

Newsletter of the Lane Cove Golf Club
For the information of members and their guests

VOLUME 15

NO 3

APRIL, 2020

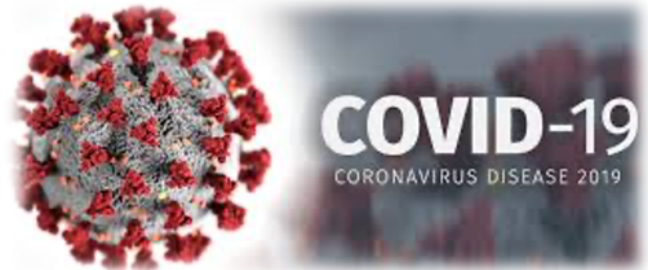
(Edited by Ralph Sadler - email; ralphsadler@icloud.com)

Editor's Note; this edition of Links was prepared before the news came that golf courses were to close until the foreseeable future. With the exception of the President's message, I have left original copy as it was when submitted. It may be some time before another copy of Links is produced.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

COVID – 19

Unfortunately, as Links was being prepared for publication, Golf NSW, following NSW State government advice, has recommended that all golf course in NSW close until further notice. As we know, there have been regular, almost daily updates to provisions to manage COVID -19. What follows is an edited version of the President's message that takes account of the latest directive.



Firstly, on behalf of the Board, I would like to extend our thoughts and best wishes to all members and especially those that are being directly and adversely impacted by the health and economic challenges the COVID-19 pandemic is causing. The important thing for us all is to follow the hygiene directives and maintain appropriate social distance to help limit and slow the speed at which the virus spreads.

As you know, in accordance with Federal Government directives regarding licenced premises, the clubhouse has closed and will remain so until these restrictions are lifted. This is unfortunate, but like many similar premises we look forward to re-opening and welcoming you all back when circumstances permit. The Board is putting in place arrangements to manage the impact of this change and this will enable the Club to avoid any significant financial impacts for the likely term of this closure. We have discussed examples with Council and we have been encouraged to request a suspension of lease payments. We will similarly be reducing most of our other ongoing expenses to reflect the changed trading conditions.

I would like to thank the respective Golf Committees for the pro-active implementation of the earlier changes as we attempted to offer a continuation of golfing activities. Now, with the latest news, we will all need to monitor the advisory and mandatory requirements issued by the government and abide by any new changes that may be introduced to help combat COVID-19.

There are certainly mixed messages around, with Gladys Berejiklian saying that if you don't need to go out then don't, whilst others are still encouraging outdoor exercise to maintain some degree of normalcy, so long as the social distancing guidelines are followed. I therefore suggest that common sense should prevail and each individual can make their own judgement for now as to what's appropriate. *Continued over*

FROM THE PRESIDENT *continued*

In doing so, I note that the recent situation at Bondi Beach which caused a reaction within government to be more restrictive, and therefore I point out that, in addition to the personal responsibilities above, if groups do continue to congregate and not follow the social distancing and hygiene requirements, then we can all expect to see more restrictions imposed which may stop us playing golf altogether.



Lane Cove Recreational Precinct Advisory Committee (RPAC)

Of less importance, but some of you may be aware that Council recently re-convened a meeting of RPAC after a two-year hiatus. At the meeting, Council presented a concept plan for the new multi-function sports centre which will include new facilities for the Golf Club. Barry Watkin and I attended the meeting as representatives of the Club, and we're disappointed to see that despite earlier Council assurances to the contrary, the concept included a significant incursion onto the Golf Course with a large driving range, and a mini golf layout proposed in place of the 8th and 9th holes. See the planned proposal on the next page. This modification is inconsistent with the Council's earlier expression of interest (EOI) document and Councils' earlier commitment not to impact the course layout.

To accommodate the driving range, the remaining course would be reduced to about 1300m par 58. Council's Staff proposed to present this concept to the public for comment, but following a submission from the Board, supported by Councillor David Brookes-Horn, the Councillors resolved to submit this proposal and an alternative which retained the existing Par 64 configuration for public review. (*Ed's Note; this proposal was lost at the Council meeting*)

Subsequently, and given the current circumstances, Council has deferred this process indefinitely. This deferment will provide more time to develop and implement an appropriate response. The Board will be preparing an action plan aimed at retaining the course in its current, or an improved minimum Par 64 layout. We have already sought advice from Golf Australia and have conducted a meeting with Golf NSW CEO in this regard.

We have a significant and experienced resource within the Club to mobilise against this proposal. We also anticipate that widespread community support beyond the Club's membership will be required to achieve success in this regard and the Board will provide more details on how you can help in due course.

Junior golf and access to the course

To finish on a positive note, it was pleasing to see that Council has approved some new initiatives which have been developed in conjunction with our golf pro Kasey Dive, to incorporate some of her golf students into our Club, thereby boosting our junior membership and providing a transition pathway to competitive golf. This will be a great benefit and help the Club build on its relationship with Kasey and her growing cadet group.

With regards to course access, Council are considering an arrangement that would allow members to access the course outside of Comp time, to enjoy some social golf or on-course practice. I anticipate a response to this approach shortly and will hopefully be able to provide further information regarding this and the cost involved in the next edition of *Links*.

Continued over

FROM THE PRESIDENT *continued*

We're in difficult times and without wishing to be over dramatic, during the worst of the news and all the job losses so far, I'm reminded of the famous quote **"If you're going through hell keep going"** – *Winston Churchill*. We're certainly not in hell, but the advice remains valid and we will, given time, get through this.

Please keep safe and be kind to all those around you.

ALAN MOSS

Editor's note Further to the President's comments above, the following are from the agenda notes for the Precinct Concept Design Plan at the March Council meeting. *Council engaged Greg Norman Golf Course Design to develop a conceptual masterplan to redesign the existing nine (9) hole course whilst providing for a driving range, putt-putt golf and short game practice area. Options considered included a 9-hole par 3 course, 6 hole mixed par course (new concept) and a 9 hole mixed par course culminating in the design of a 9 hole par 29, 1300m layout.* A picture of the proposed course changes is below. Full details are on the Council's website on <http://www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au> under Council's Agenda and Minutes.

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Well we certainly are lucky to be able to continue our beloved sport and it is inherent on all of us to ensure we follow all the guidelines set down by the Government and Golf NSW to ensure that situation continues. As the CEO of NSW Golf has stated, it will only take one instance where social distancing guidelines are not adhered to that could lead to the cancellation of all golf. So please make yourself familiar with all the guidelines and follow them stringently.

Also, it is the responsibility of all members to ensure others within the Club are following the guidelines as well. To this end I must reiterate the decision of the Board that members must vacate the Club (including the carpark) as soon as their game is finished. Bringing your own alcohol to drink in the car park after your game is not permitted.



You should all be aware now of the local rules introduced for our game to continue. If not, please take a copy of the new local rules from the pro shop before hitting off.

As far as golf is concerned, we will be endeavouring to continue although in a simplified way.

Until further notice we will be playing singles and 2 ball events only. We are postponing "special events" until further notice. That means that events like the Yellow Ball game, Centenary Cup and the Nic Corish Memorial Day etc will be postponed.

I would ask that all members be patient as sometimes the Committee have to react to changes introduced by the authorities at a very late stage. The Committee will endeavour to communicate these changes asap but that will not always be the case.

If you have a question please e-mail a member of the Committee. In the meantime, let's all enjoy our golf. Play well and stay safe.

WAYNE BELGRE

Lane Cove Golf Club



Conceptual Master Plan

GreenSpace

Lane Cove Council - NSW

Date: March 2018
Scale: Not to Scale

GREG NORMAN

Proposed reorganisation of Lane Cove Golf course as prepared for Lane Cove Council

WOMEN'S GOLF

The last time we were here our women golfers were enthusiastic about the new season on our course which looked green and fresh after the rain.

The world has changed immeasurably since then and so has golf. The social 'debriefing' that we all enjoy at the Club after our good and not-so-good games, is a very important part of our lives as golfers. Sadly, this has had to be abandoned due to the restrictions put in place to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

Weekend Pennants

Due to the 'social distancing' protocols, the final two weekend pennant matches have been cancelled. This is very unfortunate because Lane Cove had made an excellent start with a 'square' on 1st March and a win on 8th March.

Congratulations to the team who won at Chatswood defeating Castle Cove 2/1.

Suzique Doughty and Angela Pearson won 3/2.

Jo Cunningham and Cindy Brown won 5/3.

Joan Weine and Marianne Mitchell lost their game.

The results for Sunday 15th March played at Wakehurst: Cammeray defeated Lane Cove 2/1.

Suzique Doughty and Angela Pearson won 6/5

Vanna Mutton and Joan Weine lost 1 down

Jo Cunningham and Cindy Brown lost 3/2

Singles Knockout

The midweek competition began on Thursday 12th March. The Sunday competition opens for entries on 29th March.

Centennial Cup

This game, played on the Saturday of the Easter weekend, has always been a welcome opportunity for the women to play in a mixed competition. Unfortunately, it has been cancelled.

New member

We welcome Sue Myung Sook as a new Sunday player.

Social

The most important event on our social calendar for a long time was to be the celebration of Margaret Tanner's 100th birthday on Sunday 3rd May. Due to the required restrictions we have had to postpone this gathering.

Please stay safe and healthy in these difficult times.

SUSAN RIDD



MEN'S GOLF

It's great that we can still play under these 'crazy' times. Obviously, with no clubhouse and extra rules that we all have to adhere to, but it's great that we can still get out on the course. Please abide by the new rules as we do have a number of members who are aged over 70 which puts them in a higher risk category. It's up to all of us to do everything asked of us. I'd hate to see one of us get the virus impacting that person's health as well as all our golf.



Well another big month for the men's golf. It started with the monthly Medal and culminated with the winner of the Singles Knockout.

The Medal was played on a beautiful Autumn day, however the rain from previous weeks has allowed the rough to grow and the green staff relished in the fact they could make the course its most challenging in some time.

The greens and fairways are in impeccable shape, however if you deviated from the short stuff, you were subjected to some difficult shots. This was highlighted by the scores with only a few golfers actually shooting their handicap or better. It really brings the "risk or reward" strategy into fruition. I think many of us will be taking the "safer option" in order to stay out of trouble in the future.

The medal results for March are as follows:

A Grade:

Nett: Rohit Prasad 67 and Scratch 76

B Grade:

Nett: Mark Simonsen 64 and Scratch 81

C Grade:

Nett: Steve Tan 60 and Scratch 82

Being the only golfer in the Club to break his handicap, and to do it by 4 shots, it is only just that Dr Tan also takes out the President's Cup, which will be awarded to him at the next presentation function to be held later in the year. Well done Steve!

The Singles Knockout finals were also held recently with the cream rising to the top. The final 4 of Bob Staley, Pete, Doherty, Ben Pearson and Alasdair Caush went all the way, with both matches going to the final hole.

Semi Finals:

Pete Doherty beat Bob Staley 1 up

Alasdair Caush beat Ben Pearson 1 up

The Final: between Alasdair and Pete will be played next week. Pete will have to give Al 5 shots which will make for a thrilling match. Good luck fellas.

With the first round we had under our 'social distance' rules, it took 'Rocket' Rod Paterson only one shot to make his mark! Yep, that's right.. A Hole-in-One on the 1st!! Great achievement mate.

I couldn't give him a high 5 or even shake his hand under the new rules, but Rod was kind enough to shout the bar when he got back to the clubhouse! (Editor's note; golf being the great leveller that it is, Rod finished dead last in his next round!) *(Continued over)*

MEN'S GOLF continued

For anyone with short arms and long pockets, now is a good time to get a hole-in-one. The bar is shut and you won't have to shout anyone!

The 4 Ball multiplier was played on Saturday with Wayne Blair taking out the individual with 40 points. Great golf considering the difficulty of the rough.

Congratulations to our Editor in Chief, Ralph Sadler, and his wife Jan for celebrating 50 years of marriage during the week!

Next week will be the monthly Medal so make sure you bring your 'A' Game.

Stay safe, practise your social distancing and wash your hands!! Let's make sure that golf stays an 'essential' part of life!

See you out there.

EVAN JONES

EDITOR'S CALL

In these times of concern re COVID -19, it is amazing how quickly jokes and cartoons can appear about any topic, however grim. This suggests that there is an indomitable spirit that can, in the darkest of times, find a humorous side to the situation in which we find ourselves. The topic which has attracted the most derision, and rightly so, has been the stockpiling of toilet rolls.! What was that all about?

Worrying yes, but above all, we need to keep our sense of humour as we go about our socially isolated lives. Below is a sample of some of these cartoons.

