



Newsletter

Spring 2019

Welcome to this, the spring edition.

Your new committee

The Annual General Meeting for 2019 was held on September 28. After the elections were held, the following members will join Captain Todd Blocksidge and President Leon Radunz on the management committee for the period 2019/2020.

Vice President Mark Browning
Treasurer Tony O'Hare
Vice Captain Kevin Arnold

Committee members
John Halpin
John Staffsmith
Brian Allen
Tony Cole
Scott Legge

Please assist your committee whenever asked. The officers are working for you, not themselves, so you can enjoy your golf to the utmost.

Because two of the new committee members are relative newcomers to the majority of members, I thought it appropriate to include biodata for you.

Who is Tony O'Hare?

Firstly, here is Tony O'Hare our new Treasurer.

He has held both legal and accounting roles and gained considerable governance expertise in having founded and run many charities. He currently chairs seven international charities as a day job (a professional director and social advocate).

He has been treasurer (among other roles) on approximately 40 not-for-profit associations ranging from small sporting clubs through to two billion-dollar internationals and has been a sector advisor on a number of peak bodies and ministerial committees. He is well versed in accounting and financial management practice.

His golf is terrible though he reports, but he insists that he does replace his divots. Tony lives only five minutes from the course.

And Mark Browning

Mark joined TMGC about 3 years ago and soon became a volunteer mowing the rough which he enjoys because of the results seen from his hard work and from the other volunteers as well.

He has a degree in administration with a major in economics and started his working life in the private sector in finance and insurance. Then Mark moved to the public sector by joining the World Expo 88 event as administrator and budget manager for the media and communications division.

Since then he has headed the Treasury Department for the Gold Coast City Council, been a business analyst for the UK Home Office and for the last 10 years he has been a Director in the Queensland Public Service advising Ministers and Directors-General on policy, planning and strategy.

Please get to know them as you see them around.

New members

Again, we have quite a few new members who have joined TMGC recently and it is fantastic to see so many choosing to enjoy the game of golf on our top-quality course. I remind you that we are lucky enough to be able to play on one of the top 25 nine-hole courses in Australia.

To the new members, I wish you a very warm welcome and I do hope that you enjoy your time with us here at TMGC.

Please note our sponsors

These people generously provide a considerable level of funding to keep the books in the black so please support them where you can in purchasing items you need.

We have two new sponsors, the Professionals and Rockford Financial who are joining our long-term sponsors.

Mt Tamborine Motel
 Helloworld Helensvale
 Mainfitness
 Physique Physiotherapy
 Springbok Foods
 Eagle Heights Meats
 Mountain Trees
 Witches Falls Wines, and
 Gold Coast Radio 94.1FM

Recent changes to the course

The greens have been renovated recently and haven't they recovered magnificently

Several cart paths have been completed using money from grants and the bare area to the left of the 9th green is being addressed to restore a level of grass cover by removing the tree that shaded the area which prevented the grass from growing.

The 5th tee has been levelled and gardens mulched in time for the Open.

We are planning to remove some more trees over the next few months as well. One of our sponsors Mountain Trees will give us half a day's work for free.

You would have noticed the front of the machinery shed has been completely changed with the sheeting in of a large section. This work forms part of an extensive plan to rearrange the contents, throw out unwanted "stuff" and organise the storage of chemicals, fertiliser and fuel to a higher standard.

The machinery shed is being revamped



Here are the happy members Tim, Scotty, Jimmy and Kev who spend Thursday mornings working very hard on your behalf. What's that Kev is pretending to hold?

NEWS from the pro shop

Great to see a consistent increase in numbers playing on Saturdays where we are averaging around 75 players each week and with the warmer months ahead of us hopefully this trend will continue.

A big thank you to those who generously donated to the Jarrod Lyle Kids with Cancer charity golf days that was well supported by both our Saturday field and Vets Wednesday comp. The club raised just over \$1,000 which is a great effort for a worthy cause.

Keep an eye out for "The Road to the PGA" which is an event we have been running the last couple of years which gives you a chance to play Royal Pines leading up to the PGA in December.

TRAINEE NEWS

Hard to believe Nev is coming to the end of his traineeship. It must be said that he has been a great asset to our team. The good news is that he has agreed to stay on beyond his time!

CLUBHOUSE NEWS

Thank you to all of you who turned up and supported our "Food on the Fairway" event. I'm sure you would agree it was a lovely day and a great way to showcase our great facility.

Our Friday night fusion continues to get great support with great atmosphere and plenty of laughs. We really appreciate it! With the festive season fast approaching just a reminder that if you introduce any function to the club (30 people+) you will receive a \$50 club credit.

Regards

From Andrew and Team

On behalf of members I would like to thank the Pro shop team for the excellent support they give to the members and we are lucky to have them on board.

Pennants teams' photos

Not for some years have we fielded Pennants teams in the Gold Coast District competition. Here are the three grades in all their glory.



The A team

The A graders made it to the final but were beaten by Burleigh on a count back scheme that left a lot to be desired. Just ask Todd about this.



The B team



And lastly the C graders (must have been a much colder day when this was taken!)

Why do we need to renovate the greens?

Recently, the greens were scarified in one direction then hollow cored. But why?

Renovation demolishes the putting quality in the short-term but is necessary for the longer-term maintenance of the putting surface. The process of renovation removes thatch and excess organic matter, relieves soil compaction, increases the soil oxygen level, increases water and fertilizer penetration to depth and stimulates healthy grass growth.

In fact, renovations are critical to the health of a highly maintained grass surface. Spring and autumn are the seasons in which to renovate our fine bent grass greens which always receive favourable comments from visiting players.

What happens if we don't renovate?

Deep and vigorous roots are a necessity for healthy grass, something that is even more important when the grass is cut as low as it is on golf greens. Strong roots are also needed for the

grass to withstand the damaging effects of high summer temperatures, especially when combined with high humidity. Our bent grass greens do not respond well to the high summer temperatures as bent grass grows best around 20 degrees C.

In good soil, grass roots access available oxygen from tiny pockets of air trapped between soil and sand particles. But over time, the traffic from golfers' feet and mowing equipment compact the soil under the putting green, particularly when the soil contains some clay. That compaction crushes the air pockets removing the source of oxygen and the deeper roots are essentially left gasping for air. They become weaker and may eventually wither and die. In fact, in summer on Tamborine Mountain, a significant portion of the root system does die off.

Regarding thatch, a certain amount adds to the body of the green and contributes to its spongy composition and playability but an excess is detrimental by stopping penetration of water and nutrients, and also by encouraging fungal diseases. You would have seen the small brown patches of dollar spot that occasionally infect the greens.

In the end, the temporary disruption with a bumpy putting surface for several weeks is but a temporary inconvenience for players.

The spring renovation involves a more vigorous removal of material than occurs in the autumn renovation because the bent grass recovers more quickly under spring conditions.

We renovate by using narrow tynes to cut grooves and also by removing plugs of soil. Spaces that are created in the process are then filled with sand "topdressing" to create air spaces and allow water to penetrate deeper which encourages roots to grow deeper and stronger. A resurgence of growth ensues.

You would have noted the quick greening effect of the fertilisers with wetting agents which encouraged the bent grass growth.

As part of the recovery period, several lighter top dressings of sand (termed dustings) contribute to

the production of a smoother playing surface. Those who play on Saturday only would not be as familiar with these activities as are the mid-week players.

The future of golf

The ABC reported recently that almost 100 golf clubs across the country are on the brink of financial collapse following two decades of declining memberships. These might follow the many that have already closed over the past decade.

Playing numbers have plummeted in the past 20 years with 117,000 members having left the game in Australia to an all-time low of 383,000.

But declining membership numbers do not fully tell the story of the game's state of health. Social and casual golf are increasing as more players choose to not belong to a course. Critically, who pays the high costs to maintain the courses those social players choose to frequent? Members of those clubs of course.

To my mind, the increase in games played by social players compared to members goes against the usually touted reason - the main barrier to playing is said to be lack of time by the modern generation and the long time for a round of golf.

We are being advised to offer new and interesting things, not just the standard 18-hole competitions. Have we failed to respond to the needs of modern consumers?

My take is slightly different in that I think players want golf on the cheap. They pick and choose when and where to play and do not care who has to fund the facility they visit. Might I suggest that as long as someone else pays they are happy.

Have you noticed the many discounted games plus drinks plus carts etc. being offered, particularly on line. Are clubs racing to the bottom by competing for visitors by offering cut rates just to get them in the door?

Looking at other sports whose heyday has passed, how many squash courts do you see around now and bowling alleys too? Once there was a squash court on just about every corner but the halcyon days of squash courts, bowling alleys and roller-skating rinks are over.

Is golf going the same way too? I certainly hope not.

Any suggestions?

The TMGC Open this week end

Lastly, to those who are playing in the open this week end (18-20 October), good luck and may you strike the ball well.

See you on the course one day.

Leon Radunz

President

TMGC

9th October 2019

Under the regulations of the Office of Fair Trading the management committee is required to inform the membership that the club has a public liability insurance cover of \$10 million.