



The Madigan

VOLUME 31: DECEMBER 2006 The Journal of the Croydon Golf Club

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From the Club President

To my Fellow Members,

This is the second Madigan released since the relocation project commenced. In the previous issue we answered many commonly asked questions and updated members on the status of various aspects of the project. I am pleased to say that significant progress has been made since the last Madigan and all contracts with the exception of the clubhouse and maintenance facility construction have been awarded.

Contracts

An early/civil works package which included excavation of the entrance road, the storage dam and the platforms for the clubhouse, car park and maintenance facility was awarded to Grove Construction. Grove commenced work in early October and is rapidly completing this work.

The second major contract was the exterior fencing contract which was awarded to Otter Fencing. At the writing of this letter work was well under way and is anticipated to be completed by mid December.



Grove Construction working on the dam.

The major contract of the project is the golf course construction. We were pleased to announce in November to members that after a comprehensive tendering process, Grove was again successful. Grove, headed by John and Mark Grove have recently completed work at The Heritage, Settler's Run and recently commenced work at Royal Queensland. The Board is extremely pleased with this appointment and is confident that Grove will build us the best possible golf course.

The two remaining contracts are for the construction of the maintenance facility and of course the clubhouse. It is expected that the maintenance facility contract will be awarded within the next 2 weeks with the clubhouse contract awarded by late January.

Water

The Club has been in negotiations on the supply of recycled water with Yarra Valley Water for some months and is hopeful of an agreement being reached within the next 2 months. Once this is achieved it is anticipated that recycled water could be available to the site at some time during 2007. In the meantime water rights from the Yarra have been leased and approved so that the project can continue without delay.

Budget and Program

At this stage it is fair to say that we are around 4 weeks behind on program. It was our intention to have commenced work on the golf course proper by November however due to delays in certain areas we are now behind. It is pleasing to note however that Grove have prepared a construction program that can make up lost time providing there are no significant delays caused by weather. Grove are confident that their program can be achieved.

From the Club President *continued*

The Board is working diligently to maintain this project on budget. As you could understand with a project of this magnitude that some aspects of the project are better than budget some are over budget and some are on target. At this time the Board is comfortable that the project is on track however once the final 2 contracts are awarded we will have the full picture.

Membership

This year has proven to be a very positive one for our Club. Whilst the final figures are a month away from being available this financial year has been a good one for our Club. Costs have been maintained at a manageable level and income has been good. The most pleasing indicator to the Board is the huge demand for membership. Full Membership is now closed and all new members are coming through as Six Day or Introductory Members. I welcome all those new members and thank them for choosing our Club. From 1 January 2007 the Entrance Fee will increase from \$1,000 to \$1,500.

I hope you and your families have a happy and safe Christmas and New Year!

Yours in golf,
Tom White – Club President



Views of the property looking over the new dam construction.

Captain's Report

Year 2006 is nearing conclusion bringing us all closer to the start of our new golfing venture at Yering.

Our course at the moment is considered by many to be in as good as condition as it has ever been and the club is still committed in ensuring that the current level of playing conditions are maintained.

Match Committee have introduced a few changes to male events commencing in the new-year.

Handicaps

Players may play off their listed handicap, to a maximum of 32, and not be limited to the reduced handicap of 27 in special events.

Carts

Use of carts will be permitted for all events, including major board events, to those members who are considered to be regular cart users throughout the year.

You may have noticed "blue lines" appearing around greens. These lines are to protect greens / bunkers and we request that all motorised carts not be driven beyond the lines.

Mid-week Knockout

This event will now be played as a qualifying round on Wednesday 7th March with the 8 best qualifiers progressing to Match Play Knockout. The knockout rounds will be scheduled for the first Wednesday in April and May, with the final being played in June.

The change was necessary to ensure that the event was played within the allocated time frame and more particularly under proper Match play conditions & rules.

A reminder that entries for both men's Veterans K/O and the Ringwood / Lilydale (Long & Short) are currently being taken by the golf shop. Entries for these events will close 31st December 2006.

Rules & Etiquette

Golf is a game that requires play to be conducted under a complex set of rules that mostly depend on the honesty of each golfer. Whilst it is acknowledged that perhaps not one individual at our club is 100% conversant with all the rules, most basic rules are understood and applied. Blatant cheating in defying the rules should not, and will not be tolerated. This includes purposely giving incorrect ruling advice to gain some form of advantage over a fellow competitor.

Competition Results

The second half of this year has seen the culmination of our major events, the highlight being our Croydon Open Amateur held on Sunday 19th November.

The lead up, weather wise, was not something that our grounds staff would have wished for; heavy rains, strong winds resulting in washed-out bunkers and tree damage. The challenge was met by Gary Bass and his team and on the day they produced a course in A1 condition.

The 2006 champion is Andrew Kelly from Wangaratta GC (Scratch) whose gross 36-hole total of 139 included a second round course record equalling score of 66.

Our own Club & Junior champion Dean Laws, playing off a handicap of 4, won the net overall with scores of 70 & 69.

Dean is a member of the Victorian Junior State Squad and hopefully with continued commitment and improvement his golf will progress to an even higher level.

Our thanks are extended to Fay and Gerald McPherson and Greg Kelly who gave up their time and assisted with the smooth running of this event.

The following players won major events or Medals.

Foursomes Championships:	Adam Delarue / Simon O'Donnell
Peter Millard Trophy:	Leigh Kavanagh / Keith Rout
Founders Fourball Knockout:	Andrew Baker / Stuart McKenzie
Heather Johnston Mixed Foursomes:	Jodi Kennedy / Lawrence Anderson
Presidents Mixed:	Helen Drake / Hans Milo
AB Speeding Trophy:	John Wilson
Scratch Match Play:	Club Grade: Nick Mateuszczyk
A Grade:	Glen Murray
B Grade:	Dave Pearson
C Grade:	Barry Ball
Mid-week Knockout:	Colin Morgans / John Dalton
Veterans Knockout:	Peter Bailey

Monthly Medals

	Saturday	Sunday	Junior
August	Justin Mayer	Dave Collins	Shane Marcakis
September	Ian Lockhead	Paul Julian	Rhys Granger
October	Ian Lockhead	Peter Bailey	Jack Briggs
November	David Scanlon	Derek Morton	Jack Briggs
December	Playoff	Ken Coleman	Sam Lang

Hole-in-one

7th	Jodi Kennedy	23/7/06
16th	Murray Smith	8/10/06
3rd	Ron Harris	11/11/06

Duncan Eales Memorial Trophy Winner: TBC

Congratulations, not only to our event winners, but also to all members who competed throughout the year and helped make this club what it is today, a happy and friendly club where people from all walks of life can mix together socially and play golf in the spirit it is intended.

May you, and those that you care about, have a very Merry Christmas and the New Year be filled with health and happiness.



Hans Milo

Site visit to Tatura

On Thursday November 23 Michael, Rod and myself had our first official training and information day at the Department of Primary Industries in Tatura.

Harold Adem a Senior Horticulture Scientist at the Institution conducted the day. We also had a field trip visiting 3 Walnuts sites in the local area. Some walnut trees have been known to grow as old as 500 years and the timber, especially black walnut has sold at up to \$30k per tree for the timber alone.

Australia imports up to 250,000 tonnes per year from the USA and China to meet demand and this product can be of poor quality due to its length of storage. This can affect taste and the ability to extract the oil from the nut.

99% of nuts sold in Australia are sold in shells although small boutique businesses are now cracking and crushing the nuts.

The walnut trees can be a fast growing tree provided conditions are good including warm conditions, good fertility / soil conditions and lots of water. They can grow up to 1 inch per day.

As we are going into this project with an aim to on sell the nuts we will need to consider all of the above to maximise our potential yield and maximise returns.

There are currently three varieties grown in Swan Hill for the club: Chandler, Howard and Tulare a relatively new variety in Australia.

The Howard and Chandler are the Industry standard while the new Tulare variety is proving to be a fast growing high yield tree.

Due to the close relationship between the turf and horticulture industries our current skill base will assist with the rapid establishment once planted.

The walnut can be used in many products including cakes, biscuits, salads, liquors, pastes, oils, chocolate kernels and more.

When preparing the planting areas we will need to have raised beds and maximum topsoil to enhance the production of the trees.

Staking of all trees will be critical in early stages and 2.5-meter stakes are recommended.

Pruning is also a critical stage for the future success of all the trees and further training will be required so we can best shape the trees and encourage a central leader to grow and produce nuts.

By pruning each tree at the right points this encourages trees into a pyramid like shape and allows lower branches both air and light and high density further increasing yield. 2 to 3 nuts per shoot are desirable (see photo above).

Hedging of trees can be completed by use of large mechanical hedging machines but this will reduce yield.

In the USA after 4 years of growth, 1.5 tonne of nuts per hectare can be achieved and after 6 years, 6 to 8 tonne can be achieved which is world class.



Spacing of trees is critical and the norm today is 3 metre tree spacing with a row width of 6 meters.

The trees flower in September and October and can be affected by frosts but good management will minimise these problems.

Harvesting is late March to early April so maintaining water and good fertility is essential until this point.

Spraying to control fungal problems is about the only issue associated with the trees and this is completed 3 to 6 times per year.

The main time is at bud swell where it is critical to apply a preventative spray.

The club will need to have a dedicated air blaster sprayer as part of its equipment.

Copper is the product used to control the fungal blight and a lime wash can be sprayed on the trees at dangerous times when frosts may occur.

The base of the orchard needs to be grassed to allow ease of movement of machinery during all weather extremes. The raised planted beds are mulched with straw and will remain weed free.

Guards are essential especially during the younger years to guard against weed sprays (see photo below left).

When the trees move into dormancy the leaves can be blown onto raised beds and used as organic mulch.

A good above ground watering system is paramount with an injection system to apply foliar fertilisers.

After visiting 3 walnut farms in the local area it is apparent that constant pruning will increase quality trees inturn maximising yields.

Weed control and staking of trees is very important and watering programs are critical especially after budding as this period of 12 weeks will decide the size and quality of nuts.

Bird control will be required as part of our management plan.

We look forward to some further training especially in the area of pruning and shaping.

Gary Bass – Course Manager



Photos taken recently of walnut farms in the Goulburn Valley.

Ladies' Golf

This year in women's golf has seen WGV celebrate 100 years with a fourball event held at all clubs statewide. Our winners Kath Thompson and Lydia Nickells played well in the final at Metropolitan but not quite good enough to bring home the silverware.

We've seen Fisher and Paykel offer support to the Australian Women's Open and an Australia wide stableford event was held. Jenny Murrai was our winner and played in a state final held at Kingston Heath Nov 30. Jenny was not the state winner but enjoyed the experience. The state qualifiers will compete in a final in Sydney coinciding with the Australia Women's Open in Feb 2007. A 5 day stay and VIP guest passes to the Open are part of the prize on offer.

With the hope of attracting new lady members the Club ran an advertisement in 2 local papers for free golf clinics to be held on Sunday afternoon's. Geoff Michael and Jasmine coached over 40 ladies on basic golf shots and we had many enquiries for membership.

As the year comes to a close so to does our golfing calendar and congratulations to our trophy winners.

Club Champion: Jodie Kennedy

Silver Division: Jennie Twitchett

Bronze Division: Jeanette Hill

Dos Douglas Foursomes Champions:

Jodie Kennedy & Wendy Veale



Medals

Dec Lydia Nickells

Jan Kathy Cole

Feb Wendy Brimmer

Mar Betty Groza

April Wendy Veale

May Jess Connor

June Heather Denelzen

July Annette Denelzen

Aug Julie Merrigan

Sept Gaile Kruger

Oct Lyla Scicluna

Nov Jenny Murrai

Edith Gluth Eva Sofo & Cath Rettie

Phyl Wookey Cath Rettie & Maureen Lowther

Lois & David Oliver Teresa Saunders

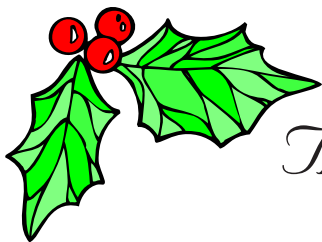
Hole in One:

Jodie Kennedy 7th July 23rd

A happy and safe Christmas to you all, and good golfing in 2007.

Wendy Veale

Left: Dos Douglass Foursomes Championship winners Jodi Kennedy and Wendy Veale pictured with Runners Up Marg Baird and Jenny Kelsall.



*The Croydon Golf Club wishes
members and their families a
Merry Christmas and a safe and
Happy New Year.*



Monday Morning Volunteers

At around 8:30am each Monday morning a motley group of members congregate at the Club's maintenance shed. They are a small band of happy volunteers that go about a variety of jobs to help improve and keep the course in good shape. Between them they have a bag of mixed skills and knowledge.

With general guidance by Gary Bass, Course Manager the volunteers set to work for about three hours on Monday morning. Over a year a wide variety of jobs are undertaken and this enables our trained ground staff to attend to tasks which they are appropriately skilled. The volunteers' efforts to help to the Club include routine duties such as filling ball washers, emptying rubbish bins, collecting divot buckets and refilling sand bins on the course. This simple task can take two people about two hours each Monday.

Over the last year the volunteers have spent a lot of time chain-sawing, cleaning-up and dumping fallen trees after storm damage (or sometimes damage by vandals). In addition tree pruning is also undertaken periodically. This all helps maintain the course in a good tidy state so that members can enjoy their golf without debris scattered over the course. It maybe that debris is cleaned-up without many members knowing of the sometimes extensive damage around the course.

Some more visible results of the volunteers work include re-turfing playing areas. Recent tasks include re-turfing 8th, 9th and 10th and 13th tees, and approaches to 14th and 16th greens, sanding and re-sowing between 5th and 6th fairways. Cleaning-

up of banks of dams on 5th and 6th holes improved the presentation of this area and also improved playing conditions. These tasks involve a bit of solid work but when tackled with many hands it makes light work.

Around the course there are many simple yet significant maintenance projects attended to by the volunteers. Regular brush-cutting, whipper-snipping in areas affecting play (eg. 2nd dam wall) makes ball finding easier and keeps play moving. Upkeep of hazard markers, and clearing drains, clearing sprinkler heads, maintaining distance markers are other important jobs tackled several times in a year.

The work by the volunteers augments the work of the ground staff and their achievements to present the course in excellent playing condition.

Some years have passed since nearly all sprinkler valves were replaced by volunteers with skills in that area.

Some members who volunteered with this group over the last couple of years include:

Al Savaris, Bob Chiron, Bruce Liddell, Rob Pengilly, Greg Kelly, Gerard O'Toole, Ken Hunter, Merv Amos, Ron Scheffer, Hans Milo, Brian Moss, Col Morgans.

Many thanks to these members and other members who have volunteered services previously.

Any members with time available on Monday mornings are welcome to come along and join in. Rewards are some good stories and humour, maybe a cool drink, and a cuppa.

Col Morgans – Chairman of Greens



"The Motley Crew".

International Day

Another successful International Day was held on Sunday 3rd December with 139 golfers and 200 in the clubhouse for dinner. Scotland was again triumphant with this year's win more convincing than the last.

Scottish Captain Grahame French was as humble as ever in his victory speech giving credit to his small but high quality band of players.

Scotland 33.93 average stableford points, Rest of World 32.75, Australia 31.96 and England 31.35.

Individual honours went to Lawrence Anderson with 45 points, Aussie Captain John Surrige on 44 points was runner up on a count back from English Captain John "Freddy" Dalton on 44 points. Ladies winner overall was Marie Kelly who gave an insightful speech with Wendy Veale runner up on a countback from Jenny Twitchett.

Other results:

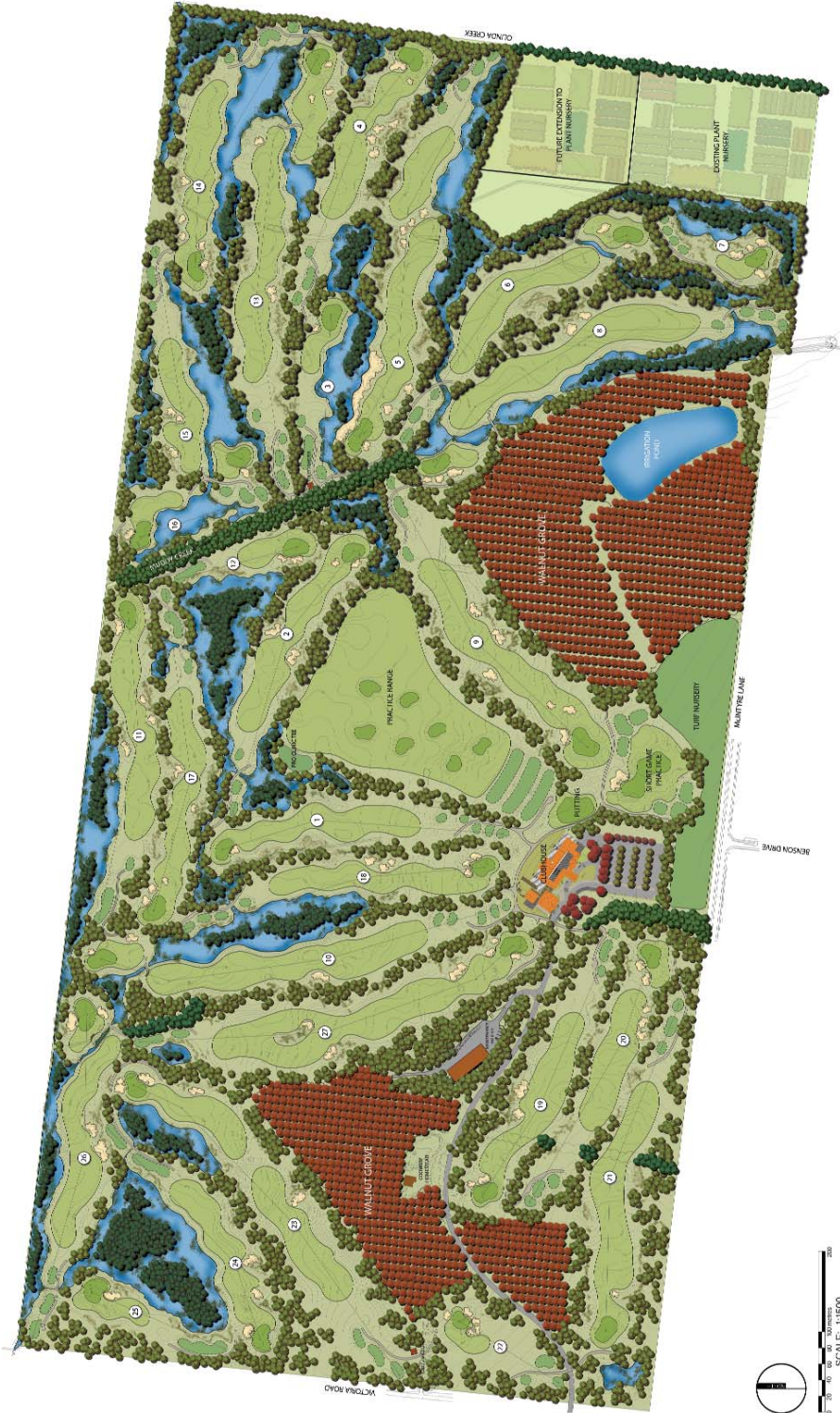
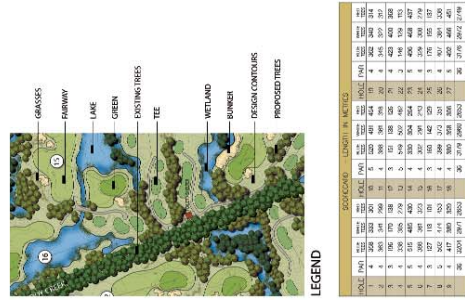
England – 44 John Dalton, 41 Bob Burke and 37 Derek Bailey. Australia – 42 Ron Saward, 41 Doug Evans and 37 Wayne Bentley. ROW – 40 Luke Adderley, 39 Andrew Firsyth and 39 Rob Somers. Scotland – 43 Willie Palmer, 42 Steve Sharp and 40 Jim Thompson.

NTPs 3rd Ron Love, 7th and 14th Julie Merrigan and 16th Lyn Wellard. Long drives – Nick Mateuszcyk and Jodie Kennedy.



The winning Scottish team.

Masterplan



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MASTER PLAN CROYDON GOLF COURSE

Safety Notice

Members are reminded that access to the new site is restricted to those who have completed the appropriate safety induction training for entry to a construction site. Early in the new year site tours will be arranged for members who wish to view the construction.

Thank you for your cooperation.

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