

# ***PUTTING IT TO YOU***

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

**ISSUE 7**

**14<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2009**

We are now halfway through August, the worst of the short days/long nights are behind us, and the worst of the drought appears to be over. So its time for us all to get into positive frames of mind and enjoy as many rounds of golf as possible in this wonderful Sunshine Coast club of ours. Hasn't the weather this winter been fantastic? If this is global warming, at least this factor is positive for living in this part of the world. Also our recent rains once again have provided the impetus for lush, green growth on our fairways, softness in our greens and a little more drama in the rough. There must be few golfing vistas in the world to beat the view at this time of year from our clubhouse. With our wildlife frolicking in the background, one is led to believe that we live in paradise.

There is not a lot to report in this edition, but I hope that you all find some interest in the contents. Geoff Broom has provided some interesting notes on the smaller, indigenous buck that we have on our golf course that should put an end some incorrect speculation. There is also the latest on our course, league and fixtures etc, in fact something for everyone. I hope you all enjoy Issue 7.

### **CAPTAIN'S COMMENTS**

The welcome rains of late have done wonders for the course, although the prolonged drought has taken its toll and a lot of recovery and regrowth is still needed. Preferred lies will be with us for a while yet. The greens are improving all the time, so its well done to Cecil and the Greens Staff for their ongoing hard work.

On the negative side, the land transfer deal was *oh so close* to finality. Documents were at the Deeds Office in Cape Town when attorneys acting for the state objected and blocked the transfer. Our local municipality has now consulted with senior council and will proceed with legal action against the state to resolve the matter. We can but wait and see.

Committee member Greg Brackenridge has resigned as he has relocated to the Plettenberg Bay area. Thanks Greg for all your support and input on the finance committee and with your help in administration behind the scenes.

We continue to have visiting groups of golfers enjoying the RPAGC and long may the trend continue. We receive much positive feedback on the course. The popular Royals tournament, over this past long weekend, the 21<sup>st</sup> we have hosted, was a great success despite numbers being down on last year, perhaps due to the change in date and the long weekend. It was disappointing to note that local support from our own members was down on previous events as well. Thank you to all those who worked so hard to ensure the success of the tournament. We congratulate Royal Cape on winning the trophy and thank Royal Durban for their entertainment.

Just a reminder to all members that it is your duty to ensure that each time you play 18 holes of golf, on our course or any other, you are personally responsible for entering your correct score after each round, at the course you play or upon your return to Port Alfred, and BEFORE you play your next round here. The correct adjustments, as per the requirements of the crazy handicapping system we are all subjected to, must also be made. The NGN system has been plagued with problems countrywide so it is advisable to check up upon your return.

Our caddies are now all numbered and kitted out in new outfits. Thank you Viv Jordan for your much appreciated sponsorship. By giving caddies numbers we hope that this will enable us better control of identification and the ability to differentiate between our caddies and irregular bag carriers. Members are asked to report any theft, unacceptable behaviour, drunkenness etc to the manager, or Proshop, or Caddie-Master immediately.

We are encouraged to see our club being used for various functions on a regular basis, a compliment to the efficiency of our manager and staff, and, of course, to Baxter's Catering and their culinary delights.

### **MANAGEMENT COMMENTS**

We have been advised by SAGU that, as from February 2010, the NGN handicapping system will be replaced by a system from a company from Europe called Albatross. There have been many problems associated with NGN and a number of clubs refused to make use of them. One of the biggest problems was the capturing of scores when not playing at one's home course. Even when scores were entered they were not always captured, which then failed to update handicaps. We strongly suggest that, when you play away, to keep a record of your scores and then record them upon your return to the club. It is each player's responsibility to ensure that all scores are captured.

A big thank you to Viv Jordan for sponsoring our new Caddie Aprons! They look great.

Despite promises from SAB regarding the fitting of draft Hansa, it has still not arrived, even after numerous emails and calls to them. Maybe we should all start drinking Windhoek?

We have 3 gardeners at the club who are in desperate need of warm jackets or coats. Is there anyone who has some unused items at home which they could donate to these fellows? It would be greatly appreciated by them.

Once again a big thank you to all members who paid their subs so promptly. There was a lot of discussion regarding the discount on composite fees and letters are being sent to all applicable members.

### **COURSE & GREEN MATTERS**

After the long drought, we measured 82 mm of rain in July which has worked miracles on the course. Rain collected in the lower dam has been pumped up to the top dam (adjacent to the 3<sup>rd</sup> fairway) and this is now nearly full. The greens are truer and slightly faster than normal and also holding to some extent, so please remember to repair pitch marks. The Southern Cross Green (14<sup>th</sup>) is also responding well since the rain.

We have enlarged the golf cart parking area next to the Gent's Keith Grainger tee-box (8th) which appears to have met with members' approval.

The Course Staff have been kept busy preparing the Course for the Royal's weekend resulting in no progress with the fencing. Tim and the Staff are to be complimented on the great job they have done erecting the four new galvanised poles for the windsocks, this, of course, in addition to all the rest of the work that has been attended to on the Course.

The panes of glass in the Starter's Box on the Hugh Kelly tee-box (1<sup>st</sup>) have been replaced and the box painted.

Junior Golf have requested a small mashée course for the youngsters. The area behind the workshop is a possibility and we are looking into it.

The eradication of kikuyu will be put on hold until the growing season. 30 tonnes of Agricultural Lime to help maintain the pH of the soil in the Fairways has been delivered.

The number of Impala is being closely monitored by Geoff Broom. Some members have voiced concern about their browsing making an impact on the indigenous bush.

Finally, some good news! The Royal Port Alfred Golf Course has improved in its Course Ranking by some twenty places and we are now 60<sup>th</sup> in South Africa, most encouraging.

### **LADIES' SECTION**

Apart from the 4BBB scheduled for Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> when the course was very water-logged, the ladies have enjoyed superb weather during the month of July and our turnouts have duly improved.

A very successful Eastern Cape and Border Championship weekend was held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> and

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July. On the Saturday, 75 ladies played a 36 hole Stroke-play Championship, teeing off from 07:09 am with the last covey just squeaking in before last light. Eleven RPAGC Ladies were in this field. On Sunday, enjoying excellent golfing weather, EP and Border were each represented by four teams of eight ladies to contest a 36 hole Foursome match-play in four separate leagues. Playing for Eastern Province, the RPAGC were represented in the various teams by Annie Shelver, Ronel Hough, Margie Siegers (Capt of the Merle Boetiger Team), Kath Robinson, Glynnis Renecke and Shirley Heny. Eastern Province did exceptionally well winning the Clayton Cup (A team), Norton Cup (B team) and the Merle Boetiger Cup (D team), thus winning the Matchplay Competition by 3 to 1.

## LEAGUE FIXTURES AND RESULTS

**Ladies:** On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> August we played Monday league in Uitenhage and our team of 6 won 8 of their 12 matches against Jeffreys Bay and St. Francis Bay scoring 16 points. Prior to Monday we were lying bottom of the league and have now moved up to 4<sup>th</sup> place in the nine-team league. The final Monday League matches will be played at Humewood on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September when our opponents will be The Hill & Country Districts.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS & COMPETITIONS

**Ladies:**

August 11 <sup>th</sup>	4BBB sponsored by Rosehill SuperSpar
August 18 <sup>th</sup>	3 Ball Alliance sponsored by The Pepper Tree
August 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Sanlam Cancer Challenge Regional Finals in Uitenhage. RPAGC will be represented by Annie Shelver, Betinne Hattingh and Sue Roll. (Good luck, girls).
September 1 <sup>st</sup>	Medal & Putting sponsored by Pick 'n Pay and the Ohlsson Cup
September 7 <sup>th</sup>	(a Monday), League Finals at Humewood Golf Club
<b>Gents:</b>	Not available at the time of going to print.

## WILDLIFE MATTERS

The recent showers have produced a beautiful, green, fresh bite of new grass, which is most attractive and is being greatly appreciated by the wildlife. The ewes which have become pregnant will also benefit from this new green flush, which, hopefully, will result in a good calf crop later on in the year.

Apart from bushbuck, which are easily recognised and known by the majority of our members, there are three indigenous species of other small buck on our course. There is much confusion as to the identification of these smaller buck, so I thought some clarification as to what is what from our expert, Geoff Broom, should help clarify the matter. Photographs and a brief description of Blue Duiker, Southern Bush Duiker and Cape Grysbok have been added as appendix 1. at the back of this newsletter. Note that if you are reading a photocopy of the newsletter, the pictures will be in black and white. Reading them from an email attachment, however, they are in glorious colour.

## GOLF CART DRIVERS

It being a club with an older than average membership, there are many RPAGC members that can only get around the course with the aid of a golf cart, the scribe included. This results in more wear and tear on the grass, tracks etc. than one would normally expect on a course such as ours. The long, dry drought has minimised grass growth, further exacerbating the situation, and the evidence is there for all to see.

Recent rain has stimulated growth to some extent, but when the course is wet, further damage to the

subsoil may be done. We, as golf cart drivers, can limit damage by obeying a few simple rules. There are many signs on the roads and fairways giving directions as to where carts should travel. Alas, these are not always being obeyed . PLEASE obey these signs. Much is common sense. Do not drive close to the greens, and NEVER over the first cut surrounding a green. Do not drive between bunkers or between a bunker and a green. Avoid skidding, sudden acceleration or sharp braking. If we all just use our nous and THINK course preservation, we can certainly make a positive impact on our course by limiting damage. *Oh, yes. And please don't set your cart on fire as a means of protest. One cart fire per century is enough.*

## THE LIGHTER SIDE OF GOLFING

Four men were out golfing.

"These hills are getting steeper as the years go by," one complained.

"These fairways seem to be getting longer too," said one of the others.

"The sand traps seem to be bigger than I remember them too," said the third senior.

After hearing enough from his senior buddies, the oldest and the wisest of the four of them at 87 years old, piped up and said, "Just be thankful we're still on the right side of the grass!"

A golfer tees up his ball on the first tee, took a mighty swing and hit his ball into a clump of trees. He found his ball and saw an opening between two trees he thought he could hit through. Taking out his 3-wood, he took another mighty swing; the ball hit a tree, bounced back, hit him on the forehead and killed him.

As he approached the gates of Heaven, St. Peter saw him coming and asked, "Are you a good golfer", to which the man replied: "Got here in two, didn't I?"

Q. Whats the difference between a golf ball and the G-Spot?

A. A man would normally find a golf ball within 5 minutes.

A young Hollywood starlet, who had no idea how to play the game, was cast in a role which required her to swing a golf club with the ease and grace of a seasoned player. To teach her the needed technique, she took lessons with a local golf Pro.

She was really finding the basics very difficult, so to help her get a better feel for the game, he stood behind with his arms wrapped around her, with them both holding a no. 7 iron to practice the swing. However, when he tried to move away from her, they found to their horror that her skirt had somehow got caught in his zip. No matter how they tried, they could not disentangle the two garments.

In desperation, they decided to walk back to the Ladies' Cloakroom where, with improved privacy, he could remove his trousers, she her skirt, and together they could fix the problem. So, in exceedingly tight formation, they slowly marched in military fashion, step by step, he very close to her, back to the clubhouse.

Then when they got there, an Alsatian ran out and threw a bucket of water over them.

And now one for the ladies!!!

A ladies foursome were standing on the 135 m par 3 eighth when a stalker suddenly dashed across the fairway in front of them. "Gosh", said one of the ladies. "Was that Dick Green?"

"Naa", said one of the others. "Its just the reflection in the dew on the grass".

How good is your golf? A friend of mine who plays at CMR in Johannesburg, a course that has a lot of water holes, tells me that his golf is so bad that he is having his ball retriever re-gripped!

## APPENDIX 1

### SMALL BUCK ON THE COURSE

#### **Blue Duiker (Blue Buck): (Cephalopus caerulus).**



They measure about 12 to 14 inches at the shoulder and weigh about 10 to 14 lb. They are slatey-grey in colour, with white on the insides of their legs. They frequent dense woodland and thickly bushed areas and are seen singly or in pairs, making their own paths to and from watering places and feeding grounds where they eat leaves, shoots and berries. They have a sharp whistle of alarm. An unusual feature of this species is the fact that the female in most cases has horns similar to those of the male or ram. The horn length usually varies from 1 to 2 inches in length with a record of almost 4 inches.

#### **Southern Bush Duiker: (Sylvicapra grimmia)**



They measure about 26 inches at the shoulder and weigh about 30 lb. Their general colour is pale brownish-black, grizzled with grey. The grizzled effect is produced by individual hairs being banded alternately with bands of light and dark colouration, giving a grizzled effect. Generally, only the males have horns, with an average length of about 5 to 6 inches, the record being just over 7 inches.

#### **Cape Gysbok: (Raphicerus melanotis)**



These chaps measure about 22 inches at the shoulder and weigh about 24 lb. Their general colour is rufous-brown sprinkled with white giving a reddish grizzled appearance, which is due to the mixture of long and coarse individual white and reddish hairs, and not to each hair being ringed with two colours. Most of the face, throat, neck and underparts are without white hairs. The ears are large, pointed and dark grey. Generally only the males have horns with an average length of about 3 to 4 inches and a record of 5 inches.