

THE CAPTAIN'S TALE

JUNE 2008

IPSWICH GOLF CLUB
Editor John Roderick

A GREEN DEFENCE

As our putting greens are presently running true and have been for about six weeks it now seems an appropriate time to correct a few of the many misconceptions that are talked about in our golf community.

Regularly we receive some very negative comments about the state of our putting surfaces.

The greens are cut every day except Sunday.

During the championships they were double cut on Thursdays using the grooming reels.

The only time that the greens are not cut outside of the colder winter period for six days of the week is for maintenance reasons.

Presently the greens are cut at 4 millimeters as this is the recommendation of the course superintendant as he is of the belief that to cut any lower he would lose the greens when we come out of winter due to the severity of frost that we have in Ipswich, especially down on the flat (10,14,15,17 and 11).

Many compare us unfairly with other courses in other regions. They have different rainfall and very different variances in winter temperature.

We have detailed information that over the last

three years the winter minimum temperatures in Ipswich vary about six degrees below the Brisbane and North and South Coast regions. The maximum temperature also can vary similarly.

We have different rainfall and temperatures to Oxley, Gailes and Boonah. Courses that we are often compared against.

Budget constraints in the past may have contributed to what some members now believe are below standard putting surfaces.

There are greens with different soil profiles as greens were built/rebuilt at various times by different committees. This is not a criticism of previous administrations but a fact we are now facing.

It is amazing how many golfers when they miss a putt or can't read a green, blame the green and this follows on to the green staff and board and whoever else they deem is responsible. Never one's self.

Peter Currey does a fine job in difficult circumstances and while we admit the greens are not pristine they are not as bad as some of the self appointed experts would have their audience believe.

PRO SHOP

Negotiations have been completed with our resident professional Steve Jenkins on his new contract.

As a result of those negotiations as from July 1 Steve and his pro shop staff will be responsible for all golfing operations within our club.

From the preparation of timesheets to supplying results to the newspapers and updating the website will be done by pro shop staff. This includes all social golf and corporate golf bookings and course marshalling.

All golfing operations, dress standards and the running of competitions will be carried out by the pro shop staff as set out in board policies.

Any golfing issues such as ball run downs, countbacks and disqualifications should now be referred to the pro shop from July 1.

NEW COURSE

Seven holes (2,7,8,13,14,15 & 16) are almost completed and planted with Velvetene (tee to green) and have been oversown with winter grass.

The Velvetene is expected to become dormant during winter and only start actively growing again in spring when the ground temperature gets to above 12 degrees. The winter grass is regarded as a transitional grass and when kept mown to prevent the grass going to seed, will die off under summer soil heat.

The remaining four holes (3,4,5 & 6) on the new land are expected to be completed next month ready for planting with Velvetene in spring.

It is anticipated that holes 10, 11 and part of 12 will be required for development in mid July and the temporary holes on 3 and 6 will come into play at the same time.

MEMBERS BEWARE

FROM 1 JULY

IF YOU DO NOT PAY YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2008-2009 BY 30 JUNE YOU WILL BE DECLARED UNFINANCIAL

AN APPLICATION FEE OF \$200 WILL APPLY FROM JULY 1

KIDS IN CARTS

All members should be aware that it is board policy that only persons over 18 years of age or persons who hold a driving licence are able to drive a golf cart on our golf course

MEMBERS DETAILS

As captain it is frustrating when trying to contact members for various golf related issues that the members details in club records are not correct.

Home address, home telephone, mobile phone and email address.

We protect these details as required under Queensland's Privacy Legislation and are only used for legitimate golfing business.

Please spend a moment at the reception desk in the near future to check that your details are correct and update if necessary.

Check the May Newsletter for details on a chance to win dinner for two by providing your current email address by June 30

GOLF RULES

During the recent Members Club Championships we had a couple of incidents that need clarification.

A ball hit into the rubbish on the left hand side of the third fairway and can not be located must be treated as a lost ball and the player under penalty of one stroke play a ball as near as possible at the spot where the ball was last played. The rubbish is not intended to be removed and is considered to be part of the course

A player has to be virtually certain that a ball lost in the dam on the left hand side of 14 is actually in the dam otherwise it should be treated as a lost ball and the player under penalty of one stroke play a ball as near as possible at the spot where the ball was last played.

In both cases when the ball is lost the player can not take a drop under penalty at the point where they estimate the ball was lost in the rubbish or dam

SATURDAY CHANGES

At a recent special general meeting the articles of association of the Ipswich Golf Club were amended resulting in the removal of the Associates Membership Category. Associates will now choose to become either a 6 day or ordinary member.

Effective from July 1 only ordinary members (male or female) will be eligible to play in Saturday competitions.

Timeslots for female golfers will no longer be marked on timesheets. The Saturday timesheets will be fully integrated with male and female able to occupy any slot on the timesheet.

Ladies timeslots will be allocated when men's 4 ball events are scheduled.

Males and females will be allowed to play in the same group but in different competitions.

Visitors will be allowed to play under normal visitor's fees and conditions.

MID WEEK CHAMPIONSHIPS CHANGED

Due to the pending changes to the course layout in mid July to make way for the new course construction on parts of the current back nine a decision has been made to bring forward the Mid week Championships.

The championships will now be played as follows:

ROUND 1 (Back Nine) 19 to 25 JUNE

ROUND 2 (Back Nine) 26 to 2 JULY

ROUND 3 (Front Nine) 3 to 9 JULY

ROUND 4 (Front Nine) 10 to 16 JULY

It is anticipated that holes on the back nine will be required for the new course immediately after the mid week championships. (See Page one for further details)

MEMBERS SURVEY—APRIL

ONE TEE START AND 9 OR 11 HOLES

Many thanks to the members that responded to the April edition survey on a one tee start on a Saturday during winter and an 11 hole competition when we go temporary greens on holes 3 and 6 when we are in a transition period between the new and old courses.

The survey revealed that members do not want a one tee start and are willing to play an 11 hole mid week-competition when required