ON THE GRAPEVINE
September 2017

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FROM THE PRESIDENT...Don Johnson
It is that time of the year again when Members need to consider their participation on a Committee to ensure that the Club continues to move forward.
Nomination forms will be forwarded out in the next few days. For the Club to succeed it is important that all the vacant positions are filled. Members who are interested can obtain a copy of the Management Handbook from the office which details the responsibilities of each Committee and of various positions on the Committees. Most positions only require attendance at one meeting per month for approximately 2 hours. Nominations this year will of course be under the current constitution as finalising the new one will not take place for a few months.

If anybody has any questions please do not hesitate to contact myself or the Manager at any time.

With regard to the restoration of the clubhouse decisions have been made on various matters and details will be displayed in the Clubhouse. This has been a long and arduous task and many hours have been put in by a number of people who have expertise in various areas.
Work will commence on the 16th October which means that on the afternoon of Sunday 15th there will be a lot of work being done to relocate the bar facilities and remove a number of items from the kitchen which will have to be stored during the renovations.
It is expected that the work will take about four weeks and a plan and time table in consultation with the contractors is being completed to ensure the work is finalised as soon as possible.
There will be some inconvenience at the time but every effort is being made to keep this to a minimum.

Main Club Sponsors...

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(FROM THE PRESIDENT…continued)

With the warmer weather approaching the course staff have been working to prepare the course for the summer months. This work will ensure we have the excellent conditions like we had last summer. The machines that were purchased for use on greens have done a good job. Rob Millington is very satisfied with the results so far. One comment that he made was that during winter he has seen drains working that he did not know existed and have never worked during the twenty years he has been at the Club.

Finally Matt Chesterman will be on leave and attending a General Managers Conference over three weeks commencing the 22nd September. Should any member wish to discuss any issues that may arise during Matt’s absence please contact myself or Julie in the office.

FROM THE GIRLS....Jan Shaw Vp Women’s Committee

Social September

Even though the weather has not been what we would expect in September we have still been attracting good size fields to social events.

Thank you to Bev Cross for organising the social golf day at the Vines on Thursday 31 August when 33 women played. Also thanks to Lil Maddern and Chris Schubert for donating a number of prizes for the day. Denise Walters has offered to organise the next Advantage Card social golf day at Flagstaff Hill Golf Club on Thursday 26th October. More details in next month’s Grapevine.

Last week on 12th September was Allen Jewellers Sponsor Day with 66 players participating. Graeme Eckert the manager of Allen Jewellers will present prizes and vouchers for winners and nearest the pin for A, B, C grades on 19th September.

The Vines Golf Club was well represented with 21 players involved in the Lady Mayoress of Onkaparinga Golf Day at Willunga Golf Club. While we didn't take home the major prizes we had a very enjoyable day and were very successful in the raffle.

What’s coming up

Monday 18th September we are holding a movie morning fundraiser at the Capri Theatre. Thank you to everyone who has provided prizes for the raffle and/or made slices for the morning tea. Special thank you to Pam Deacon for organising the event. We are anticipating around 80 people will be attending.

The Foursomes Championships commence Monday 25th September. Good luck to the 44 players who are competing. Hopefully the weather will be kinder to us this year.

Thursday 21st September is the first round of the 9 hole Challenge at the Vines against Flagstaff Hill. The following week on the 28th September the Challenge is at Flagstaff Hill. Once again we need as many players as possible to ensure a win. We are also looking for someone to manage the team at Flagstaff Hill on the 28th September as all committee members will be involved in the Foursomes Championship. Please speak to Karen Parsons if you can help out.

Thursday 5th October is our GSA Open Day, these days are a great way to show off our wonderful golf course to golfers from other clubs. The booking sheet is filling up nicely however it is not too late to invite your friends from other clubs. The booking sheet for Vines members will open 9 days prior to the event and will be an Individual Stableford Event commencing at 8.30am for a 9am shotgun start. You will need to book through the Office. The cost is $20 for members ($25 for visitors) and includes lunch.
Tuesday 10th October is the Marthax Shield event. This is an annual event between Thaxted Park and ourselves. We are playing at the Vines this year, so we need as many players to ensure we keep our name on the Shield for another year! An Expression of interest sheet will be in the locker room.

**Committee for 2017/18**
Thank you for the 4 nominations for our 2017/2018 committee - Jan Threadgold, Kathryn Hender, Judith Hill and Marina Langer. The committee is also keen for a 9 hole player to be involved on the committee next year. If you would like to know more about what is involved please speak to a committee member.

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**LADIES GET INTO GOLF CLINICS**

**THURSDAY'S @ 10am**
**OCTOBER 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th & 2nd**

**or**

**SATURDAY'S @ 1pm**
**OCTOBER 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th & 4th**

Bookings Essential

* Putting, Chipping, Irons, Woods and On Course play.

$60.00 per person for all 5 sessions

- A great fun way to start playing golf in a relaxed environment.
- Bookings to be made thru the Pro Shop - 8381 3300 or thevinespro@live.com
FROM COURSE SUB COMMITTEE...from Peter Shaw (Vice President, Course)

14th Tee Block Path
You may have noticed some work being carried out on path adjacent to the 14th Tee Block. This was due to pavers in the middle of the path subsiding, with ground staff having to excavate to determine the cause of the problem. They discovered when laying a main water line, some decades ago, a drain running from the 8th green area was cut and not re-joined at that time. We were not even aware that the drain existed. What was more baffling was why the cut drain pipe was causing a problem after all this time. The volume of water coming from the drain pipe was similar to turning a garden hose on – a quite reasonable amount of water. Rob Millington’s conclusion was that due to the use of the Air2G2 machine on the 8th green, the drainage of this green was now operating as it was designed to do. A similar issue also occurred with a washaway on the 9th path adjacent to the 13th green that required ground staff to attend to a previously unknown drain. These are amazing examples of just how good the Air2G2 is improving our golf course. Worth every penny spent.

New Bitumate Paths
The performance of the bitumate paths installed on the 18th and 3rd holes has exceed our expectations. Both paths have survived an incredible amount of rain over the past month or so with only the top “powder” being washed away to reveal the grit beneath. The overall integrity of the paths has remained fully intact. The bitumate product is now being exclusively used on any new paths and to repair all existing paths on the course.

Magpies - Why do magpies swoop?
The Golf course has a large population of Magpies and are protected under Govt. legislation – but at this time of year its Magpie swooping season again. The main problem area at present is around the 18th hole.

Magpies only swoop for about six weeks of the year when they have babies in their nest, often at the start of spring. Most magpies don't swoop, but when they do, it’s the male protecting the nest and their patch of ground.

Magpies will usually only swoop about 100m from the tree they’re nesting in. Magpies have been known to remember someone they believe to be a foe and exclusively swoop them for a lifetime which can be 25 years.

Magpie swooping avoidance strategies - Cross the road or avoid known swooping trees – this is not practical on the golf course. Show a problem magpie you're a friend using food – this usually takes up to three or four goes to achieve a result, but is not a healthy option for the bird. Draw eyes in the back of your hat, then run, because this one probably doesn't work. Your best defence may be to put up your umbrella. Last resort - plan your annual leave to be out of the country for the first few weeks of spring.

The Course Sub-Committee is always looking for your feedback on any issue any time that relates to the Course. Have a question, a suggestion or criticism, please write to feedback@vinesgolfclub.com.au. Any correspondence will be treated confidentially.
From Rob Millington...*Golf Course Superintendent*

The dry conditions of Autumn and early Winter certainly gave way to wet weather during July, August and early September with 357mm recorded at the Club over the past 9 weeks. This equates to almost 40mm average per week over that period and almost 60% of the total rainfall for the year so far. There has been some boggy patches in certain areas which have been roped off to traffic, but on the whole the course has remained in very playable condition.

The small circular patches currently visible on the fairways are caused by fungus. There is a complex of 3 fungal pathogens present including *Drechslera, Fusarium* and *Rhizoctonia*. All common turf fungal diseases. While the patches are unsightly during the cold conditions they will quickly disappear as the warmer weather comes and the turf starts to grow. Treatment using chemicals is available, but is very costly and would be treating a temporary issue. The fungus is more predominant in the thatchy surfaces of the Santa Ana grass. We have recently purchased a de-thatching unit for fairways that can quickly reduce the thatch in one pass by flicking the turf up so that mowers can follow and mow off the excess growth. You will see this in operation during late Spring and Summer. It’s called a *Terrarake* and is pictured below.

The greens will look quite yellow over the next few weeks with the start of our *Poa annua control* program for this season. The yellowing will be the result of spraying with a product that has marginal selectivity on the *Poa* compared to the desired bent grass. The bent will also yellow off a little but will recover quickly. Three applications 10 days apart will reduce the weed percentage in the greens to a point where we can move on to our next phase of the program, using growth retardants. This next part of the program revolves around timing applications relating to accumulated temperature exposure i.e. after the first application we count how many days it takes to reach a threshold of accumulated daily average temperatures and then re-apply. As average temperatures increase then application frequency will also increase proportionally. Over time the *Poa* will transition out of the turf.

**GOLF CART SHED**...*from Wayne Lines (Vice President, Hospitality)*

We are currently undertaking a review to construct a golf cart shed for members. As part of the process we need to know if you as members are interested in renting a powered unit to store your golf cart at a yet to be determined annual fee. Expressions of interest should be made to Matt at manager@vinesgolfclub.com.au, or to Wayne at waylines@hotmail.com by the end of September.
FROM THE CAPTAIN...Paul Sutcliffe

Whilst the tail end of the wintery weather is still upon us with the course becoming “re-saturated” with each heavy shower that passes, Spring is almost here.

With spring both the Women and Men’s competitions, that are Honour Board events, are coming closer.

For example the ever popular Women’s Foursomes Championship will be played on Monday, 25th to Friday, 29th September.

The Men’s Foursomes Championship is also due to be played on the day before the women’s event, on Sunday, 24th September.

Honour Board Events, it is said, favours only the top players with lowest handicaps but there is a handicap section as well.

I urge players to think about entering. The Competition is exciting and when playing with a partner very rewarding as long as the rule about saying “sorry” after playing a bad shot is remembered.

October heralds the four weeks competition play for the Men’s Club Championship. Also an Honour Board Event.

As this is played over four successive Saturdays, the Match Committee has decided that after the first two rounds players may opt out of the Stroke Event and play a stableford competition. That is... on the third and fourth Saturdays, there will be two events played at the same time, from the Blue Markers, one being Stroke and the other Stableford.

The Match Committee believe this innovation will satisfy the players still involved in the Club Championship with others contesting the Stableford Event.

Look for the entry forms for both the Foursomes and the Men’s Championship on the noticeboard and in the Pro Shop.

On another note a huge thank you to our Sponsor, Don Markwick (McDonald Conveyancing) the Pro Shop, Rob Millington and his course staff, Matt Chesterman, our Manager, and the house staff for the wonderful success of our postponed Special Guest Day on Wednesday, 30th August, 2017.

Finally congratulations to Matt Whitford on winning the Men’s President’s Trophy for 2017.

Junior Golf Sponsor...

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Steve Krause...Club Professional
Notice to Members – Clubhouse Renovation

The Committee of Management is pleased to announce that it has committed to a renovation of the Clubhouse beginning on the 16th of October.

The renovation includes;

- Refit of the Kitchen
- Refit of the Bar
- Replacement of the Carpet in the Lounge, Function Room, Hallways & Offices
- Re-Upholstering of the Members Lounge Chairs
- Replacement of the Dining Chairs.

The renovation is in line with the Club’s Strategic Plan and addresses many areas of the Clubhouse that are in need of repair or are non-compliant with relevant legislation.

Current areas of non-compliance in the Kitchen & Bar include;

- Not enough sink & hand washing facilities
- Insufficient volume of the grease arrestor
- Bar waste does not travel through the grease arrestor prior to the sewer system
- Exhaust canopy does not cover all of the cooking equipment and releases exhaust too close to the Air-Conditioning units
- Kitchen & Bar floor has holes and is coming away from the wall, making effective cleaning virtually impossible.

At the same time, we will be completing works that will enable us to;

- increase efficiency of service in the Kitchen & Bar
- offer a wider range of menus items suitable for both the regular bistro service and functions, and
- maximise the revenue generated from both areas.

Members will be advised regarding alternative dining arrangements while the works are being undertaken, and while there will be some inconvenience we expect to be able to offer Bar & Deli Food service 7 days a week.

Members will be advised of the final furnishing choices once they have been finalised over the coming weeks.

The Committee thanks you for your understanding and looks forward to a revitalised Clubhouse.

The Committee of Management
Club Sponsors...

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