

MOLLYMOOK VETERANS NEWSLETTER

August 2023

For your calendar

Vets AGM

Wed 1 November

After presentation



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello to everyone out there and I guess it is welcome to spring. Hopefully it will be fine days, showers of an evening and some great golf played by everyone.

The Mollymook Men's open has been run and won and congratulations to Jye Halls on another great performance in winning. His 67 on Saturday was quite a round. With the course being so dry it was a tough gig for all the players and the quality of the field made for some great golf.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers – men and women for their great efforts on Saturday and Sunday carrying out the spotting and starting duties. This greatly assists the club in running all of the tournaments and there was fantastic feedback from the players showing their appreciation for the work put in by all. Looking forward to the NSW Seniors Masters in October.

The annual trip to Merimbula will be on probably as this goes out and all the best to everyone heading south for the week. Have a safe and enjoyable trip and I trust everyone will enjoy the courses, the golf and the company.

Just a reminder there will be positions up for grabs at the AGM in November and I am sure Ken will give you the details.

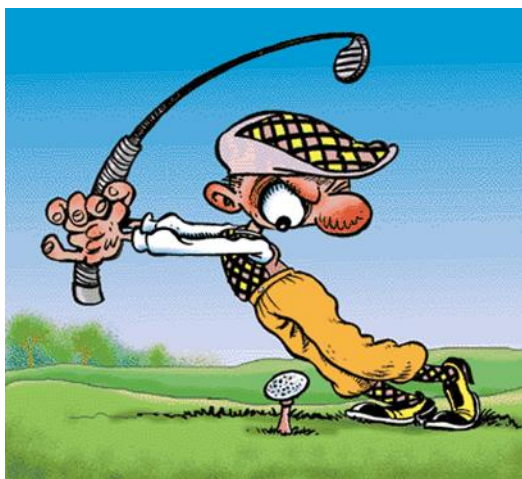
May all your scores be in the positive.

Good golfing to all.

Grant Knight

HERE I LIE

by **SANDY MacDIVOT**



AROUND THE TRAPS

July proved to be a good month to get out of the house and pummel a small dimpled sphere around the grassy sward. There was plenty of action and good scores at Beachside including their 1st Life Members Day, a summary of which is included elsewhere in this edition. In the non-Life Member events the following Veterans played with distinction: - John Evans and Cliff Workman had 22 Stableford points while Brian Morrison and Stig Anderson scored 20 each. Best of the month though was the consistent John Amer who finished a Stroke event on 23, five under his handicap and two shots ahead of his closest opponent. Has that invitation to Augusta arrived yet John?

Hilltop had some very good results including some gnarled old Veterans rolling back the years to turn in stellar performances. In Stableford events Matt Shrubbs led the way with 43 points, Chuck L'heureux had 42 and Col Cheetham 41. Also worthy of mention were Brendon Bull, Mike Riley, John Hodge and Vic

Tusikov all on 39. In a Par event Chester Kent had plus 4 and the indomitable Terry Robinson plus 3. The Pig of the Litter trophy is shared this month between John Amer and Matt Shrubbs. Oinkety, oink, oink oink.

MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB

Amazing things sometimes happen on the golf course. One Wednesday a week or so ago I was on the 10th tee, having finished the first nine, and waiting to hit off. My first nine unfortunately had been less than satisfactory and my mood was somewhat melancholy. But then my spirits were lifted by Fred Rupp, who was in the group behind us, and who recited the following hilarious verse. My game improved considerably.

Mary had a little lamb
A lobster and some prunes
A bottle of wine, a piece of pie
A plate of macarons
She gobbled down a sponge cake
And what else, we don't know
But when they carried Mary out
Her face was white as snow.

Thanks Fred.

THE PENSIONERS TREE CHAPTER TWO

Our article about the above in last week's edition has caused considerable comment. In fact, it has caused more feedback than any other article, ever. I am indebted to Keith Lowes who has informed me that the Pensioners Tree was placed exactly 200 metres from the blue tees on the 8th hole. Some have suggested a plaque on the site of the vacated sapling. Others just report their dismay.

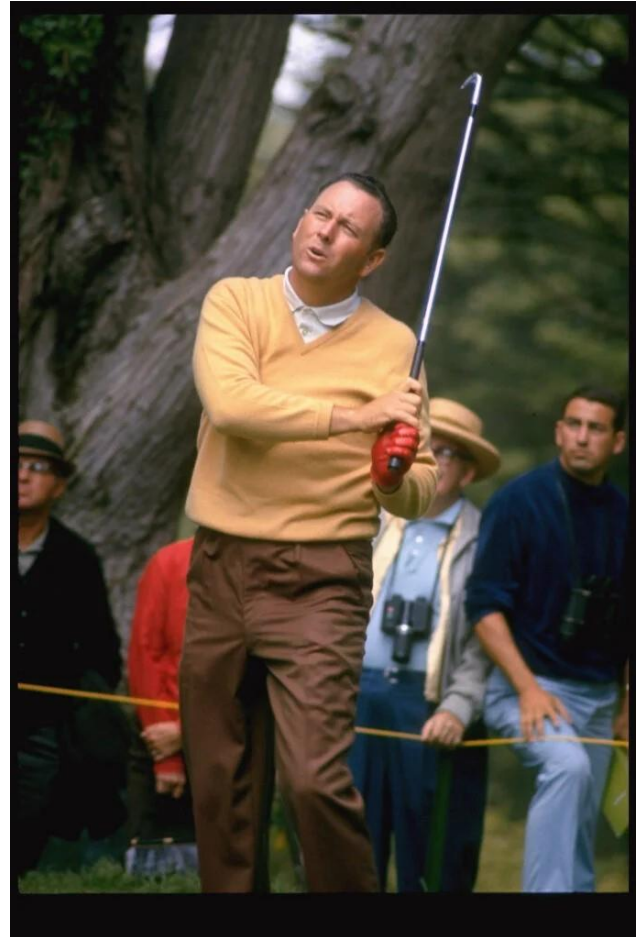
I have one suggestion that is modest in cost and easy to implement. How about we commission a "Pensioners Tree Trophy" for the winner of the Over 75 Years Annual Championship. The name will then live on free from the tree loppers axe and safe in the bosom and tender care of the Mollymook Vets. Please send your feedback including alternative suggestions.

BILLY CASPER JNR.

Billy was born in 1931 in San Diego, California, began playing golf at age five and eventually gained a golfing scholarship at a local university. Such was his proficiency that he turned pro in 1954 at age 23 and went on to be an extremely successful golfer. He had 72 wins as a professional including 51 PGA events (7th best of all time) including 3 majors (one Masters and two U.S. Opens), yet it appears that he was highly underrated.

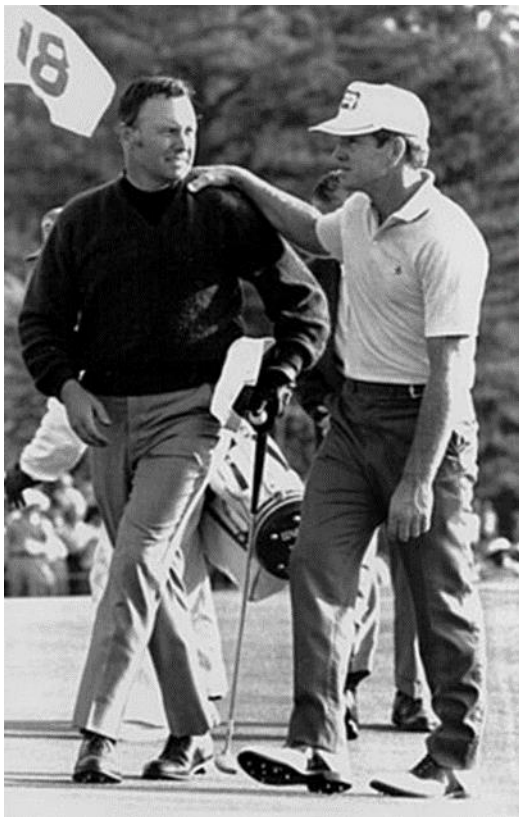
During the 1960s and 70s the "Big Three" (Nicklaus, Palmer and Player) were regarded as the ones who had popularised and increased the commercial success of golf around the world. Casper was never rated their equal although between 1964 and 1970 he

won 27 PGA events which was two more than Nicklaus and six more than Palmer and Player combined. He was not a long hitter but was considered by many to be the best putter of his time. Perhaps he went about his trade quietly and without projecting himself.



The story of his life away from playing golf is also interesting. He married young (he and his wife Shirley remained married for more than 60 years) and had 11 children (six of whom were adopted) and eventually 71 grandchildren. His tally of great grandchildren is not recorded (probably because it increases every week). The only references I could find said that the great grandchildren were extremely numerous (family get togethers would be like conventions). At age 34 Billy became a lifelong member of the Mormon Church and

spent much of his time supporting children's charities. Once he gave up the Pro circuit he established a golf course design and management business. In 2017 that business owned and/or managed about 150 golf courses in the USA and annually hosted "The Worlds largest Golf Outing" which supports various military charities. As with many success stories there is sometimes a tragic element. When in his twenties, one of Billy's adopted sons was sentenced to 104 years gaol for numerous felonies.



I remember watching Billy in a televised matchplay event in the 1960s. The match was close, a large purse was at stake and towards the end his young caddie was getting tense and a bit agitated. So, to calm the boy down Billy put his arm around his shoulders and said kindly to him "Don't ulcer yourself son, it's only a game". A great man, Billy Casper. He died in 2015 aged 83.

AN INTERESTING CONFESSION

This item has been sent in by Andrew Granger.
Thank you, Andrew.

A man goes to confession and says "on Friday while playing golf I used obscene and depraved language including the # word." Tell me about it my son" said the priest.

"Well" said the golfer "I shanked my drive off the first tee wide left". "Oh, you must have said it then" the priest replied. "No, it hit a tree and bounced back onto the fairway" So the priest said "and then what happened?"

The man said "I hit my second shot which went wide right" "That's when you said it" exclaimed the priest "No the ball hit a ball washer and ended up in the short rough" "Did you say it then?" groaned the priest. "No" the golfer replied "I hit a wedge about six inches from the cup." There was a moments silence, then the priest said "Don't tell me you missed the #@\$%+*& putt"!!

Please send any dribbling diatribe, overarching observations, tempestuous tommyrot, rambunctious ramblings or fanatical fantasies to me (Sandy) via my Agent at kdthorne@bigpond.com and we will publish without fear or favour.

Member Profile

MICK THOMPSON

Mick Thompson was born in Melbourne in 1927, the eldest of three brothers. He remained a Melbournian until his retirement at 64 when he moved up to Ulladulla.

Mick very much remembers the Great Depression years and its aftermath of the early 30's. He spoke with fondness of the care from his parents during this trying time and their ability to put food on the table and provide shoes and socks for school. This was at a time when he was conscious that many other children went to school barefooted and often went hungry. However, he does recall that he had a lot of Weetbix. But there was always a sandwich on the table when he came home from school at lunchtime.

During the first polio scare of the late 1930's students were not allowed to attend school and Mick and his brothers were isolated in their own backyard. Lessons from the school were sent out to students, much like the remote learning used for Covid. However, without the technology of today, lessons arrived by snail mail and were returned to school the same way.

As a 14-year-old Mick left school and took up an apprenticeship as a house painter. On completion of the apprenticeship, he started work with a mate and then took over the business when the friend decided not to carry on. Mick continued as a painter until his retirement and his subsequent move to Ulladulla in 1991.

Mick started golf at Hilltop in 1993. This was in January and, coming from cooler climes in Melbourne, he found the heat a bit oppressive

and gave it away. Mick heard about Beachside from a friend and his wife encouraged him to take up the game again.

Gordon Grey, who lived near Mick, was running the show then and wanted to finish up. Mick had indicated that he had run golf comps in Melbourne so Gordon asked him if he would take it on for the remainder of that year.

When he was introduced to the players as the new, temporary, captain, his words to the assembled multitude were that if they had any issues with the organization, don't complain on the course, come and talk with him.

Nobody did that, not just that year, but for the next 7 years he ran the show.

In 2005 Mick relinquished his role in running Beachside Comp so he could better look after his wife. Bruce Anderson took over from Mick.

During his time running the club Mick would draw up the playing sheet on Mondays, do the handicaps, write out the cards and do the NTP's for delivery to the starting box on Wednesday morning. The Club's contribution was to provide a starter to hand out the cards Mick had prepared.

This was for up to 80 players in Mick's final years as Captain.

Mick has been a competitive cricket player, footballer and professional bike rider.

In golf he played off a low GA handicap of 13 and finished on 15.

Of all the sports he has taken part in, he says golf was his favourite. You shake hands at the beginning and shake hands at the finish – He says that this didn't happen in all sports.

Life Members Day

Match Report 19/07/23

Today 58 Vets took part in a celebration of golf for our Life Member, Mick Thompson. This was in the form of a 2 person Ambrose. The game was followed by a presentation to Mick, snack food, prize distribution, and, the drawing of the 100 Club.

The winners of the trophy (rather smick cheese boards) were the team of Greg Wood and John Amer on 26.



In 4th place and missing out on the prizes was the team of Bill Stables and David Wardleworth on 26.5.

Nearest the pin went to Stan Izzard on the 1st, Dave Adams on the 5th, Greg Wood on the 6th and Leonard Astill on the 9th.

A bag of 2 balls and some golfing knickknacks was given out to those down to 27.5 on a countback, while all other players received 1 ball and the knickknacks.



They were closely followed by second placed Graham Sweet and John Evans (box of balls each) on 26.25 on a countback from third placed Alan Edwards and Mick McCormack (Mollymook Golf Club caps).



Captain's Report



Welcome to our August edition of the monthly newsletter. Our golfing year is passing too quickly. There are issues that I would like to raise with all of our Veterans membership.

The first is the need to log onto the club computer system when we register to play each Wednesday. For whatever reason, some golfers seem to struggle with what is a relatively simple task. All that is required, is that each member takes the time to read and identify their particular game format ie, the particular veteran's event for the day. Once that is done, you then proceed to the screen page specifying the particular tee from which you would like play.

If, for whatever reason, you inadvertently select the wrong game format, PLEASE, don't double up and pick another format. YOU MUST see staff in the pro shop, who can rectify your error and make sure that you are playing in only ONE format for the day. Failure to do so simply

loads up extra work for committee members, sorting out the original mistake.

When you have finalised your score entry onto the computer, PLEASE sign out of the computer system. Until you do so, your score is NOT uploaded.

On a weekly basis, we are getting a percentage of members who are scoring on mobile phones. We also have members scoring on cards. The MiClub app appears to be working well. For whatever reason, some members are still struggling with cards. Again, it simply makes more work for the committee members, when we have to chase up errors made on a person's card, and doubly so when the particular member has left soon after. In that situation, we are often left with no other alternative than to advise the Pro Shop that the member in question scorecard will be marked NSA.

Some months ago, I made a request asking that veterans members come and see the committee to ascertain if any prizes are owing ie. Wine/balls. The percentage of members complying is small. If prizes are NOT CLAIMED within one month, they are forfeited. It would be great to see members getting the prizes they deserve, on a regular basis.

Martin Lochrin

Veterans Captain

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Vets Office Bearers 21/22

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|--------------------------|---------------|
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