

# *PUTTING IT TO YOU*

## OFFICIAL MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER OF THE RPAGC

ISSUE 3  
2009

28<sup>th</sup> February

Welcome to the third issue of "Putting it to You", the second to be issued for 2009. The scribe is recovering from a knee replacement, the second in three months, and is as yet unable to join you on the golf course. Nevertheless, the fingers are working perfectly well and, with the grateful help and cooperation of many contributors, I am able to put another edition of the PUTTING IT TO YOU out to members. Please let me know if you are not, and would like to receive a copy via email. Just let me have your name and email address via email at [terrymel@telkomsa.net](mailto:terrymel@telkomsa.net)

Copies that are printed and placed on noticeboards are for general consumption and should not be removed by individuals for their own purposes.

I thank all those persons who have let me know how much they have enjoyed the previous issues. I hope you enjoy this one just as much.

### CAPTAIN'S COMMENTS

We were all saddened by the passing of former Club President Ian Lloyd. He was also a past captain and, in recent years, as a committee member, Ian spent many hours at the club and on the course where he supervised the addition of extra tees and the enlarging of certain greens. He will be sorely missed. Our condolences go to Mary and family.

An obituary to Ian has been written by Kevin Heny and appears in this newsletter below.

**Breaking News – New Club Manager:** It gives me great pleasure to announce that Kevin Harpur has been offered and has accepted the position of manager of the RPAGC. He will be starting sometime in March, no fixed date as yet, but no later than the 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2009. Kevin is from Johannesburg and spent most of his life in the corporate world working for the First National Bank heading up the bank's training centre in Sandown, Sandton. He also spent time with FNB Asia, during which he was stationed in Hong Kong. For the past four years, he has been running his own restaurant in Bryanston, which he has now sold.

Kevin is no stranger to Port Alfred having studied at Rhodes University and spending a number of holidays here with his family. He has often played golf at the RPAGC, once winning our Air School Cup.

He is married to Michelle (Shelly) and has two children, both in their twenties. He is very excited about his appointment and I know that all members will welcome and support him in the true RPAGC spirit. Welcome, Kevin and Shelly. We hope that your stay with us will be a long, fruitful and happy one.

There are still a number of membership subscriptions outstanding. We are sending out final reminders as well as "hot carding " the offenders in order to finalize matters. Your assistance and cooperation will be appreciated.

**Dress Code:** The dress code is to be re-evaluated shortly. In the meantime, existing rules should be honoured at all times, ie. Gents: no shorts in the bar area after 18.00h, no bare feet, open sandals, slops or shirts without collars to be worn on the premises. Ladies: no bare feet, smart wear (including casual) in keeping with club etiquette. We ask members for their support and to advise visiting friends of our rules.

The Centenary Cups (Gents and Ladies) scheduled for the 15<sup>th</sup> February were unfortunately washed out and had to be postponed. A new date will be set shortly. This is a prestigious competition celebrating a very special day in our history. I urge you to support this day once suitable arrangements have been finalised.

Finally, heartiest congratulations to TOMMY MEYER who recently aced the par three 11<sup>th</sup> for a hole in one, his second at the RPAGC and 7<sup>th</sup> in his golfing career.

### **OBITUARY - IAN LLOYD**

**Ian joined the club in January 1987 and true to his nature, set about mastering the art of playing golf to the best of his ability.**

**Within 18 months of starting the game he was down to a 5 handicap and was rewarded for his efforts by being selected to partner Denis Jones (our club champion) in the Kelly Foursomes.**

**Ian and Denis won all four matches on the Saturday and two out of the four on the Sunday, which rate amongst the best ever by a Port Alfred team.**

**Five years later Ian could have won our club championship when all he needed was a par on the 18<sup>th</sup> but golf is a cruel game and his drive landed in the dreaded quarry on the left of the fairway and he carded a 7 to finish one shot off the pace.**

**Ian was elected on to the committee in 1990 and soon rose through the ranks to become Captain during 1993 and 1994 and finally President during 1998 and 1999. Many committee members will recall how attentively Ian would listen to their suggestions, but by the end of the meeting, the matter would be resolved Ian's way, which was always in the best interest of the club.**

**Ian remained a member of the committee until December 2007. He was in charge of the greens committee and raised the standard of the course to compete with the best in the Eastern Cape.**

**Ian is regarded as a legend in the club and just reward was given to him during 2008 when he was awarded the highest honour the club can afford - Honourary Life Membership.**

### **MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

Our gratitude goes to Noel Stotter for donating the corrugated iron to replace the rusted cover of the fresh rain water reservoir at the eastern end of the clubhouse. The new cover is now in place and has been painted green.

Where necessary, new guttering to collect rainwater from the clubhouse roof will be fitted shortly.

Apart from the usual influx of swallows at this time of year, we seem to be getting a large number of British tourists making use of our course and club facilities.

Will all please note that the annual "Royals" competition will this year be held from the 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> August. Apart from the normal participation of members from the Royals of Johannesburg / Kensington, Durban, Cape Town and Harare, this year we will be welcoming members from the Royal Malta G C and possibly others from various Royal clubs in the British Isles.

Arrangements for this years Mad Hatter festival from Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> April to Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May are proceeding well. Over 240 individuals have already made prepaid bookings to participate in one or more competitions. Whilst there are still a number of opportunities to enroll for games Monday to Thursday, there are very few bookings left for the Friday and Saturday. So if you want to play on either or both of these days, our advise is to move quickly in order to secure your game.

Note raffle books for sale by members are available from Sally. Support your club by picking one up and selling the tickets to friends and family. There are some fantastic prizes on offer including a Midweek 4 days at a Golf Resorts Club for 6 people worth R15 000, two nights for two at the luxurious River Lodge at Kariega Game Reserve, a similar prize at Kichaka's Five Star Lodge, both worth R10 000, and many, many more.

Some RED HOT NEWS for you all. There will be a red dot sale of specified items in the Pro Shop starting the 1<sup>st</sup> March. Many bargains will be available.

Management would really like to thank members for the cooperation they have been giving re: drinking in the Gents' Locker Room. Nearly everyone is now removing their glassware when leaving and the time spent imbibing there has been reduced significantly.

Junior Golf on Friday afternoons has become a great success with numbers having doubled this year. As many as 16 youngsters now take part regularly. Mike Lamb is also helping out on a permanent basis. There is a shortage of old golf balls so any members who can help with their old, obsolete golf balls please hand them over to Corrie.

With respect to security, the caddies are presently being fingerprinted and photographed to be given official RPAGC identity status. Only duly recognised caddies will be allowed on the course once the process has been completed and enforced. If you have a particular, regular caddie with whom you would like to continue, please ensure that he has complied with the registration procedures.

### **WED AND SAT COMPETITONS: MARCH**

- Wed 4<sup>th</sup> - Individual medal sponsored by D & A Build It
- Sat 7<sup>th</sup> - Better Ball Stableford sponsored by Unique Properties
- Wed 11<sup>th</sup> - Better Ball Bonus Bogey sponsored by PSG Consultants
- Sat 14<sup>th</sup> - Better Ball Medal sponsored by Rosehill Spar
- Wed 18<sup>th</sup> - Four-ball Alliance sponsored by Pick 'n Pay
- Sat 21<sup>st</sup> - Better Ball Stableford sponsored by GBS Mutual Bank
- Wed 25<sup>th</sup> - Individual Stableford
- Sat 28<sup>th</sup> - Two-ball Alliance sponsored by SA Breweries.

Please also diarise Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March and turn out in your hundreds for the Remax Founders Cup, a Mixed Better Ball Stableford competition.

### **WILDLIFE MATTERS**

Geoff Broom reports:

The course is looking good after the showers of rain which fell last week and the wildlife are enjoying the resulting "green bite", which has put a new "spring in their step" and a "shine on their coat".

The young Impala that had damaged its front leg appears to have made a complete recovery and has full use of his injured leg once more.

The Fallow Deer are looking almost "regal" once again, now that they have grown their new sets of antlers.

I have still not found any evidence of a Bushbuck ram, apart from a very young one which is still being nursed by its mother. In view of this, would golfers please notify the club manager should they see a mature ram? Otherwise we will have to make arrangements to purchase a new one should one not be identified in the near future.

With this in mind, we are of course still waiting for the next "wildlife" sale, which we hope will result in the delivery of a new Springbok ram for our seven eager females !

### **COURSE AND GREEN**

Cecil Jones-Phillipson reports:

After almost no rain for 10 weeks, the wonderful 54 mm that fell over the weekend of 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> February, and the regular showers that have fallen since have already had a positive effect on the course and it is expected to be in great shape soon. Since receiving the rain the fairways have been fertilized with liquid fertilizer. Divots continue to be a problem and I earnestly request all golfers to co-operate. Please note, should a large piece of turf be removed **do not** replace the turf as it will die and the divot will remain. Fill all divots with soil.

A section of the 14th Green (Southern Cross) has been re-sodded and in February plugs were inserted to speed up the recovery. We hope to reopen it before the Ladies Open on 1<sup>st</sup> March.

We are still endeavoring to eradicate the kikuyu on the course and have increased the spraying rate

to this end. Course staff have been busy digging kikuyu out on tees as necessary. This will be an ongoing process. Much of the kikuyu problem is thought to have originated from our own grass nursery, where it has possibly been introduced in topsoil purchased and brought into the club.

Grass under trees has been trimmed to create a parkland effect. The rough will not be cut until just prior to the Mad Hatter week, 27<sup>th</sup> April to 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

The height of the Ladies' and Senior's tee-box on the 9th (Phillipson) has been reduced by 500 mm and the surface leveled. It has been re-shaped to be 9 m wide at the front and 6 m wide at the back. It should be re-sodded and completed by 25<sup>th</sup> February, but will not be immediately available. We have stock-piled top dressing from the 9th Tee and I have ordered 100 m<sup>3</sup> of top soil from Mike Legg.

The Ladies have requested to once again use the back tee on the 6th (Happy Valley) on a permanent basis.

The Men's Tee-box on the 13th (Doug Dold) is on two levels. We will be dropping the higher one to create one large level tee-box.

The course from all the Senior Tees is to be measured with a GPS and the distances compared with other courses.

A quotation for replacing the fence along our boundary from the Main entrance on Greenmantle Drive to the area adjacent to the 6<sup>th</sup> tee-box has proved to be beyond our budgetary means, so we have decided to do this job "in house". The old, rusted Bonnox fencing will be replaced with new Bonnox we have in stock and the bush will be cleared along the area. Electric wires will be attached to the top of the fence.

Rob Hoar and I will meet with Graham Oliver to formulate a machinery replacement policy over the next five years. Repairs to the dam alongside the 3<sup>rd</sup> fairway will remain on hold until the financial situation improves.

We are grateful to members for using the green containers for broken pegs on tee-boxes. The ball washers installed on the 6th and 11th tee-boxes were kindly donated by the late Brian Ault.

A plea from members to smokers, PLEASE don't leave your cigarette stubs or stompies on the course. It makes our pristine conditions look scruffy.

Many thanks to Marj Henley for continuing to keep our garden in tip top condition.

Finally I would like to compliment Graham Oliver and his staff on the condition of the course, especially considering the dry and extremely windy period we have experienced since August.

### **LADIES SECTION:**

The ladies section has been enjoying larger fields in its Tuesday competitions concomitant with the arrival of the annual influx of "swallows" from both the interior and overseas. Relocation of previously distant members settling in more local environs has also swollen the numbers.

PAM (Saturday morning Port Alfred Mixed) is also growing very popular with the ladies and fields in excess of 30, frequently with the ladies outnumbering the men, are becoming common.

The annual D & A Timbers Ladies' Open will be held on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March and we are anticipating that players from Grahamstown, Port Elizabeth and East London will enter as in previous years.

Other competitions for March are:

3<sup>rd</sup> - Pick 'n Pay Medal and Putting / Patterson Cup. Also the first round of the Easter Shield Eclectic.

10<sup>th</sup> - Bliss Individual Stableford and final round Easter Shield Eclectic sponsored by Homewoods.

17<sup>th</sup> - Homewoods 3 Ball Alliance

24<sup>th</sup> - Homewoods Medal Stableford

31<sup>st</sup> - Rosehill Superspar 4-ball-better-ball Stableford

### **FINALLY, A BIT OF HUMOUR**

Earl won first prize on father's day and was given an envelope. On opening it, he was very surprised to find that it held a ticket for a free trip to a brothel. Having never been to one before, he went along the next day, feeling very nervous indeed. Nevertheless, he soon relaxed when some very friendly young women pampered him and made him feel comfortable. Finally one of them took him to her room.

No more than five minutes later she rushed out of the room, went straight up to the Madame and asked in a breathless voice, "Madame, can you please tell me what a **Mulligan** is ?

Taffy Evans got into the habit of playing golf with Father Jones every Sunday morning after Mass. On one particularly overcast morning, he lined up a 5 ft putt on the first green, gently stroked the ball and cried out, "Missed the Bastard".

Father Jones was quick to chastise him about the evils of procrastinating on the Sabbath to which Taffy replied, "Don't worry about that, vicar".

Similarly, on the second green, Taf lined up a 4 ft putt, gently stroked the ball and yelled out, "Missed the Bastard".

This time Father Jones really went to town, informing Taffy, "If you carry on like that on the Sabbath, the Lord above is likely to open up the heavens and a bolt of lightning will flash to earth and you will disappear in a puff of smoke".

"Don't worry about that, Vicar", was Taffy's reply.

Then on the 3<sup>rd</sup> green, Taf lined up a 3 ft putt, gently stroked the ball and screamed out, "Missed the Bastard"

Well, at that moment, the heavens above opened up, a bolt of lightning flashed to earth and poor old Father Jones disappeared in a puff of smoke. There was a moments silence and then this huge voice came down from the sky, "MISSED THE BASTARD".

Good golfing, everyone!

Compiled by Terry Harris.  
[terrymel@telkomsa.net](mailto:terrymel@telkomsa.net)