



The Madigan

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The Journal of the Croydon Golf Club

www.croydongolf.com.au

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Letter from the President

My fellow Members

A lot of water has gone under the bridge since our EGM in November 2003 resulting in an 87% positive vote giving the Board an overwhelming mandate to relocate the Club to Yering. The process has not been all plain sailing with the frustration of objections and application requirements. There was elation when the Council gave us the go ahead only to be knocked back by VCAT. The Board resolved to address the issues raised in the VCAT refusal and re-apply. After countless meetings over what seemed like a never ending period of time, VCAT handed down a decision on the 16th March in our favour.

Since the VCAT decision Damon and myself have represented the Board and you the members in arranging all the preliminary work. This work included negotiating and recommending the appointment and re-appointment of the appropriate consultants to get the project underway. I am pleased to report that the first contractor has been appointed and work has commenced on clearing our land of all the internal fencing and removal of obsolete buildings.



A computer generated impression of the new clubhouse supplied by Scharpe Design.

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I am looking forward to a very exciting time over the next two years as the relocation will auger well for the long term future of the Croydon Golf Club and I would urge members to visit the site once things are fully underway. In the meantime please read this newsletter and other communications, speak to your Board and management about any concerns or enquiries about the move and above all continue to enjoy our current facilities which we will strive to maintain at a high level. Good golfing to all.

Tom White, President

Pennant 2006

The combined 2006 Pennant Dinner was held recently with 120 members and guests in attendance. A great night was had by all and congratulations are extended to the following players who received individual honors on the night:

Dean Laws, Lachlan Green, Rhys Granger, Jodi Kennedy and Karin Lingwood.

In 2006 our men's and ladies Pennant sides put in good efforts however unfortunately our Senior and Colts teams were relegated

to Divisions 4 and 5 respectively. Our ladies Section 5 team put in an outstanding start to the season but could not maintain the form throughout but still finished in a solid position. A big thank you must go to all the players, caddies and officials who contributed this year.

A big thank you also goes to our men's team sponsors for 2006: Aaron Baddeley through badds.com and Derek Bailey and Carpet Court Kilsyth, Nunawading and Ringwood.

Relocation Progress Report to Members

I am pleased to report that work on the relocation is well under way. President Tom White has touched on some of the work being done but to provide more information to members, this progress report will go in to more detail.

The Board and management will endeavor to provide regular updates, photos etc on the club's website with periodical newsletters giving members as much information as is available. Within this newsletter some frequently asked questions (FAQs) will also be answered.

The Club has re-appointed Ross Watson as course architect, Demaine Partnership as clubhouse architect along with a range of other consultants covering project management, engineering, landscape architecture and horticulture. Works done to date on the various aspects of the project can be summarised as follows:

Course – Ross Watson and his staff have been busily preparing final drawings which include grading, cut and fill calculations, landscaping design and master plan finalization. It is expected that the Club will receive the final master plan shortly and upon receipt it will be displayed for members perusal immediately. There are no major changes from the previous plans more so "fine tuning" as more information on soil quality and so on comes to hand.

Clubhouse – Michael and Simon from Demaine have been working with the Club on finalizing the Clubhouse Brief. This document covers the requirements of the Club within the design so that it can be fine tuned to accommodate our current and future needs.



Paddock slashing at Coowerp.



Fences removed as part of the site preparation at Coowerp.

Once completed the Brief will be expressed in the internal design allowing for maximum functionality. The final design will be displayed for members as soon as it is completed.

Coowerp – The Club took possession of Coowerp in April 2006. Since then the Club through the work of Gary Bass have maintained the site and ensured its security. Work on the site has commenced with over 9KMs of internal farm fencing being removed. Outbuildings and the derelict house will also be demolished. The first round of spraying existing weeds and grasses has been completed this was shortly followed by paddock slashing to keep the property presentable. After a period of time a secondary spray will be undertaken to kill any re-growth and then the property will lie dormant until excavation works commence.

Program and Budget – These critical items have almost been finalized. A handover date in early April 2008 is realistic according to our consultants and to date the Board is working within the budget established some 3 years ago.

Water – The Club through the assistance of Melbourne Water has secured water rights for the full requirement of the grow-in period again within budget.

Further to this the Club is working with Yarra Valley Water to secure recycled water for the long-term and has received positive feedback about Government grants for infrastructure.

Damon Lonnie



Views of the Yarra Valley.

Croydon Undertakes Strategic Planning



Coowerp Homestead at Yering. The homestead was built in the 1800s.

In recent months the Board has undertaken a comprehensive review of the Club's Memorandum and Articles of Association. Out of that process and the relocation project came the need to commence a Strategic Planning process followed by the production of a Business Plan which maps out the financial and cultural future of our Club. 20 members and staff took place in a 2 day planning session conducted by facilitator Mark Hearn. The Strategic Plan is now being developed before work on a final business plan commences.

The Strategic Plan and Business Plan will address the challenges faced by private golf clubs and provide financial forecasting and strategies for the medium to long term. Obviously an important contributor to this plan will be the walnut operations. A separate and very detailed business plan has been prepared.

Out of the Strategic Planning weekend came the necessity to share the heavy workload of the relocation. Several sub-committees have been formed which cover important aspects of the project such as financial control and transitional issues i.e. ensuring the smoothest transition possible to our new facilities. We anticipate the Strategic Plan being completed within the next two months. Upon completion it will be proudly shared with members.

Bobby Jones – The soul of it

It is surprising that many of today's golfers do not know who Robert Tyre (Bobby) Jones was and the amazing feats that he performed during his life.

Jones was born at Atlanta Georgia on 17 March 1903.

His father was a well off industrialist who fostered the young Bobby in his endeavours to become a good golfer. Therefore Jones had no extra pressure to earn a living during his playing career; only his own psyche caused the nervous disposition that made him finish his golfing career prematurely

Bobby Jones came to prominence as a talented amateur when he won the US open in 1923 and in the following 7 years he won 12 major victories in both the US and the UK. This extraordinary career reached its' zenith in 1930 when Jones won the 4 recognised (at that time) greatest tournaments:

The US Open, the US Amateur, the British Open and the British Amateur. Jones called these tournaments the "impregnable quadrilateral" and it was recognised by the golfing fraternity as the greatest feat that could be achieved by any golfer.

The word "major" with respect to golf tournaments was penned some years after by Herbert Warren Wind – a golf journalist of the 1930s and 1940s.

Bobby Jones retired from competition golf after 1930 and, in company with Clifford Roberts (a wealthy golf acolyte) attempted to establish a golf course at Augusta for persons of wealth and position in local society to play and relax at.

The golf course was designed by Alistair Mackenzie (of Royal Melbourne fame) with the assistance of Jones in the placement of Hazards and the Location of some of the holes.

After the course was finished a number of Jones golfing friends suggested to Jones that a tournament with his friends would be a good way to allow the professional and amateur golfers of the day to compete in open competition and showcase the course and the great players.

In 1934 the first National Invitational Tournament was held at the course and this later became what we know today as the Masters - one of the four Major Tournaments in the world.

In later life Mr Jones was afflicted with a disease called syringomyelia – a progressive spinal disease and this made him wheel chair or bed ridden – which would have been extremely hard to take for a person of his passion and ability at sport.

Bobby Jones appears to have been, as well as a great golfer, a man who was well respected by all he met and was associated with, especially at St Andrews.

In October 1958 Mr Jones attended St Andrews to accept the Freedom of the City – an honour only accorded to one other American - Benjamin Franklin. I believe this moment is best narrated by his Daughter, Mary Ellen Jones.

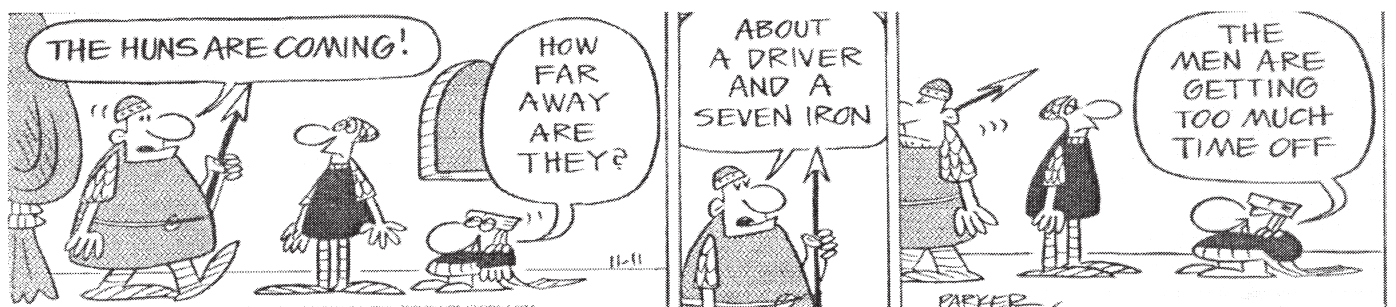
"It was one of the greatest experience s of my life. The ceremony was a moving thing. I was stunned. Younger Hall was jammed. We were taken in through the back entrance and seated on the stage. I'll never forget Dad, how he got up on that stage and up to the Lectern with his two sticks, It was painful to watch him.

He had worked hard on that speech of acceptance, and it was beautiful. Then he and the Provost were seated in a golf cart and they drove down the aisle through the hall. People were reaching out to touch him and my mother and my brother and me. Then, almost in unison, purely spur of the moment, I think, they began singing 'Will you no come back again' well knowing that he never would".

Bobby Jones passed away in 1971 but four things about him cannot and should not be forgotten.

The quality of the man, the quality of his golf, his record of wins as an Amateur – he never turned professional, and his input into the design and development of that beautiful and amazing golf course that is the home of The Augusta National Golf Club.

Supplied by Barry Lupton



Captain's Message – Winter Golf

The year is now half gone and we have quickly approached the shortest day and the middle of winter:

To date we have experienced varied weather conditions with rainfall to the end of May being 334mls. This is the second most pre-winter rain recorded during the past 6 years.

Despite all the good intentions and hard work by the ground staff our course is quickly beginning to show signs of wetness, especially on the greens and in the roughs. This is something we members have had to put up with throughout our winter golfing lives at Croydon and perhaps we have to play second fiddle to the "elements" and be a bit more tolerant of the conditions.

As a result of the recent VCAT decision it is expected that the relocation will occur in 2008 so we may only have to endure 2 more winters at this course. Despite the impending move the Board is still committed in trying to provide the best playing conditions possible right up to day of the relocation.

At this time of year it is imperative all members be vigilant on the course with repairing pitch marks on greens and filling of divots, this includes rough areas.

Motorised carts (when permitted on the course) should not be driven to within 10 metres of greens and bunker edges.

Winter brings not only cold and wet conditions it also brings reduced daylight hours. This has an impact on our playing schedules with many members withdrawing at the last minute resulting in the condensing of fields and bringing forward tee-off times. It is each individual's responsibility to ensure they are ready to tee-off when called by the starter, even if this is earlier than the scheduled time.

Failure to be ready when called may result in the group being placed at the rear of the field.

Please also keep an eye on the notice boards for Temporary Local Rules that may be altered at short notice depending on weather/playing conditions.



On a brighter note congratulations are extended to the following members who have won Major events or Medals since the start of the year:

Club Champion:	Dean Laws
Junior Champion:	Dean Laws
A Grade:	Dean Watson
B Grade:	Brian Kruger
C Grade:	David Eynon
Snr Champion:	Greg Kelly

	Monthly Medal	Sunday Medal	Junior Medal
Jan	John Surridge	Ron Murdoch	Tony Hicks
Feb	Tony Woodgate	David Sutherland	Blair McCormack
Mar	Ian Heasman	Ken Wulf	Dean Watson
Apr	Dave Pengilly	Matt Haynes	Matt Haynes
May	Mark Douglass	Peter Woollard	Shane Tonna
June	James Galanos	Gary Roza	Andrew Julian
July	Martin Wilkes	John Henderson	Dean Watson

Radcliffe Trophy: Martin Wilkes

Legacy Trophy: Blair McCormack

Ringwood / Lilydale K/O: Ashley Webb
Jason Woods

Norris Memorial: Jason Brewer

Harvey Kelly K/O: Rob Glide

2005 Medallist of the Year: Steve Shannon

2005 Sunday Medallist of the Year: Brenton Stokes

Hole-in-one

Ken Wulf	16th	14 /01/06
John Davies	14th	15/03/06

Just remember the sun, warm weather and dry conditions will return before we know it.

Hans Milo – Captain

Relocation FAQ's

GOLF COURSE

1. What Turf species will be used on the course?

The board have received advice from the course architect – Ross Watson, the course Manager – Gary Bass and most importantly from Australian Golf Course Superintendents Associations chief agronomist John Neylan. The following grass types were recommended:

1. Santa Anna for tee tops.
2. Legend Couch for fairways.
3. Penn G2 for greens.
4. Penn G2 and red fescue for greens surrounds.
5. Sheep and hard fescue for roughs.

The Board resolved to adopt these recommendations after reviewing the report.

2. Will sand be added to the fairways for drainage?

All advice received so far is that importing sand for fairways is unnecessary however the Board have reserved this decision until a full set of geotechnical reports have been completed analyzing the soil types in more detail.

3. When will the Golf Course be ready for play?

The final program will see 18 holes being ready for play at the beginning of April 2008. The final nine holes will be open for play later in the year.

CLUB HOUSE

1. When will construction on the new clubhouse commence?

The program sees design and documentation completed shortly. Builders will be appointed prior to Christmas with construction commencing in mid January.

2. What areas have been allowed for in the club house?

Members will be pleased to know that the plan includes a separate spike bar, members lounge with open fire place and separate and flexible function rooms. Outdoor eating and drinking areas will add another dimension to our club making it more inviting to member's family, friends and visitors alike. Allowances have been made in the plans to accommodate future expansion for purposes which could include a gymnasium or child minding facilities.

3. What types of dining facilities will be offered?

It is intended that a broad range of options will be available from a "coffee & cake," to a short order snack menu all the way to A La Carte Dining.

OTHER

1. Are we still using recycled water to irrigate the Golf Course?

Yes. Negotiations with Yarra Valley Water are well under way as are investigation's on State and Federal grant opportunities.

To commence construction and grow-in on time, however Yarra River Water Licenses have been leased (within budget) with the assistance of Melbourne Water.

2. What time constraints are included in the contract with Australand?

The club has two years from the issuing of Permits to relocate to Yering. The contract allows the club to extend the current two years by a further 6 months using an arrangement included in the contract of sale/agreement with Australand.

3. What sort of surplus funds will the club receive at handover?

The budget has been all but finalized which should ensure a substantial surplus at the time of handover. After GST and planning costs a substantial surplus is expected. At this point in time a firm figure cannot be provided however it is not dissimilar to that originally estimated.

It will always be the Boards objective to achieve the best result.

WALNUTS

1. Will this enterprise be profitable?

The club has developed a business plan for the management and marketing of its walnut operations. If these operations are managed appropriately they will form an important part of club income in the future.

2. Who will manage the walnut enterprise?

The club will manage its own walnut operations with the assistance of agricultural consultant Colin Findlay.

3. What sort of market is there for walnuts?

Australian producers currently supply only 15% of our domestic walnut demand. Aside from a growing local demand, an enormous opportunity to export exists. By products such as walnut oils can be produced adding to the viability of this project.

4. What type of walnut trees and how many will be planted?

Approximately 7000 to 8000 trees 1.2 metres in height will be planted in mid 2007. Three varieties will be planted; Chandler, Howard and Tulare.

Expressions of Interest Sought

Expressions of interest are sought from those members wishing to tender for relevant aspects of the relocation project.

Please email your Name, Company Name, a brief summary of the goods or services offered and any other relevant information such as website details to damon@croydongolf.com.au.

These details will be forwarded to our project managers who will be in contact at the appropriate time.

Submissions must be received by Damon no later than 5pm on Friday 11th August 2006 to be included.

rock&roll dinner

Friday 25th August from 7.30pm
CROYDON GOLF CLUB



The Band

The Cadillacs are a hip six piece Rock 'n' Roll outfit with four lead singers, saxophone, guitars, drums, bass and piano. The repertoire of hits from the Fifties and Sixties Rock 'n' Roll era is sure to get you shaking your tail feather.

Dress

We encourage you to get decked out in 50-60's rags while semi formal dress is the minimum.

Outa sight 2 course menu

Mains (choose from)

- 1 Prosciutto wrapped free-range chicken served on potato and pea puree.
- 1 Roast beef fillet served with scalloped potato, roast roma tomatoes and glazed baby carrots.
- 1 Crispy skin snapper fillet served on a potato and dill mash with herb salad.

Desserts (choose from)

- 1 Drambuie chocolate cake served hot with double cream and chocolate sauce.
- 1 Hot bread and butter pudding served with brandy banana and chocolate ice cream.

Tables of 8 – 12.

Cost \$40 per head.

Full payment required as a deposit for the evening

It's sure to be a blast so book your table now on: 9723 2111

Email address updates

Members are requested to provide any new or updated email addresses for the club's records.

From time to time the club still uses this communication method to advertise and many email addresses on our system are out of date.

It would be appreciated if members could forward their email addresses to terry@croydongolf.com.au



Members Information Night

August 10 2006

A warm welcome is extended to all Members and family to the first Croydon Golf Club Relocation Information Night to be held from 7.00pm until approximately 9.00pm on Thursday 10 August 2006.

All the key consultants including course architect Ross Watson and clubhouse architects Simon Hanger and Michael Jeffeson will be in attendance to answer all your questions.

President Tom White will address those attending at approximately 8.00pm to officially toast the "kick starting" of the Club's relocation project. Complimentary drinks and nibbles will be supplied so please come and catch up on all the latest information and join in the excitement of the Club's "Big Move!"

If you are intending to dine in the Club's bistro on the night please book early to avoid disappointment.

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