

NBGC Newsletter – 20th January 2022

President Pete's Paragraph

With the New Year break over it is back to the course works program. The green sheds were like a car park this morning with Zoysia turf for the 12th tee being delivered, more large rolls of irrigation pipes arriving plus earthmoving equipment for the new pump sheds and water tank compound arriving.

As you will see by the attached photographs the Gosford Irrigation Contractors have returned and are currently installing the fairway irrigation to the 2nd fairway & tee.

Greg and his team are not only busy keeping all turf areas cut, but today will lay the new Zoysia grass on the 12th tee.

Greg and the boys have done a great job keeping the course in wonderful condition and they have done this with two workers down due to Covid each week for the last 4 weeks. Well done.

We have also been working with our wonderful volunteer groups and providing them with additional equipment to assist them with their allocated projects.

- A new ride mower was delivered this week and will go into action on Monday.
- Two Club Car Carry All utility vehicles will soon arrive to transport volunteers and equipment around the course.
- Work has recommenced on the Geo Hex paths around the course with \$5,000 a month allocated to additional path replacement.

COURSE REPORT

GREENS:

- Greens continue to remain in good health for this time of year. Milder conditions have been favourable however increases in minimum temperatures to around 22 degrees and high humidity provide ideal conditions for disease infection.
- Fungicide applications have been increased as added protection against disease infection.
- Greens cutting heights remain at 3.5mm
- Continual applications of Calcium and Magnesium are applied to correct deficiencies caused by irrigation water and improve soil profile.
- Nematicide applications have been applied and will continue through the growing season.
- Argentine stem weevil control programs continue with population monitoring being carried out regularly. We currently have low level adult activity with low to zero larvae presence. Preventative applications continue to disrupt life cycles.
- All greens were fertilised last month with a balanced slow release product to maintain turf nutrition.

TEES:

- Reconstruction of the 12th tee has now commenced, as approved by the board we will be using Sir Grange Zoysia. This Turfgrass species exhibits a greater shade tolerance to existing species and could be favourable to improve our shade affected tees.
- We have utilised some of the healthier turf removed from the 12th tee complex to reurf highly worn areas on the 6th men's tee and 13th ladies tee.
- Dusting programs have been carried out with 80/20 soil mix on thinner tees to assist with coverage.
- Quality chicken manure is currently being sourced to aid with growth encouragement.
- Herbicide programs will continue this month to control broadleaf weeds in tees.
- All tees were fertilised last month with a synthetic fertiliser to maintain turf nutrition and increase coverage.

FAIRWAYS:

- All fairways have been fertilised last month with pleasing results. Fairway growth is very strong with many bare areas now covering over.
- Turfing programs are being carried out on fairways as new irrigation is installed to stabilise and speed up recovery around sprinklers and valve boxes. The results are fantastic I am very pleased with the minimal impact from the fairway installation.
- Coring programs on fairways have been slow with wet conditions making it difficult for us to collect cores. This program will continue through the summer months. We are seeing great results from the fairways that have already been cored.
- Cores collected are being used to fill mainline trenches and bare areas to assist in turf coverage.
- Topdressing of bare patches around green surrounds continues with 80/20 soil mix to improve coverage.
- Wetting agents are also being applied to fairways to assist with water penetration in hydrophobic areas.

BUNKERS

- Edging of bunker lips continues to be carried out monthly.
- Follow up Herbicides will be applied to control weeds in bunkers
- Selective herbicides will be used to control weeds on bunker surrounds.

STAFF

- Staff have been exceptional over the Christmas period, with shorter weeks from public holidays and staff isolating from Covid 19 we have managed to keep on top of most things. We have a busy month ahead with plenty of projects underway and will do our best to keep everything balanced.
- Covid 19 is a threat being faced by all departments at the club, to minimise the risk we reintroduced staggered start and break times. To date we have had 2 staff members infected and another in isolation with an infected family member.
- We are currently advertising for a groundsman as a replacement for Shayne Rose to regain staff levels.

IRRIGATION:

- Construction certificate for water storage tanks and new pump station has finally been received.

- Grant Webster has advised he will begin survey work on the Mahoney toadlet this week his visits will be at night on the 6th/7th January.
- Gosford Irrigation has taken leave over the Christmas break they are expected to recommence works on the 13th January.
- Installation of fairway and tee sprinklers continued last month with the 15th and 3rd holes completed as well as the 7th and 14th tees.
- Tree Loppers have completed tree removal at the pump shed site with earthworks to commence this coming week.
- We are still waiting on an updated quotation from Azcon including the formwork for the concrete ring beams.

GENERAL ITEMS

- Through the news recently you would have heard there is a world shortage on the availability of Urea, the news highlights the shortage of the Ad Blu additive used in most trucks and diesel plant. Urea (Nitrogen) is the core ingredient used in manufacturing of synthetic fertilisers. This shortage has seen a 50% increase in the pricing of fertilisers over the last 3 months, with further increases forecasted. This is going to impact on our fertiliser budget.

Greg Stynes
Golf Course Superintendent

As you can see by the report above just how busy the green staff have been. They do all this work so we can chase a little white ball around 2-3 times a week.

See you out there.

Peter Fagan
President

From the Captain

Limited spaces are available for the Opening Day event to be held on Sunday 30th January and will be a 4 person Ambrose, drop off event with a shotgun start at 12:30pm followed by the Annual Prize Giving with free snack food and subject to any existing Covid limitations.

Happy golfing

David Rann
Captain

Ladies newsletter

January 7th, 2022

Ladies,

Happy New Year! Christmas and New Year has come and gone - all too quickly, and I do hope you had a lovely time eating, drinking and playing golf.

It was my first Christmas with family and grandchildren from UK - so very special.

Gala Day

The competition is now fully subscribed, all we wish for now is a sunny day on the 1st February.

Although we have been limited to 120 in the function room, Trevor has confirmed we may have a few tables outside on the adjacent balcony. If any group would like to sit on the balcony, please let me know.

Trevor has also confirmed we can have registration in the club, rather than downstairs outside the pro shop (which I must say gets a bits chaotic when we have everyone arriving at the same time) so this will help smooth the process and allow sale of raffle tickets upstairs too. **Registration can begin 7.15am.**

If you have friends from other clubs playing with you, or with another group, please remind them they need to provide evidence of double vaccination when checking into the NBGC.

If you have not already booked your cart and you need one - best do it soon.

At this stage we are being positive about the Gala Day going ahead - however if NSW government make any further restrictions, we will inform you of the changes as soon as we know.

The draw will be published **by 25th January.**

Tuesday and Thursday Sponsorships

To help reward the winners of our weekly competitions, many of you sponsor \$30 to increase the pool of prize money on a competition day.

For those of you who are new to NBGC or do not know, each year we look for members to donate funds or vouchers (coles/woolworths/pro shop etc) to the value of \$30.

For the Tuesday competitions, three lady members will sponsor first prize in each division, and on Thursday we have two lady members sponsoring the

two divisions.

A few ladies who attended the AGM in November 2021 kindly pledged \$30 for our weekly competitions in 2021, but today I am reaching out to others who may like to contribute and we would greatly appreciate any interest.

We currently only have support until March 2022.

I will also be approaching some local companies to see if they would like to donate too. We are a small community, so keeping in touch with our local suppliers is a "win win" for everyone.

Our Captain Barbara is also looking into ways of increasing the prize pool money. If you are interested in donating as a sponsor, please click on the link [here](#) which will provide us with your details, or alternatively just contact me.

Champions of Champions

Our young Club Champion Amy Squires will be attending the Champions of Champions at Manly Golf club on 17th January, and we all wish her the very best in as this 36 hole competition. Barb Frost will be accompanying Amy for support.

Bay Buddies

The Bay Buddies begin their next semester on Tuesday 2nd February. If you are willing to be a mentor for these ladies who are new to golf and wish to learn the etiquette of our game, please contact Ann Turner on 0409 556 949.

Mentors go out with the Buddies for 9 holes on a Monday and a Wednesday afternoon around 2.30pm; Ann arranges a roster of the volunteers, according to your preferred day, spreading the load over the month.

Jeannie Punshon
0411166734

Members Newsletter

January 6th, 2022

President Pete's Paragraph

Happy New year to all.

Covid-19

As we are all aware the new Omicron variant is causing issues in most businesses. NBGC is not immune to the Covid-19 spread and we are experiencing staff shortages in most departments. Please be patient if you do experience any service delays. Staff will only return to work when they have passed all Covid protocols.

Water & Sand

It has been brought to my attention that a prominent Local Real Estate Agent known as Shorty 2022 golfing year has had a couple of early incidents on the golf course, one with water and the other with sand. It is alleged last Saturday after his tee shot on the 13th hole landed in the 13th water hazard, he took a shoe and sock off plus he took his valuables out of his pockets including his electric buggy remote control. He then hit a low running 6 iron into the bunker and after playing the shot threw his 6 iron onto the grass which hit the buggy remote and sent the buggy into the water hazard.

Yesterday with dry golf equipment Shorty hit his 3rd shot on the 7th and it plugged deep into the LHS bunker face with the ball not visible. Shorty had an almighty swing which uncovered the golf ball, but the ball still remained in its original position with Shortly tumbling down the bunker face. Shorty went on to make a 7/1 with his marker (Lukey) questioning whether he should take a penalty for grounding his club when tumbling down the bunker face!! Team Short went on to defeat team Luke 5/4!!

Course Etiquette

I know we are all getting over Christmas, but please consider other golfers with your speed of play (keeping up with the group in front of you). If you fall behind endeavor to catch up.

Rake bunkers correctly so you would be happy to play from the area you have just raked ,and keep your golf carts on cart paths and follow directional signs. I don't want to see members driving around the back of greens or parking next to paths.

The reason we have paths and direction signs (now red) is to protect the playing surfaces.

Your assistance with the above will be appreciated.

Peter Fagan
President

From the Captain

Welcome to 2022! Happy New Year! Let's hope that golfing returns to normality as soon as possible and that no further variants evolve from the dreaded Covid.

The District Championships from 2021 will now take place at Newcastle GC on Sunday 16th January for all grades. So, for \$30 (\$20 for Juniors) you can play at one of Australia's best courses and represent your own club at the same time. **Please register and pay at our Reception before this Friday 7th January at 5pm.**

All of our grade champions and the runners-up from 2021 are requested to play in this Newcastle District event. Our pennant teams would also find this quite "challenging".

By the time you read this most, if not all, of the club carts will have been retrofitted with a better GPS system than previously. But all cart drivers are expected to obey the rules to stay on the paths near the greens.

There has been quite a take-up of the new Mi Club phone app, but you must remember that the Rules of Golf still apply. If you submit an incorrect score, you may be disqualified from that comp.

I also strongly urge all players to read Rule 1 of golf where you will find that your obligations include smoothing bunkers, replacing divots and repairing pitch marks. Breaking any rule of golf can lead to disqualification if often repeated, so please make sure that both you and your playing partners know the Rules of Golf and comply with them.

We have even provided free pitch mark repairers which has led to an improvement in the greens.

I have received emails from a couple of members requesting we hold the online ballot earlier than 7pm, but as this is a temporary measure, we do not want another ballot change confusing members. Covid permitting we should

revert back to clubhouse ballots on January 27th.

Coming into the hottest part of the year, you should be aware that the Course Supt has been told that we much prefer slow greens to burned out greens. So please don't complain about the greens being slow. The new watering system is improving all the greens but being exposed to the highest summer heat will kill any green that has been cut too short or not watered enough.

One final reminder: **the Opening Day event will be held on Sunday 30th January** and will be a 4 person Ambrose, drop off event with a shotgun start at 12:30pm followed by the Annual Prize Giving with free snack food and subject to any existing Covid limitations. The booking sheet will open online only, earlier than usual, so form your teams and be ready to play in this very popular team event.

Have a great golfing year!

David Rann
Captain