

PUTTING IT TO YOU

OFFICIAL MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER OF THE RPAGC

ISSUE 1

4th December 2008

Good day, everybody, and welcome to the first edition of the “Putting it to you”, an initiative brought about by the new committee of the RPAGC. I have been requested to be the scribe, have accepted the job, and aim to provide an easy-reading document updating members on the happenings of and in the club at regular intervals. We all know the rate at which rumours can spread in our fair town, and it is hoped that such stories can be circumvented at the Royal Port Alfred by timeous dissemination of facts by way of this periodical.

Your comments and/or criticism will be appreciated, and also any stories which you think might be of general interest to readers. Humour is a great medium for improving the wellbeing of others, and funny golf stories etc. would be welcome. You can email me at terrymel@telkomsa.net or leave a note at the pro-shop desk marked for my attention (Terry Harris). No verbal communications please.

GENERAL MANAGER RESIGNS

Breaking news is that our General Manager, Mr. Ron van Niekerk, has resigned. The club decided to fore-go his notice period and Ron left the office on 3rd December. Corrie van Zyl and Sally Greasley have been asked to run the club with the assistance of the new committee until such time as the vacancy has been filled. We request that you give them your full co-operation. The position for the new manager will be advertised widely and an appointment will be made in due course.

The club wishes to thank Ron for his efforts in the past and wishes him and his family well for the future.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting for 2008 was held from 6.00pm on 28th November and was attended by some 160 enthusiastic members. It is not intended to go into detail here as to the meeting's proceedings (that is what the minutes are for), but in essence, these are some of the changes which have come about.

Noel Stotter stepped down as Captain after his two-year stint which saw him help ex-President Mick Rushmere guide the club through our Centenary in 2007. Noel will be best remembered for his tenacity in trying to resolve the extremely frustrating “Land Issue”. Although this has yet to be finalised, what was originally thought to be a simple task has been thwart with problems and masses of unforeseen red tape. He has managed to progress the requirements well down the line.

He was also at the helm for the recent water proposals (see later in the report) and many other things. Thank you Noel, for leaving your valued thumb print on the club and we wish you good, and less stressful golf for the future.

After a year's tireless work, Brian Reid has stepped down as committee member responsible for Financial Matters. Some time after the previous Chairman of Finance had resigned, Brian picked up the bits and pieces of a malfunctioning finance system that had been left in limbo. Brian up-dated the meeting in detail as to what he found and the measures he had taken to reconcile the situation. Brian, your untiring and often thankless efforts to normalise our accounting and administrative procedures have been very much appreciated by members and we thank you for all your efforts in this regard.

NEW COMMITTEE AND PORTFOLIOS

The AGM saw a new committee elected. In their first meeting, responsibilities were allocated and these are listed below.

Executive	Kevin Heny	President
	Colin Howard	Captain
	Cecil Jones-Phillipson	Vice-Captain & Chairman - Greens
Committee members	Greg Brackenridge	Finance
	Rob Hoar	Finance
	Ross Purdon	House
	Colin Reed	Chairman - Tournaments
	Tom Tagg	Chairman - Finance
	Corrie van Zyl	Chairman - House
	Dee Jones-Phillipson	Lady Captain

In addition, the committee has seconded the following members to carry out specific tasks as non-committee members.

Geoff Broom will be responsible for all the wildlife / game on the course. Geoff has had extremely wide experience in such matters, and spent much of his life in the bush as a professional hunter.

As previously stated, I (Terry Harris) will be responsible to the committee for formatting the "Putting it to You". He will probably also provide the competition results' articles to the local press for both Gents and Ladies Competitions, as well as for the KGB as he has in the past.

COURSE AND GREEN MATTERS

Despite his appointment to the Vice-Captaincy, Cecil Jones-Phillipson retains the portfolio of Greens Chairman. Graham Oliver is still employed as Head Greenkeeper, designated as the Estate Manager.

There have been several course changes of recent times, and these are listed below for your information.

- The **17th** Tee box has been moved forward for the **ladies** and the hole has been changed from a par 5 to a par 4. (This means that the ladies course is now par 72 and not par 73 as in the past).
- A new Tee box has been provided for the **gents** on the **5th**.
- There are new **Seniors'** Tee boxes on the **5th, 17th and 18th**.

The new **14th** green is responding well after being dug up and re-sodded and is hoped to be back in operation by mid-December. The course is looking in fine fettle after the recent rains and promises to provide excellent golfing conditions throughout the peak holiday period.

WILDLIFE MATTERS

The game at our golf club continues to be a precious asset and is widely commented upon by visitors, especially those from overseas. Our Blesbok have both recently given birth to offspring and they are a delight to see on the fairways. The Impala should start dropping their young during December. There have also been three Bushbuck kids born, and we are just hoping that one of them will be a ram, as we fear we have lost all adult rams that we had on the course. Our seven Springbok are all ewes and therefore we are still actively looking for a ram to maintain the species. As indicated above, Geoff Broom has kindly taken on the role of managing our antelope and Cecil Jones-Phillipson will assist him to this end.

.SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

A Special General Meeting was held on the 29th August which gave the committee its blessing to spend up to R750 000 to progress the delivery of partially treated effluent, or “grey water”, to the club for irrigation purposes. However, after a full year of negotiations with the developer, the committee has decided *not* to go ahead with the project as sufficient volumes for our needs could not be guaranteed. However, should the situation change and the required supply be available, the RPAGC will have the first option to go ahead with the scheme.

At the same meeting, a proposal to allow full lady members and lady visitors to play in the formerly “Gentleman's only” Saturday afternoon competition was adopted by a large majority.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The RPAGC Annual Open, usually played on the 16th December, will this year be played on Sunday, 21st December, under the kind sponsorship of the Kenton Eco Estate. All are welcome to enter this competition.

The club and course will be closed on Christmas Day. However, a Christmas Eve dinner will be held on the 24th December. Booking with the caterers is required for those wishing to attend.

PAM golf will play its last match of the year on 6th December, re-opening 10th January, 2009.

Ladies golf competitions will close after 9th December and re-open on 6th January, 2009. In the interim period, open bookings have been secured between 1200 – 1300h on Tuesdays (ie 16th, 23rd and 30th). It is up to each individual lady to book during this period, otherwise the time slots will be opened up for other players.

The club will host a New Year's Eve Dinner / Dance on 31st Dec. Bookings are essential.

GENERAL NEWS

Our catering ladies, Bella, Gillian and staff, have totally turned our kitchen around, making the RPAGC one of the most popular eating houses in Port Alfred. Friday steak evenings and Sunday lunches in particular have appealed greatly to members and guests, and booking is nearly always essential. This has also led to significantly increased bar sales and provided the opportunity to add a great deal of spirit and fellowship to the members. The KGB have also enjoyed some superb social evenings at the club. Many thanks to our caterers for this special facility.

The course has been quite busy of late, with Wednesday Gents' competitions bringing as many as 90 players to the course, and Saturdays over 60. The KGB and 1820s combined are facilitating about 150 rounds per week, whilst the Ladies' Competitions on Tuesday afternoons are often attracting 30 to 40 golfers. PAM (Port Alfred Mixed), who meet on Saturday mornings (draw at 0745am), is growing in popularity for both ladies and gents, and frequently sees over 30 members enjoying an early morning round of golf.

Any member that would like to be emailed a copy of this newsletter, please let me know by emailing me at terrymel@telkomsa.net .

Let me take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and may 2009 see the holes seem shorter and the putts seem straighter. Good luck, and good golfing to you all.