupert Middleton

Little Chippers 4 Holes

Best boy: Jack Holt
Best girl: Annabel Catanach
Longest drive: Will Dixon
Putting: Ned Dixon
Best chip: Carlie Quinn
Good performances from Angus Backwell, Bronica King, Charlie Quinn, Harry Sadler

OTHER RESULTS

Mrs S.J. Wilson Salver Associates 18-Hole Gross

Third:	Anne Fenner	89
Runner-up:	Dianna Farrer	89
Winner:	Louise England	85

Associates A.S. Baillieu Easter Cup 18-Hole Handicap

		Handicap	Nett
After play off			
Runner-up:	Louise England	15	70
Runner-up:	Margaret Walsh	26	70
Winner:	Christine Dunn	24	70

Mixed Canadian Foursomes Stableford

		Handicap	Nett
C Div 49+			
Third:	Patrick and Sarah Holt	14-37	35
Runner-up:	John and Suzannah Gibson	17-45	35
Winner:	Andrew and Chrissy Skinner	36-14	38

B Div 41-48

		Handicap	Nett
Third:	Gary and Michelle Smith	21-22	35
Runner-up:	Kevin Mier and Sharon Kubale	24-21	35
Winner:	David and Irene Worley	14-33	37

A Div 0-40

		Handicap	Nett
Third:	David and Robbie Paranthoiene	13-25	33
Runner-up:	Jenny and Toby Butler	18-13	34
Winner:	Jill and Graeme King	26-14	35

Hole in one:

Bruce Langford Jones on the 15th

Men's Easter Cup Gross

Runner-up:	Marc Johnson	77
Winner:	Charlie Baillieu	73

Men's Easter Cup Handicap

		Handicap	Nett
Joint third place:			
Ian Ellis		24	68
Steve Smith		16	68
Joint third place:			
Robert Burdeu		23	68
Runner-up:	Geoff Stansen	14	68
Winner:	Peter Maher	20	66



Smiling faces after the presentations for the Easter Tournament.



FROM THE PRESIDENT A VISIT TO NIRWANA BALI RESORT AND GOLF COURSE

The Nirwana Golf Club course, adjacent to the Pan Pacific Nirwana Bali Resort, is the newest addition to Sorrento's reciprocal club arrangements. In June my wife Terry and I took the opportunity to sample its golfing and holiday experiences.

We spent nine days at the resort in our own villa, nested within a wonderful garden setting. It was perfect for a getaway and to do your own thing: sleep, eat, play golf, or tour the island with your own driver (less than \$AUD 45 a day for the driver).

The Greg Norman designed golf course is challenging, but rewarding. It is rated as the top course in Indonesia and it is hard to imagine a better golf course in the tropics. See photo below.

Even with caddies and golf cart included, the low cost was great value for a course that is impeccably maintained by hundreds of green keepers who literally sweeping the course by hand every day.

The course is a true Bali experience featuring numerous temples, rice paddies and that wonderful Balinese smile from all the staff and caddies.

Paul Lightbody is the manager of the golf resort for Pan Pacific and he is a wonderful host who will look after all your needs. Paul and wife Auske certainly looked after us.

The daily temperature was around 26 degrees, dropping to 20 during the night. The resort was fanned by an Indian Ocean breeze every day, reducing the effect of the humidity.

We were lucky to know expatriates in Bali, who showed us the island and the night life. Allow plenty of time to get to your destination, as the island experiences big traffic jams during peak hours.

I highly recommend the resort as a holiday and golf experience to all our members. Thank you to Albert Mantello for introducing the club to us.

Richard Buxton
President



Images from the idyllic Nirwana Bali.



Moonah Links VIC
Pro shop, 5988 2000
Riversdale Golf Club VIC
Pro shop, 9807 1700
Woodlands Golf Club VIC
Pro shop, 9580 1157
Spring Valley VIC
Pro shop, 9562 3811
Sorrento Bowls Club VIC
5984 2831



Sorrento Golf Club's list of reciprocal and associated clubs

Elanora Country Club NSW
(02) 9913 7336; fax (02) 9913 1255;
ecc@elanoracc.com.au

Royal Queensland Golf Club QLD
(07) 3633 6500; fax (07) 3633 6541;
golf@rqgolf.com.au

Royal Wellington Golf Club Wellington, NZ
+64 4 528 4590; fax +64 4 528 2008;
wgc@clear.net.au

St Mellion International Golf Club UK
+44 800 781 4476;
golfdays@crown-golf.co.uk

Nirwana Golf Club Bali
+62 361 815 960; fax +62 361 815 961-2;
golfreservation@panpacific.com



Glenelg Golf Club SA
(08) 8295 3793; fax (08) 8294 8894;
glenelggolf@senet.com.au

The Grange Golf Club Auckland, NZ
+64 9 278 9777; +64 9 278 6017;
grange@grangegolfclub.co.nz

Lake Karrinyup Country Club WA
(08) 9422 8222; fax (08) 9422 8282;
info@lkcc.com.au

Hamilton Island Golf Club QLD
Reservation Centre, 13 7333

Royal Perth Golf Club WA
(08) 6436 4900; fax (08) 9367 5219;
frontdesk@rpgc.com.au

RECIPROCAL CLUBS

We now have a special arrangement for members visiting Nirwana Golf Club in Bali. Nirwana is a Greg Norman Design Course thought to be the best in Indonesia (see www.nirwana-balgolf.com).

Sorrento members are welcome to play at the members' guest green fee rate of \$USD 60 midweek and \$USD 75 weekends – a reduction of \$USD 100 off their normal rates. A discount of 25% off the standard rate also applies to a maximum of three guests of members. Cart and caddy fees apply. In return, we offer their (200 only) members visiting Sorrento off peak play time at the members' guest rate of \$AUD 45.

Sorrento members wishing to use these arrangements should initially make contact with the Sorrento admin team, who will provide details for contacting Nirwana Golf Club. To play at the course, members will need a letter of introduction and their membership card. Some conditions and restrictions apply.

The Pan Pacific Nirwana Bali Resort is adjacent to the course in the village of Tabanan West Bali, which is a 45-minute drive from the airport. In this newsletter, you can read about club president Richard Buxton's visit to the resort and course.

We have also organised a new reciprocal arrangement with the Royal Perth Golf Club, one of the best clubs in the country located close to the Perth CBD and the Swan River. Members wishing to take advantage of playing opportunities in Perth can phone the club direct.



We have extended our initial arrangement with Hamilton Island Golf Club for those who might like a little bit of winter sun with their golf.