

# Bowral Golf Club Newsletter

Summer Edition

December 2008

NEWSLETTER

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## The President's Report

I hope all the members are enjoying the magnificent condition of the course in the current balmy Spring weather. Members who have been here a very long time declare that they have never seen it looking so well.

I apologise for the lateness of this newsletter which is my fault, not that of the Editor. I've been delaying my contribution until the situation regarding the membership renewals has become clear, because I know that this is an area of concern to many members. Although there are one or two outstanding (which is very annoying and unfair on the majority of members who do pay promptly) the picture looks like this.

We have had 54 resignations from a range of categories. Only five of these have been from members who played regularly. Of these two have moved back to Sydney. The other three are probably because of their dismay over the increase in fees plus the imposition of the levy. The remainder is from people who were rarely if ever (!) seen in the Club or on the course. The increases probably prompted them into a decision they would have made sooner or later. These numbers should be seen in the context that we have about 40 resignations every year for a variety of reasons. The number of new members joining the Club in 2008 was somewhat lower than in the preceding years, probably because of the drying up of the housing market.

Of equal, if not greater concern is the number (44) of members who downgraded from playing categories to house or social. There were also 8 members who downgraded from full to 6-day playing membership. All of these actions reduced the full benefit of the levy to the Club.

It is important for me to emphasise, however, that the vast majority of members have renewed their subscriptions and paid the levy with only occasional grumbles!! The lady members, in par-

ticular, have supported the Club very well and it is worth noting that Bowral GC has more lady members, playing and social than any other club in the Southern Highlands!!

Despite the benefit (albeit reduced) of the levy, the Club is still in a difficult financial situation. The Treasurer in his report has stated that the Club will need to make significant changes to adapt to our new circumstances. Our previous strategy has been to increase our income

*"the Club is.. in a difficult financial situation....On 4<sup>th</sup> December, the Club informed the Manager, Ian Day, that he was redundant and would not be replaced."*

through more members, more visiting golfers and increased bar and catering profits. The first two have not met our expectations, although we will continue to work hard in these areas. So the only other solution to return the Club to a sound financial footing is to significantly cut our costs and to do so as soon as possible. The first step in this process has already been taken. On 4<sup>th</sup> December, the Club informed the Manager, Ian Day that he was redundant and would not be replaced. This was a difficult decision to make since Ian had worked very hard for the Club. I'm sure members will join me in wishing him and his family all the best for the future. Further steps are planned and will be in place in the next few weeks. The chairman of the House Committee will outline some of these in his report. The Board will be grateful for all offers of help from volunteer members, particularly with office type work.

In order to secure the long-term future of the Club, however, other actions must be taken in parallel. As I explained at the Communications Meeting in October, the Board is pursuing these with some vigour. We believe any solution in this area must result in the Club

having a cash surplus which would provide a long term ongoing income and enable fees to be stabilized and possibly reduced.

I can assure members that no irreversible actions will be taken without full consultation and nothing will happen quickly. All of the Board's efforts in the near future will be concentrate on stabilizing our financial situation. There will be a meeting on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00 pm to which all members are invited. The Treasurer and I will give more details on the issues raised here. We hope members will express their views on all these topics.

On a more positive note, I'm sure the playing members will have seen the excellent job that has been done in renovating our dam. This will secure the long-term availability of water for the course. The job turned out to be much more expensive than anticipated and the Club is grateful to Thompson Health Care for underwriting the total cost. All the areas around the dam have now been seeded and, in places, turfed. When the grass grows in the whole area will look superb.

I wish you all an enjoyable golfing experience over the summer months and a wonderful Festive season

**Bob Young**  
President

### Communications Meeting

Wednesday

17th Dec at 6.00pm

At the Clubhouse

**This is an important meeting,  
and all are urged to attend.**

## From The Captain

**W**e are fast approaching Christmas and life is becoming very busy, so at the very outset I wish all members a *Merry and safe Christmas*.

Events and functions at the Club are many at this time of the year so please bear with us and attend as many as you possibly can.

The golf course has been an absolute picture and great credit to our greens staff. We have obtained new machinery which will improve the presentation even more. The dam on the 15<sup>th</sup> has been a long saga but when finished will be a marvellous improvement to the presentation and a saving in power usage.

The Club Championships have been played with *Damian Gair* winning the Club Championship, *Ron Campbell* the B Grade Championship and *Peter Gill* the C Grade. To be the Club Champion or the B or C Grade Champion is marvellous and something that I think all golfing members would like to be.

The Professionals Day, held on Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> October was a great spectacle with what we estimate the crowd to be at one stage about 150. I was somewhat disappointed that more members did not attend. Those that didn't really missed out on a great day. The makeup of the event as a Skins Event proved very positive and it is hopeful that we can continue this again next year. Thanks to

*Axiom Wealth* for sponsoring the event in the amount of \$100.00 per hole. The MC for the day was *Steve Anderson* from 2ST. He did a great job and thank you to Steve. The bacon and egg rolls on the Terrace were terrific, probably the best that I have ever had, thanks to Ian, *Daniel and Trudy*. Our photographer on the day was *David Stanley*, terrific job David.

*The course is being presented with a fairway cut, an intermediate cut and a rough cut which I think is a great benefit to all*

Melbourne Cup Day was a great success and thanks to the Ladies who you can always rely on to do a good job. I know that they have had a great year and continue to be a strong presence both within Bowral Golf Club and outside. Thanks to *Jill Scott* the Lady Captain for her support.

The Foursomes Championship was completed recently with the winners *Damien Gair and Chris Boggs* triumphant over "the kids" *Ned Simms and Alex Mulholland* 6/5. I think the winners were a bit lucky as their opponents had their minds elsewhere leading up the final, by that I mean the HSC.

It is with great sadness that my friend and respected member *Ray Almaide* passed away on Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup> November. I was lucky enough to see Ray on the Friday. I know that *Genelle* and the family have all of our deepest sympathy.

I have finished the 2009 golfing programme and have tried to even events out over the whole year. It just appears to me that we get choked up in the last 2-3 months of the year so we hope to improve on that area.

Once again the volunteers have carried out a tremendous job during the year; individual volunteers and Dad's Army so capably led by *David Stanley* are worth their weight in gold, thank you to all.

Before I finish I would like to thank my Match and Greens Committee for their appreciated help during the year without which would prove a very difficult job for the Captain.

Lastly I would like to thank all of our members for their patience in the changes as a result of the golf computer, there have been a few worms in the system but we are sorting them out and *John Dash* has worked very hard in this area, thank you John.

Merry Christmas to all and a very Happy New Year.

*Fred Sewell*  
Club Captain

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## *From the Lady Captain*

**I**t is fantastic to see the increasing numbers of players in both the Tuesday and Thursdays fields, and in particular the enthusiasm being shown by the new players/members. Their excitement is infectious and the benefits of such a group has a "regenerating effect" on all our members. These ladies are a very welcome addition to our Club.

Our programme for next year will include a 13 hole competition every Thursday - both for new players and also for those who are beginning to feel that 18 holes are more than they can handle. We believe this decision will be encouraging to ladies who are thinking of playing, but are wary of having to play 18 holes straight away.

Our members continue to "shine" in competitions, both locally and further afield. It is difficult to mention all the successes in this report, and a full list of winners will be detailed in the 2009 fixtures book. I would however, like to acknowledge the championship winners for 2008, and these are:

### 2008 Club Championship

Winner- Maggie McKenzie  
 Runner Up - Wendy Ruttan  
 Nett Winner - Wendy Ruttan

### Division II

Champion - Jill Scott  
 Runner Up - Sue Olson  
 Nett Winner - Anne Keys

### Division III

Champion - Marilyn Wood  
 Runner Up - Margaret Dawkins  
 Nett Winner - Carol Turpie

### The Medal of Medals

Winner - Toni Clarke

Toni has been one of our most prolific winners for this year - well done.

*"Our members continue to shine in competitions, both locally and further afield"*

The Bowral/Goulburn Shield was contested recently with a substantial win to Bowral - keep up the good work ladies!

A surprise phone call from a representative of Fischer and Paykel recently, advised us that *Gloria Campbell* had been successful in qualifying for the state final of this sponsored event. As one of 36 finalists, Gloria will be representing our Club at the end of November at Cromer - naturally we will all be keeping our fingers crossed that she "fires" on the day!

Our 12 member team played for the Colin Stamm Salver on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October - this is match play against the other local clubs. We were thrilled to

retain the trophy, and our players are to be congratulated on the spirit in which the competition was played. It is very heartening to have members volunteer so readily for these inter-club events. The camaraderie shared by the clubs is great to see.

Now the year has drawn to a close - our closing day was the 27<sup>th</sup> November - we can only reflect on what a successful year it has been for our club. With a new committee in place, and the enthusiasm of our members, we can only look forward to 2009 with great anticipation.

Golf over the summer holiday period will be a ball competition on both Tuesday and Thursday - the type of competition may be varied from time to time. We look forward to continuing activity over this period. Even though we are in "holiday mode" I will continue to update the Blog on a regular basis, so for all the latest news don't forget to log on!

I hope that the committee and all our members have a safe and happy festive season - particularly those of our members who are not 100% at present - our thoughts are with you.

*Jill Scott  
 Lady Captain*

### Tuesday night Dinner & Bridge

N.B. No December dine or cards but we start again on 20th January 2009  
*Reg Gilbert*

### *From the Sublime to the Ridiculous, or Pride Comes Before a Fall*

A 76 year-old member, *Nigel Scott-Miller* was boasting that he lost four points off his 31 handicap recently. He scored 38 of the 45 scored in a four-ball, was on the card 14 times and had 7 one-putt greens.

Guess what happened the following Saturday? His gross score of 114 was 70th in a field of 73, his nett 87 was dead last! He had 5 holes in which he scored 8 and *no* one-putt greens

He still thinks golf is a wonderful game.

*Anon.*



## Croquet

**T**o whet your interest in this grand pursuit, we are giving a short history of the game, and a few of the terms peculiar to it.

Modern(?) croquet was known in Ireland around 1830. The Irish introduced it to England *circa* 1850. The jury is still out on the question of whether this action by the Irish was motivated by generosity or malevolence. In any event the influence of the Irish helps explain some of the rules, which seem to encourage assault with a little battery tossed in for good measure.

THE English formed the All England Croquet Club in 1868, and in 1877, in a move they probably later regretted, allowed the tennis people to participate. The Club's name was changed to the All England Croquet and Tennis Club. The two sports proved to be incompatible - probably because the tennis crowd were highly strung - and a divorce was agreed, effective 1882. The croquet members picked their marbles and mallets and hooped off home.

It is this same All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet which to this day continues to stage the famous Wimbledon Tennis Championship, and notwithstanding the word 'Croquet' in the Club's name, it is nothing but tennis champs and strawberries. We are told that there is no chance of a second merger, which most agree would be a double fault.

Meanwhile croquet continues to flourish amongst discerning countries under the benign guidance of the Croquet Association—the croquet equivalent of Golf's R & A. The Association is based at the Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gardens, London.

### The Court

Croquet is played on a defined area known as "The Court", not the Green or the Rink or any other such misdescriptions. We at the Bowral Golf Club (Croquet Division) take a very relaxed approach to these foibles and for our purpose Croquet Lawn is just fine—in fact the use of the word "lawn" may better ensure that the lawn gets mown.

### Pegging Out

No need for obituaries, although it would be understandable if the announcement Bill had passed ahead of Jim would be taken as advice that Bill had predeceased lucky old



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**CBRE**  
CB RICHARD ELLIS

advice that Bill had predeceased lucky old Jim. This announcement simply means that Bill had won his match with Jim. The peg which gives rise to the team pegging out is somewhat similar to a miniature Barber's pole, except that it has more colours - one for each ball in play. It serves as a reminder of the sequence of play and also as a "Winning Post" - whilst a reasonable description, would have our purist friends wincing (or worse) for he would only allow "The Peg".

The Peg is set up in the middle of the court. A player "Pegs out" when he has completed certain maneuvers, by striking his ball so that it hits the Peg. The "certain maneuvers" referred to have to do with "Running the Hoops" which when completed has been known to

cause the successful player to utter a cry of exultation of "hoop hoop hooray"

There will be a further attempt to demystify the grand game in your next newsletter. In the meantime, come along and have a look at proceedings. You will be most welcome either as a player or a spectator.

Play commences every Tuesday at 1.30pm (weather permitting) and finishes at about 3pm, During Daylight Saving, we start at 10.30am and finish about noon.

We look forward to seeing you Court-side

G.McB.

## *Treasurer's Report*

**T**he Club's earnings from operations for the year to the end of October were unsatisfactory. While there has been a small improvement since the early part of the year, and income from the recently imposed levy will bolster our earnings position for the year, the operating earnings position is not sustainable in the longer term.

Operating income has fallen well short of expectations, mainly in Bar and Catering. Our members are active in supporting our functions but there is clearly a limit to this. The Club's operating expenses are running below budget, but further cuts in expenditure will be necessary to restore financial balance.

The Club's unaudited earnings position for the YTD October is as follows:

<b>Operating Earnings Summary</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>YTD</b>	
	October	Budget	Variation
Total Income	713,378	668,494	44,884
Less non -operating income			
Levy	62,7940	0	
One off donations	41,8110		
<b>Operating Income</b>	<b>608,773</b>	<b>668,794</b>	<b>-60,021</b>
<b>Total Operating expenses</b>	<b>620,795</b>	<b>629,633</b>	<b>-8,838</b>
Operating Earnings b. D&A	-12,022	39,161	-51,183
Lease Amortization	40,147	30,070	10,077
<b>Operating Earnings b. non cash Items</b>	<b>-52,169</b>	<b>9,091</b>	<b>-61,260</b>
Non cash depreciation	50,746	50,560	186
Operating Earnings after D&A	-102,915	-41,469	-61,446
Add back Non-op income	104,605		
Reported Earnings after D&A	1,690		

The outlook for 2009 is further compromised by the downturn in subscription income for the year as mentioned by the President in his report, and the general environment of the financial crisis that is affecting all businesses in Australia and all of us personally. The Club will need to make significant changes to adapt to these circumstances

*Alan Lindsay  
Treasurer*

### *Golfing with a Rules Man*

#### *An Ode to Fred*

When playing golf with Frederick  
It should come as no surprise  
When you hear that dreaded Mantra  
PLAY IT AS IT LIES

Your ball lands in a divot  
But hope within you dies  
When you hear Fred's wicked whisper  
PLAY IT AS IT LIES

Your ball may finish up a tree  
And Fred may sympathise  
Then you hear his callous call to  
PLAY IT AS IT LIES

You knee and beg him for relief  
With tear drops in your eyes  
He may offer you his hanky but you'll  
PLAY IT AS IT LIES

You may even try to bribe him  
With watered red and hot meat pies  
But still our Frederick makes you  
PLAY IT AS IT LIES

(Now we fast forward to the DAY OF JUDGMENT when Frederick John Sewell is stopped at the Pearly Gates by a steely-eyed Saint Peter)

I'm sorry Fred you can't come in  
A local rule applies  
We can't have members telling GOD to  
PLAY IT AS IT LIES

But I also have some good news  
And I'm happy to advise  
OLD NICK will gladly take you in  
But you'll PLAY IT AS IT LIES

*Neville Ridge*

## Dad's Army

I am loathe to make excuses but it is hard to remember what this disparate group of desperate misfits have done since the July newsletter. Refurbishing Lake Katekar has taken up a lot of our time and here I must thank Mr Thompson for making available the heavy machinery which certainly made our task a lot easier..... Really we didn't do a lot in this endeavour however Hamish and a couple of others thought it may help if Doug was led to believe the job couldn't have been completed without our help as they have their eyes on a couple of the suites overlooking the golf course. Sort of auto suggestion and as they said, you never know.

Back to reality, our latest endeavour has been to clear the camellia bushes from Neville's Scotch Thistle garden beside the 11th tee. This action so impressed the Scottish faction of our club, which as you know is quite

considerable, that it is seriously looking at holding the next St. Andrews night under floodlights in this location. Also our leader Pres. Bob Young has sent an invitation for Dads' Army to appear in the 2010 Edinburgh Tattoo, standing beside the lone Piper on the ramparts at the end of the show and Ian McKenzie has hinted we could be of assistance to him at the next British Open. Apart from this we haven't been doing much at all just our normal weekly duties maintaining the practice putting green and the area around the first tee including the garden outside our Golf Directors head office. Then of course the creek between Lake Katekar and the 18th fairway has been cleaned out a couple of times and the debris from the high winds we have experienced has been cleaned up when required. Oh and there was another small job we attended to, over a four week period Brian "The Terminator" Dawkins attacked the club house

with his 'Girney Gun" He failed in his original intent to relocate the building to Links Road but did succeed in revitalizing its appearance by removing some years of accumulated grime. The resident spiders are taking out a class action against Brian for damages relating to undue force in depriving them of their habitat. Legal advice obtained indicates their action has little chance of success as it appears they hadn't paid any rent since they took up residence.

These people are such a wonderful modest group who are such a pleasure to be associated with I have recommended to the Board that they be given an extra months pay as a Christmas bonus, hang the expense.

David Stanley  
Convenor

## BRIDGE CLUB

Our AGM and luncheon held in August were most enjoyable and we warmly welcomed Marie Russell and Pip Smith as our new bridge club committee members.

Some of our members recently have been attending a course of intermediate bridge lessons given by Marie Russell; Marie kindly donated her time and her lessons have been both stimulating and informative. We really appreciated Marie's contribution.

We are extremely happy to have 2 new directors on board – Ron Berney and Allan Jones, who are both doing a great job.

Sadly, we have farewelled two of our members since the last newsletter. John Odgers- bridge player extraordinaire and Jack Lancken – a very special and most popular man. We will miss them both and send our sincere condolences to Noni Odgers and also to Jack's family.

On a happier note, our Christmas party on Monday December 1<sup>st</sup> was a great

success. Phil Dean had kindly agreed to play the piano for us which added to the festivity of the occasion.

We welcome the following people who have joined our bridge club in the past 12 months: Ron Berney, Erich and Gillian Brossell, Adele Brown, Leonie Cooper, Reg Gilbert, Barbara Ginnane, Penny McKenna, Eve Rossetto, Patricia Sharpe, John Uren, Jeanie Van Eyk and Gwen Williams.

We know you will all enjoy being members of the "friendly club".

Maryellen Duffy  
Secretary  
Bowral Bridge Club

## Monthly Medals

July	A	S Martin
	B	B Lamb
	C	G Connolly
August	A	H caust
	B	D McGinnes
	C	P Gill
Sept	A	C Vaughan-Smith
	B	C Jenkins
	C	B Morton
Oct	A.	B Hanrahan
	B	B Windybank
	C	G Blanchard
Nov	A	H Caust
	B	D McGinnes
	C	D Stalley
Dec	A	F Eggert
	B	M Brown
	C	G Katekar

A list of 2008 Trophy Winners and Runners Up is contained on the Bowral Golf Club Web Page under 2009 Fixtures Book on pages 20 – 21 and is also displayed within the Club.

## House Committee Report

Since my last Report a number of major changes have taken place in the Club which have severely impacted on the operations of the Bar and Kitchen. First *Daniel Briggs*, our Food and Beverage Manager resigned in late October to take up a position in a local restaurant and in early December *Ian Day*, our Secretary/Manager also left the Club's service. We wish both the best of luck in their future careers.

Their leaving us has led us to review the manner in which the Bar and Catering have been managed and a number of changes have been implemented. First *Craig Langby* has been appointed Bar Manager reporting to me as Chairman of the House committee and *Trudi* Has assumed responsibility for the overall supervision of the kitchen. The Club's financial position has precluded a permanent replacement for Daniel and we have therefore had to make alternative arrangements for the operation of the kitchen. Our existing staff, *Sandy, Rocky and Marie* will continue to provide our standard service to members although it may be necessary to review and simplify the existing menu. *Pascal Timores* has agreed to cater for Club functions. As members will know Pascal is a very experienced chef and we are sure that our catering arrangements will be in good hands. We are grateful for his offer to help us out.

We are also fortunate and grateful that a number of our members have volunteered to assist in the running of the Bar. *Peter*

*Girven*, who has 30 years in the hotel industry and *Phillip Allen* have agreed to assist Craig with ordering and will jointly review our profit margins on a regular basis. In addition Phillip jointly with *Alistair MacLennan and Hamish Macfarlan* will carry out the monthly and annual stocktakes.

Recently following an inspection Wingecarribee Shire Council we were issued with a notice to undertake remedial works to the grease trap in the kitchen. *Kevin Burke* has agreed to supervise the works required which have to be completed by October 2009.

It is very encouraging that members are offering their services to the Club in these difficult times and if any member thinks he may be able to help in any way please get in touch with me.

We have held a number of successful functions in recent months including the Bastille Dinner, the Captain's Dinner and the Boxmoor Trophy Dinner and I am confident that with the implementation of the recent changes we will continue to maintain the high standards of the past.

Finally I am pleased to report that the new lighting at the front of the clubhouse promised by the Wingecarribee Council has now been installed.

*Bob Constable*  
Chairman

## The Lady President's Report

As the year draws to a close I am pleased to report that the ladies of Bowral Golf Club are going from strength to strength.

We have had a very successful year for both golf and social events. My thanks go to all the committee girls for their dedication and hard work and also to all members involved in various aspects of the club who contributed to the successes.

Closing Day which incorporated our donated trophy presentations and fantastic entertainment by the Bowral Song & Dance team was well received. Sixty players took part in the year end teams event and 20 extra ladies partook of the delicacies after golf. This number would have to be a record number of registered Bowral lady players on one day.

The year, 2008, also saw bus trips, book club and new member's clinic events all being well supported. Thank you to all the organizers and the participants.

**The following members comprise the Ladies committee for the next year.**

**President** – Blandina Meere

**Vice president**- Bernadette Brown

**Captain** – Jill Scott

**Secretary** - Pam Barker

**Treasurer** – Judy Mawbey

**Handicap Manager** – Wendy Ruttan

**Assistant Handicap Manager** - Robyn McGinnes

**Liaison Officer** – Margaret Pemberton

I look forward to the New Year with great enthusiasm and wish you all compliments of the season and a joy filled New Year.

*Blandina Meere*  
Lady President