



NEWSLETTER FOR GEELONG DISTRICT VETERAN GOLFERS ASSOCIATION INC

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

We started the year with optimism (doesn't every year start that way) and some trepidation having had our bid to host the 2016 VVGA State Championship accepted. As the year has gone on it has become clear that the GDVGA goes from strength to strength on the back of the support that it receives from its members.

Membership grew this year at unprecedented rates and with total membership at the close of the year at around 230 members, we can say with confidence that the future is bright.

I would like to pay tribute to two recent stalwarts of Committee who decided to stand down at this year's AGM; John Eddington and Colin McKinnon. Both have served Committee well over a number of years, variously as: President, Vice President, Captain, Vice Captain and Committee member. We should all be grateful that people like these are willing to devote time to making our Association the success that it is. We wish them both well for the future.

I also need to give a vote of thanks to the rest of the Committee for their efforts and support.

Sadly the good news is often tinged with a little bad. In this case, nearly all clubs have increased their charges to us for our games next year. This will mean some changes to fees for 2016 and this is covered a bit later in this newsletter.

It is also good to see that the turnout for games this year has increased, along with the increase in membership. For the last couple of years the average field size has been around 85 players but we are now getting close to 100 for most of our games, we even had 86 players at 13th Beach last month which is a record for that event.

It just remains for me to wish all our members and their families a very happy Christmas and a healthy 2016 and I look forward to seeing you all around the district next year.

Alan Chapman

FIXTURE CHANGES FOR 2016

Just when you think you have everything under control, somebody moves the goalposts. Shortly after the fixture list for 2016 was finished and printed we learned that Anglesea GC has arranged to have its greens cored on the same day, Monday 1st February. Bringing the game forward a week was not an option due to the Australia Day weekend and putting it back a week clashes with the first round of Veterans pennant.

Rather than reshuffle the whole fixture book, we took the decision to move the game forward to the previous Friday which is 29th January. We hope that the change of day will not inconvenience members too greatly and that we will still get a good field. Remember that this is the 4BBB game and the winners will be invited to represent GDVGA at the VVGA 4BBB Stroke Championship in March 2017.

There is also an error in the pennant fixture card. The 3rd round in Division 2 is being played on Monday 22nd February NOT Friday as it appears in print. This just goes to show that how ever many people proof read something, we are all fallible humans, something to remember when things don't suit you!



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM THE CAPTAIN

It seems another year has slipped on by, no sooner was I writing my first greeting, here we go again – it does just seem like yesterday.

This year has been for the most part a very successful year; we celebrate our Champions for 2015, and revel in the success of the Tri District series held at Portarlington. I had so many players say how much they enjoyed visiting not only the course but just the way GDVGA does things. We all should take pride in comments like that.

Please extend my sincere thanks to your clubs' Pro Shop and/or Managers for the very obliging way they assist me when making bookings and of course on days of play. It makes this job so much easier when I am trying to get the best deal possible and they are happy as well.

Pennant, while having some issues, was a great win by Clifton Springs 1 against Clifton Springs 2. Come on boys, share the love next year please!

Next year we have a huge event to host. The State Championship is being held here and I will be looking for this to be a wonderful showcase of our Association. The committee will be doing its utmost to make sure the players leave here with a smile on their face after being part of a well run, well organized tournament.

We had a change of committee at the AGM and I am very pleased to have Ray Drady as Vice-Captain. He and I are already forming a solid working relationship and I look forward to sharing the load with him in the coming year.

My sincere thanks to the entire GDVGA committee, these boys are your committee and are there to make your golf successful. Tell them thanks once in a while, we are all doing our best for the Association which is its members.

Not much more to add except I wish you and your families the safest, happiest Christmas and New Year ever.

We look forward to our first game of 2016 at The Sands on Monday 11th January.

My best wishes to your Pennant Teams for 2016, first round Monday 8th February at Portarlington.

Good golfing,

Brian Hazell



2016 FEES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual subscriptions will remain at \$25 for 2016 with a reduction to \$15 for those joining after 1st July 2016. The joining fee for new members will be increased to \$20 with effect from 1st January 2016.

Game fees will increase to \$30 per game with the exception of the games at The Sands, 13th Beach, Torquay and the Christmas game, which in 2016 will be at Anglesea. Each of these events will be dearer. A light lunch will still be provided at all games. Details of costs will be on the nomination sheets which will be sent to your delegate during the year.

Annual subscriptions are due on 1st January and must be paid before you play your first game of the 2016 programme. If you are planning to play veterans pennant in 2016, you must be financial BEFORE the first round at Portarlington on 8th February.

VETERANS PENNANT 2016

Pennant season starts on Monday 8th February at Portarlington. There will again be two divisions containing a total of 15 teams from 11 clubs around the district.

The rules of competition for 2016 are the same as for 2015. This means that you must be financial PRIOR TO the first round on 8th February, be a financial playing member of the club you are representing and you must have played 5 games from the GDVGA fixture for 2015.

If you are in any doubt as to your eligibility you should have your club delegate contact Brian Hazell, Captain or Ray Drady, Vice Captain for clarification.

The semi finals will be held at Curlewis and the final at Anglesea unless one of those teams is involved in the matches in which case alternative venues will be arranged.