

MEMBERS BULLETIN

30th April 2010

Margaret Bourne Wins District Bowls Singles Title

Howlong's Margaret Bourne has won the district lady singles title by 4 shots. She can add this trophy to the District Pairs title she won with partner Margaret O'Donnell. These were the high points of a bowling season that saw all men's and ladies pennant teams progress to the finals. Thank you girls for keeping the Howlong flag flying.

From the House

Tickets are selling fast for the **Bee Gees Night Fever** performance on the 29th May. Tickets are \$10 for members and \$15 for non members. **Chinese and Seafood Smorgasbord** is available for those attending the show at 7.30pm; vacancies at the 5.30pm sitting are available for those not attending the show. Smorgasbord is \$18 for members and \$20 for non members.

The **Dirty Dicks** Christmas in July show will be held on the 24th 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!*

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.

*** Coming soon... "Let's Go On Holidays" ***

The **Riverina Super draw** is held on Thursday Evenings between 7.00pm and 9.00pm. If our Club is drawn out of the Riverina Club group all you need to do is be in the club to win. This week the prize will be **\$4,200**. **Happy Hour** is also held on Thursday evenings from 6.30pm.

The **Happy Lotus Restaurant** is open 7 days a week for dinner with a Chinese and Seafood Smorgasbord served on Wednesday and Saturday evenings with two seating times; 5.30pm and 7.00pm. It is advisable to book as the smorgasbord is proving to be very popular.

From the Board

The April Board meeting has abolished the water levy and it will not be charged with future club subscriptions. The club will soon offer an 18 month special golf membership fee based on the current fee plus the fees approved for 2011 year. The golf membership recruitment drive will be across the board but will have a special focus on Melbourne remote membership where we hope to recapture some of the 900 odd remote members lost in the last 14 months as a consequence of the water levy. We will also offer an 18 month special offer for local members as we chase the 500 lost in this category. These offers will be placed into the appropriate golf channels in what will be essentially a below the line campaign.

The loss of 1,400 members is being felt in our golf course numbers with some 3,200 less rounds of golf being played over the last year and the trend continuing into this year with some 800 less rounds on the course during the first few months of this year. The analysis conducted by the Board indicates the following factors as contributors to this problem: -

- The water levy as the major factor;
- The poor presentation of the course last winter;
- The playing speed of the course on full field days or in stroke competition; and
- The lack of marshaling.

All of these matters are being addressed and pace of play, marshaling and starting of the field are high on the list of issues to be addressed by the Golf committee.

The Constitutional steering committee appointed by the Board has commenced work on the amendments needed to bring the Constitution in line with the future requirements of the club. The matter of subscription setting and membership categories is a prime target following the issues raised at the AGM. Also the election rules need to be changed to reflect future needs. The constitution introduced in 2008 was framed in the terms of moving from the old annual voting format to the triennial voting format. The election held in April was the first held under triennial rotation arrangement and we now need to change the constitution to reflect the future needs and remove the interim staging words. The Board has decided to use a two level consideration process with the steering committee proposing the changes and the broad members committee, chaired by Director Sue van de Ven, reviewing these proposals before final approval by the Board and transfer to the business paper for the August Constitution meeting. This meeting will be a statutory meeting which will involve all members being notified of the business to be transacted on the night. The notification period is at least 21 days prior to the meeting. The Board is also hopeful that a preliminary position can be added to the member's information meeting scheduled for the 28th June.

The first annual election for the Male Golf subcommittee is scheduled for 7.30 pm next Monday 3rd May. The election will be for a position of Vice Captain and three Committee members. These are vital positions in the Golf structure at Howlong so make sure that you attend and give Captain Travis Merritt the workers he needs to carry out the tasks that the committee has been given by the Board.

From the Greens Committee

The Board has overridden a Greens Committee proposal to reconstruct the right-hand front bunker on the 11th hole. The Board is of the opinion that the area should be contoured folds of or small mounds out to about 25 meters and kept at first cut rough height. The superintendent has been given the job to plan this approach and fit it into the winter time slot. This will mean that the work will be seeded with a winter grass for the first few months and then poisoned out and returfed with legend couch in the spring.

The call up provisions on holes 13 and 17 are now in place and we expect the arrival of the permanent signs at any time. The protective screens blend well with the areas and the committee is pleased with their construction and thanks the member who made them. The use of the provision will be monitored over the next few weeks.

Green speeds for the Championships will be around 10 on the stimp and the course will be marked for GUR and should be in as good a condition as is possible. The Captain will set the pin positions for the 4 rounds of the championships.

From the General Manager

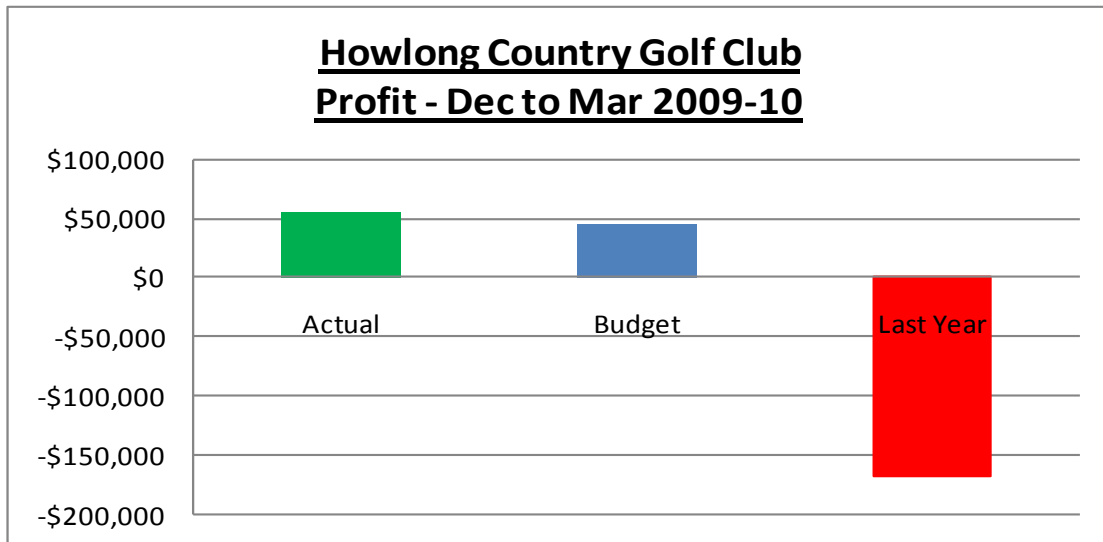
Motel Upgrades

We are currently in the process of upgrading our televisions in the Motel rooms to high definition flat screen models in line with our Capital Expenditure Program. Our old televisions from the motel are available for purchase from reception for \$30 each. There are 15 available on a first in first served basis. A big thank you to Wayne Delaney for his assistance in acquiring and installing the new TV's.

We have also purchased new electric blankets for the rooms in time for winter. We are continuing to receive many favourable compliments about the Motel from our guests, many thanks to John and Margaret Cunningham for the fantastic job they are doing managing the Motel.

March Financial Results

For the four months ending March 2010 the club recorded a profit of \$56,334 this represents a 25% improvement on our budget. The Graph below shows the profit results to date;



Our membership numbers are steadily increasing with our social memberships up on last year by 4%.

The figures for March are displayed on the clubs notice Board.

Poker Machines

Yesterday the new Luck 88 machine machine was installed in the gaming room with further changes to occur during May.





Do you suffer from Arachnophobia?

Arachnophobia is the fear of spiders and one of our friendly staff (who will remain unmentioned) suffers from this phobia. This week the staff member in question was seen in the outdoor gaming area standing on a chair banging on the window for help after seeing a spider. When the desperate cries for help went unanswered the ingenious staff member hit the "Call attendant" button on the gaming machine. One of our ever helpful supervisors was then able to offer assistance. Here at the Howlong Country Golf Club we pride ourselves on our teamwork and ingenuity!

Senior Citizens *Cash* Bingo

Bonanza Night!!

First Tuesday of the Month

7.00pm for a 7.30pm start.

1. A line every game for \$10.00
2. 10th Game worth \$100.00!!
3. 20th Game worth \$500.00!!

**** Normal \$40.00 games win a \$50.00 Bonus for 45 calls or less ****

PLUS – PLUS – PLUS – PLUS

The usual Lucky Numbers, Door Prizes
AND Raffles