



## MEMBERS BULLETIN

28<sup>th</sup> May 2010

### **From the President**

Vice President Ron Newman has resigned from the Board due to health problems. As I write this article he is in hospital recovering from an operation. Ron was instrumental in the formation of the team that took office in 2009 following the club's disastrous financial performance over the 2008/9 period. As chairman of the Finance Committee he was a key player in the building of the recovery program that is now correcting the club's finances. His expertise and commitment will be sorely missed at the Board level. Ron is a true servant of the members of the Howlong Country Golf Club and on their behalf I wish him a speedy recovery and a prompt return to our weekly Silver Colts golf match.

### **Vacancies**

Given the early stage in this Board's life both the Vice President and Board positions will be filled. Notices advertising the vacancies will be circulated with the intention to fill the positions at the June meeting of the Board. Members are advised that the Vice President's Position can only be filled by a Director of the club.

### **Business Plan Progress**

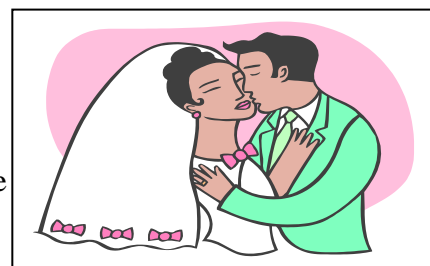
Our product plan for the club recovery is now in varying stages of progress with the bulk of the processes for the motel completed and a majority of the clubhouse process re - engineering either completed or scheduled for implementation. The final segment of the plan, the golf course, will now commence conversion to the metrics of our product plan. The golf course is our major asset and is the prime attractor for all of our products and services. Our plan is to revitalize all areas relating to the course starting with the playing processes and their complimentary/support operations and services. This is a large project and will take some time to complete.

The course irrigation project has now been scoped and the Board faces the challenging task of funding this \$850,000 expense whilst maintaining a minimum debt policy. This project will be detailed to the membership at the information meeting scheduled for June 28<sup>th</sup>.

The first task will be the switch to a two tee playing mode from the single tee mode currently used. The objectives of this change are an increase in available tee spaces from the current 170 - 180 to 224 and an improvement in the pace of play. The increased number of tee slots will give greater time choice to members and allow us to market green fees players into appropriate slots. This new process will create some changes to traditional habits such as permanent tee bookings. The implementation process will endeavour to accommodate all existing expectations but obviously the 2 hour cross over period that is a fundamental part of the operation will eliminate the availability of some time slots. Unfortunately, this is a price of progress and the Board's intention is to consolidate the viability of the club and therefore protect the future of its 4,000 members. The Board hopes that those whose traditional arrangements can't be met will appreciate that the changes are for the overall good of the club.

### **From the Happy Lotus Restaurant**

The Cai family will be travelling to Singapore for the celebration of Jennie and Eugene's Traditional Chinese Wedding Ceremony and Reception.



The Family will be away from **Monday 21st June to Wednesday 7th July** inclusive.

The Café will continue to operate as normal for lunch during this period. The restaurant dining room and back bar **will be closed** however **evening meals will be served in the café** area 7 days per week and will feature a selection of Chinese dishes as well as the Australian menu and café offerings.

The Takeaway service will continue to operate as normal.

**Please note the Chinese Smorgasbord on Wednesday and Saturday evenings will NOT be operating during this period.**

Smorgasbord will recommence from Saturday 10th July.

### **From the House**

The **Dirty Dicks** Christmas in July show will be held on the 24<sup>th</sup> July. Tickets including the 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!*

### **KENO – WIN A FLATSCREEN PROMOTION!**

- Spend \$5 or more on Keno and receive an entry ticket into the draw to win a ***Flat screen HD television.***
- 1 x Flat screen will be given away weekly.
- Tickets may be accumulated from Sunday – Thursday.
- Winners of the weekly competition will be drawn on Friday nights and must be in attendance to claim the prize.
- Competition begins 5<sup>th</sup> June and finishes on 30<sup>th</sup> July.
- 8 Televisions to be given away in total.

### **FRIDAY NIGHTS RAFFLE - Buy \$10 for your chance to win a Whipper Snipper.**

- Spend \$10 or more on raffle tickets and receive an entry ticket into the draw to win a ***Pope Petrol Whipper Snipper or a Pope Garden Blower – it's your choice.***
- Competition begins today with the prize to be drawn on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June.
- The winners must be in attendance to claim the prize.

Don't forget "**Let's Go Shopping**" is held every Thursday between 1.00pm and 3.30pm. This is your chance to win over \$700 of grocery, fruit and vegetables and meat prizes. All entries go into the barrel for a major draw every 8 weeks with 1st prize of a \$1,000 shopping voucher.

## **From the Captain**

I'd like to firstly congratulate the winners of the club championships. The Ladies winners are listed in the Ladies section and the Men's winners are as follows;

A Grade - Bruce Bengough  
B Grade - Ralph Aalbers  
C Grade - Garry Pearce  
D Grade - Mick Tomasevic  
Junior - Brodie Jones

Big congratulations to Sarah and her green staff for having the Golf course in the best condition I've ever seen it. I'm sure everybody will agree the 2 tee start for the first 2 rounds of the championships worked perfectly so I'm sure when we introduce the 2 tee start on July 3<sup>rd</sup> all will be the same. I urge every playing member to read the memo regarding the 2 tee start and permanent bookings which are available at the front desk or the pro shop.

I would personally like to thank the 3 male members who serve the bar on the bowling green's who generously donated to the junior fund. We all know who you are and again thank you. If anyone is interested in helping with the juniors as a coordinator please contact me as this would be greatly appreciated.

## **From the Ladies Golf**

Our pennant players are almost finished their Riverina Pennant season and with just one round to go the two teams involved will sadly miss out on being in the finals. Thank you Ladies for your participation and your effort. It is not easy for them when these matches take place amidst our own Club Championships. Better luck next year girls!

Speaking of Championships, you no doubt know by now our winners are;

A grade - Sara Hagy  
B Grade - Dot McCoy  
C Grade - Chris O'Toole  
D Grade - Claire Jackson.

The Gail O'Halloran Trophy for best nett aggregate was Chris O'Toole. Congratulations to you all and a big thank you to those that took part. We give thanks to Gordon, John and John for "doing" the board. Thank you also to Sara and the boys for our great course.

At present our in-house Singles and the Fourball Matchplay Championship rounds are taking place. As these rounds take several months to conclude the results will come later in the year.

We are looking for expressions of interest from any Charity in the town. On October 27th this year we play for charity and ALL money taken on the day goes to a nominated charity. We will be running a raffle as well to boost this donation. If your charity could do with a little help please drop us a line (we do need written requests). The Secretary Howlong Ladies Golf Club, PO Box 5 Howlong 2643.

"Remember to be yourself - There is no-one better qualified".

### **Rules – Do you know? Are you sure?**

Q) On a short par three, Wally hits his tee shot into the greenside bunker and it plugs high on the bunker face. He declares his ball unplayable and prepares to hit another from the tee. George his playing partner challenges this move and claims that if a ball in a bunker is declared unplayable the ball must be dropped in the bunker. What is the correct ruling?

- a) Wally is entitled to hit another ball from the tee at a penalty of 1 stroke
- b) Wally must drop the plugged ball in the bunker at a penalty of 1 stroke
- c) Wally can drop a ball on the line of entry any distance from the tee at a penalty of 1 stroke.

### **From the Superintendent**

With the club championships over our focus has turned to some winter jobs which will include path restoration, tree maintenance and lots of bunker work! The boys have been out spraying fairways and tees recently in order to prevent winter grass in these areas.

Bowling green 2 has just been verti-drained and will be back in play shortly in order to prepare for the zone finals. Following the finals, our number 1 green will be verti-drained.

This month our 3rd year apprentice Adrian Pantling went on a trip to Melbourne with the Wodonga Tafe to visit Royal Melbourne, Huntingdale and Kingston Heath golf clubs as well as the MCG and Strath Ayr turf farm. All visits included course walks and a tour of the maintenance facilities. I was also in Melbourne this month to play at Metropolitan in a Superintendents event. My golf was not great but I enjoyed the day and it was a great opportunity to get a look at the course and their facilities. While down there I called into Royal Melbourne to collect 50 bunker rakes free of charge, all in excellent condition.

Finally, we are starting to get frosts and members are advised to drive all carts in the rough, as close as possible to the tree line, to protect our fairways until the frost has lifted. In the case of a heavy frost I will close the course until such time as it has lifted. This action will be taken to protect fairways and greens. Ground temperature is now below 15 deg C and the legend couch is dormant.

### **From the General Manager**

#### **Gaming Machine Upgrades**

As part of the ongoing upgrade program for our gaming machines, we have installed 6 new machines in the gaming room. This includes 4 new Money Train games meaning that we now have 8 money train machines inside the room and two in the outside area. These games feature “Geisha”, “Spring Carnival” for those racing fans, “Where’s the gold” and two of the “Queen of the Nile”.

We now also have “Choy Sun Returns”, “Golden Temple” and “Tokyo Rose”.

## Bus Groups

We have been receiving many positive comments from the bus group visitors in recent weeks. Many of the groups have been commenting that it has been a long time since they have been to the club and that they are delighted with the changes. We are now rated by the bus operators as one of the top destinations on the Murray. For June we already have confirmed bookings for 12 coaches compared to only 4 coaches for the same month last year.

### Rules - The Answer

Answer -Wally can hit another ball from the tee in accordance with rule 28 which states in part if the player deems his ball to be unplayable, he must incur a penalty of 1 stroke and may-

a. Play a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played.

## New Sponsors Signs

We are currently arranging for new Sponsors tee signs for the following sponsors;

<p>(02) 6033 3466 220 Sanger St, Corowa corowatiles@bigpond.com</p>	 <b>corowatiles</b>
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