



THE RIVER

Review

September, 2005



Annual dinner

The Annual Dinner, the traditional glitz and glamour night on the club's social calendar was a memorable night and set a new standard in functions at PRCC.

On arrival, guests were greeted by a stunning orange room theme that Functions Coordinator Kerry Hill spent many hours carefully composing. The tables were featured with brilliant fresh Gerbera flower centrepieces hand made by our gardener (and soon to be a mother), Kylie.

Our Catering Manager, Colleen Graham treated us to a magnificent

menu and the keen service staff kept the drinks flowing all night.

With the awards for golfing achievements now held on a separate evening - some special presentations were made to:

- Jack Layton - Life Membership as voted by members at last year's AGM.

- Jim Higgins - 40 years membership award

- Tony Mann - 2004 Club Champion's jacket.

The dance floor got a major workout to the top musical duo - a night to remember for sure.



Life Member John (Jack) Layton left with 40 year member Jim Higgins



This group found back at their table after the full time hooter in Adelaide - Go the Saints!!



Our Gardener & mum to be Kylie with her partner and course 21C Dan.

COMING HOSPITALITY EVENTS

Monday Lunch - Now every Monday

Friday Dining - next event 21st October and then weekly from November

Wednesday Twilight - 9 hole and casual BBQ dinner after - to commence in November.

Melbourne Cup Golf & Luncheon

- Tuesday 1st November - book early
All bookings can be made through the Spike Bar



Holden scramble success

Following our record field of 240, PRCC had 4 teams qualify to the regional finals, to be held at Eagle Ridge on October 18th.

1st - Andrew Davies, Angus Agisilaou, Joe Guilano HCP: 9 1/6 Score: 58 5/6

2nd - Brett Kerr, Heather Lambert, Chris Firth HCP: 5 Score 59

3rd - Steven Morris, Jeff Mead, Ang Angelidis HCP: 5 1/6 Score: 59 5/6

4th - Andrew Alexander, P.Alexander, Chris Sommerville HCP: 7 1/3 Score 60 2/3

Our thanks to Kevin Harrison Holden for sponsoring the event.

FROM THE

BOARDROOM



It's September already and we are moving into the peak time of the year for Board activity. The Annual Dinner held a few weeks ago was a brilliant effort by all involved and it was a proud moment to present Jack Layton with his Life Membership certificate & badge, along with Jim Higgins' 40 year award and Tony Mann's 2004 Club Champion jacket. It is worth noting that Ray Connolly and

Bruce Hunter were also recipients of 40 year awards this year, but were unable to make the dinner.

The InfoPres evening scheduled for Sept 21 is evolving as one of the most important communications events in recent times at the Club.

The Board recently received the first report from our retained agronomist John Neylan. So impressive is John's presentation and so important are his findings and plans for the next 12 months for the course,

that we have invited him to be a keynote speaker at the InfoPres event. John explains how applying science to our turf management will bring our course into top condition in the very near future. A summary of his presentation is also contained in this newsletter.

General Manager Brett and Treasurer Rob Wilson update our financial result from the year past and the plan for the year ahead. There is plenty of good news, as well as some home truths, that we must confront to ensure our future.

My contribution to the InfoPres is to provide an insight into the greater challenges that present to the industry at large and how that, in turn, impacts PRCC.

A copy of the InfoPres2005 presentation can be obtained either on the club website or in hard copy - available from the Golf Service Centre. Included in the presentation packs, you will receive copies of the financial tables and key commentary from the various presentations. (You will need Microsoft PowerPoint to run the club website presentation.)

The 1st of October will see the opening of Nominations for the 2006/07 Board positions. At the EGM to be held on 21st September, the Board has recommended to members that the Board be increased in size to 9 members.

In the expectation that that motion is successful, we can expect to be electing 6 positions at this coming AGM - President, Vice President, Captain, Vice Captain and the 2 new Director positions. The Treasurer and the 2 Kevin's - Stewart and Skelton were elected last year and have a further year to run on their two-year terms.

Till next edition

Chris Firth / Club President

Resort style homes



Construction and landscaping of Stage 1 at La Perouse is almost complete and beginning to take shape.

And with people now moving into their new homes, the development is truly coming to life.

Stage 2 of the development is well underway and features 28 attached double storey homes, with three bedrooms and some with studies.

Not only do these homes feature spectacular golf course or water views; some will overlook an estate park, a highlight of this stage.

Many of the homes have been specifically designed to feature balconies and upstairs living areas to maximise these views.

The homes will be finished with top of the range fixture and fittings including smeg appliances, granite bench-tops, security systems and ducted vacuum.

The front will feature low maintenance, landscaped gardens, with paved driveways and path to the front entry. A selection will also have their own water tanks.

Included with every purchase, are two complimentary memberships to the Patterson River Country Club (conditions apply).

And until October 31 2005, Australand will also pay the stamp duty on completed homes in stage 1. This is a saving of up to \$21,760.

The new sales office and furnished home located on La Perouse Boulevard, is giving prospective buyers a snapshot of the lifestyle on offer at La Perouse.

By mid September, a second furnished home will be opened for inspection.

Homes at La Perouse range in size from 155 to 182 square metres and are priced from \$407,000.



Applying Science to our Golf Course



John Neylan

A keynote presentation by respected agronomist John Neylan is the highlight of the 2005 InfoPres event. John has specialised in soil and water science as it applies to the sports turf industry for over 20 years. Among his many achievements, John's current appointment as retained agronomist to the AGU for the Australian Open, endorses him as one of the pre-eminent experts in his field. The Board appointed John on the recommendation of Course Designer, Phil Ryan, to use science to help get to the bottom of the mystery as to why some areas of our course were not coming along as well as others. Interestingly, one of the little known facts in golf course management is that most of the premier golf courses in the world use the services of a specialist agronomist. The practice can be likened to use in the medical profession of GP's and Specialists - here, Course Superintendent Michael Riordan is our course GP and John Neylan is our specialist.

The first of John's reports was tabled to the Board recently and so important are the findings that the Board invited John to share the information personally with members at the InfoPres.

An integral part of John's research was extensive scientific testing of the soil and water.

The findings and the revised programs that have evolved from the report give us all real optimism and an expectation of significant improvements to our playing surfaces by early in the new year.

A summary of the report and the tests reveals:

Greens

- Poor surface drainage - due to build up of thatch layer. Thatch is a mixture of grass clippings, fine soil particles and other materials that can form a layer that is almost impervious to water. The turf is at its strongest when root zones are deep in the ground - normally achieved by chasing the water. The "muddy" material that forms in even mild damp weather exacerbates the thatch layer. More frequent vertidrain (mini spiking), along with 2 hollow coring using larger tynes this growing season will be required to break up the thatch and improve water penetration.

- Poa Infestation in some greens - poor drainage has weakened the bent and the poa weed has infested some greens. Poa thrives in damp conditions. Chemical treatment of the infestation is creating uneven surfaces and again weakening the bent. Treatment of the poa on the 6 worst greens - 11,12,14,15,17,18 is planned to be reduced, with a focus on best possible putting surface. As we all know, poa can provide very high quality putting surface in its own right - so will the poa / bent blend surfaces. These greens may be subject to replacement of the turf in coming seasons.

- Sodium build up - treated water is the main source of the problem.



8th green - low level thatch

Sodium inhibits the growth of the bent. Higher applications of potassium required to balance.

- Bent species under review - our current bent species "Penn links" has been superseded in recent times by more durable and vigorous species - as, and when, we upgrade greens, bent species may be altered.

Fairways & Roughs

- Use of subsurface sand - has introduced a range of issues, many have been revealed by the soil tests

- Salinity - much of the sand has come from below water table and our water table has high salt levels - hence, the reason why the water in our lakes cannot be used for irrigation. Large gypsum applications to balance,

along with regular vertidrain, to ensure that the salt is "flushed" from the surface.

- Lack of organic material - the subsurface sand does not have the organic material that is required to assist the soil retain nutrients and moisture. A large application of poultry manure is scheduled.

- Chemical imbalance due to the abundance of calcium (from the shell grit) in the sand. Balancing Calcium and magnesium in the soil is vital to plant nutrition. 2 large applications of Magnesium Sulphate to restore the balance.

- Roughs immature - more top-dressing, watering, over-seeding and fertilisation.



15th green - high level thatch



Michael Riordan examines sand and peat layers in our old course fairways



Technology on course



Flightscope, which uses radar to provide precise data ideal for accurate club fitting, is being installed in the teaching centre at Patterson River Country Club.

The high-tech product is the only one on the market capable of tracking the ball for its entire flight.

Within seconds of impact, the sophisticated system lists on the computer screen information covering ball carry distance, clubhead speed, club-face contact, vertical and horizontal launch angles, spin rates and more.

Flightscope also has graphic functions that show the path of the clubhead and its angle of attack into the ball.

From a golf hardware perspective, Flightscope gives club-fitters accurate data for selecting the right shaft.

This technological breakthrough allows them to see the increase of the club velocity

just prior to impact.

This data, according to EDH Chairman Henri Johnson, means each player can be "fingerprinted" with his or her club-head speed profile.

"This level of data capability never has been available before in one complete package," said Johnson.

Mr Johnson said this capability also allowed instructors to help a golfer make swing adjustments to attain maximum club head speed at point of impact. Several high profile coaches along with a host of star players have enthusiastically embraced the FlightScope technology.

Flightscope was developed by EDH, a product-development company based in Stellenbosch, near Cape Town in South Africa.

EDH, which develops products for the military and sports markets, has as its core expertise the design and development of 3D tracking radar systems.



No breakdown

A lot of club golfers get into a bit of trouble with basic chip shots. The vast majority of problems come from poor impact conditions caused by an attempt to lift or scoop the ball into the air. This incorrect strike causes the left wrist to break down or cup at impact.

The resulting shot is a thin or bladed shot that runs straight across the green and often into trouble.

The correct impact is a left wrist that doesn't breakdown and the shaft of the club will look like an extension of the left arm.

The pictured drill uses a piece of string as a teaching aid to help with impact.

Firstly set up with a little weight into the front foot and the arms and club forming a "y" shape with the shaft is an extension of the left arm.

Place the string or wool in front (target side) of the ball. Hit the shot attempting to hit down and through the ball and string. If the strike is correct, the ball is hit then the turf, collecting the string on the way through.

If a player tries to lift or scoop the ball the club will not move the string and the strike will be poor.

Close-up



Brett Kerr
(General Manager)

Name: Brett Kerr
Birthplace: Royal Brisbane Hospital
Star sign: Aquarius
Nickname: Kerr-ee and Big Kahuna are publishable.

Football team: Any team with Brisbane in its name

Significant others:

Wife Janet & 2 daughters

Favourite Victorian holiday spot:

Still searching

Handicap: 3 and getting lessons from Gareth to see how low I can go this summer.



A few laughs

A man walked into the clubhouse and noticed a friend sitting in a corner wearing a neck brace. He sat down and asked his mate what happened. "Well, I was playing golf and I hit my ball into the rough," replied his friend. "Then I met a lady who was looking for her ball too. Finding mine, I thought

I'd give her a hand. There was a cow nearby and I noticed that every time the cow twitched its tail there was a flash of white. So I went over to it and lifted its tail and sure enough there was the ball. I called out to the lady, 'Ma'am, does this look like yours?' And the lady hit me in the neck with her driver!"

