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**President:** 0409 603 922

10th August 2020

***Coronavirus:***

We have entered Stage 3 restrictions which is not great news as we are not permitted to play competition golf and it is social golf in pairs. Also, we need to mask up –

***NO MASK! NO GOLF!***

Better than being shut altogether I guess!!

Still no open clubhouse or bar except for take away drinks.

It is very important to read the board and adhere to the very simple items such as:

1. Visitors please sign in. Visitors from Melbourne are NOT permitted to play at this stage.
2. Remain 1.5m apart.
3. Use & handle your own equipment.
4. Wash hands in soap and water before & after the round of golf.
5. Enjoy your activity by adhering to these suggestions to stay fit & healthy while not putting others at risk.
6. If you feel unwell or display any flu-like symptoms **Stay Home!!**

Thank you

Any queries, please contact me or for up to date information, go to the Golf Australia website or the Federal Government have also created a COVID-19 site.

**Golf Course**

The course is looking great and well done to the volunteers and Sean on the condition it is in at present. Our greens are quick and it won’t be long before they spring back into life. A maintenance program will take place to control the diseases as best we can and have them in good order for the summer months. Ayden Roberts is back advising Sean which will be greatly appreciated as Sean extends his knowledge.

***Fertiliser***

In the coming months as the couch awakens, the grass will enjoy a boost as Dave Nitschke has donated urea to put out on the fairways to encourage its growth. It is greatly appreciated Dave and I know other farmers do the same. It is a fabulous way to be an active member.

***Memberships***

Recently we have had a good response to our membership drive as other sport is basically closed down. We have some old favourites like Jake Jess return to enjoy our serene environment along with new faces. The club is enjoying having this surge and we hope these members get as much out of golf as we do.

***Annual Tournament CANCELLED!!***

Due to COVID-19 & Stage 3 restrictions, it is with regret, we have had to cancel the 2020 Annual Tournament.

A letter has been prepared to send out to all Annual Tournament sponsors notifying them of the event not being held. They are given the option to still sponsor as some have ie O’Connors CASE IH have provided $1000 to assist with costs in cancelling the tournament, Green Taylor & Partners and Robert Smith & Co are two other sponsors who have contributed with similar support.

It is disappointing to lose our revenue from the tournament but we have very supportive sponsors.

***Thank you to all of our sponsors****.* ☺

**O’Connor’s Mitsubishi/Case IH**

Green Taylor Partners Robert Smith & Co.

Drummond Golf Ballarat Royal Mail Hotel

B C Clark Penny Transport

Werrigar/Wilken Group Sporte Leisure

Emmetts Warracknabeal RC & SM Bailey P/L

North West Ag Services Warrack Hot Bread

Leonie Atkin & Mary Massey Maree Heenan

Horsham G C Pro Shop Bentley Group

Ritchies IGA Warracknabeal Nigel Bennett

Krahe’s Pest Control Pharmacy Alliance

Elders Rural Services Warrack Concrete

Betta Electrics Horsham Barry Holland Motors

Foodworks - Warracknabeal TyrePower

Wimmera Gifts and Trophies JT House & Son

Wool-underwear.com Forty Winks Horsham

BBQ Galore Horsham RSL Horsham

Feet First Footwear Mushy’s Tyre Service

Country Roads Motor Inn Country Essentials

Shaw’s Building Supplies Beth Preston

Sponsors are essential to the survival of our club and we appreciate their loyal support over the years our Annual Tournament has been held. Our club is always open to new sponsors to the club so contact us. Look up our website for further information.

 ***Eastern Fence***

Our eastern boundary had been in disrepair for a while and our loyal sponsor was looking to throw some sheep in his paddock but didn’t want the sheep disrupting play. In fact, it could put the saying ‘Dead Sheep’ in an awkward position if one was hit by a golf ball. SO, it was agreed to repair the fence and many thanks to Greg Pearson who liaised with our neighbour Richard and the work was done. Greg, Peter Schilling & Dale Stronach pulled the fence down while Richard had it erected.

It has been noted by a number of golfers about the small gate in the fence. What a great idea! Greg has always been a thinker and people appreciate that now. Obviously, a popular spot from all the queries about it which is a little concerning & challenging for a golfer.

***Men’s Championships***

The conditions for the first two rounds of the Men’s Championships were fantastic for golf with mild conditions and the course in good condition. The club appreciates the sponsorship of this major calendar event by ***Warrack Furnishings [Scratch event]*** and ***Bellevue Trading [Handicap event***].

The variety of scores was typical of Championship golf but it always provides great interest to see how & who have performed. Over each day the attendance was excellent and golfers were keen to take up the challenge of the 54-hole events. The COVID-19 restrictions were adhered to and unfortunately didn’t allow for the story-telling and banter to occur after the rounds.

The two days, Saturday & Sunday, were played and results compiled. Little did we know that the leaders after two rounds would be declared the winners by the Match Committee by the end of the week. The Stage 3 restrictions came into effect on Thursday and competition golf was not permitted for the six weeks to come. The Match Committee decided it best to end the championships after the two days competition because the future was unknown in relation to this pandemic and when Stage 3 will be lifted. Six weeks is a long time in golf and who knows if the restrictions will be lifted, where current golfers will be and what these golfers will have on which could take them away from the competition.

So, it is congratulations to the leaders of each division and event who are now winners as the results to follow show:

**Warrack Furnishings Scratch event:**

**Open Division** – Ross Laycock 83, 78 = 161;

Runner-up – Wayne Gove 82,85 = 167

Intermediate Division – Bernie Naylor 87, 89 =176; Runner-up – Chris Surridge 87, 92 = 179

B Grade Division – Alan McLean 87, 91 =178;

Runner-up - Derek Picken 93, 95 = 188

C Grade Division – Dave Trippett 103, 100 =203;

Runner-up - Stan Ryan 105, 101 = 206

**Bellevue Tradings Handicap event:**

**Open Division** – Ross Laycock 76, 70 = 146nett;

Runner-up – Wayne Gove 75,78 = 153nett

Intermediate Division – Bernie Naylor 74, 76 =150nett;

Runner-up – Chris Surridge 74, 79 = 153nett

B Grade Division – Alan McLean 68, 73 =141nett;

Runner-up - Derek Picken 74, 77 = 151nett

C Grade Division – Zane Jess, 77, 77 =154nett;

Runner-up - Stan Ryan 81, 77 = 158nett



***Apology!!***

I owe Beth Preston an apology as she was the runner-up in Division 2 of the Women’s Championships. I recorded the wrong name in last month’s newsletter.

***Keep well and stay in touch!!***

Working our way through the next six weeks, at least, we need to remember our golfers are allowed to play social golf in pairs or alone and masked up!!

***SO, don’t forget you can contact a fellow golfer and break that isolation by playing a round of golf.***

You can also take the opportunity to take out someone who hasn’t played before and introduce them the secret of living longevity.

***It is a time we need to be aware of others and their need for exercise, friendship and support so be active and encourage yourself and others to play.***

I imagine Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday will still be good times to play if the weather is right. The Gerries will also play social golf on Tuesday & Wednesday mornings.

***Working Bees****:* These are held on Sunday [9:00-11:00] after each Monthly Medal; Monday [8:00-10:00] 1st & 3rd week of the month. You may contact Dennis Murphy re Sunday and David Baxter re Monday. No contact, no go!!

***Upcoming events***: Check your fixtures booklet.

Annual Tournament cancelled due to COVID-19. More on the next newsletter.

***Projects of the future!!***

Creating teams to maintain ‘holes’/fairways

Machinery upgrade ie fairway mower, sander

Painting of the clubhouse and changerooms

Regenerating plant life around the course