

# ***PUTTING IT TO YOU***

## ***OFFICIAL MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER OF THE RPAGC***

**ISSUE 8**

**13<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2009**

Well here we are nearly half way through October with less than 10 shopping weeks before Christmas and well over  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the year completed. Can you warrant that it is all of 10 years since the recognised “new millennium” (actually, it was one year early, as it was only due at the end of 2000) when the millennium bug, Y2K, would cause chaos throughout the globe as computers crashed, communications broke down and the organisation of the world as we knew it would be destroyed? Well, it didn't happen and we all survived the disaster *that never took place* and here we are one decade on and carrying on as if nothing happened.

Its also nearly a year since the first *PUTTING IT TO YOU* was published and now we are issuing edition number 8. The aim of the newsletter was to keep members up to date and abreast with what was going on at the RPAGC. It was the brainchild of Cecil Jones-Phillipson and supported by the new committee at the end of 2008. Do you think it has satisfactorily achieved its ambition? Any constructive criticism or ideas as to how we might improve the document would be much appreciated. Just remember that the idea was to produce a *newsletter*, not a *newspaper* or *magazine*, in other words to keep it more personal with matters pertaining to RPAGC members rather than golf as a whole. You can write to me at [terrymel@telkomsa.net](mailto:terrymel@telkomsa.net) or leave written comments for my attention (Terry Harris) at the club.

The future of golf is dependent upon our younger generation and, if we wish to see the sport flourish in decades to come, it is imperative that we develop both deep routed interest and skills into the young of today. Junior Golf at the RPAGC is led by Corrie van Zyl who, with enthusiastic back-up from senior club members such as Glynnis Renecke and Derek Sinclair, coaches a group of girls and boys every Friday afternoon. In this issue there is news of the development of a mashée course within the club's grounds that can be used to enthuse these youngsters. Also, the club is now sponsoring the Junior Section to the tune of R1 000 per month.

There was a very positive response to Issue 7's notes on the indigenous antelope found on our golf course. We have followed up by penning some pictures and notes on the mongooses and hares that we occasionally see at the RPAGC. I hope you find them interesting.

### **CAPTAIN'S COMMENTS**

The year has flown by and it is Annual General Meeting time again. Our audit has been completed and we have set the date for 30<sup>th</sup> October. Two committee members, Greg Brackenridge (has left town) and Ross Purdon will not be available for re-election. Our finance committee of Tom Tagg and Rob Hoar have spent many hours at the club in recent weeks helping our Admin. staff put all in order to satisfy the auditors. We are most grateful to you both.

The land deal still lingers with the developer having now instituted legal proceedings against the club and the Ndlambe Council. A delegation from the Council leaves this week for Pretoria in an effort to finalise the transfer and bring this sorry tale to a satisfactory conclusion. We await details from our attorneys.

The spring programme on our greens is complete and the recent most welcome rains have had a marvelous effect on the course. Some of our fairways will be shaped and narrowed, notably to the right of the 7<sup>th</sup> from the green back to the 150m mark. We have allowed the fairways to grow, only cutting once a week, but will now cut twice a week and shape the semi rough. Those of you with carts please obey the direction signs and assist us by keeping carts off the fringes of the greens and varying your routes around the course. Thank you all for your understanding and patience at this time.

## MANAGER'S COMMENTS

Kevin Harpur writes: As a city boy I had my first experience of witnessing the darting of a deer the other day, and the procedure that followed thereafter. As most of you know, one of our Fallow deer had plastic rope caught in its antlers and became very stressed. Despite an earlier attempt by Dr. Leon de Bruyn to dart it, the deer managed to escape and disappeared for many days. By the 3<sup>rd</sup> October the deer was really in a bad way and this time an attempt at darting was successful. It took about 8 minutes for the drug to take effect and when we got close we saw that the rope had entwined itself really tightly around the deer's head and jaw. There was a nasty wound under the jaw which required considerable treatment. One eye had also been hurt. Obviously the poor animal had been unable to eat without great suffering. The rope was so tight that Leon had difficulty cutting it off. We then stood in the sun for over an hour holding up his head by the antlers until it finally "came round" and staggered away. By late that afternoon it was up and grazing. It has now fully recovered and is back with its "fellow fallow". In future we will do everything possible to restrict the use of plastic rope on the course and use stakes by preference should an area of the course need to be marked off.

We have some new additions to the fare available at our bar. *Hansa Draught* is now on sale with sales going very well. I am sure we will reach the target required to qualify for the installation of a permanent draught dispenser. We are also awaiting delivery of smaller *Hansa Draught* glasses, although we now have plenty of the 500 ml versions available.

Another new addition is *Bavaria*, a non-alcoholic beer which is also becoming very popular. *Windhoek Draft*, presently available in cans, will shortly only be available in bottles as the cans are to be discontinued.

*Bottled still water* is now available in the bar as well. It appears that *Rock Shandy* has been discontinued so we will have to mix our own at the bar.

As you are aware, annual subs were due by the 1<sup>st</sup> of July, 2009. Normally the club allows a period of grace before following up outstanding dues. Please note that that period is now up and names of members who have not paid will be posted on the club notice-board. So if you are a defaulter, please react to this request for payment ASAP.

The audit is finally over so the Admin office can resume its normal functions. Thank you to Tom Tagg, Rob Hoar, Brenda and Denise for all their efforts and time commitment during this period. Rob may even have time for the odd Castle now.

Our combined Club Draw & Steak night evenings have gone really well and booking is essential for these functions. Bella continues to produce the best steaks in Africa and we now have live music at these monthly events, so bring your friends and party with us.

The Annual General Meeting is set to take place on FRIDAY, 30<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER at 6.00pm. Please make every effort to attend. Bella will be providing food afterwards – menu to be advised.

In the words of the Beach Boys "Wouldn't it be nice ....." to wake up in the morning feeling great, jump out of bed and race to the golf course. Then have a great game on this fantastic course of ours, thank the Heavens that we are all alive and that the sun is shining. Afterwards have a quick shower, go to the bar where the beers are cold and the welcome friendly. Then chat to our friends...maybe collect a prize (or two), go home and say "I am really privileged to belong to this great coastal course and I'm going to do everything I can to make it an even happier club. Yup "wouldn't it be nice...".

## OBITUARIES

Sadly, there have been a number of past and present members who have passed away in the past few weeks. In recent times, past members of the 1820s, no longer playing but still well remembered, Dick Townsend, Ron Mobbs, Roy Hare and Ian Poutz have all passed on. We wish to express our sympathy to all surviving friends and members of their families.

Tony Botha was a familiar face around the 1820s and had been for well over a decade. Having recently had a heart by-pass operation, Tony was well on the way to recovery and back playing golf with the 1820s. It was with great sadness that we heard he had collapsed and died whilst lunching at

a local restaurant. Tony was by nature a quiet individual who always gave of his best for the club and volunteered to help out with such tournaments as the Mad Hatter, where he acted as a starter or marshal or in any requested capacity. He will be sadly missed.

It was with great shock that we learned of the untimely passing on of Richard Broderick on 4<sup>th</sup> October. Richard was one of the stalwarts of the 1820s where he acted as one of the Monday/Thursday competition organisers. He had also been on the Mad Hatter Committee over a number of years, including in both the capacity of Secretary and Chairman. Affectionately known as *Moer & Soek*, a name given to him due to the manner by which he played his golf, Richard was a familiar face around the club and known by many beyond the fringes of the 1820s. He was just 65 years old. Our deepest sympathy to his wife Heather and daughters Michelle and Claire.

We should also like to pass on our deepest condolences to KGB and PAM regular Peter Smethurst who last week lost his wife Joan after a long battle with cancer.

### **COURSE AND GREEN MATTERS**

We were grateful for the recent 30 mm of rain that fell, greatly assisting our Summer treatment of de-thatching, verti-cutting and top-dressing of the greens. This was followed the next week by an application of Gypsum (Hydrated Calcium Sulphate) and another topdressing. Please accept my apologies to all golfers who have had to putt through our treatment during this period. The old adage that "You have to be cruel to be kind" applies. All fairways were sprayed with 1.0.1. fertilizer and the response has been almost immediate.

You would have noticed that we have only been cutting the fairways once a week in order to reduce our fuel bill. However, with the extra growth now being experienced, it will be necessary to cut more frequently. All dead patches have been re-sodded and I am happy with the response we are getting on the 14<sup>th</sup> green.

It is anticipated that the de-thatching might be repeated towards the end of October to remove any of it remaining. All the fairways will be receiving 2 000 kg of Dolomite Lime / hectare as indicated by our soil analysis results, followed by verti-cutting and de-thatching. The hill about 100 meters from the green on the 7<sup>th</sup> fairway has been fertilized with 2.3.2 and irrigated to stop golf balls rolling down into the bush on the right.

We will be narrowing certain fairways in order to make them more challenging. A favourable spin off from this will be a saving in fuel costs. It is anticipated that this job will be completed before the Kelly Foursomes.

The completion of the fencing is on hold at present, as well as the leveling of the 13<sup>th</sup> tee box which will also be extended by some 5m for the Ladies.

A short mashée course will be constructed in the vicinity of the old practice area and near the dam (close to the 13<sup>th</sup>) when time allows.

With reduced number of rounds in the club and the general financial crunch, we are sticking strictly to the constraints of our budget.

### **LADIES' SECTION**

We played the last of our four rounds of the Eastern Cape Monday League matches on 7<sup>th</sup> September. Apart from ourselves, there are eight teams represented: St Francis Links, St Francis Bay, Jeffries Bay, Humewood, Walmer GC, two teams from the Port Elizabeth GC and a Country Districts side drawn from Grahamstown, Uitenhage, Bedford and Fort Beaufort. Country Districts and Walmer GC tied for first place and we were delighted to secure the third spot. Special thanks to Ingrid Griffiths, our League Captain, for all the organising she has done for all fixtures.

The Winter Knockout Match-play sponsored by Rosehill Superspar has been progressing well, despite the unpleasant weather conditions that have recently plagued us. We have now progressed to the semi-finals which will be contested by Ingrid Griffiths, Shirley Heny, Margie Siegers and Dee Jones-Phillipson. The Heny Trophy will be presented to the winner along with Rosehill Superspar vouchers for her and the runner-up on 27<sup>th</sup> October.

Will all lady members note that the AGM of the Ladies Section will be held at 18:30 on Tuesday

20<sup>th</sup> October.

STOP PRESS: The ladies' matchplay final will be between Shirley Heny and Margie Siegers.

### **PAM: PORT ALFRED MIXED**

Feel like a game of golf on Saturday, but can't make the afternoon competition for any reason? Or would you like a game, but prefer a casual Alliance Format rather than a more formal sponsored competition? Then PAM could be the answer to your dilemma.

PAM is a mixed competition (ladies and gents) held every Saturday morning with a draw at 07.45 am in the club's restaurant. The draw endeavors to mix the sexes in each covey (3- or 4-ball). Everybody who has a valid handicap is welcome to play, just turn up timeously.

### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS**

#### **Ladies' Section:**

13 <sup>th</sup> October	Rosehill Super Spa Better-Ball Stableford
20 <sup>th</sup> October	Homewoods 3-Ball Alliance
27 <sup>th</sup> October	Captain's Prize Individual Stableford
27 <sup>th</sup> October	Final Heny Trophy for Winter Knockout Matchplay
3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Annual Picture Match RPAGC vs Grahamstown GC at RPAGC
10 <sup>th</sup> November	Pick n Pay LGU and Putting plus Medal Finals
17 <sup>th</sup> November	Rosehill Superspar Better-Ball Stableford
24 <sup>th</sup> November	SKINS (Ind S/ford) and Christmas Party
1 <sup>st</sup> December	Homewoods 3-Ball Alliance
8 <sup>th</sup> December	Rosehill Superspar Better-Ball Stableford
15 <sup>th</sup> December	Individual Stableford

#### **Gents Wednesdays' Competitions:**

14 <sup>th</sup> October	PSG Konsult Albany Better-Ball Medal
21 <sup>st</sup> October	Pick 'n Pay 4-Ball Alliance
28 <sup>th</sup> October	Brandhouse Individual Stableford
4 <sup>th</sup> November	D & A Timbers Monthly Medal
11 <sup>th</sup> November	PSG Konsult Albany Better-Ball Stableford
18 <sup>th</sup> November	Pick 'n Pay 4-Ball Alliance
25 <sup>th</sup> November	Brandhouse Individual Stableford
2 <sup>nd</sup> December	D & A Timbers Monthly Medal
9 <sup>th</sup> December	Pick 'n Pay 4-Ball Alliance
16 <sup>th</sup> December	<i>OPEN DAY – Mixed Better-Ball</i>
23 <sup>rd</sup> December	PSG Konsult Albany Better-Ball Stableford
30 <sup>th</sup> December	Brandhouse Individual Stableford

#### **Weekend Competitions:**

17 <sup>th</sup> October (Sat)	Sotheby's Better-Ball Stableford
24 <sup>th</sup> October (Sat)	KELLY FOURSOMES
25 <sup>th</sup> October (Sun)	KELLY FOURSOMES
31 <sup>st</sup> October (Sat)	S A Breweries Two-Ball Alliance
5 <sup>th</sup> December (Sat)	Rosehill Superspar Better-Ball Stableford
12 <sup>th</sup> December (Sat)	Unique Properties Better-Ball Medal
18 <sup>th</sup> December (Fri)	Peri Winkle
19 <sup>th</sup> December (Sat)	Sotheby's Better-Ball Stableford
26 <sup>th</sup> December (Sat)	S A Breweries Two-Ball Alliance
27 <sup>th</sup> December (Sun)	Kingswood Day

## **WILDLIFE MATTERS**

The recent showers have produced a beautiful new green "tinge" to the course, which in turn has produced a flush of good quality herbage, now being enjoyed by all our wildlife. This 'flush' of new green grass is also improving the condition of the animals and should ensure that expectant mothers are in good condition for the upcoming calving season, with an adequate supply of milk for their new calves.

The next few months should be "exciting times" for all of us "wildlife lovers", as the new springbok rams have now been here long enough to have completed their love affairs with their new lady friends and we can expect a flush of new springbok youngsters to arrive over the next month or so.

The Impala and other species should also be dropping "young" over the next few months.... so, if all goes well, we should be in for a very interesting time. STOP PRESS. The first Springbok lamb has been born. Mother and baby appear to be doing well!

There has been a lot of speculation amongst members in recent times, as to whether we have a mature bushbuck ram within our Game fence. While nobody has actually reported having seen one, Jock Emslie and a few other golfers have seen a bushbuck ewe with a young lamb at foot. We now wait in anticipation to see whether any of our other bushbuck ewes drop lambs over the next month or so. Fortunately, we do have a good friend standing-by who has kindly offered us a good, mature ram should we need it !

It was most unfortunate that one of the Fallow Deer once again managed to wrap a length of rope around its antlers. Worse still, it took a considerable length of time before it would allow anyone to approach it close enough to be able to assist it in any way. Finally, it allowed Dr. Leon de Bruyn close enough to dart and disable it, remove the rope and also treat a small wound on its neck.

Our sincere thanks are due to Leon, Corrie, Devon and others for all their help.

## **THE LIGHTER SIDE OF GOLFING**

A guy out on the golf course takes a high speed ball right in the crotch. Writhing in agony, he falls to the ground. As soon as he could manage, he took himself to the doctor.

"How bad is it, doc?.....I'm going on my honeymoon next week and my fiancé is still a virgin, virgo intacto in every way".

The doctor told him, "I'll have to put your penis in a splint to let it heal and keep it straight. It should be okay by next week". He took four tongue depressors and formed a neat little 4 sided splint, and taped it all together,....an impressive work of art. The patient mentions none of this to his girl, marries her, and off they go on their honeymoon. That night, in the motel room, she rips open her blouse to reveal her beautiful breasts.

She says, "You will be the first. No one has EVER touched these."

He immediately drops his pants and replies "Look at this! Its still in its CRATE!"

Can you believe it? Another man gets smacked in the groin by a golf ball and gets referred to a Urologist for a check.

When he gets there, he discovers the urologist is a very sexy female doctor.

The female doctor says, "I'm going to check your prostate, but this new procedure is a little different from what you are probably used to. I want you to lie on your right side, bend your knees, and then while I check your prostate, take a deep breath and say, 99."

The guy obeys and says, "99".

The doctor then says, "Great. Now turn over on your left side and again, while I repeat the check, take a deep breath and say, 99". Again, the guy says, "99".

The doctor said, "Very good. Now then, I want you to lie on your back with your knees raised and legs spread wide apart. I'm going to check your prostate with my left hand, and with my right hand I'm going to hold on to your penis to keep it out of the way. Now take a deep breath and say, 99."

So he takes a deep breath and begins, "One ... Two ... Three...Four..." .....

## APPENDIX: NOTES ON SCRUB HARE AND YELLOW MONGOOSE

### SCRUB HARE: *Cynictus penicillata*



The Scrub Hare is larger in the southwestern parts of the range (2.7-4.5 kg) than further north (1.5-3.2 kg). The upper parts are a grizzled-grey and the under parts white. They have long ears which are grey in colour, and, together with the black-and-white tail, these become most visible whilst fleeing.

#### ***Diet***

The Scrub Hare feeds mainly on short, green grasses, but during times of hardship scrub hares will also take leaves, stems and rhizomes of dried grass.

#### ***Behaviour***

They are solitary. Females may be accompanied by a few males during oestrus. Preferred habitat is scrub, tall grasslands and savanna.

#### ***Breeding***

Births peak from September to February, but they may give birth throughout the year to between one and three leverets per litter. Triplets are more likely during good rainy seasons. They will breed during most adverse drought conditions.

### YELLOW MONGOOSE: *Lepus saxatilis*



The Yellow Mongoose is a small mammal averaging about ½ kg in weight and about 500mm in length. A member of the mongoose family, it lives in open country, from semi-desert scrubland to grasslands in Southern Africa., including the RPAGC.

As many as twelve subspecies of Yellow Mongoose have been described. In general, the Yellow Mongoose has lighter highlights on the underbelly and chin, a bushy tail, and a complete lack of sexual dimorphism (the sexes cannot be differentiated without genital inspection). Southern Yellow Mongooses are larger than those further north, have yellow or reddish longer fur and a longer tail with characteristic white tip. They feed on birds eggs, small birds and small rodents.