



"The Preferred Lie!"

The Newsletter of the North Stradbroke Island Golf Club.
December 2023



Members and friends of the Straddie Golf Club, welcome to the December 2023 Edition of the *Preferred Lie*. A little bit of rain has greened up the course somewhat and it's a joy to behold from on high at Tee No. 1. Mown fairways mean that the ball often gets a run on, even when topped. More grass as summer proceeds suggests that the odd wedge may come out into the open occasionally. Now wouldn't that be something to behold at Royal Straddie.

From the President's Desk

Most of us have been at some time swooped and chastised by the Club's resident plovers during the nesting season. Getting too close to nest sites or the hatched chicks is sure to elicit protective behaviour in the breeding pair and any of the adult siblings from last year's breeding circle who remain in the family group.



A juvenile plover scratching in the rough

Plover siblings play an important part in raising the chicks by providing additional lookout and back-up attack forces in the home territory. The siblings are tolerated by the breeding pair until one of the breeding pair dies and is used to replace the lost parent. If too many siblings survive in the home territory, the breeding pair chase the adult birds out. These birds then take up new territory forming pairs or joining other pairs, thus cutting out the inbreeding that would occur otherwise.

So why am I telling you this. We have 8 breeding pairs or territories on the course. I have noticed that over the last couple of years that the survival rate of the chicks has reached zero. WHY? Well, the major predators on the course are the goannas followed by the butcher birds, kookaburras and hawks, and I am sad to say, by we humans. We have cleared some of the rough areas by over-slashing and reducing the ground cover to minimise cart damage. This ground cover is needed by the chicks to survive the early stages of development. We are addressing this situation by blocking cart access to these areas by logging off or using tyres to close off those sensitive areas to cart traffic and only slashing once a year in the off-breeding season.

You can be Santa to the plovers this year by not leaving the fairways and by sticking to the tracks provided. Get some exercise and walk to your ball in the rough and remind all who use the course, if you see them, that carts in the rough are not on. Have a merry Christmas!

That's it. See you about the course.

Peter Turner

From the Club Captain

The honour boards do a good job of capturing the high achievers for 2023 .

The 2024 calendar is near completion and will be ready for the first '*Preferred Lie*' early in the year. Can I encourage you to save the calendar somewhere you can easily access it. As a backup, one will be on display in the members' area at the Clubhouse.

A good balance of Members' competition and social events is again aimed for, punctuated with a scattering of special events and at least one different game per month. The Summer Comp is

upon us, the Xmas Ham kindly donated by George and Australia Day trophy kindly donated by Myles , being the highlights. They will be well advertised as “coming events “ on the whiteboard. The Summer Comp dates are up in the Member’s area.

A special thankyou to Kristina and Myles for contributions to the event program. Games are well advertised, adjudicated and placegetters awarded in a most efficient manner. Members appreciate receiving the white envelope rewards without having to chase them up themselves.

Membership - 62 players were listed this time last year with Golfing Australia handicaps. Now it’s 81 – however, only 26 or 32% of the current 81 in total were actively engaged in regular comps during the year.

The very social Straddie Ambrose and the Borey Family Memorial Fun Day gave a chance for the wider community to participate and enjoy what we have to offer and were both well received again this year. The Normy Gardner Memorial Golf Day is scheduled for the 27th Dec.

The inaugural Sealink Straddie Golf Club Medley weekend went well for its first year. We say a special **thank you to Sealink** for its generous sponsorship.

The concept of playing a 4bbb on the Saturday backed up by the 2 person Ambrose on Sunday was well received by the members who participated. I am confident we will double the numbers next year. Here are some pictures of the winners and participating golfers enjoying the day.



Winners: Cam and George with Captain Kev



Teeing off: Allan, Desley, Alison and Anthony



Next on No.1: Brent, Neil B, Kev and Trevor



Spot the ‘Big Fella’ – Peter Gooley with Neil D



And the happy crowd after the presentations!!

In closing, my job is made easier because of the contributions from a number of committee members and I thank them all for their assistance. It is my pleasure to work alongside our dedicated team of volunteers and I look forward to playing my part in achieving what we have stated in our new Strategic Plan.

Kev Zielke

From Kristina in the Providore's Office

We have had a very steady past couple of months on the course and in the Bistro.

Compliments have been flooding into our chef and providore Myles, which is fantastic to hear from so many happy guests.

Exciting outcomes as we see some new names on the honour board for the end of year results in the medal of medals and match play.

A friendly reminder again, even if you are a member, to please report to the bar on arrival and departure of your round.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thanks to Kev Z, Trevor Scott, Denis and Lynn Woodhouse for all of the support and help they have, and continue to give me, its truly appreciated.

As we head into summer and the Christmas holidays we look forward to a busy season. We wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Kristina Groombridge

From the Editor

I have been asked by the Club Committee to remind members of two matters: (i) those who house their

golf carts in the shed are responsible for their own insurance; and (ii) volunteer days are Tuesdays and Thursdays. Should any member be prepared to offer assistance in maintaining the course, Peter, our Greenkeeper, will match a job to each individual's capabilities. I know, as an old fella who can still bend down a bit, I weed the greens after having been shown just what to do.

It's also been suggested at the Committee that some of our younger members might be prepared to help out with work on the greens on a Sunday. This would be a great help but would need to be planned so that work did not interfere with paying golfers on their way round. Should there be a possibility this growing season when the greens will need to be scarified and re-sanded, we'll let members know.

Finally, why not have a bit of fun with the *Golfing Ant Game*, the idea for which was given to me by a Kiwi golfer who has visited the Club on a number of occasions. It's a simple game. Given a clue, can you come up with a word ending in 'ANT' which describes each golfing ant's characteristic. Go on, have a go!! Here are five questions with the clues followed by spaces for your answers.

Questions for the Golfing Ant Game

1. What do you call an ant who rents an anthill overlooking a Golf Course? A T - - ANT
2. A female golfing ant made up and decked out in an eye-catching designer label outfit is? E - - - ANT
3. How was the golfing ant who won the match play competition feeling? J - - - - ANT
4. What do you call an ant four ball player who bosses his partner around? A T - - ANT
5. The ant who knocks off a six pack every nine holes is a what? An I - - - - - ANT

I'll give you the answers in the New Year in February's 'Lie'. In the meantime, Merry Christmas!

That's it from me. Keep chipping away!

Neil Dempster