

MEMBERS BULLETIN

26th February 2010

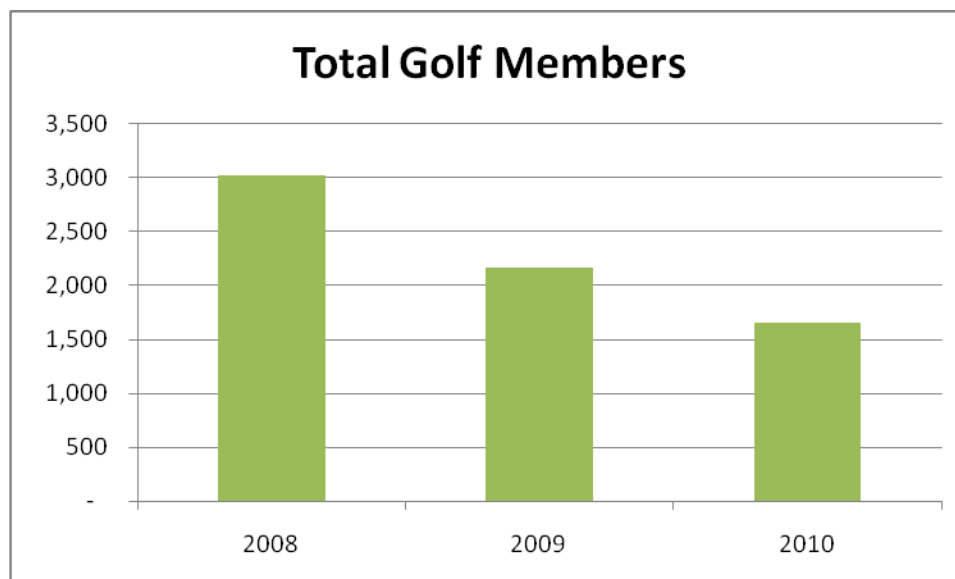
From the President

One Hundred and twenty members attended the information meeting held on 15th February 2010. The meeting was advised of the loss of 1400 members during the 14 month currency of the \$50 water levy that had been applied universally to all golf playing categories. The first casualties were remote members (more than 100kms from Howlong) and the second impact was felt with the failure to renew from players within the 100km radius. The board advised that the levy had significantly reduced membership numbers, put negative pressure on the budget and had failed in its original purpose of funding the course irrigation project.

The meeting was further advised that Board's forward financial targets had been seriously affected by this loss of membership as it would have impacts on all products and services provided by the club. The proposed subscription program outlined at the previous information meeting had been thrown into chaos by this membership retention problem and a new proposal based on lower playing member subscriptions was explained.

The problems facing the Board were;

- How to arrest this decline in member numbers
- How to continue the financial recovery program
- How to commence a successful membership growth campaign
- How to fund the completion of the irrigation project
- How to maintain a competitive product pricing strategy for bar and related services



The information meeting was asked to help in establishing the response framework by contributing to Board's consideration process, many comments were made at the meeting and many written submissions were received. At the Board meeting of 22nd February 2010 submissions from the membership advising that the proposed subscriptions were too high were considered and resulted in a new set of proposals with lower costs for golf playing members through a new set of categories.

The Golf Subscription Proposal				
Category	Percentage	Current	Proposed	Difference
Playing Member	100%	\$ 157.20	\$ 195.00	\$ 37.80
Pensioner Member	80%	\$ 157.20	\$ 156.00	-\$ 1.20
Non Home Club	70%	\$ 157.20	\$ 136.50	-\$ 20.70
Remote Members	50%	\$ 157.20	\$ 97.50	-\$ 59.70

- NB:
1. Remote members more than 100kms from Howlong.
 2. Non Home Club applies only to a current member of Albury, Wodonga, Thurgoona and Corowa Golf Clubs.

This subscription increase, if approved by the members, would be supported by the abolition of the water levy and the return of social golf without charge for playing membership categories.

The Board's analysis of this input resulted in a proposal that provides lower fees for remote members, lower fees for pensioners a special rate for members of the 4 nearby clubs who could be considering non renewal at Howlong. These proposals address the three categories that have been or are likely to be threatened by a further fee increase.

The Board has already set a tight budget for this first year of its financial recovery program and is of the opinion that these underlying budget metrics should be protected as far as is possible.

The subscription proposal is rounded out by an increase of social membership from \$11 to \$20 and no change to Bowlers subscriptions other than the affiliation fee adjustment.

There have been requests for the presentation pack to be reprinted in this bulletin but size prevents this. However, members may pick up a copy of the pack from the office on request. This edition carries a couple of the key statistical tables used on the night.

Year	MEMBERS	SUB	WATER LEVY	NETT	MEMBERS LOST
2008	3023	232,496	-	232,496	-
2009	2160	288,056	98,172	189,884	863
2010	1656	236,650	75,265	161,385	504
	Water Levy Collected 2009	1st Stage Water Project	Rework	Total Cost	Project Shortfall
2009	98,172	154,000	46,000	200,000	- 101,828
2010	75,265	?	?	?	?

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on the 15th April 2010 at 7.30pm.

At the Board Meeting on the 22nd February the Captain, Peter Opitz indicated that he would not be contesting the Captain's position due to personal reasons but that he wished to remain in the working line. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Peter for his time in the job and assure him that his contribution has been positive and has helped the club in a time of need. I am confident that Peter will continue to participate positively in the affairs of the club.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Arthur Prosser who has indicated that he will be standing down at the next AGM. Arthur has been a long term servant of the Club and he has looked after the Bowlers and the general membership very well.

From the Ladies

February brings to a close our summer golf competitions.

Our Summer Champion for 2010 is Sue Eisenhower with a score of 223 points (best 6 rounds from 8).

Eclectic winner is Gail Boyd with 60 points.

Gobbler winner is Coral Ward with 3.

During the course of the summer Gail Boyd dropped her handicap from 43 to 31

Congratulations girls.

Early March sees us play host to the Riverina Opening day where we expect to have a good field playing a Stableford 4BBB.

Also late in March we hold our own Open day 4BBB which again will attract a good crowd. These sorts of days have proven very popular for Howlong as we are renowned for our great hospitality and we boast some of the best cake and slice bakers in the district.

From the General Manager

Chinese Restaurant

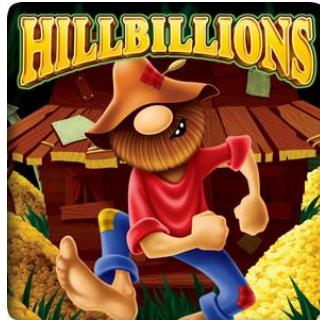
Club members will be pleased to know that the Chinese Restaurant will be operating from Monday the 8th March. The positive feedback that we have received from members about the move to Chinese has been overwhelming and we are looking forward to the commencement date.

In addition to the traditional dine in menu, special smorgasbord nights will be conducted each week, Australian style dishes will be available and a takeaway menu will be offered. The Café will operate as usual and will be open 7 days per week.



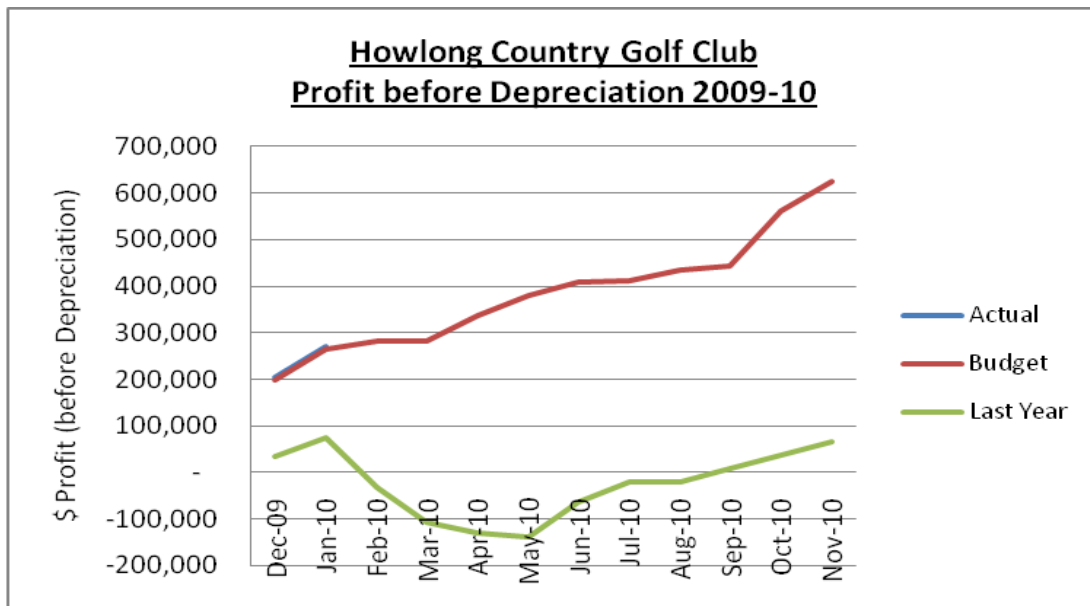
Gaming Room

We have installed a new machine in the Gaming Room this week. The game is called Hillbillions and has four Unique Features, three Progressive Jackpots, and a Bonus features with three or more scattered GOLD COIN triggering a HILLBILLIONS BONUS GAME GOLD PANNIN' Free Games at random. It also has a Jackpot Feature; one of three HILLBILLIONS BONUS features can be won; Log Roll, Going Fishin' and Jackpot bonus round."



January Accounts

Members will have noticed that the Accounts from January are up on the notice Board. We are pleased to announce that we are 5% ahead of budget for December and January. The graph below shows the performance before depreciation charges for the year so far.



Joke of the Day - Checking the time

"Please stop checking your watch all the time, caddy. It's distracting!"

"This isn't a watch, sir, it's a compass!"