



## **Captain's Newsletter - November 2008**

We have finally completed our club championships and I congratulate both Lee Laauli and Judy Langford who are our Men's and Ladies Club Champions for 2008. Congratulations also go to all the other winners. By all reports the championships went well and I thank all those members who were involved. It was pleasing to see that quite a number of players remained behind on the last day for the announcement of all the winners. An informal club presentation night will be conducted in late November but unfortunately it will be by invite only as the clubhouse is currently too small.

The course has been in great condition and especially during the championships. The drought conditions would surely make this task all the more difficult and on behalf of the committee and members I thank Alan Chappell and his team for an outstanding job.

The committee has been busy since being elected and we are now finalising the programme for 2009 to ensure we have it to you by the time the current programme finishes. We have finally chosen a new software package to enable us to access golf link and this system hopefully will be in place by about March 2009. It will save not only the handicapper and the golf pros a lot of work but will streamline our whole system for us. The new system will require you to swipe your golf link card, which will automatically enter you into the competition of the day and print your details and handicap directly onto the scorecard via a printer. A new "touch screen" computer will be installed in the Pro Shop for you to check your account and this will be easy enough to use even for those members who are not familiar with computers. We are also hoping to install a touch screen computer within the clubhouse (subject to management approval) so that you can access your account during normal operating hours.

I am pleased to announce that new 150 metre markers have been ordered and these will be located in the centre of the fairways. Four new ball washers have also been ordered. Management is paying for the 150 metre markers and three of the ball washers and United Golf Club have donated one ball washer, which we thank them for. We will install these when everything has arrived and at the same time re-measure the course and install missing men's and ladies tee markers.

You should have noticed that white flags are now replacing the blue flags to indicate the pin placement in the centre of the green. This is being done as it was felt that the blue flags were hard to see at certain times. I thank those lady members, who have been kind enough to make up the coloured flags, which saves money. Well done.

The committee has replaced the "cheaper" 2<sup>nd</sup> ball for a nearest the pin prize with the same value ball (\$4.50) as all the other balls won. Members are advised that they must collect any balls won within three months or arrange with the Pro Shop to transfer them to another account. Failure to do so will result in those balls being cancelled. I also remind you that vouchers won must be re-deemed within one month and can be used in either the Pro Shop or the Clubhouse.

Pennant season is fast approaching and Bruce Sukroo is the committee member responsible for organising and overseeing all our pennant teams. I urge members who are considering playing for our club to nominate as soon as possible after Bruce has announced what teams we will be entering in the North East District

Golf Association events. We had a successful Division 2 Scratch Pennant Team last year and those members will be acknowledged at the upcoming Presentation Night.

I am pleased that I haven't had too many complaints about slow play recently and I am aware that many members have adopted the principles of "Ready Golf" which I explained in my last newsletter. Whilst we are out course marshalling on most Saturday's to ensure the field is moving at a proper pace it is still your responsibility to keep up with the group in front of you. On the few occasions I have had to ask players to catch up I am pleased that they have made the effort as I only ask you to do so if it is necessary. Remember that the course marshall knows what is going on in the fields well in front of you and well behind you and has a responsibility to all members to ensure the pace of play is acceptable to everyone.

Again if you have found that you have fallen behind then the first 2 players who have finished putting can head to the next tee and hit off, as the other 2 players finish putting on the green. If a playing partner is in a bunker and you are on the green then offer to clean up the bunker after him or her whilst they prepare for their next shot. All these little things will help you to speed up play.

The position of bunker rakes has improved significantly these last few months, which is pleasing, but some members are still not placing them in the correct position. I ask everyone to correct a playing partner if they see that they have placed a rake in the wrong position. Remember it could be your ball that rests on a rake placed in the wrong position and at times can be virtually unplayable.

To remind everyone, rakes must be left in the middle (flat part) of the bunker, with the handle pointing towards the tee. Rakes should be placed as far from the edge of the bunker as possible. Before leaving a bunker, a player should carefully fill up and smooth over holes and footprints made and then leave the rake with the handle pointing towards the tee of the hole being played. Always enter the bunker at the lowest point and pull the rake towards to as you exit the bunker. If necessary, rake other affected areas.

A lot of players seem to be confused on where to drop the ball if you are in the hazard on the right side of the 11<sup>th</sup> hole. The red stakes are used to create an imaginary line all the way along the edge of the ponds. If your ball ends up in the hazard you are required to drop your ball at the point where it crosses the imaginary line. The only time you would hit a ball from the pond walls is if your ball actually finished on the wall. To give an example ... if your ball crosses the hazard line at the edge of the first pond near the tee and ends up in the top pond by the green then you are required to drop another ball at the point of entry into the hazard by the pond near the tee. I hope this clears up any doubt players may have if they end up in the hazard in the future.

Finally, on behalf of the Committee I wish everyone a great Christmas and Happy New Year. Stay safe and good golfing!

Colin Thompson

Captain