

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

THANKS and MERRY CHRISTMAS

The President and committee wish everybody "Merry Christmas" and hope that everyone has a safe, relaxing and enjoyable Festive Season. Your support has been greatly appreciated throughout the year and we look forward to you continuing to be active club members during 2018.

We particularly thank those who have helped maintain the course, conduct events, wait on people or serve behind the bar at functions, be a member of one of the sub committees or help in any way. Due to the declaration of Public Holidays, the clubhouse will be closed on Christmas Day (Monday 25/12), Boxing Day (Tuesday 26/12), New Year's Day (Monday 1/1) and Australia Day (Friday 26/1). It will operate as normal on the remaining days of the Festive Season.

CHRISTMAS BREAK UP

Beginning at 10 am on Thursday 21st December, the club is holding its Christmas break up. Anyone who has helped with the course maintenance, organising events, helping behind the bar, with BBQs, etc. is welcome to attend. To assist with the catering, you are requested to let Gary Ryan know if you will be attending.

PAYING COMPETITION FEES BY EFTPOS

As from 1/1/2018, members will be able to pay their competition fees using a card.

FREE WIFI FOR MEMBERS IN THE CLUBROOMS COMING SOON

In the near future, members will be able to access the club's wifi network at no charge. When it becomes available, club members will be informed of the log on and password. To help ensure only members access the web using the club's log on, the password will be changed every month.

CLUB MEMBERS ACHIEVING SUCCESS IN DISTRICT EVENTS

Our ladies have had a successful month. In the SWGA Ladies Merit Awards, Fiona Fitzpatrick won the nett award and Helen Beales won the stableford award. In the District Championships, Glenice Hayward finished 3rd in the B Grade Nett and Katrina Lovelock finished 3rd in the C Grade Stableford. In team events, East Geelong teams won the Curlewis Plate (Di Rabbas, Helen Beales and Katrina Lovelock) and the Clifton Springs Salver (Judy Mather, Helen Beales and Fiona Fitzpatrick). In both cases, they were back to back wins for our club.

Nik Tayler continued the recent successes of East Geelong men in District Opens by winning Ocean Grove Open last weekend. The runner up in the event was the current Men's Order of Merit leader, Brad Dunn. The East Geelong team (Phil Cranny, Rob Ryan and John McCabe) won the SWGA Neville Drayton trophy.

DO YOU HAVE ANY UNWANTED SCRAP METAL?

If you have any unwanted old copper or electrical cords/cables, at your place, we'd appreciate you bringing it to the club and putting it in a container at the Greenkeeper's Shed. These will be sold to a scrap metal merchant and the proceeds used to maintain or upgrade our equipment. If you have any questions, please speak to Gary Ryan.

CHIPPING TO THE PRACTICE GREEN IS BANNED

For reasons of safety, course maintenance and the rules of golf, you are not permitted to chip onto the practice putting green. Under the rules of golf (Rule 7 – 1), *Before a round or play-off on any day of a stroke play competition, a competitor must not practise on the competition course or test the surface of any putting green on the course by rolling a ball or roughening or scraping the surface.*

The area surrounding the practise green is part of the course. There are signs advising players of this but many seem to be ignoring this directive.

HOW MANY TIMES CAN YOU HAVE PRACTISE HITS DURING A ROUND?

The rules of the club state that players can hit a maximum of two balls when playing a practice round and, when teeing off, the balls must be hit from where the markers have been placed for the day. This means you can't keep dropping balls if your shot doesn't go as well as expected and you can't hit off the backmarkers because a special event will be held in the near future and you want to practise from the tees you will be hitting from on the day.

If you wish to practise hitting multiple balls, you must use the practice fairway for 'short or medium' length shots or the old 5th tee (which is back towards the beach area behind the current 5th tee) for the 'long' shots. When hitting in the practise areas; the balls should be marked so you know you are picking up your ball, all balls must be picked up and all divots filled with sand.

DOES THE CLUB HAVE YOUR CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS?

The primary means of the club communicating to the members is now via email. It is for this reason that it is essential that the club always has your current email address. When we send an email we usually get a number of 'undeliverable' messages because the address is no longer valid or the email box is full. Your cooperation in ensuring you monitor your email's In Box and notifying Russell of any change of address will be greatly appreciated.

2018 MEN'S CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Thank you to the men who responded to the survey. Using the feedback we received as a guide, it was decided that the Club Championship would be played over four rounds (72 holes) played on and the B Grade, C Grade and D Grade Championships will be played over three rounds (54 holes). The first round of the Championship will be held on Saturday 17th February and the rounds will be held on consecutive Saturdays ie the B, C and D Grade result will be known a week before we know who is the Men's Club Champion. The top players in each grade will be grouped for the final round and, if needed, the playoff to decide the event will be held as soon as possible after the final round is completed and it is known there is a need for a playoff.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

For those who purchased tickets in the Christmas Raffle, the draw will be at 5:30 on Friday 15th December. Finger food will be provided for those present. Our thanks to Ian for organising the raffle and food.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED TO HAND WATER THE GREENS

A notice will be posted in the very near future asking for volunteers to hand water the greens on a regular basis. If you are able to assist, please add your name to the sheet.

2018 MENS PENNANT SEASON

The SWGA Men's Pennant season starts on Sunday 18th March and the final round will be held on Sunday 6th May. It is likely that the finals will be held on Sunday 20th May because 13th May is Mother's Day. The club has a team in Divisions 1 and 2 and players will be asked to indicate their willingness to participate in late January.

BUNNINGS (WAURN PONDS) BBQ

The club's next day selling sausages at Waurm Ponds is on **Thursday 11th January** and everyone is welcome to buy a sausage cooked by our very talented chefs. Other dates that we have been granted are the 8th February and 15th March.