



The Madigan

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The Journal of the Croydon Golf Club

In this Issue read about...

- Landscape progress
- Walnut Visit
- New Online Booking
- New Website

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Letter from the President

Dear Members,

It has been such a busy year so far that I would like to update you all on what progress has been made. I am pleased to announce that we have completed and adopted our **Strategic Plan** which was worked on for much of the second half of 2006. The Strategic Plan is a document that the Board and Club Members will be very proud of and a printed version will be released to members in the near future.

In addition to this our new **Point of Sale** units have been installed and are operating smoothly. This networked system has been installed to provide staff the opportunity to become familiar with the software and features of the system prior to our move to Yering. The system allows for greater financial reporting including improved stock control and ultimately will provide you the members with the added benefit of utilizing your GolfLink card to receive incentives that may include reward points or members pricing simply for supporting the club.

One of the main achievements this year has been the establishment of our **New Website**. The positive feedback about the information within the site and usability by both members and visitors alike has improved significantly. The new site has allowed for better presentation of relocation information and is a much better selling tool for our club. Additionally the Member's Section allows for more sensitive items to be added as well as information which is only relevant to you the members. This section has also been set up to accommodate **online golf booking** which is discussed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Progress at Yering

The progress to date at our new home in Yering has been extremely pleasing. Work on the golf course is proceeding well with top soil now back on holes 5, 6, 7 & 8. Earthworks on holes 3, 4, 13, 14, 15 & 16 are progressing well with Ross Watson signing off on shaping works every fortnight or so. Earthworks have now progressed in a westerly direction back over Muddy Creek with a large wetland being excavated for back up water storage should the need arise.

Concrete paths are being installed around the course and the first of those have been completed. These paths will provide a smooth surface for buggies and carts alike and will require minimal if any maintenance resulting in improved running costs for the long term.

Tee tops on some holes will be turfed shortly with Santa Anna couch and now that a suitable greens sand has been supplied, greens will receive fine shaping and surrounds will be fumigated then left to settle and hydro seeded around 4 weeks later. Roughs and surrounds will also be hydro seeded in the coming weeks on holes 5, 6, 7 & 8.

Well over 16,000 plants have now been planted between holes and in wetland areas. The landscape has certainly given each of the holes a new perspective and as more plants go in the ground the project will really begin to take shape.

Clubhouse construction company, Buxton Group are now on site. By the time you get this report work on the slab and other base works will be well underway. Security fencing and site sheds have now been erected.

The roof and guttering have now been installed on the maintenance building. Work has commenced on the internal fit out. In addition to this a 150,000 litre water tank will be installed on the north side of the facility to take rainwater run off from the shed which will be reused for washing down machinery, irrigating local landscape and used in spray equipment on the course and in the walnut groves.

A recent visit to Nyah, 26km's north of Swan Hill to visit the farm supplying our first 4000 walnut trees proved very informative for Course Manager Gary Bass. Accompanied by myself, Damon Lonnie and project manager Simon Reed, we headed up to Nyah to meet Lachlan McKenzie the man responsible for delivering our stage one stock. The learning process has well

Letter from the President - continued...

and truly begun and Lachlan was full of sound advice for Gary on initial planting techniques as well as advising on on-going maintenance to ensure the best possible result. See the Walnut Visit Report on page 4 for more information.

As stated previously achieving budget is one of our most critical goals. Having said that however, the overwhelming feedback from our members has been to get it right even if this results in a slight overrun. At this stage the Board has been working tirelessly to maintain costs and we are pleased to say that whilst some areas have exceeded our original budget, others have fallen below anticipated costs. Overall it is safe to say that a result of matching budget or being slightly over is the likely result. If this is the case the members can rest assured that the substantial cash surplus forecast will be a reality. With so many major contracts now sealed the likelihood of significant overruns is minimal. Your board will continue to be diligent but strive to achieve the best possible outcome in terms of facilities for members.

Gaming Update/Club Ringwood

As was highlighted in the 2006 Annual Report our club has signed a 10 year sponsorship agreement with the Kilsyth and Mountain District Basketball Association who are associated with Club Ringwood. When Club Ringwood opens for business 41 of their 75 machines will have been supplied by our club (16 from Croydon and 25 from the Bird & Bottle) and in exchange for this our club will receive sponsorship monies to be partly reinvested in promoting golf in the Maroondah Shire.

The parties involved with Club Ringwood anticipate an opening date later this year. Once a date is established we will have a better understanding of when gaming machines will be removed from our club. The Board is currently looking at options to utilize the space created when the machines are removed. Once more detail is known the board will do everything in its power to communicate the club's course of action to members.

Tom White, Club President

Captain's Report

As they say, "it's all happening" both here and our new site at Yering.

In the six months since our last Madigan Report the fine weather has continued with little rain resulting in the course condition being at it's playable best despite a few minor problems with a couple of greens. The ground staff has worked hard on these greens and improvement is now noticeable.

The fine weather and great playing conditions to date has seen more of our members seeking a game & this, coupled with our increased membership in playing categories puts a strain on our time sheets.

Increased membership is great financially for the club and something that we as a club must continue to actively promote for our long-term viability. It is our responsibility to then ensure that membership is capped at a limit ensuring we do not overload our course.

Members can be assured that the club has not increased the seven day playing membership, which still stands at 480, it's just that members are wanting to avail themselves of a good course in good weather conditions, more on a Saturday now, than in the past.

With the increase in 6-day membership more players are also taking to the course on Wednesdays and Sundays placing greater importance on the speed of play, especially during days with limited daylight hours. Slow play is a problem experienced by most clubs and not just at Croydon.

Match Committee is fully aware and genuinely shares members concerns regarding the pace of play. What we as a Committee struggle with is that some groups regularly complete their morning round in 4 hours yet later in the same day playing time is extended by anything up to one hour.

The club has obtained a distinctive not for hire "Red Golf Cart" which will be used solely to patrol our course. The "course marshall" will monitor pace of play ensuring all playing groups make every effort to keep up with the group in front, dressed as per club requirements, are carrying and using sand buckets, and are behaving in a manner expected from our members.

Should any one member, or group of members be identified as habitual slow players, or those who continually break club or etiquette rules, Match Committee will have no option but take action against these members to ensure the general membership can better enjoy their

golf. Action such as playing at the rear of the field, breaking up a regular group or in extreme cases withdrawing playing rights for a period of time will be considered.

To assist our Sunday players the club is approaching all Social Clubs that have booked for the rest of the year with confirmed 16 or more players, requesting them to move into an allotted afternoon time-slot, should they not be able to comply we may have to deny their social club a game at our course. This is going to cost the club a healthy income stream both on course and the dining/bar area, but an action considered necessary to guarantee Sunday players a game of golf.

We acknowledge that we don't have all the answers and rely very heavily on each and every member to assist with speeding up play, some points that may help are:

- Keep up with the group in front and Not worry about the following group.
- Move directly to your ball & when safe, play without undue delay.
- Buggies not to be left in front of the green whilst putting-out
- Players must not mark scorecards or discuss scores on the green.
- Leave buggies as near as possible to the next tee.
- Play a provisional ball if there is any doubt as to whether the original ball can be located.
- When a ball is lost the players following must be called through immediately.
- Should you begin to fall behind the group in front, consider playing "Ready Golf".
In groups of four the first two, having puttied-out, proceed to the next tee and hit-off.
Other than Match Play, anyone who is ready should hit when safe to do so, irrespective of who is furthest from the hole.
- Allow short hitters to tee-off first irrespective of whose honour it is.
- Arrive and be ready to play at least 10-15 minutes prior to your scheduled tee-off time.
- If safe to do so, consider calling up the following group on Par 3's.
- Politely ask the preceding group to attempt to quicken up play if they fall behind.

Captain's Report - continued...

It is everyone's responsibility within the group to ensure that their position in the field is maintained and not just the short marker. For those that were able to attend our 'Open for Inspection' day at Yering I'm sure that you would agree that the project is now well under way and with holes taking shape we all have something special to look forward to.

The club has, and will progressively continue to introduce features that will assist with a smooth transition to our new site at Yering. One of these features is our newly designed Website.

Linked to our site will be 'on-line booking', taking away for some of the hassle of lining up for a timesheet. It is hoped we will be able to

introduce this feature, on a trial basis, within the next couple of weeks. During the trial we request that all members utilise 'on-line booking' in addition to normal time-sheet procedure. More information will be released shortly keeping members fully informed of procedures that we would like them follow during the trial period. This, coupled with feedback will enable us to fully monitor the system and refine or apply a fix should any problems be identified prior to going "live".

Discussions with clubs and members of clubs that already conduct on-line booking have indicated acceptance and declared 'on-line booking' a success for all concerned.

Good golfing,

Hans Milo

Ladies Golf at Croydon

At this time of the year Women's golf at Croydon has seen the culmination of a few of our annual events.

Congratulations to our club champions:

Silver Division – **Jodi Kennedy**
Bronze Division – **Heather Barker**
Long Marker's – **Helen McKinney**

Our Pennant season started the very next week, we had two teams competing. The section 5 team still had a chance of winning going into the final game, but unfortunately we finished a very close third by 2 individual matches.

The section 9 team had 4 new players this year 3 of which have stepped up from the interclub team. There were quite a few matches lost narrowly on the 18th which hopefully will be turned around next year.

The Billie Mitchell trophy which is presented to the player with the best winning ratio was won this year jointly by Teresa Saunders and Jodie Kennedy who both finished the season with 5 ½ wins out of a possible 8 matches.

The Phyl Wookey 4ball and the Edith Gluth foursomes are knockout events and are currently being played.

Our monthly medal winners this year are:

December	Jenny Murrari
January	Betty Groza
February	Julie Woodham
March	Lydia Nickells
April	Gaile Kruger
May	Lorraine Kirk
June	Margie Baird

Thanks to our board which allowed WGV to run the first round of the Business Women's Championship here at Croydon on Sunday May 20th. The 84 ladies that played here enjoyed the competition and the course. Hopefully the Croydon members were not put out too much.

The Croydon Bowl was played here early in June with 14 teams competing. The winners on the day were the Heritage team which fielded 2 ex and 1 current Croydon members.

We are continuing to promote ladies golf at Croydon by holding free clinics and are hoping to increase playing numbers. We have a fantastic junior program which I would love to see some junior girls involved in. C'mon all you gents some of you must have daughters or granddaughters bring them along. Stay tuned for dates of future clinics.

My time as Ladies Captain will have finished by the time this Madigan goes to press. I would like to thank the office staff the pro shop staff and the ground staff for all your help and especially the ladies committee of the Croydon Golf Club for your support over the last 2 ½ years.

Good Golfing

Wendy Veale



New Smoking Regulations/Restrictions

As some of you may be aware new State Laws governing smoking will come in to effect from 1 July 2007.

From 1 July 2007 you will no longer be able to smoke in enclosed licensed premises (including gaming rooms). Smoking will be permitted in outdoor dining or drinking areas, unless the outdoor area has a roof, as well as walls that cover more than 75% of the wall area.

This means smoking in the clubhouse will be banned completely from 1 July 2007. Cigarette butt receptacles have been placed outside the member's lounge doors facing the top putting green. Another receptacle can be found outside the front entrance to the clubhouse at the top of the stairs.

We thank you for your understanding this situation and respecting your club.

Commemorative Scorecards

To acknowledge the people who have made our club what it is today a series of commemorative scorecards will be progressively released over the next six months. These scorecards will recognise some of the people and the events that have made Croydon the club it is today. They will also make a great collectors item for members.



Mulligan's
Bar & Bistro

Open 6 nights a week and now introducing our "a la carte" menu in addition to the bistro menu on Fridays and Saturdays. Be one of the first to experience our new menu by bringing in this advertisement to receive a complimentary bottle of Rothbury Estate wine with any Friday or Saturday night booking of 2 or more people. Offer commences Friday 13th July!

Inaugural Site Tour - Sunday 27th May

The inaugural site tour of the new course at Coowerp in Yering was conducted on Sunday the 27th of May. In windy conditions over 300 members, family and friends joined the committee, management and project manager's on eleven separate tours of the site. Each tour took around one hour and included the clubhouse site, maintenance facility, golf course, dam and pump shed and walnut grove. The tours were conducted over 4 hours with groups ranging in size from 49 down to 3 or 4 people. The site tours were extremely well received and hopefully gave members an appreciation of the magnitude of work involved in the project. A huge thank you to all those people who braved the conditions on Sunday. Our thanks also go to those who helped out on the day. Based on the success of the site tour a further tour will be conducted around September/October.



3rd hole Par 3 Looking towards the Lilydale Airfield



Site Tour



8th hole Par 5



Maintenance Shed under construction



Maintenance Shed June 2007



Buxtons arrive on site

Landscape Progress - May-June 2007

Throughout the first month on site over 16,000 plants have been planted. These have covered the full spectrum of areas with wetland islands, swampy scrub, grasslands and screening of the boundary fences carried out.

All three zones currently under construction have been partially planted into and areas will be supplemented with species as they become available. We are expecting a flush of new species come springtime when soil temperatures increase, so many areas will come together all at once. This will also coincide with the first of the walnut groves being planted and the grassing of fairways.

Casual hours will increase in the spring but as far as winter goes it will be slow and steady with progress depending on the forthcoming weather and site access. So far we have had a total of 491.5 hours worked plus 2 full time staff and the help of volunteers of a Monday when we have had a large area to plant out.

An apprentice turf class from NMIT visited the site and assisted with the planting of the treeline between the 6th and 8th fairways at the completion of a tour of the site. A second class is expected in June and planting will again be a part of their tour as long as the weather permits.

We look forward to future visits with Ross Watson as his thoughts and insights on the project give us a very clear indication of the natural landscape he wishes to create whilst creating a challenging course.

Jodie Granger - Environmental Officer



Ground staff and Landscape Team

Walnut Visit to Nyah - 22nd May 2007

On Tuesday 22nd of May Tom White, Gary Bass and Damon Lonnie along with project manager Simon Reed took a visit to Nyah, 25KM's north of Swan Hill to meet the man growing our walnut tree stock. Lachie McKenzie's plant producing property spans some 600 hectares and currently over 600,000 trees are being grown for sale to clients all over the country.

Amongst those 600,000 trees are 4,000 Chandler variety walnut trees for the Croydon Golf Club. The Chandler variety buds are then grafted onto Californian Black root stock that has been in the ground for 1 year. This stock is then relocated to hot houses shortly after grafting to accelerate their growth. By late September/early October they will be delivered to the club's new site in Yering ready for planting. By this stage they will be over one metre in height. There will also be a small percentage of pollinating walnut trees added to each row. These will more than likely be the Sisco variety.

The tour was very beneficial giving the board piece of mind that the stock is in good health and will be on schedule for planting later this year. The remaining 3,500 trees will be a combination of the Toulare and Howard varieties. These will be delivered the following year once the second walnut site has been prepared.



Tom White, Lachlan McKenzie, Gary Bass and Damon Lonnie

Introducing our New Website-www.croydongolf.com.au



In April 2007 the Croydon Golf Club launched its long awaited website to provide an improved avenue to communicate with and service its members. For those not familiar with the new-look website, this article will take you through a comprehensive step-by-step guide to the member's services now available online – 24 hours a day / 7 days a week.

Simple 3 step Online Timesheets

The most significant service will be online timesheets. Members will be able to make a booking and check results from their home or office using the internet. Members who do not have internet access will not be disadvantaged in any way. Bookings can still be made at the club through the touch screen or over the phone.

For those members wishing to use this service, online booking instructions and features are included in this newsletter and are available to download at anytime from the website. Benefits include being able to book yourself and partners at anytime once the timesheet is open, and to cancel your booking without having to call the club. Players can also check their tee time and put themselves on a reserves list that will automatically notify (email/sms) the individual if the booking is confirmed.

When are we changing over to Internet Timesheets?

Practice time sheets will be open for a 2 week trial period so you can familiarize yourself with the process.

As of 24th July 2007 timesheets will be available for online bookings. Please use the time prior to the timesheets going live to practice on the available timesheets.

More Members Services

All members services are password protected. Your username is your membership number (the last four digits of your GolfLink number removing leading 0's. e.g. 0035 becomes 35) and your new password is now your proximity card code. To log on to the members site click on the members link on the home page and enter your membership number and password in the login box. Click on Login. There is an option to change your password once logged on.

The member's area of the site offers the following services to members.

1. Portal Page. Once logged onto the site you will be taken to your own personal portal page. On this page you will see your contact details, your account details, any bookings you have made, your results plus a general club notice board. A 4 day weather forecast and your playing group are also displayed. See booking features for information on Playing Partners.
2. My Details & Update Details. A summary of your contact details appears in this box. You can update your details at anytime by clicking on the update my details link and filling in the fields. There are privacy options available. All details you select as private will not be displayed in the member's directory.
3. Member's News. A notice board of current publications and club news. A great way to keep in touch with what is on at the club. Booking instructions are available to download from this board
4. My Bookings. A list of the events you are booked in.
5. My Results. A full field of results for the last 5 rounds you have played in. Other results are available by clicking on any event in the online fixture list that has a results link.
6. My Playing Partners. A list of people who you often play with. A default group can be defined to streamline the booking process. You can add players by searching the member's directory. If you have a default playing group set up the system will ask you when you click on BOOK if you would like to book your default group. If you click on YES – you have booked in yourself and playing partners in one step.
7. Members Directory. A searchable directory of members and their contact details.
8. Check Handicap. This link will display your current handicap as it appears in GolfLink.
9. MiScore. Keep track of your score and view trends in your game by entering your round details into MiScore. A proven way to reduce your handicap by highlighting problem areas of your game....

Online Booking Q & A

On July 24th 2007 Croydon Golf Club will be converting to computerized tee booking (electronic timesheets) and ceasing the use of cardboard timesheets. Many members have expressed excitement about the prospect of going "online" to book tee times at the club whether they be for competition or social golf. The new tee booking system will streamline our tee booking system and provide members with a more flexible and accessible system.

The following outlines the program and answers many of the questions the club has received. With the introduction of any new system within a golf club there is naturally some anxiety about how it will work and how it will ultimately affect our members. We hope that the following will assist in addressing any reservations you may have.

Key Dates

By 30th June – New hardware installed in Pro Shop and Tunnel

By 7th July – Timesheets set up in new website and testing completed

By 10th July – The timesheets will be accessible to members for a two week trial period. Note: timesheets will not be "live" during this period and cardboard timesheets will still be in use.

On 24th July - Timesheets go live online for Wednesday 1st August.

FAQ's about Online Booking-

What is computerized/online tee booking?

A system of booking tee times on to an electronic timesheet. The system being installed at Croydon is a MiClub Online Booking system. The MiClub system is working successfully in over 90 clubs around Australia including 40 clubs in Victoria.

Where and when can computerized/online timesheets be accessed?

Timesheets can be accessed by computer at the club (dedicated computers will be installed in the Pro Shop and Tunnel) or via the internet anywhere internet access is available. With any internet based system, access is available 24 hours a day. The computer terminals at the club will be available during normal clubhouse trading hours.

What days of the week will computerized/online timesheets be used?

Timesheets will be used on competition days such as Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays. In addition to this timesheets will also be used on all non-competition days to assist with tee time management.

Online Booking Q & A continued...

When will timesheets be released for competition days?

All timesheets will be released 8 days prior to the day of play at 1.30pm. For example the timesheets (both AM and PM) for Saturday 28th July will be released online at 1.30pm on Friday 20th July.

Will all time slots be opened at the same time?

Yes, both AM and PM timesheets will go online at the same time.

How do I book a time if I do not have access to a computer?

Members will be able to book in person at the golf club from the time the timesheet goes live. In addition to this, telephone booking will also be available immediately the timesheet goes online.

How many players can I book on a particular timesheet?

The rules governing timesheets are the same rules used today although online booking will eliminate problems such as players being double booked. Members can set up their "favourites" online making it easier to enter the names of those who you play regularly with.

Can more than one member access a timesheet at the one time?

Yes. Multiple users can access and use the same timesheet without disrupting another member's usage.

If two or members want the same timeslot, who will get it?

Whoever submits their group first. This is no different to what happens now with queues in the tunnel or member's phone booking or booking in person.

Does online booking accommodate shotgun starts and other timesheet variations?

Yes, the match committee can adjust all timesheets as is necessary.

miclub_online booking

How to Make a Booking Online...

1. Login to the Member area of the website. Click link to Bookings from the menu or My Bookings box.
2. Click on the **Open** link next to the event you would like to play in and then click on the **Book** button next to the desired tee time.
3. Click on the box next to each player you want to book, or Search for players, or enter Visitor's name.

Your selection appears in the Group Details at the top of the page. Once your selection has been made, click on **Confirm**.

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Booking Features...

1. To delete a booking click on the next to the name you wish to remove. You can only delete your own name and bookings you have made.
2. Click on **Waiting List** button if the time you wish to book is already taken. The system will automatically put you into the timesheet if someone cancels. An email will be sent to notify you of the inclusion. Your name will appear on the timesheet.
3. The system will restrict players not eligible to book for an event. eg. men will not be allowed to book in a ladies event. Restrictions to events are applied to the system by the Club.
4. If you regularly play with the same group of players, you can set up a default group booking by clicking on the Change my playing partners link in the My Default Playing Group box. When you click on **Book** in the time sheet the system will ask: Do you want to automatically book? Yes - Click **OK** - Your booking is complete. No - Click **Cancel** - complete standard booking form.

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How to make a Kiosk Booking...

1. Enter your username and password and click on **Login**.
2. Click on **Timesheet** next to the event you want to play in. The timesheet will open. Choose the desired tee time and click **Book**.
3. Select Player. Click on the box next to players you want to book or search for players. Your selection appears in the top bar. Once you have made your selection - click on **Confirm**.
4. Your booking is complete - NOW CLICK ON **LOGOUT**.
5. Other Kiosk features - You can use these buttons to check your bookings, golf link handicap, and recent results.

Please read the Bookings features guide for instruction: on how to delete a booking, reserve, rules and booking restrictions and how to set up a fast book group.

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