



Muree Golf Club

Newsletter

MUREE NEWS

Your Committee and Management Team

As you would be all aware, the Board had this year, changed the way golfing members could accumulate points from competition winnings. Members were advised in the Dec 2016 and March 2017 Newsletters that they were no longer be able to carry points from one financial year into another, the decision has resulted in a reduction of cash-flow from annual subscriptions as members used points that were accumulated over several years to renew their membership. While it would seem that the Club has shot itself in the foot by taking this action, the reality is that the liability accumulated over the four to five years that the system has been in use, was at one stage above \$45,000.00. The Board had to act and this was one of the actions to reduce the ongoing liability.

A further two matters on the subject of points accumulation, are the use of points to pay to play competition golf at Muree and the practice of using points to pay for golfing membership. At the August Board meeting, the Board agreed and passed a motion to cease the use of points to pay for competition fees from 01 October 2017. While this practice has been allowed since the inception of the points system, the drop in cash-flow does effect the Club's income. Secondly, and more controversially, the Board agreed that ceasing the use of accumulated points to pay for membership was a decision that affected too many members and should be an item for discussion that the next Annual General Meeting (AGM). The AGM is scheduled for Sunday 15th October 2017 at 09:00am.

I have taken the time to discuss the use of points with directors of other golf clubs in our district and have discovered that Muree is the only club that allows the use of points for annual subscriptions and competition fees. While it doesn't necessarily mean that we should be the same as other Clubs, there are sound financial reasons for ceasing the practice.

On the development front, The General Manger and myself met with the Port Stephens Council General Manager and its senior planners to discuss the submission of the Development Application (DA) to council. The Council's GM was very receptive and enthusiastic about the development and was pleased that the Club already had been issued a Site Compatibility Certificate from NSW State Planning. In discussions with Touchstone, our project managers for the development, the DA should be ready for review by Club management by the end of September.

In May 2017 and in the last Newsletter, members were notified that players that failed to complete the top right-hand corner of their scorecard, would not be considered for the novelty





prizes of best front and back 9. Most players have complied with this very simple task and to date there have only been a couple of players that have missed an opportunity to win these prizes. However, there are still some players that regularly fail to complete this part of the card and consequently remove themselves from the novelty front and back 9 prizes.

The Club's Super Draw for members now stands at \$58,000 but of course you must be in the Club at the time of the draw. The draw is Thursday evenings between 6:00 and 8:00 pm so don't miss out.

COURSE NEWS

The greens were cored last week and the rain on Wednesday night has done wonders in getting them back to a good playing surface quickly. The course staff had been very busy preparing Muree for the Pro Am which was our most successful in terms of the numbers of amateur players and professionals. Given the timing of the Pro Am, the course was in very good condition and Rob Baker and his team did an excellent job getting the course into the best shape possible given the growing season is only just beginning.

The September Tree Report will be submitted to the Board for approval at the end of the month. Once approved, the report will be posted onto our website so that all can view the work to be done.

Our volunteers have been busy over the past months establishing and repairing paths and doing general tidy up work around the course. Players will notice that the 5th fairway has had a number of mounds constructed off to the right of the main landing zone. These have been installed under advice from NSW Golf course consultant, Martin Black and are there to replace the slanting eucalypt which is to be removed as its roots have become entangled in a feeder irrigation main and wiring. A replacement tree will be planted once the mounds have become fully established.

Lastly, the Match Committee has received feedback from a number of members about pitch marks and divots on the course that have not been repaired. In the interest of making the course more enjoyable for everyone, players are reminder to repair their divots and pitch marks.

RWP

