



MEMBERS BULLETIN

9th July 2010

From the President

The Two Tee starting format was introduced last weekend as the first of a number of initiatives to be introduced in order to improve course usage and profitability. The two tee start will allow the competition fields to be increased from 160 to 224. These additional playing slots will be marketed to new members, visitors and green fees players.

The format depends on suitable loading of each tee and the maintenance of a 4 hr pace of play. Marshalling of the course will occur with all two tee starts. The Board will concentrate on the successful introduction of the concept on weekends over the next period of time. Its extension to all competition days will be introduced after the camera on the 10th tee is installed and the current starting gremlins are sorted out.

The concept will change many of the existing starting processes such as permanent bookings as it allows only a two week window to make a booking and a record of the person booking a playing slot will be kept. It is intended to rotate players between tees on a weekly basis. It is also intended to allow any member or player to access the vacant tee slots. This includes lady members and competitions for ladies are held on all main competition days.

As previously reported the course is down some 5,000 playing rounds in the first 6 months of the year and this is primarily due to the loss of 1,400 members from the water levy period. The Board is campaigning to attract more members and once the two tee concept is bedded in will specifically target particular times with motel /club and course offers.

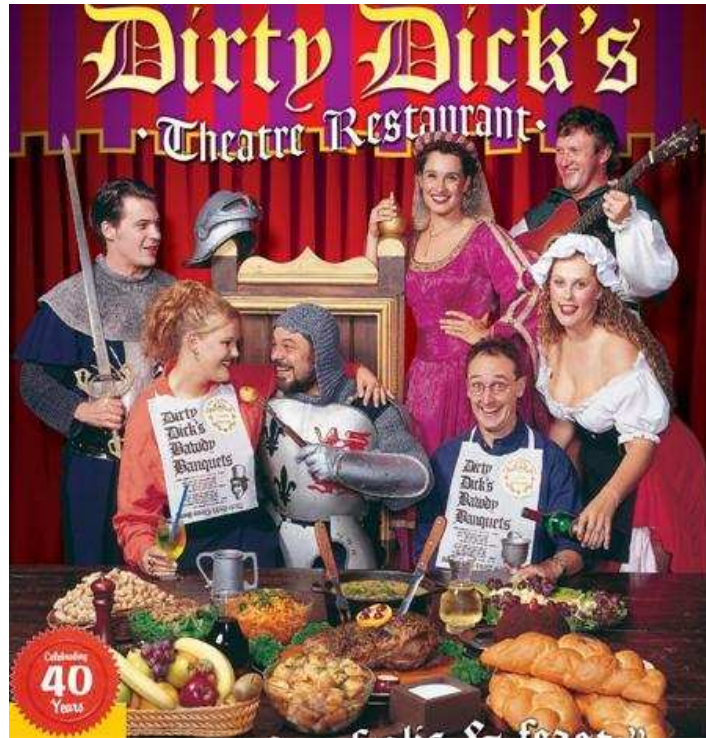
The Board has steadied the financial performance within the clubhouse and it is now time to improve the business performance of our major product the golf course. Our future financial sustainability depends on a significant increase in course profitability.

New Veterans Competitions

The Board has recently approved a new Veterans competition to be trialed over the next 5 months. It is a Men's and Ladies single stableford event. The format includes a Chinese lunch and the cost is \$15. The first event is next Monday July 12th with a shot gun start 8.30-9am. This is the first of a number of initiatives designed to increase the number of Veterans events. Make sure you support your club and play on Monday.

From the House

The **Dirty Dicks** Christmas in July show will be held on the 24th July. Tickets including dinner and show are \$50 for members and \$60 for non members. Dinner is a traditional roast style banquet with all the trimmings. Book early as this is always a popular event. *Fabulous fun, frolic and feast!*



Arguably Melbourne's best 50 and 60's Rock N Roll band have been entertaining and selling out shows all across Australia for the past 21 Years. The Speedsters will invade the Howlong Country Golf Club for New Years Eve 2010. This show will sell out fast as this band has a very strong following. Tickets are on sale now at front reception. \$20 Members and \$25 Non Members. Book early to avoid disappointment!

From the Operations Manager

Over the past month and coming months the clubhouse will be undergoing some minor cosmetic changes in an effort to improve the ambience, comfort and appeal of our club to our members and guests.

Gaming

We have finally installed electric strip heaters in our outdoor gaming room. These strip heaters although electric, generate a radiant heat and are a very cost effective solution to warming our outdoor gaming area. They run at an estimated 21 cents per hour and we have received positive feedback from the improvement. Further improvements are planned with the fencing surrounding the area to be completed with wooden slats horizontally running across the top of the fence. This will create a wind break and shield our outdoor gamers from the cold winter winds. Painting has commenced in our gaming room. Areas that will receive a fresh coat of paint will be the gaming roof and walls, the bar walls and doors and also the pole supports around the club. It is amazing what a new and consistent paint job can achieve and we are confident that it will greatly improve the visual appeal of the clubhouse.

Ladies toilets

We are working on improving the toilet areas of the club, beginning with the ladies facilities. We have replaced the old and tired taps, changed the soap dispensers, added a disinfectant hand solution, changed the stark fluro lighting with softer down lights and plan to replace the recycled toilet paper with a better quality of paper. A fresh paint job is also planned in addition to a few other minor cosmetic improvements.

Bar

We have recently signed a partnership agreement with Coca Cola Amatil. The club has recently had a brand new post mix machine installed and relocated to the outside of the clubhouse. This machine has the capabilities of running post mix (soft drink) to both bar areas, the product is tipple filtered, cleaner, colder and consistent. This project was provided free of charge to our club as part of the agreement. The biggest advantage of this agreement is that we now receive 6 monthly cash rebates on all post mix purchases, and can expect a new bar promotion from Coke on a monthly basis.

Promotional

Members may have noticed the new Batman pinball machine in the main bar area. These machines return money to the club every time they are played. We challenge members and guests to beat the top score on these machines, and should you succeed we will reward the player with a prize. Staff are currently working on a new Club Cocktail list and have been asked to create their own cocktail and name it. We hope to launch our new list sometime in August.

Our TAB will soon host some new promotions on Saturdays. Finger food will be provided to all patrons utilising the facilities on Saturday afternoons which will commence this Saturday. Keep your eyes open for the launch of "The Saturday Punt", which will include daily punting competitions and some great give a way's!

A big thank you to all members and guests who have braved the recent winter chills and ventured out to utilise our clubhouse facilities. Without you we would not have a club.

From the Captain

Following the stroke round last Tuesday I have received some criticism about the notification process. I had informed the Pro Shop 3 weeks before hand and the Pro has advised that everyone was notified as they booked in. If someone has missed this information I apologise for any inconvenience. However as Captain I should have notified the change of event in the newsletter and on the notice board. From now the following policy will apply;

1. The golf committee will prepare a monthly running sheet if any changes to the syllabus are caused by matters outside the clubs control.
2. Any changes initiated by the club will be notified on the notice board and web site 7 days before the change is implemented.

From feedback received on the stroke event it has been made very clear that stroke is not a preferred event on a Tuesday. Taking this on board the golf committee has decided that Tuesday will be stableford competition as usual. We value all feedback so thank you to those who left feedback while the club is striving to move forward.

On a different note I am trying to organize a working bee for a Sunday soon. I would like any members who can assist me and the golf committee to walk every fairway and fill in divots. I'm sure you will all agree the course is very wet and there is a lot of unfilled divots at present. Anyone interested please let one of the committee know.

The entry form is now available for the annual tournament. A big thank you to Veronica for all her assistance and professional workmanship in producing the entry form in house. Get in early and don't miss out on a fantastic week of golf.

Till next time, Happy Golfing.

Rules – Do you know? Are you sure?

Player A makes a practice swing near his ball and moves a stone, which causes his ball in play to move. What is the ruling?

- a) No penalty as the player was not attempting to hit the ball.
- b) The player incurs a one shot penalty and must replace the ball
- c) The player incurs a one shot penalty and plays the ball where it lays

Joke of the Day

I don't get it, Wayne, first you slice the ball into the bushes, then across the Riverina Highway and then you lose it in the lake – and you insist on finding it?

I have to. It's my lucky ball!

From the General Manager



Murray Masters – Kennedy Meats Howlong Pro Am

Following the withdrawal of the SS&A Wodonga Golf Club it was anticipated that The Commercial Club Albury would be involved however they have decided not to participate. Thurgoona, Howlong and Corowa Golf Clubs are experienced in running top class Pro Am events and this year's Murray Masters will be no exception. The event will now be a three day tournament with the dates as follows;

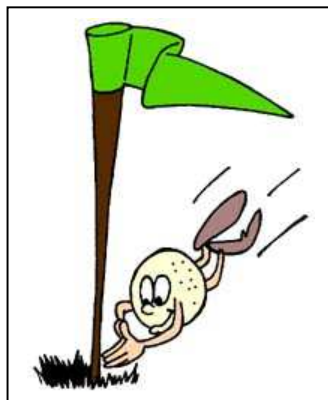
Wednesday 15th December Thurgoona Golf Club
Thursday 16th December Howlong Country Golf Club
Friday 17th December Corowa Golf Club



Prize Money is yet to be confirmed however it is likely that the event will offer Prize money of \$30,000 across the three clubs and we are hoping to offer the \$100,000 bonus for winning all three events and \$20,000 for a hole in one at each course, this will be confirmed over the coming months.

HOLE IN ONE

The String of Hole in ones over recent months has continued with our Golf Captain Travis Merritt the latest to achieve this feat. Travis joins: Graeme Taylor, Keith Delacorn, Wendell Reitenbach, Ron Newman and Bob Ash all achieving an ace this year!



Rules - The Answer

b) The player incurs a one shot penalty and must replace the ball

The player is deemed to have caused his ball to move. Rule 18-2a

Sponsors

Chris and Samantha Cull of Corowa Tiles are proud Silver Sponsors of the Club. Chris is a Male Golf Member and hopes to play in the Murray Masters again this year. We thank Chris and Samantha for their ongoing support.

Corowa Tiles

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DROP IN AND SEE CHRIS & SAMANTHA

SUPPORTING HOWLONG AND SURROUNDING DISTRICTS

Exceptional service is our number one priority

**Building or
Renovating
your home?**

- ✓ Latest styles in tiles
- ✓ Huge modern showroom
- ✓ Locally owned for 20 years
- ✓ Old Fashioned country service

- Porcelain, Ceramic, Glass & Stone
- Tessellated Floors
- Rock and Sandstone Stackstone
- UTF Floating Timber Floors
- Tiling Tools, Glue & Accessories
- Tiling Fixing Service Available





MORRIS WINE & FOOD NIGHT

HOSTED BY MR DAVID MORRIS

Morris Wines

*Saturday
7th August 2010*

at 7.00pm for 7.30pm start

\$65-00 per person

*Includes 3 course meal, cheeses and wines
Prepared by Chris O'Connor of Adamshurst.*

*Bookings are essential – Phone 6026 5321
Payment is required on booking*





Professional Golfers Association of Australia Limited
MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release: Monday 5th July 2010

Murray Masters Confirmed for December

The PGA Southern Tour can confirm that the 2010 Murray Masters has been locked in for this year's schedule. Thurgoona, Howlong and Corowa Golf Clubs will continue to host the event and are committed to promoting golf and to bringing quality professionals to the border. Following the withdrawal of the SS&A Wodonga Golf Club it was anticipated that The Commercial Club Albury would be involved however they have decided not to participate. Thurgoona, Howlong and Corowa Golf Clubs are experienced in running top class Pro Am events and this year's Murray Masters will be no exception.

This year's event is to take up it's same time slot as the previous two and will be played from Wednesday December 15th to Friday December 17th. Thurgoona will kick off the festivities with the hosting of the first day on the Wednesday, Howlong will follow on Thursday and the final day will this year be held by Corowa. The scheduling of the event has over the past two years proved to be at a good time in order to attract a number of seasoned overseas players with the likes of Corowa's own Marcus Fraser, US Nationwide regular David McKenzie and European Tour member Michael Curtain playing.

Fraser who last year played exceptional golf during the Murray Masters, shooting a combined 21 under par, has gone on to have a great season on the European Tour. Fraser won the Ballantines Championship in Korea by four shots. The win was his second victory on the European Tour, but his first since 2003. He is currently ranked 113 in the world and it is hoped that he may again be available to grace the fairways of the three fantastic venues that make up this year's Murray Masters.

Regardless of which professionals play, there is certain to be some great golf played by some of Australia's finest young professionals as they all try to emulate the likes of Marcus on their way to careers on the big overseas tours. All three venues offer a great test of golf and the event has quickly become a favourite amongst the professionals as they have enjoyed not only the great courses but also the terrific hospitality that has been shown to them during the event.

This year's Murray Masters will also have a greater emphasis on the amateur component with the event offering fantastic prizes. Just as the professionals have had a special series prize, it is hoped this year that some amateurs will take up the chance to play all three days and a overall prize will be offered.

The event is sure to be a great success and will close out what will have been a massive month or so of golf in the country with Tiger again returning for the Masters in mid November, and the Australian Open and Australian Masters to take place in early December.

- ENDS -