

## Mornington Golf Club Inc



### **The Mornington Snitch** – newsletter of the Mornington Golf Club Inc – *Multi Sports Complex*

#### **June - July 2015 newsletter**

##### **From El Presidente**

Firstly, I must apologise for my absence around the club over the past few months. I have some health issues that have prevented me from playing golf and hopefully I will be back on the fairways sometime this year.

This is a great opportunity to have a look at the past six months against the club plans, targets, & goals. As we discussed at the AGM, the club has run at a loss over the past three years and this has been mainly brought about by the investment we have placed into the facility with a number of capital projects completed. We have also seen a significant increase in expenses since moving into our new facility when compared to our old facility on Adelaide Road. Power, gas, cleaning, and insurance have been the main areas affecting the club. A good example is insurance, we never owned the old club so we didn't have insurance costs, now we own our building and have insurance in excess of \$11,000.00 per year which any club would struggle to make up.

The committee has worked hard to reduce expenses, and looking at ways to increase our income. The club and community functions are so important to our club and I know at times that it can be an inconvenience. However, we do need the turnover on the bar as it is one of our main money earners. Thank you for those who have continued to stick up their hands to be barmen at these functions.

I feel comfortable that we are heading in the right direction and with Bob G's continued work, we will finish the year on a positive financial result.

### ***New Website***

One of the goals for the committee was to improve communication to members and the community. The website is an important part of our communication process.

We have released the new website which will provide members with an excellent tool for communication. A website has a number of options to improve many areas within the club in the future. The team is still working on a number of areas so please be patient. One of the main reasons for the new website was the fact that the old site was so difficult to change, amend, etc. The new website makes it possible for a number of people to make changes in a simple way.

I must thank Val, Jo M, Bottle, and Peter for their work on the website. It has been time consuming but the end result is fantastic.

### ***Women's Membership***

I am very impressed with the growth of women's membership. But there is something a little more important than just having women's membership. We have a totally new group of members who are doing a great deal of work behind the scenes.

We have Val & Jo M working away on the website, Jo M working away on our Facebook, Jo M, and Debbie on the centenary committee, it just goes on.

Well done ladies

### ***Caterer***

Lydia and Liz have stepped up from Mona as our caterers and doing a great job serving wonderful meals. It is not always an easy role to play and it can be a fine juggle making ends meet. This is one of the reasons why we ask members to state if they will be attending events or not. How can a caterer cater for numbers they are not aware of? It is difficult when 40 say they will attend and 10 do not show. The end result is a loss for the caterer.

Good caterers are difficult to find so protect what we have by ensuring that you advise attending functions, and two, turn up.

We do have a second caterer Ang who will look after the larger event/functions at the club and also provides us with a fallback should anything go wrong.

### ***Juniors***

The juniors are our future and we are lucky that Joseph Henry has given so much of his time. We need support in this area, we cannot leave this to one member and I am looking for support. Even if you stick your hand up for two sessions a year, any support is good support.

We are being left behind with a number of clubs now signing up with First Tee, our club started First Tee in Wellington and I would be very disappointed if we lost the headquarters to another club.

We can grow this area to a stage where we have our very own junior academy. However, it needs the club behind it to mature as we all know it can.

### ***General***

Good luck to all those playing in the "Top Dogs"

The Island Bay cycle way has come back and has now been approved. We are not sure which route they will take as it changes by the day. This is an area we will keep an eye on.

We are still working with the WCC on improving the carpark further and hopefully further funding will be budgeted for by the WCC.

The new machine for tickets is on it's way and will be a far improved version than the one which was driven away several months ago.

We are working with the WCC to improve Tee Blocks. Note that we completed the 12<sup>th</sup> Tee as a working bee and it has come up very well. The WCC has budgeted for Tee Block work for the 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> tee. This will be attacked in spring.

## Golf

### ***Otaki bus trip – Andre reports***

Bus trip to Otaki.

This was great trip but fewer participants than was hoped for – *meaning that some had to drink twice as much beer than they had anticipated - Ed*

The trip up was rather quick as we were a little late in leaving – never the less our driver Bernie made it on time for our 9 am tee time.

The day was forecast for high winds and rain but when we arrived at Otaki the weather was great, if not slightly chilly. The course was in great shape although everyone had trouble reading the greens (*wonder why?*).

Our ladies contingent had a very good time, as did the rest of us guys.

With prize giving & drinks afterwards the trip back seemed to take no time at all. On the trip home there were more refreshments; some of the troops at the back of bus had some great games going which made the trip seemed get louder & louder.

All in all it was a great excursion.

Thanks to the club for helping make the trip possible.

*This WAS NOT the bus used on the Otaki trip*



## Special Report – Tournament Scoring

### ***My handicap is too low – my handicap is too high – wah wah wah!***

At the end of this newsletter is an explanation of the machinations of tournament play and its potential impact on you handicap. Pistol Pete Minnoch has kindly submitted this for your enjoyment and edification – *thanks Pete.*

## Centennial Celebrations

***From Convener Vince Burke***

### ***You can help us***

Does anyone know the family of or any descendants of Dr Robert A Cameron. Dr Cameron was the person responsible, almost singlehandedly, for convincing the City Council (over many years) to invest in a golf course. He was the original club President and he and his wife were members for many years. He went to Wellington College and then studied medicine in the UK. He was elected to the City Council in 1911 for one term. In 1914 they were living at 144 Adelaide Rd.

### ***And from last newsletter***

Centennial Committee police are still looking for descendants of two of our original members. Brothers **Harold and Jack Black** started playing golf for Mornington before moving on to other clubs. **Harold** went on to play for Miramar and **Jack** for other Wellington clubs and then Hamilton.

They were both NZ champions and in 1930 played each other in the final of the NZ championship. We still play for the Black Cup, which was presented by Harold, every year. We would love to make contact with any descendants.

## Blast from the Past

Sound like anyone we know Circ 1935 – Evening Post

### **A Lucky Kick.**

The shot which put N. M'Kenzie's ball down the cup at the Waterworks Hole at Berhampore last week did not look the least like doing it when the ball sailed away. A lucky kick intervened to put the ball down at this 210-yard hole. The latest member of the hole-in-one club is a new member of the mornington Club, but not altogether a new golfer, as he is known to have sunk the ball in one at another hole on the same course, but that was quite unofficial.

**Bar News**



***And finally a- what if.....***

What if you were playing in the club championship tournament finals and the match was halved at the end of 17 holes.

You had the honour and hit your ball a modest two hundred fifty yards to the middle of the fairway, leaving a simple six iron to the pin. Your opponent then hits his ball, lofting it deep into the woods to the right of the fairway. Being the golfing gentleman that you are, you help your opponent look for his ball.

Just before the permitted five minute search period ends, your opponent says: "Go ahead and hit your second shot and if I don't find it in time, I'll concede the match."

You hit your ball, landing it on the green, stopping about ten feet from the pin. About the time your ball comes to rest, you hear your opponent exclaim from deep in the woods: "I found it!".

The second sound you hear is a click, the sound of a club striking a ball and the ball comes sailing out of the woods and lands on the green, stopping no more than six inches from the hole.

Now the real "what if" in this story...

What if you had your opponent's ball in your pocket?

## TOURNAMENT SCORES

### WHY DO I HAVE AN R FOLLOWING MY HANDICAP INDEX?

You have returned two exceptional scores in tournaments during the last 12 months and an extra calculation means a reduction to your handicap index.

You need not feel you are under review and your integrity questioned. This is the result of very good play in events that have been tagged as tournaments. If you meet the reduction criteria you will find that an extra calculation will reduce your handicap index and this is illustrated by the 'R' that follows your handicap index.

### DO I HAVE TO ACCEPT THIS REDUCTION?

You can contact New Zealand Golf for clarification or to query the R following your handicap index.

### WHAT IS A TOURNAMENT SCORE?

A "tournament score" is a score made in a competition organized and conducted by the Committee in charge of the competition. The competition must identify a winner(s) based on a stipulated round(s), and must be played under the principles of the Rules of Golf.

### WHAT IS AN ELIGIBLE TOURNAMENT SCORE?

An "eligible tournament score" is a tournament score made either within the last 12 months or within the player's current 20-score history. So each revision date a total of your eligible T scores is required to determine which column will be used in the Reduction table.

### HOW DOES THIS NEW T SCORE WORK?

There is a four step process to calculating if tournament scores will affect your Handicap Index (HI).

1. Our handicaps refresh or are updated every two weeks. At this time our handicap index is based on the average of our best ten cards from our last 20 entered. A potential factor of 96% is multiplied to provide the handicap index result. This is the handicap index that is then used to consider if any tournament scores will cause a reduction.  $HI = 17.3$
2. A separate file holds all of the tournament scores. Players may have any number of tournament scores (although for the system to work correctly, less is better than more)

The tournament scores used to calculate any adjustment are either rounds within the last 12 months of the fortnightly revision date, or part of the 20 score history.

For this example let's assume there are 3 T scores in the current file. The two best handicap differentials are 9.9 and 10.8 providing an average of 10.35

$$17.3 - 10.35 = 6.95 \text{ (rounded to 7)}$$

3. We now take this information to our Reduction Table.

3 eligible T scores with an average of 7.0 will result in a reduction of 5.0

4. Our current handicap index of 17.3 then becomes 12.3 R.

The R indicates there is a reduction due to tournament scores. This reduction is in place until the next revision (in two weeks) when the same approach is used.

As we review both the Handicap Index (Average of best 10 of last 20 cards multiplied by 96%) every two weeks, we also consider the T score file and any handicap differentials that may now count. If a player has moved to a new handicap index of 23.0 and a score from eight months earlier had a differential of 20.0 or lower, then it qualifies for inclusion. The handicap index may have been sitting between 19.5 and 22.9 during this period therefore it

had not reached the 3.0 difference to qualify. But the outward movement of the handicap index means it now qualifies.

**IF THERE ARE 4 OR MORE T SCORES IN MY RECORD IS IT STILL THE TWO BEST USED FOR ANY REDUCTION?**

It will always be your two best as long as both are 3.0 better than your current handicap index. If there is only one eligible low score in the player's record then there will be no T score calculation.

When you have found the average of your two best tournament scores below your current handicap index, you count all of the eligible tournament scores in your record. This provides the information now taken in to the reduction table.

**DOES THE "LAST 12 MONTHS" PROVISION ONLY APPLY TO THOSE WHO DO NOT HAVE 20 CARDS IN THE SYSTEM?**

No. An "eligible tournament score" is a tournament score made either within the last 12 months or within the player's current 20-score history. Whilst you may receive a reduction if your form fades and T scores are still added then the table shows that your reduction will change or may even be lifted.

**DO T SCORES IN YOUR MOST RECENT 20 CARDS DROP OFF AS AT PRESENT FOR THE CALCULATION?**

No. T scores do have a 12 month life regardless of how many cards are returned during that period. With a loss of form and then more T scores in the record the reduction will lessen and may even be removed.

**WHAT IS THE CALCULATION FOR MORE THAN 3 CARDS? HOW DOES IT WORK IF YOU PLAY TWO ROUNDS THURSDAY, TWO SATURDAY, TWO SUNDAY AND AN AWAY COMPETITION AS WELL? THAT'S A TOTAL OF 7 CARDS ENTERED.**

On each occasion you are only looking for the best two eligible tournament scores to average, but the total that qualify for eligible is also counted. Whilst you may enter 7 scores from the above week it is still important to remember that your golf needs to be of a high quality to qualify as eligible tournament scores. Seven T scores in one week should be avoided at Club level.

**CLARIFICATION IN DETERMINING A TOURNAMENT**

As our club plays for many trophies, just about every weekend the competition, whether it be Stableford or Stroke Play, is a trophy event. If all were deemed to be 'tournaments' most scores would be entered as such.

Your club/handicapping committee has the discretion to determine what club events should be designated 'tournaments' and we suggest the club give consideration to what would be regarded as the more 'important' trophy events and deem those to be tournament scores.

**CLARIFICATION FOR A TROPHY EVENT WITH QUALIFYING ROUNDS FOLLOWED BY MATCH PLAY**

Our Club has a qualifying round where 32 players qualify for the Match Play section of the event. How should this be treated in regard to tournament scores?

We have decided that match play events are not to be used for tournament scores. However your qualifying rounds should be if this is a meaningful event.

**CAN SCORES FROM A 27 HOLE TOURNAMENT BE ENTERED AS T SCORES?**

Our Club plays a 27 hole tournament where 18 holes played in the morning and 9 in the afternoon – or vice versa. As scores returned in 9-hole tournaments do not qualify as eligible to be entered as 'T' scores, does this mean that scores from a 27 hole tournament cannot be entered as T scores, or are scores from the 18-hole round only entered as T scores?

Our DotGolf programme won't allow a 9 hole score to be entered. A solution could be that you announce at the start of the event that only the 18 hole score will be entered as a T score. If the event is 54 holes, with 27 holes played each day, then the two 9 hole scores can be combined and a T score entered.

**AN EXCEPTIONAL SCORE STAYS IN THE SYSTEM FOR 12 MONTHS. THIS IS APPROPRIATE FOR THE PLAYER THAT RETURNS AN AVERAGE AMOUNT OF CARDS ANNUALLY, BUT CAN SEVERELY AFFECT A PLAYER THAT PLAYS 2-4 TIMES A WEEK. IS THERE ANY CONSIDERATION FOR THIS?**

Now that the T score calculation has been in place for 9 months we have had some interesting situations. If a player who receives a handicap adjustment plays an exceptional amount of golf which results in the handicap reduction occurring for a substantially higher number of rounds when compared to the average golfer, New Zealand Golf reserves the right to remove the handicap adjustment.

**HOW MANY GOLFERS ARE AFFECTED BY A REDUCTION DUE TO EXCEPTIONAL SCORES IN TOURNAMENT PLAY?**

There are approximately 50 golfers with an 'R' reduction. Most have been reduced by 1-2 strokes.

**IMPORTANT NOTES**

For many golfers they may not return two exceptional scores in a tournament and they will always remain with the normal handicap index calculation.

We do realise players may find a reduction confusing but it will only occur if they have played extremely well on two occasions. Based on that alone they should expect a reduction to occur.

Once again we stress the importance of Club and Handicap Committees selecting only meaningful events as tournaments, therefore scores being entered to the handicap system as T scores.