

MOLLYMOOK VETERANS NEWSLETTER

October 2023

For your calendar

Vets AGM

Wed 1 November

After presentation



11th Hole Mollymook Golf Club

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

President's Annual Report

Welcome all the vets out there to the 2023 end of year and thankfully a more stable time than the past few. The conditions have generally been kind to us and we have managed to get pretty much all the scheduled events played.

Membership has stayed steady around the 300 mark with new members coming on board all the time. Welcome to you all. As usual please encourage anyone thinking of joining us to do so.

Thank you to the volunteers for their efforts on the main tournaments this year. There has been a strong turnout of men and women for the pro-am as well as each of the respective opens. Very encouraging to see and hopefully there is even more support next year. There is one more event this year we will be supporting. This is a ladies professional tournament including a qualifying component for the NSW open. This tournament will be played over 3 days on the on the 18, 19 and 20th of November.

The Mid-South coast vets have managed to continue as scheduled and thank you to Tim Inness for his organisational skills in getting the teams together and to all the players making themselves available to support the club.

To our sponsors we very much appreciate your continuing support and of course we will again be supporting Legacy and the Milton Hospital auxiliary going forward.

Thank you to Dave Hume for organising another great week in Canberra earlier this year. Dave has kindly offered to organise this trip again next year. To Penny and Marty again thank you from all the travellers to Merimbula for another great time. They have offered their

services again next year and this is greatly appreciated by all who take advantage of the opportunity. I would encourage vets to think about joining these groups next year. They are a great getaway.

Our thanks to the Club board for their support this year along with Barry West, Mario Van Zyl, Chris and all those working in the pro shop. As usual the bar and kitchen staff at Hilltop have looked after us well and it is greatly appreciated. We look forward to working with the Club board and pro shop in 2024. A special call out to Peter Davis and Graham Speirs for their work on the tongs – all members and visitors comment on the great job you do in feeding the masses.

Congratulations to Ron Sweeny and his sub-committee for organising the Beachside comp and to the beachside staff for his assistance in the pro shop down there.

I am sure also everyone would like to join me in thanking the retiring Marty Lochran (4 years on the vets committee) and Ken Thorne (7 years on the vets committee) on their sterling service to the vets. We will still see them out there bashing the little dimpled ball around the course.

To all of the trophy winners, well done and I have no doubt everyone will all come back with renewed enthusiasm for the challenge next year.

I personally would like to take this opportunity to thank all the vets members and particularly the committee for the support afforded me this year and I trust we will all have an enjoyable golfing experience in 2024.

In closing we would like to offer our sincere condolences to the families and friends of past

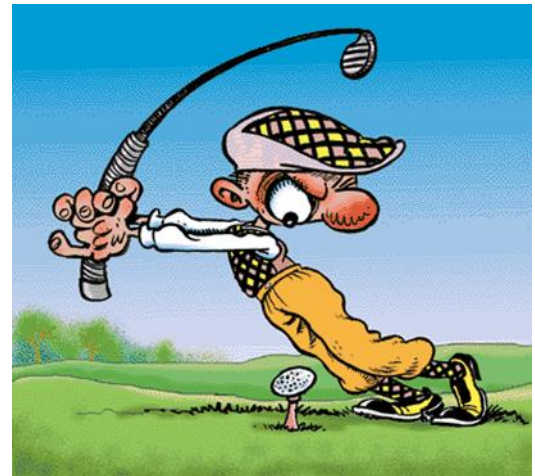
and present members who have passed away this year. Our thoughts are with you.

To everyone and their families and friends a happy and safe Christmas New Year break and we will reconvene on the fairways in the new year.

Grant Knight

HERE I LIE

by SANDY MacDIVOT



Well, what a great month for golf with tricky greens, immaculate fairways and minimal rain. Beachside had four competition days, three of which stroke rounds for the Annual Championship and there were some sterling performances. The best nett scores for the stroke rounds were from David Adams, Ian Mitchell and Tim Richmond on 23 while Ray Werner, Ron Sweaney, Kevin Hodge and Ross Chapman each had 24. Chris Lamb had 22 points in the stableford event.

Hilltop only had three rounds during the month due to depleted numbers caused by the well-attended Merimbula trip. Two stableford events produced rounds of 42

points for Fred Schulz and Mark Willard while Alec Heller managed a commendable 41. The highlight of the month however was the result of the four person ambrose won on the day by the unlikely team of Fred Rupp, Vin Horton, Mike Wakeley and Ken Thorne. Captain Fred led the team from the front despite a damaged shoulder (wounded in action at golf a fortnight before) and the other players each chipped in at crucial moments (cometh the hour, cometh the man). With only the 18th hole left to play Mike Wakeley (making his first appearance of the year in the Vets) was one tee shot short of his required three. Completely undeterred he belted his best shot of the day straight up the fairway to the applause of his teammates. For the record the team finished on nett 57.375 which was two shots ahead of the runners up. So, these four are the Pig of the Litter winners for the month and will be in future known as the Pork Scratchings.

THE PIRATE

A pirate walked into his local bar and the bartender said "Hey you look terrible. What happened?"

"What do you mean said the pirate, I feel fine".

"What about your wooden leg? You didn't have that before.

"We were in a battle and my leg was hit by a cannon ball, but I'm fine now".

"Yeah, but what about that hook"?

The Pirate explained, "There was another battle where we boarded a merchant ship and I lost my hand in a sword fight so I got

fitted with a hook. But I'm fine really".



"What about the eye patch"?

"Oh" said the pirate, "One day when we were at sea I looked up and a bird crapped in my eye"

"You're kidding" said the bartender. "You don't lose an eye from bird crap".

"No, but it was my first day with the hook".

WORLD'S LONGEST PUTT

Brett Stanford from Perth, Western Australia entered the Guinness World Records by sinking a 135.67 yard putt a few years ago. Here is the story in his own words: -

"I've been playing golf for about 15 years and while I'm a mid-handicapper with a decent short game the longest putt I'd made before this was around 40 feet.

My friends and I discovered the record was

125 yards and decided it would be fun to have a go at breaking it. Finding a course in good shape and willing to give us exclusive access to a hole for a significant length of time was tricky but the idea of a Guinness World record being set excited the manager of Point Walter in my home city of Perth, Australia, so he gave us exclusive access to the 5th hole for an entire day.

Early on we realised the previous mark would be really hard to beat, but we were optimistic that it was possible. We just needed to get it going on the right line at the right speed simple!



One of the big issues early on was consistency. When you are trying to make a full swing with a putter it is very easy to spray the ball or top it. When I started to focus on a more compact putting motion it proved to be a good move. Shortening the swing really helped me to keep the blade at the right

angle and aided consistency.

After that I needed to nail the pace as I was short, long and even slammed one into the flagstick. That really hurt. It was about 90 minutes in and my friend Scott was shouting “Get in. Come on, get in”. His arms were waving, his volume was increasing then, bang, I heard the ball hit the flag stick and the guys groan in disbelief. Would I get any closer than that for the rest of the day?

It seemed like the answer was no, but just as things were beginning to get tedious, I hit one on the right line, right out of the sweet spot. It travelled up the left side of the fairway, onto the green and began curling down towards the hole. Again, I could hear Scott egging it on. He encouraged it and encouraged it and then he started screaming and celebrating, which was my cue to go nuts.

I'd broken a Guinness World Record and it felt fantastic!”

Great stuff Brett.

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

(1) I've reached the age where my train of thought sometimes leaves the station without me.

(2) Politicians and diapers should be changed often for the same reason.

(3) Some people cause happiness wherever they go, others whenever they go.

(4) I'm at the age where my back goes out more often than I do.

(5) Do you realise that in about 40 year's time thousands of old ladies will be going around with tattoos.

(6) I don't know if Facebook has ever caused the lame to walk but it has sure caused the dumb to speak.

(7) You know you're getting on in years when you use a shopping trolley at the pharmacy.

GOLF IN THE WIND

When at last the sun has set
And dusk begins to grow
With all our strokes recorded
We'll reflect and smile and know
That though the wind was raging
And stole from us the score
We'll rise at dawn tomorrow
To battle it once more.

Thanks to Bo Links.

Please send your meaningful macarisms, deleterious declarations, affirmative aphorisms and tendentious tom foolery to me, Sandy via kdthorne@bigpond.com and it will be published.

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY

(A) On Wednesday November 1st after golf at Hilltop the Vets Annual General Meeting will be held. The following are the arrangements for the day. Please apprise yourself of these

arrangements so that we can complete the proceedings in a timely and efficient fashion. The AGM, which will follow our normal Wednesday presentation, should take about 20 minutes, unless there are contentious issues raised from the floor.

(1) The event for the day is a single stableford with a shotgun start at 8am.

(2) Please register early enough to reach your tee off hole prior to 8am.

(4) If you wish to order lunch from the kitchen you will have to order it at the pre 8am registration. Committee members will be in attendance to take orders. There will be four choices of meal and they will be served over the bar at completion of golf and paid for by you at that time.

(5) Every competitor will be entitled to one free drink i.e. schooner of beer (not Asahi), a soft drink or coffee. When acquiring your drink give the bar staff your name and hit off tee and your name will be marked off a copy of the tee sheet.

(6) Please submit your scores promptly after completing your round to help prevent unnecessary delay in the proceedings.

Beachside Vets wishing to attend should be at Hilltop no later than 1pm.

(B) Wednesday 6th of December will be the final Vets competition of the year at Hilltop.

Hilltop's Annual Presentation of Trophies will follow at the completion of play on that day.

Trophy winners will be advised and asked to make sure they attend. Arrangements will be similar to those applying to the AGM except

that all attendees will receive a complimentary hamburger (a la Pierre Le Davis and Graeme Spiers) as well as a complimentary drink. The competition on the day is a four person Ambrose with a shot gun start at 8 am and extra funds are being added to the prize pool. Comments in Section (A) above re early registration and prompt submission of scores also apply.

Beachside's Annual Presentation will be held separately and Beachside's Officials will advise details.

Ken Thorne

Hon. Sec.

Captain's Report



A Word from Our Sponsor

CAPTAINS ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE 2023 CALENDAR YEAR

MOLLYMOOK VETERAN GOLFERS.

Our golfing year commenced on the 1st February, 2023, with starting numbers at 126 players for our first event, a single stableford. That number set a benchmark for the year and it hasn't been exceeded.

Between the 1/2/2023 and the 18/10/2023, there were 36 rounds of golf played by our veterans. That amounted to 3,561 persons playing golf over that time, which averaged out to 98.9 players participating each week.

Our most popular format for golf over that time was stableford events, with good numbers for most of those events. The least popular format was the individual par rounds, based on player numbers. I am also pleased to report that during the above period, we only had one event that was shortened due to inclement

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weather, which saw a number players leave the course just before, or after completing nine holes.

Despite efforts from our Veterans Committee, we were unable to entice either Moruya or Narooma into taking part in inter club events. It appears that the hangover from Covid has taken its toll and impacted on their enthusiasm for playing.

We have however, played inter club events against both Catalina and Kiama. Our aggregate score for the two rounds against Catalina was sufficient to see us take back ownership of the Mollycat trophy for this year. We won our first encounter with Kiama, at our home course, but are not scheduled to play the second round until the 20/11/23, at Kiama, a very challenging course.

In terms of revenue created for Mollymook Golf Club, by our Veterans group, we paid approximately \$64,098.00 in green fees. We received approximately \$17,805 back, by way of monetary prizes, golf balls and wine. That left the club with approximately \$46,293.00 in money going into the club. On top of that, there was substantial use of carts by our members, together with clubhouse refreshments, with also augmented revenue received by the club.

Our members also took part in weeks of golf at both Canberra golf courses in March this year and in September at Merimbula. That week in particular, was a great success, with golfing numbers peaking at 64, both men and women. It is hoped that similar numbers of both ladies and mens golfers will make the effort to participate in 2024.

I advised the Veterans Committee at the beginning of our golfing year, that I would not be seeking re-election to the position of Veterans Captain. I have enjoyed my time in that role however, our member Tim Innes has nominated to take on my vacated role and I wish him every success. I still intend to play veterans golf as often as I can, in between trips to explore what golf has to offer in our state, and elsewhere.

Martin Lochrin

Outgoing Veterans Captain

Vets Office Bearers 21/22

President Grant Knight

Captain Marty Lochrin

Vice Captain Tim Innes

Treasurer Phil McGuire

Secretary Ken Thorne

Beachside Captain Ron Sweaney

