

# SANDGATE GOLF CLUB NEWS – JUNE 2023

## Thanks Ray - You're a Legend

There are not enough words to demonstrate the gratitude which many of us have toward Ray Morris. Heartfelt thanks to Ray for his dedication and service to Sandgate Golf Club.



Ray was granted 'Life Membership', mainly in recognition of his stellar leadership and support as Club President, a role which brought the Committee and Club to a Golden Age. Ray has continued to work tirelessly as part of the Grounds Maintenance Team supporting Kevin Green and Bryan Morgan. They are going to miss him greatly. It's now time for Ray to relax, play as much golf as he wants to and travel far and wide in his caravan.

Help us to say 'See ya Later'-

On Friday 30th June at 3pm come to 'drinks with Ray' at the Clubhouse. Come along and tell him 'face to face' how much you appreciate his decades of dedication. If you want to know how much Ray Morris loves the Sandgate Golf Club just look at his number plates.

## Thanks to Peter too

Look at that smile. He's thinking about the golf he'll be playing when he's finished.



Peter Coddington is retiring. Leaving his position, Club Secretary on August 11th 2023.

Peter has worked here, for nine years, been the 'professional face' of the Club. He has represented Sandgate Golf Club with Golf Australia, other businesses and organizations. He has managed bar staff and some member competitions. Peter has displayed a level of service to members, appreciated by many.

We wish to thank Peter for his strong work ethic and dedication to the Club.

The Club will be undertaking an employment process in the weeks ahead. Applications can be accessed on Seek for those of you that wish to apply or know of anyone who would like to.

## Another Thankyou

Bryan Morgan is a quiet achiever – will do 'anything for anyone' quietly and humbly. Thanks Bryan for your recent accomplishments of rejuvenating the Practice Net that was proven to be unsafe. More recently for measuring the whole course and sprucing up the maintenance tools and equipment, a huge support to Kevin Green, well done guys.

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## Ladies Pennants

Our 2023 Ladies Pennants season has now come to an end, not before time, I hear some of the players saying. Our results varied each week going from the highest of highs with everyone having a win to the lowest of lows with everyone losing, and mixed results in between, but still we showed up each week full of hope for a good result.



This year BDLGA trialed a new format of only two divisions for midweek Pennants, Yellow Diamond and Sapphire with 7 players per team. This seemed to work well for us smaller clubs who in the past have struggled to fill two teams, Silver and Bronze. Also we saw the introduction of Golf Genius which seemed to work well without too many hiccups for the non IT Captains!!! On the 19th May Sandgate Ladies hosted the Pennants. A big day for my band of workers who gave their time to help make the day a huge success. please know that you are very much appreciated. We had about 80 players and caddies out on the course enjoying our hospitality, but most of all they love our famous Hamburgers.

I would like to take this opportunity to give a huge thank you to all of the Players and Caddies for your willingness to put yourselves out there each week, win or lose, rain or shine, your dedication to representing our Club is admiral.

*Sue Bailey* - Pennants Captain

## More news for the ladies

Sandgate Golf Club Committee approved the proposal to convert the ladies' course to a par 72 to match the men's course.

As far as the ladies are concerned, the main change will be to move the ladies' 12th tee forward to the current ladies' 3rd tee block and change it to a par 4. Move the ladies' 3rd tee to in front of the men's 3rd tee to hit off over water. Swap the ladies' 6th & 15th tees around and move the ladies' 18th tee forward. The course will be 85 metres shorter and Golf Australia have advised this will not alter the slope rating.

All hole indexes have been reviewed after several months of gathering statistics and there will be some adjustments. The proposed implementation date is Wednesday 5th July 2023 so as not to clash with any major events.

*Pat Thomas* - Ladies Captain

## Insurance Update

We recently met with our Insurance Broker to discuss next year's club insurance. Unfortunately, the Broker has informed us that due to the impact of the 2022 flood, insurers will no longer be offering flood insurance for golf course damage. The Committee is not overly concerned with this development as 2022 was the first time the Club had ever applied for and received a payout related to course damage. Thankfully, the damage to the course was limited and this gives us confidence that future claims are unlikely. That said, the Committee will look to strengthen its cash reserves to cover any such risk. Additionally, the Broker advised us that very few golf clubs were continuing with the practice of insuring Members personal equipment (i.e clubs and carts). Due to this and the large cost to the Club. It has been decided by the committee at this month's meeting to cease this coverage.

This means it is now the responsibility of each member to insure their own equipment at their own expense.

*Simon Andersen* – Treasurer

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## Clubhouse Updates

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Clubhouse. Fittingly, we have embarked on a major renovation to see us through the next 20 years or so. We can all agree that the exterior painting of the club carried out by our own Ian Mogridge helped by Damien Lewis (from the 'Paint Pot') is looking great. We should thank these gentlemen they have done this work at better than mate's rates; essentially a good portion of the work and materials has been a generous donation. Please think of these local businesses when you next need a paint job.

Regarding the renovation, it has progressed largely to schedule and contract budget. All works should be finalised around Friday the 30th June. We are hoping to commence operations from downstairs on Monday the 10th July. Further arrangements regarding those male members waiting to return their clubs to local storage will be sent separately.

To celebrate this major milestone in the Club's history, the Committee has had preliminary discussions about staging an opening event towards the end of the year. Further details will follow as any such plans are firmed up.

### Removal of Gas from the Facility

Currently, the Sandgate Golf Club utilises electricity and gas for its energy requirements. With the implementation of the 22Kw solar system in Dec-21 the sun has provided approx. 60% of the club's energy. However, gas is still being used for the oven upstairs, hot water to the downstairs bar and the outside BBQ.

As part of the renovations, a gas line running to the BBQ was ruptured. This highlighted that the gas works to the BBQ are not compliant to today's standards. Additionally, the BBQ itself is likely not compliant with today's gas standards. Therefore, the decision has been taken to remove gas from the facility. The Dee Gee group will undertake this work by the 23 June. This involves replacing the aforementioned appliances. The oven has been purchased from a State Govt Grant and a portable BBQ, the hot water system and plumbing works are being funded by the club. This cost of approx. \$3,500 will be recouped inside of 2 years; the annual gas bill is \$1,200 in service fees and \$600 in gas. At the same time, we improve our carbon footprint and get more benefit from our solar system.

*Simon Andersen – Treasurer*

## If you thought, we were busy we are

Golf participation at our club in this financial year is proving to be the busiest in the club's history. In comparison to the best year in our historical records, this year:

- Competition rounds are up by 10%
- Visitor rounds are up 20%
- Cart hire is up by 50%

After covering an unprecedented \$510,000 in capital improvements this year alone, our cash balance remains over the Committees mandated reserve threshold of \$350,000. That said, we do need to remain vigilant as our costs have also gone up considerably and we want to continue to present best value to members without further impacting your cost of living.

*Simon Andersen – Treasurer*

## Grant

Thanks to Claire Daly and Simon Andersen, who have been successful in the Active Clubs Program Round 3. A grant of \$2500 will come to the Club assisting in the purchase of better BBQ facilities.

## Other News

Please review the Club's Internet pages – these are under constant review and update.

- The Constitution has now been approved and is on the website
- The Code of Conduct (passed at the March AGM) is also on the Website

## Comments and Compliments

Over the next week all members are encouraged to 'say their piece' in a Comments Book to be available in the Bar – I will have it prepared for use next week. I will review it weekly and address all additions – this is your chance to have your say – alternatively you may email me directly. Lizz Helson at [tinkyduck@gmail.com](mailto:tinkyduck@gmail.com)

## Future News

I call for any Member to add to this Monthly Newsletter Please submit anything that you would like added to Lizz Helson at [tinkyduck@gmail.com](mailto:tinkyduck@gmail.com)

Additional future articles will include:

- Lost Property
- Goods for Sale/Swap