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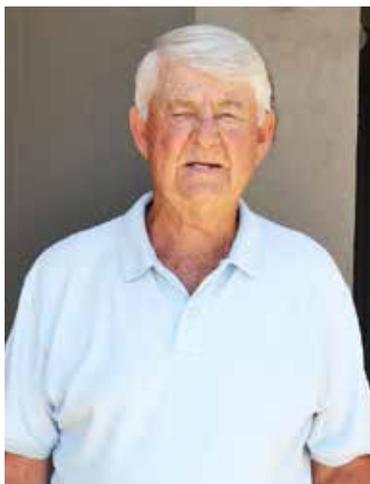
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Message from the President



MPVGA President

Barry Sneddon

A belated Happy Christmas to you and your families, and I hope you all enjoyed your golf in 2016. It was a very wet winter last year, and I am sure that had an effect on the small fields in some events. I have requested our Captain to give us numbers of players who played in events last year as compared to previous years. A quick check on comparisons to other years has our number falling away at some venues quite dramatically.

Your Committee has released the Fixture for 2017, and I am sure we all look forward to playing at the various clubs. Unfortunately we have had to discontinue playing "The National" as the costs for 2017 was far too expensive. There are a number of other courses that will need to be looked at before we make a decision on retaining them for our 2018 fixture.

I would like to welcome Gordon Crockett, who is the new Delegate for "The Dunes", replacing Paul Swinnerton who is again standing for Vice - President.

As you are aware by now your Committee has reluctantly increased the membership fees to \$20.00 per annum, an increase of \$5.00 due to increase costs, as well as Clubs increasing their green fees.

Our first event for 2017 will be held at Devilbend on Monday 23rd January and concludes at the Dunes on Tuesday 12th December. The four rounds of the Club Championships will be held at Flinders (13th Feb), Portsea (3rd April), The Legends (18th April) and The Dunes (20th June) and we look forward to all members supporting these events.

It was unfortunate that we had to transfer the Safety Beach event of last year to Bay Views at Rosebud Park, as Safety Beach was undergoing sanding and coring of greens, as well as having some very wet fairways.

I think that you would all agree that the online bookings have been a great success and our thanks again to Peter Unkles for the time and effort he put in to this project. For those members who cannot use this facility, contact your club delegate who will make sure you get a game.

The 2017 AGM will again be held at Rosebud Country Club on Monday 27th February, straight after the golf (Par Event) with a shot gun start followed by lunch provided by MPVGA. Please mark this event in your calendar. We will also be presenting the "Les Prideaux Championship Trophy" and the "Len Barrow" Award for the most consistent player of 2016

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our major Sponsor "Bendigo Bank" for their continued support as well as Robert Fraser from "Curry Printing" for the ongoing printing of our quarterly Newsletter.

I generally do not like to single out individuals for the work that they do for fear of leaving somebody out but our thanks to Kevin White, Titch Carter, Ian Purchase, Tony Clarke, Chris Lee-Brown, Trevor Bishop, Peter Unkles and Paul Swinnerton. These guys together with our Delegates are what keeps this Association ticking and I thank them all for their efforts during the year.

A Happy New Year to you all and good golfing in 2017.

OFFICE BEARERS 2016

- **President: Barry Sneddon (Mount Martha GC) 59735885**
- **Vice President: Paul Swinnerton (The Dunes GC) 59310384**
- **Captain: Ian Purchase (Devilbend GC) 97505543**
- **Vice Captain: Tony Clarke (Rosebud CC) 59820216**
- **Treasurer: Evan'Tich' Carter (Cerberus GC) 59786661**
- **Secretary: Kevin White (Rosebud CC) 59884016**
- **The MPVGA news is published by Chris Lee-Brown (Rosebud CC) 97879396. Please send submissions to: leebrown@inet.net.au**



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MPVGA VICE CAPTAIN TONY CLARKE'S RULES CORNER



OBSTRUCTIONS

These are described as anything artificial or man-made being either movable, immovable or temporary immovable obstructions.

They are treated differently to loose impediments which are natural objects like twigs, pinenuts etc.

MOVEABLE OBSTRUCTIONS

Which are covered under Rule 24-1, are deemed to be movable if they may be moved without unreasonable effort, unduly delaying play or without causing any damage. Examples may be such things as: rakes, bottles, tin cans, abandoned golf balls or similar items.

If the ball moves as a direct result of removing the obstruction there will be no penalty incurred and the ball must be replaced. If the ball is on top of the obstruction, the ball may be lifted and the obstruction removed. The ball must then be dropped (or placed if on the putting green) as near as possible to where it originally lay. Under this rule the ball may be cleaned when lifted.

IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTION

These are covered under Rule 24-2. Examples are : Artificially surfaced roads, cart paths (unless declared to be an integral part of the course like the Road Hole at St. Andrews in Scotland), sprinkler heads, buildings, irrigation control boxes, stakes, fences and walls which don't define the course boundary.

Interference occurs when the obstruction interferes with the lie of the ball, your stance or the area of your intended swing. You may not take any relief if the ball is in a water hazard or if the obstruction is in your line of play.

The relief taken will be a regulation drop within one club length of the nearest point of relief but no nearer the hole.

TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTION

These are covered under Rule Appendix 1-7, and are artificial non-permanent objects such as those erected in conjunction with a competition or tournament. Examples are: Tents, scoreboards, grandstands, TV towers etc. Line of sight relief is granted if the temporary immovable object intervenes between the ball and the hole in addition to relief from interference. A local rule must be in force.

DON'T HIT THE WRONG BALL

A wrong ball is defined as any ball other than your :

- ball in play
- provisional ball
- or second ball if playing under rules permitting this and includes:
- another player's ball
- an abandoned ball.

ORIGINAL BALL NO LONGER IN PLAY

Your ball is no longer in play if it has been holed, lost out of bounds or lifted, or another ball has been substituted.

Penalty : Stroke play (Rule 15-3b) a 2-stroke penalty.

You must also correct your mistake by playing the correct ball or proceeding under the rules.

Some examples of this are :

- if your original ball is lost or out of bounds you must proceed under Rule 27-1 by playing from where the original ball was last played.
- if your original ball is in a water hazard, by dropping a ball under the procedure concerning a water hazard (Rule 26).
- if your ball is near an immovable obstruction or any interference would be caused by dropping the ball under Rule 24-1.
- if your ball would be in an abnormal ground condition such as GUR or casual water, by dropping the ball under Rule 25-1.

You must correct the mistake of playing the wrong ball before you play from the next tee. You should note that any strokes that you make with the wrong ball don't count on your score.

Penalty : Match play (Rule 15-3a) loss of hole.

So having said all this I would strongly advise that you always follow Rule 6-5 which states:

"The responsibility for playing the correct ball remains with the player. Each player should place an identifying mark on his ball."



MPVGA CAPTAIN'S REPORT IAN PURCHASE

As this is the final Newsletter for 2016, I would like to thank all members for their support and friendship during the past season. Unfortunately our numbers are down on previous years due a variety of factors e.g. wintery conditions (especially wind), illness/injury, travel and perhaps reasons that we as a Committee are not fully aware of. Certain clubs are down in terms of numbers and we are keen to ascertain the reasons for such a downturn. This issue will be fully discussed at our 17 January Committee meeting.

One of the successful areas of our operations this year has been the implementation of on-line bookings. Members are now fully aware of the procedures and the future looks very promising in that this system has minimized the amount of work involving Delegates and myself. My thanks once again to Peter Unkles for his hard work in delivering a most valuable asset to our future operations.

The 2017 Program has been finalized and program cards distributed. With one exception, increases have been acceptable. The National was omitted from our program due to an excessive green fee increase. The Moonah Links Legends course has therefore received two games for 2017.

The VVGA Program has been distributed to all clubs. It is to be hoped that members from other clubs (apart from Devilbend and Cerberus) will join in and attend these most enjoyable outings. The first event is at Euroa GC on 20-21 March. Entries have been distributed to all clubs.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all Committee personnel for their advice and involvement, in particular Tony Clarke, Evan Carter, Trevor Bishop and Chris Lee-Brown. To all those associated with the MPVGA, I would like to extend to you and your families a very safe and happy Christmas and look forward to catching up with you at Devilbend on 23 January 2017.

CURRENT EVENTS

2017 EVENTS CALENDAR 1st QUARTER

- * Monday January 23 - Devilbend Stableford
- * Monday February 13 - Flinders Stableford (Round 1 Championship)
- * Monday February 27 - Rosebud CC Par Shotgun & AGM
- * Tuesday March 14 - St. Andrews Beach Stableford
- * Monday March 27 - Bay Views @ Rosebud Park Bendsomes

FARM HUMOUR

A man staggered into a hospital with a concussion, multiple bruises, two black eyes, and a five iron wrapped tightly around his throat.

Naturally, the Doctor asked him, 'What happened to YOU?'

'Well, I was having a quiet round of golf with my wife, when at a difficult hole, we both sliced our golf balls into a field of cattle ..

We went to look for them and while I was looking around I noticed one of the cows had something white at its rear end!

I walked over, lifted its tail, and sure enough, there was a golf ball with my wife's monogram on it - stuck right in the middle of the cow's fanny!

Still holding the cow's tail up, I yelled to my wife, 'Hey, this looks like yours!'

'I don't remember much after that'

WALKING ON THE GRASS

The room was full of pregnant women and their husbands. The instructor said, "Ladies, remember that exercise is good for you. Walking is especially beneficial. It strengthens the pelvic muscles and will make delivery that much easier. Just pace yourself, make plenty of stops and try to stay on a soft surface like grass or a path."

"Gentlemen, remember -- you're in this together. It wouldn't hurt you to go walking with her. In fact, that shared experience would be good for you both."

The room suddenly became very quiet as the men absorbed this information. After a few moments a man, name unknown, at the back of the room, slowly raised his hand.

"Yes?" said the Instructor.

"I was just wondering if it would be all right, if she carries a golf bag?"

Brings a tear to your eye, doesn't it? This level of sensitivity can't be taught.





MPVGA Events Results

2nd Quarter 2016

Mornington - October 10

Storms threatened and the wind blew strongly off the bay but the weather wasn't too bad for most of the 45 strong field. The course was still suffering the vagaries of winter with difficult ground conditions, so scores were a little below the usual standard with the ball run-down cutting off at 27. Devilbend and Mt. Martha players as usual, dominated the field and also showed up well in the ball-run down though not in the winners' circle.

INDIVIDUAL STABLEFORD WINNERS

A GRADE
Geoff Smith (C) HC 16 33 pts.

B GRADE
Brian Thomas (MGC) HC 31 35 pts.

RUNNERS UP
A GRADE
Tony Collins (MM) HC 15 30 pts.

B GRADE
Dennis Bradley (MM) HC 23 33 pts.

NEAREST THE PINS
5th Hole: Robert Morrison (Safety Beach)
7th Hole: Tony Clarke (Rosebud CC)
10th Hole: David King (Mt.Martha)
16th Hole: Tony Collins (Mt.Martha)

Devilbend - October 24

We had a fine day albeit a little cloudy but a nice change. There were 59 players at the event very much dominated by Devilbend and Mt. Martha members who, not surprisingly, also took out most of the prizes.

INDIVIDUAL STABLEFORD WINNERS

A GRADE
Trevor Bishop (DB) HC 19 41 pts.

B GRADE
Bob Ellett (MM) HC 23 37 pts.

RUNNERS UP
A GRADE
Allan Callaway (MGC) HC 16 35 pts.
Laurie Leyden (DB) HC 14 35 pts.
Greg Procter (DB) HC 16 35 pts.
Stephen Travena (DB) HC 15 35 pts.

B GRADE
Brian Jeanes (MM) HC 25 34 pts.
Charles Milligan (DB) HC 27 34 pts.
Anthony Benstead (DB) HC 22 34 pts.

NEAREST THE PINS
3rd Hole: Ed Sleightholm (DB)
8th Hole: Rob Reeves (DB)
11th Hole: Roger Hutton (MM)
13th Hole: Steve Smith (DB)

Mount Martha - November 7

The weather was beautiful throughout the morning with the rain holding off until early afternoon and everyone getting around in the dry. The condition of the course was also very good. Some very good scores were recorded by the aggregate paired players with the ball run-down cutting off at 69 points. Once again numbers were relatively low with only 53 players participating on the day.

AGGREGATE STABLEFORD WINNERS

Peter Brake (MM) HC 22 & Bruce Parish (MM) HC 31 80 pts.

RUNNERS UP
Bob Ellett (MM) HC 20 & M. Szeitz (MGC) HC14 76 pts.

NEAREST THE PINS
3rd Hole: John Raven (MM)
5th Hole: Graham Crook (MM)
13th Hole: John Neal (MM)
16th Hole: P. Easton (DB)

Bay Views at Rosebud Park - November 21

Although the weather bureau forecast 38 degrees and strong northerlies we were fortunate to be up so high and cooled by the bay and so it turned out to be a beautiful morning with 53 players enjoying the well maintained course. Great day at the Bay Views Golf Course today, fairways in good condition and as always, greens turning to the bay. Weather held off until the afternoon, and the 4 hour game was enjoyable. Once again a win to Mount Martha players Thanks to Lew for getting everyone off on time and also for the gratis BBQ. Shop team could not do enough for our players - many thanks

INDIVIDUAL STABLEFORD WINNERS

A GRADE
Alan Wagstaff (DB) HC 18 40 pts.(CB)

B GRADE.
Martin Thraves (MM) HC 30 47 pts.

RUNNERS UP
A GRADE
Derrick Farr (SB) HC 10 40 pts.

B GRADE
Peter Twiddle (MM) HC 31 44 pts.
Robert Carlton (MM) HC 32 44 pts.
David Shirley (MM) HC 23 44 pts.

NEAREST THE PINS
3rd Hole: Martin Thraves (MM)
6th Hole: Alan Wagstaff (DB)
11th Hole: Dennis Bradley (MM)
17th Hole: Brian Wallace (MM)



4th Quarter Results (continued)

The Dunes - December 13

The day was perfect at the start and the shotgun went well with a strong field of 82 players. The course was in good condition with a few areas changed – 9th hole is now the putting green in front of the clubhouse . Later on the SPECIAL Dunes breeze got up and although we kept scoring to a reasonable level it is very hard to repress those Mount Martha guys. End of day drinks and presentations went well with a short presentation by Peter Unkles with the new web site up and running . Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2017 and see you all at Devilbend on Monday 23 January.

STABLEFORD WINNERS

A GRADE

Ian Watts (St A) HC15 40 pts.

B GRADE

Brian Jeanes (MM) HC 25 39 pts

RUNNERS UP

A GRADE

David Trend (MGC) HC 14 38 pts.

Michael Smith (D) HC 13 38 pts.

B GRADE

Neil Rist (DB) HC 21 39 pts.

David King (MM) HC 34 39 pts.

NEAREST THE PINS

3rd Hole: David King (MM)

6th Hole: Ian Watts (St.A)

13th Hole: Neil Fredrickson (SB)

17th Hole: Ian Purchase (DB)

