



THE
COUNTRY
CLUB

LINKS

Newsletter of the Lane Cove Country Club
For the information of members and their guests

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(Edited by Ralph Sadler - email; rjsadler@bigpond.net.au)



**LANE COVE COUNTRY CLUB
WINNING APPLIANCES
2011 CHARITY PRO-AM**



WEDNESDAY 21

SEPTEMBER

**Be part of it!
Registration - \$60.00**



**HELP WANTED
WORKING BEE
Sunday 18 September
9.00 am**

Thank you to our Charity Pro-Am Sponsors, 2011

Winning Appliances



Hamilton & Co. Lane Cove

Shell – Gore Bay Terminal

Porters Liquor, Northwood

Able Liquid Waste

Caltex Star Shop, Northwood

Cedar Financial Consultants

Coca Cola Amatil

Crafrers Connect Pty Ltd

Earth Exchange

IGA Greenwich

Longueville Hotel

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Only a week to go until the Winning Appliances Charity Pro-Am, 2011. This day is always a BIG one on our golfing calendar, and is not to be missed. The Pro-am Committee headed by Wayne Belgre, Gary Holmes and Andy Moran, has been working hard to make this important event a success. I am told that the vibes coming from this committee of some eight or nine Club member volunteers, has been very positive. It has worked hard and long to ensure that all goes well on the day. If you have not yet registered to take part in this fun-day, I strongly encourage you to make the effort to register and to participate. You will not regret your decision.

Speaking of committees, most other clubs have a full-time secretary-manager to do the many day-to-day jobs required to successfully run a club such as ours. We rely a great deal on volunteers to carry out many of these essential tasks. It has been the policy of your current Board to try to “spread the load” of the work that needs to be done, tapping into the experience and expertise of our members to assist with the successful running of our Club. As a result, at the moment we have at least four Board sub-committees operating (apart from the two golf committees). One sub-committee is in charge of monitoring and responding to our ongoing relationship with Council. Another is looking after the social activities of our Club life. A third is currently reviewing our Constitution with a view to bringing it up to date. You will hear more about this later. A fourth is the Marketing sub-committee headed by Michael Meade. We are indeed lucky to have a pool of volunteers always willing to contribute when needed.

Recently the men held their AGM. My congratulations to those Club-minded members who have once again put their hands up to fill the places on the Men’s Golf Committee. Unfortunately, the very important position of Captain was not filled. President Tony Larwood would be only too happy to hear from anyone willing to fill this vacancy.

On 17 August, a large crowd of members and guests saw Anthony Roberts, MP for Lane Cove, assisted by a number of Club stalwarts, push the plunger to turn on the lights as the culmination of Stage 1 of Project Uplight. The effect of the lighting is magnificent and a credit to the hard work done by Ian Butters and Steve Robertson in seeing this project through to its completion.

Finally, a reminder that there will be the usual Pro-am Working Bee on **Sunday 18 September**, beginning at 9.00am. Please give some thought to assisting in making sure the clubhouse and surrounds look their sparkling best for the 2011 Winning Appliances 2100 Charity Pro-Am.

DAVE HAUGH

WHAT'S ON AT YOUR CLUB



Join your mates at the Club to cheer the Wallabies on to World Cup victory, again!

Put these dates in your diary or mobile



Saturday 17 September	6.30	Australia v Ireland
Friday 23 September	6.30	Australia v USA
Saturday 1 October	3.30	Australia v Russia
Saturday 8 October	6.00	QF 1 **
Saturday 8 October	8.30	QF 2
Sunday 9 October	6.00	QF 3
Sunday 9 October	8.30	QF 4
Saturday 15 October	7.00	SF 1 **
Sunday 16 October	7.00	SF 2
Sunday 23 October	7.00	Final **

**** Probable Wallabies match**



**FULL SWING
QUARTET
JAZZ ON FRIDAY,
7.00-10.00**

Guest Artists - SEPTEMBER

- Friday 2 – Rob Thomas*
- Friday 9 – Susan Gai Dowling*
- Friday 16 – Richard Booth*
- Friday 23 – Gary Bingham*
- Friday 30 – Helen Fenton*

**CENTURY 21 BLUNTS PLAYER
OF THE MONTH**



The men have a comprehensive winner for the August Century 21 Blunts Player of the Month award.

With not having played his best golf over the last couple of months, it was no surprise to see Steve Robertson finally come back into form during the July and August medals rounds. Steve had two great rounds and finished up with nett 57 and nett 58 for the two medals.

That sort of form was too good for the rest of the field and once again we had

a first time winner.
Congratulations Steve.

WAYNE BELGRE

FROM THE BOARD

2011 Charity Pro-Am

As reported by the President earlier, a sub-committee headed by Wayne Belgre, Gary Holmes and Andy Moran, has taken on the task of the organisation and running of the 2011 Charity Pro-Am. The thanks of the Board go to these three gentlemen, as well as the five or six other committee members, for volunteering to organise and run this important annual event.



Lane Cove Council

In reply to our letter 13 July asking for details of the financial position of the course, the Board has received from Lane Cove Council a 7-page letter, dated 1 September. Your Board, and the so-called "Ad Hoc Committee" has begun consideration of the lengthy and detailed contents of this letter and it will respond to Council when this analysis has been completed. The Board's initial response is that not all the questions we raised in our earlier letter have been addressed. We will keep you informed.

Marketing Committee

The Marketing sub-committee's brief, starting from a very low marketing base, was to develop and implement a marketing plan to increase the public visibility and image of the Club, to increase membership and to drive Club patronage and revenue. Stage 1 results of the sub-committee's work can now be seen in the signage in and around the Club, promoting the Club and its facilities in general and *Fairway 9* and *The Right Place* in particular. Together with these internal initiatives, 10,000 flyers advertising the Club's social amenities and promoting both golfing and social Club membership have been produced and letterbox dropped throughout the lower North Shore.

As well, advertisements have been placed in various local press outlets, including The Weekly Times, The Lane Cove Observer and The North Shore Times, together with editorial material, for example, the Project Uplight turning-on ceremony and the 2100 Pro-am, has been supplied to these papers. There are already some promisingly positive results of this campaign.

Project Uplight

As most members would know, the first stage of Project Uplight, the lighting of the trees on the 9th /18th fairway, has been completed. Stage 2 will entail the installation of solar panels on the roof of the clubhouse.

WOMEN'S GOLF



It's that time of year again. The weather is warming up, the trees are getting new leaves, the wildflowers are out, the greens are in good shape and running well, and the golf course is getting all the attention needed to prepare it for our annual Pro Am. I don't think this is reason for the change of date of our Championship stroke rounds, but it should help us play our best golf.

The First Round of the Championship which this year is now including a separate C Grade competition, was played on Thursday 1st and Sunday 4th September. A Grade net was won by **Monica Cowper** (30) with a score of 59, with **Jenny Walsh** (21) winning the Scratch with 84 strokes. **Marghanita**

Da Cruz (33) won both B Grade Net (59) and Scratch (92) on the Sunday. On the Thursday **Suzanne Traill** (40) had both the Competition's best Net (61) and Scratch (101) scores in C Grade. There are two more rounds to determine the overall winners, and a number of players are in contention.

With the **Foursomes Championship** now being held in August, some of the colourful matching outfits of competing teams were forced to include a warmer layer this year. But this did not deter **Sue Currie** and **Jenny Walsh** either from turning up in striking matching pants and shirts or from playing their best golf to win the Club Championship with a scratch score of 182. Congratulations also to the Net winners over the 2 week competition, **Janet Greene** and **Sue Kallas** (Handicap 26.5) with a final score of 134.5.

(Continued over)

WOMEN'S GOLF *continued*

The last Sunday in August is an important date for Lane Cove Ladies as we play off for the **Gold Brooch**, which can only be won once by a player who has already won a Silver Brooch. This Sunday Stroke game every second year also determines that year's winner of the **President's Cup**. We were all thrilled this year when **Jan Sadler** (36), our Captain, came in with a net score of 60 to win the day. Jan already has a Gold Brooch, so though she wins the President's Cup, the Gold Brooch went to **Susique Doughty** (27), our Sunday Captain, with a net score of 60. Congratulations to two very hard working members of our Club.

Players from both Thursday and Sunday are encouraged to play for the Captain's Salver on Thursday 29th September. This is a Stableford game and one of our regular Sunday/Thursday events.

Thank you to all the players who took part in the **Bronze IV Pennant** this year, and to Averill Chase as Captain. On 12th August, Castlecove (4) beat Lane Cove (1) at Northbridge with **Rosemary Hurford** winning her match, and on the final day at Gordon, our team beat Northbridge 3-2 with **Robyn McElvenny** and **Maureen Dunn** winning, and one match being forfeited. Concord was the overall winner of the Pennant.

Congratulations to **Jan Lanser** who recently successfully completed the **Rules of Golf Accreditation** course and examination.

A very warm welcome to three new members: **Rosemary Cornell, Jo Scrase** and **Gretchen Henry-May**. We all hope you will enjoy playing golf with us at Lane Cove and look forward to getting to know you.

Good Golfing!

JANET LEAN



MEN'S GOLF



Hi all you swingers out there, this is your men's Golf president bringing you the latest news and views hot from my two index fingers and straight to you in golf land.

Men's AGM gone and forgotten, pretty much a non-event, same old same old. A Captainless ship we are! Nobody stood up to be counted to take up this important role. Still, we shall soldier on! As the prophet said, "Better men with strong shoulders, than those with feet of clay"

Winning Appliances Charity Pro-Am coming up and spots are filling up fast. So, if you wish to play, best you see **Wayne Belgre**, or **Andy Moran** to secure a spot! Only \$60,00 for a fun-filled day, all in the cause of charity, so be quick. It's on the 21st of this month.

Four Ball Knockout finally over, and congratulations to **Nick Walser** and **Howard Shaw** who defeated **Adrian Hall** and **Wing Cheung** in the final. You fought the good fight, and better luck next time.

Warren and Gibson pennants over for another year with the final matches against The Coast at home. Both teams did really well and only missed by a half to go through to the next round. "Better to have played and lost, than never to have played at all"

Congratulations to the Marketing team for their fine efforts in promoting the Club. The pull-up banners for *The Right Place* and *Fairway 9* are great! Thanks to Adrian Hall's photographic skills, we are looking very smart as a club. Sue, Gary, Michael and Ralph, a job well done.

Anyone who has not been to the Club in the night time would not have seen the illuminated trees. Another job well- done, thanks Butts to you and your team.

As I sit with drink in hand, ciggy smoke drifting into the ether, a thought! "What if !"

TONY LARWOOD (President, Men's Golf)

TOWARDS A BETTER GOLF COURSE

GMAC Reduced To Quarterly Meetings.

Meetings of the Golf Course Management Advisory Committee (GMAC) have now been put onto a quarterly basis. Council has not provided funds in their Course budget to undertake the further capital improvements to meet the recommendations of their consultant EnviroLinks. These improvements are needed to move the course closer to GMAC's formal Objective: *Benchmark Standard*.



Falling Course Revenue

Council is justifiably concerned at falling course revenue over recent years as has occurred at all courses across the country. Clearly the well-documented downturn in the golf industry has been partly responsible for the alarming fall in the number of public rounds played at Lane Cove. Based on Council's own course usage data, our members' rounds have fallen over the past ten years, but nowhere to the extent of the fall in public rounds.

'Condition' of the Course not the same as 'Standard' of the Course

In a recent letter to the Club, Council reacted to the Club's criticism of the course by stating that the two Club representatives on GMAC had commented favourably on the **condition** of the course as the best they have seen it in years. This is true. The course is, thanks to Bob Batho and his team's daily maintenance, in as good a condition as can be expected given the course limitations (small, heavily shaded tees, drainage problems etc) he has to work with.

A little bit of context and history seems to be needed here, for it has clearly been forgotten, and there seems to be confusion between the **standard** of the course on the one hand and the **condition** of the course on the other.

The Benchmarking Report

The Benchmarking exercise, reluctantly agreed to by Council staff in 2004, was jointly funded by Council and the Club. It had the endorsement and strong support of a majority of Councillors, and it examined the relative **standard** of Lane Cove Golf Course with other public courses with which Lane Cove had to compete. Lane Cove came out an utter failure on the overall **standard** of 'playability' of turf surfaces compared to Balgowlah, Cammeray, Castle Cove, Gordon and Northbridge. Lane Cove's score was 19 out of 40! The best (Balgowlah) scored 32 and the next worst to Lane Cove were Gordon and Castle Cove each with 25.

When the Lane Cove municipality was in the top 4% of the 587 NSW postcodes ranked by affluence under a study by Prof. Tony Vinson (UNSW) in 2004 - and other Lane Cove community assets were of a high standard - Councillors recognised that it was unacceptable to have a major community asset of such poor **standard** that it was commonly referred to as a "goat track". GMAC was formed as a direct result of the Benchmarking Report's findings, with a stated Objective contained within its Charter - *to improve the Course to **Benchmark Standard** based on best practise in the golf industry*.

Improvements have been made and the **course standard** has been improved, but it must be recognised that these are "catch up" improvements. Before it reaches **Benchmark Standard** the course is still in need of the further **capital improvements** recommended by Council's own consultant, EnviroLinks. It is within this context that Bob Batho and his team deserve praise for presenting the current course in good **condition** for its current standard - but any suggestion that the **standard** of the course itself has reached GMAC's objective of **Benchmark standard** is fanciful.

Significant among the reasons stated in the Benchmark Report for Lane Cove's poor standard were the years of neglect caused by poor management practises and inadequate funding in the past. Council's own consultant referred to inadequate funding in the EnviroLinks Report.

The Way Forward

In the face of the current downturn in the golf industry, improvements to the standard of the course will not prevent the fall in numbers unless accompanied by proper course management practises, which afford the public golfer a good golf experience. A poor experience at Lane Cove will guarantee the public golfer goes elsewhere to play his next game.

(Continued over)

TOWARDS A BETTER GOLF COURSE (continued)

Before the appointment of BlueFit Leisure, past course management largely ignored dress and etiquette codes. There was no on-course supervision as required under the Course Management Agreement between Council and the appointed Course Manager. This resulted in the regular public player too often getting caught behind a group of four or five holding up play and unaware of etiquette and their responsibilities to others on the course. Alcohol was also being consumed on the course!

Course improvement is one thing, but course reputation is another. The regular public player who has a bad experience does not return. Moreover he spreads the word and the course reputation suffers. This is the last thing a golf course needs in a downturn. And, it is totally avoidable if Council insists on the conditions of the Course Management agreement being met!

On a positive note we are very encouraged by the appointment of BlueFit Leisure, the professional approach of their people, and we look forward to working with them productively in the future.

IAN BUTTERS AND HELEN PRENTICE

LEGACY RUM CUP DAY 2011



This year's annual Legacy Day/Rum Cup was held on Saturday 18th June 2011. It really was a fantastic day that couldn't have happened without our generous sponsors and members.

We would like to acknowledge this year's very generous donors;

- DAVID & BEN LECKIE - PORTERS NORTHWOOD -
- THE LONGUEVILLE HOTEL - 2 * \$75 VOUCHERS
- GREG DEACON - 1 DOZ BALLS
- SUE KALLAS - ORIGINAL PAINTING
- ANDY MORAN - AUSTRALIA POST VARIOUS
- DAVID MC FARLANE, BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS - PUTTER
- GARY ASHWORTH - CASE OF CORONA
- RALPH SADLER - CASE OF CORONA
- ANDREW CORISH, STAUNTON & THOMPSON - \$50
- IAN BUTTERS - 2 DOZ BALLS
- STEPHEN BARNES - GOLF TOWEL & WINE CHILLER
- WAYNE MEADER - 2 CASES SPECIALTY BEER
- ADRIAN HALL - PHOTO PORTRAIT
- KASEY HENSHAW - 2 * ½ HOUR GOLF LESSONS
- RAY THE BUTCHER, KIRIBILLI \$35 - VOUCHER
- GREG STEPHENSON - WELLSTONE SEAFOOD - 5 * \$10 VOUCHERS
- JEFF BACK - ELECTRIC DRILL & GROOMING KIT
- NEV BASIC - 3 * TITLEIST GLOVES
- DAVIN TEARLE - SIGNED "GILLY" MINI CRICKET BAT
- BOI CAPITAL AUSTRALIA - ALASDAIR CAUSH - LOTS OF GREAT STUFF!
- DAVE HAUGH - 6 BOTTLES WINE
- LANE COVE COUNTRY CLUB - RUM
- TONY LARWOOD - BREAKFAST FOR 2 AT THE RIGHT PLACE
- KIT'S FAIRWAY 9 RESTAURANT - 2 * \$50 VOUCHERS
- DAVE MARTIN - RAY'S CAFÉ PYRMONT - VOUCHERS
- PHIL DENNIS - \$50 VOUCHER
- MICHAEL MEADE - BOTTLE 2005 389 CAB SAV **(Continued over)**

LEGACY RUM CUP DAY 2011 (continued)

Special recognition also to Huw McFarlane who was the “Bagman”, taking “nearest the pin” bets on the 9th/18th hole in Denis Morris’s absence.

Thanks to Tony Larwood for doing the Snags & Onions at halfway!

Thanks also to;

- * Captain Greg Deacon & the Men’s Golf Committee for helping me with all the preliminary work.
- * All the Men’s Golf Committee & Bar Staff who helped selling raffle tickets in the weeks leading up to the Legacy Day.
- * The people who helped out on the day, with Rums on the deck, raffle ticket sales and particularly to Greg & Logan Deacon, Huw McFarlane & Steve Barnes for the writing up of the results and doing the raffle prizes draw.

The winner of the Rum Cup “9 hole” event was Junis Karppinen (5) who had 24 points. The Legacy Shield 2BBB team event was won Paul Sullivan (17) & PK Kremer (29) who had 45 points, from Ralph Sadler & Rob Hipsley.

On a sad note, Ron Hatchett, our contact/co-ordinator at Legacy for many years, passed away 2 weeks before this Year’s Event at the age of 87. Our condolences go to Ron’s Family. Ron quite often came down to the Club with his wife for lunch on Sunday, enjoying the view from the deck and the Club’s hospitality. He was a true “gentle man” and gave over 40 years of service to both Legacy and also Outward Bound as a Trustee. Ron was much loved and highly respected by all those who knew him.

This year I am pleased to say that we were able to donate **\$2,500** to Sydney Legacy!



I was looking at the Legacy web site just to get a couple of sentences about what they do:

“Legacy is dedicated to caring for the families of deceased veterans. Today Legacy’s caring and compassionate service assists over 100,000 widows and 1900 children and dependants with a disability. Legacy is a voluntary organisation supported by veterans, servicemen and women, and volunteers drawn from all walks of life. Our support and services now extend to include the dependants of members of today’s Australian Defence Force who lose their lives as a result of their military service.”

Over the last 7 years we have donated \$18,500 to Legacy. That’s a lot of money. Our Lane Cove Members should be proud. Every year, ALL of you put your hands in your pockets, buy raffle tickets, donate prizes organise help & play on the Day. Everybody is involved! (AND, once again, if you think you didn’t do enough this year, you can always do more next year!)

David McFarlane
Treasurer Men’s Golf Section - Legacy Day Co-ordinator

Thank You

The Club is indebted to Ray Miles and Pippa Mares from Evans and Peck Pty Ltd at Chatswood, for the printing of Links each month.