

PUTTING IT TO YOU

OFFICIAL MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER OF THE RPAGC

ISSUE 9

4th December 2009

It is exactly one year to the day since we issued Volume 1 of the *Putting it to You*. So I guess that, with 8 issues under our belt, we have been able, on average, to send out an RPAGC news-bulletin once every (slightly in excess of) 6 weeks. I hope you have enjoyed reading them as much as I have enjoyed putting (no pun intended) them together.

As part of an ongoing objective for members to learn more about our wild life, I have attached an appendix with some information which I have managed to compile with the invaluable help of Sally Greasley, on the indigenous tortoises that frequent our course. As most of you know, Corrie van Zyl is actively working on making the RPAGC a tortoise sanctuary. Many of you would have seen the white boxes by the 11th green and the 12th red/blue tee, dug into the ground with a mesh covering. These have been erected over leopard tortoise egg sites and are designed to keep predators away.

Although more is said about it later in this issue, I hope you will forgive me for abusing the privilege I have of being the scribe and bring to your attention something personal that I find extremely disappointing and that is the **behavior of some of our golf car drivers**. Although we have had some (not enough) rain, recent strong easterly winds have burnt the course considerably, making the fairways, greens and other components of our course extremely vulnerable to wear and tear, especially to golf cars. As a car driver myself, it distresses me very much to see many drivers blatantly ignore the signage erected to protect the course and minimise damage. I see cars being driven between bunkers and greens, being parked on the first cut areas next to greens, traveling on the far side of the 11th green across the small grassed area in front of the bush, ignoring directional signage and many many more indiscretions that misuse this wonderful course that we have the privilege of playing. I believe that car drivers seen doing this should be strongly reprimanded by any other member of the club. Shame them and maybe then they will learn to be more responsible. I am hoping that drivers who have been irresponsible in the past will read this and "mend their ways". Anyway, enough of that!

Have you noticed what a superb Spring showing we've enjoyed in our gardens this year? Congratulations and thank you to Marj Henley and staff for keeping our wonderful club so attractive through the driveway area and around the clubhouse.

I should like to take this opportunity to wish all our members my sincerest best wishes over the festive season and a fantastic, golfing 2010.

CAPTAIN'S COMMENTS

Colin Howard reports: The Annual General Meeting of the club went off very well and was completed in less than thirty minutes. Thank you to all members for your confidence in and support for the committee in our endeavors to achieve a fully functional and enjoyable golf club for us all.

Our audit was successfully completed and, withstanding a few minor hitches, we received a good report. It was also good to see the auditors in attendance at our AGM. Our finance team of Tom Tagg and Rob Hoar, together with Brenda Whittaker from the office, deserve special thanks for their hard work under extreme pressure in rectifying errors of the past and presenting a set of books acceptable for the audit.

A special welcome to the committee to Bob Shaw and Doug Fincham and thank you for putting your names forward. I look forward to working with you both. The committee and portfolios for this year are as follows:

President:	Kevin Heny
Captain:	Colin Howard
Vice Captain:	Rob Hoar
Finance:	Tom Tagg (ch), Rob Hoar
Tournaments:	Corrie van Zyl (ch), Bob Shaw, Doug Fincham, Colin Reed (Mad Hatter)
House:	Colin Reed (ch), Corrie van Zyl, Doug Fincham and Lady Vice-Captain Ronel Hough
Greens:	Cecil Jones-Phillipson (ch), Bob Shaw
Lady Captain:	Dee Jones-Phillipson

To all my committee members from last year, many thanks for making yourselves available again for another term.

From the superb condition the course found itself in at the end of October, it has certainly recently taken a beating from unrelenting easterly winds and lack of rain. It seems to have gone brown overnight. Our grass cover is still good despite a few rough and bare patches, but without good soaking rains, I see us playing preferred lies for some time into the future. Our greens are playing well despite these adverse conditions, so well done to Graham, Cecil and the team. Neatening and manicuring of the course will be ongoing and I am sure it will be in good nick for all the visitors over the festive season.

We have had a request from the E.P. Golf Union to host the 72 hole 2010 EP and Border Golf Tournament at the club on the 6th and 7th March, 2010. This is a great compliment to our club and shows confidence in our greens staff. The request is probably due to the way our course was found during the Kelly Foursomes. It will also provide an opportunity for some of our locals (6 h/c and under) to "kick some butt!"

Our Open Day will once again be held on the 16th December this year. We now have a new sponsor, PSG Konsult, so get your names down early. I appeal to all golfers over the season to make certain of your tee-off times before the event, especially when you have multiple bookings. Ensure you are ready 10 minutes before tee-off so we can avoid "no shows" which not only cost the club in revenue, but spoil the day for the rest of your covey as well. "No shows" will be charged, especially the "player +3" bookings which we do not encourage. Please list all names.

The Mad Hatter times are also filling up fast. Please note that bookings are only confirmed when accompanied by payment in full.

I also ask all golf-cart drivers to please obey the cart direction signs and treat the course with respect. Don't ride over them, keep all carts at least 5 metres from the greens, stick to the cart paths where possible, don't ride between bunkers and greens and vary your direction wherever possible. Co-operation from us all, greens-staff included, will help keep the green surrounds and our course in the condition we all should want to see it. Don't forget that the use of sandbags is obligatory.

Also, please be reminded that the course staff have right of way when doing their jobs, but will hold back to assist golfers in playing through. Please check the temporary rules board for relief around the course.

I should like to place on record my congratulations to Corrie van Zyl and his helpers for the achievements and efforts they have put into Junior Golf and our stars of the future.

The land saga at the time of writing still remains frustratingly unresolved despite numerous meetings, letters and promises.

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing all members a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous and good golfing 2010, and hope to see you at the New Years Eve party at the club.

MANAGER'S COMMENTS

Kevin Harpur reports: Well, the end of the year is upon us and I would like to wish all our members and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Judging by the bookings that have been coming in, we are in for a very busy festive season. Bookings for Kingswood Day on Sunday 27th December are almost full, Periwinkle Day on Friday 18th is full and the Royal Port Alfred Open Day on Wednesday December 16th is also looking good. We are grateful to PSG Konsult for being our new sponsors on the day.

If you haven't yet made your own bookings for December / January, please do so as soon as possible. The booking sheets are in the Pro-shop and tee-offs start from 5-00 a.m. off the first tee.

All our golf results for Wednesday and Saturday competitions are published in the local newspapers. If you see that you have won an unclaimed prize, please come and collect it as soon as possible so to preclude our difficulty in storing them. In future, unclaimed prizes will be given away to deserving causes. Any vouchers that you may have won will be retained at the Pro-shop. Please collect them when you check in.

We have recently dis-enabled the golf cards of "members" who have not paid their subs or not made any effort to make an arrangement with us. You may not play in any competitions at the club if you are not a paid up member as you won't have an official handicap from the EPGU. Should you wish to play, you will be charged full visitor's fees.

We are having a New Years Eve party at the club on Thursday, 31st December. There will be live background music during the evening build-up and a disco as we approach midnight. Bella is putting on a 5 course meal, so join us for an entertaining evening. Tickets costs R250-00 pp. Lastly, let's get ready to welcome all our visitors for the season.

COURSE AND GREENS MATTERS

Cecil Jones-Phillipson reports: Through the medium of our newsletter, I should like to congratulate Graham Oliver and his greens staff on the condition of our Course. It would seem that for once everyone appears happy and positive compliments are the order of the day. Long may that last!

I have pleasure in welcoming Bob Shaw to the Greens Committee and wish him well in his duties. He has a wealth of knowledge to share with us and we look forward to his valuable input.

On 19th November, Bob and I attended a meeting of the East Cape Turf Committee (Course Managers and Green keepers) at the East London Golf Course. As always it was very interesting and informative.

There have been several developments and projects underway around the course:

- The 13th tee-box has been leveled and extended forward to include a new tee-box for the ladies.
- The rough has been cut to assist golfers and speed up play.
- A 6 hole mashée course has been completed east of the 13th fairway, bringing the small dam into play. The cost has been borne by Junior Golf. Thanks and well done to Corrie van Zyl.
- The Ladies 8th tee-box is to be leveled.
- Sprinklers have been installed on the 13th and 14th fairways and all the fairways have been fertilized with 101.
- The greens are being verti-cut and dusted weekly. Dry areas on the greens have been verti-drained to aerate them. I have received complaints that the holes have made putting difficult. My apologies but once the greens have been fertilized and top-dressed the holes will disappear.
- Kikuyu on the fairways is being sprayed every two weeks with MSMA
- The new tee-box stroke and distance markers sponsored by First National Bank will be in situ shortly.
- Work on replacing the boundary fence will be undertaken during December and early January when work on the Course will be kept to a minimum.
- The greens have been watered manually due to a problem with the computer controlled automation. The fault has been identified and will soon be rectified.
- The 14th green is finally showing signs of improvement.
- Re-sodding on the Course is almost complete.

I appeal to all who use golf cars to treat our course with respect and to heed the direction signs. It should not be necessary to plant poles all over the course to keep golf cars away from sensitive

areas. Ours must be the only Club in the country that has to resort to methods like this to protect the course.

LADIES' SECTION

Dee Jones-Phillipson reports: 2009 is rapidly coming to an end and in a week or two “swallows” from the UK, Europe and other parts of the RSA will start arriving. Many of them are members of RPAGC and we look forward to welcoming them back to Port Alfred and resume golf with the local ladies.

34 ladies played in our annual Chicken Raffle Skins on 17th November and endured quite the worst easterly gale of this very windy season. It was all credit to them for playing and for staying the distance. It is amazing what an incentive money is! After a difficult afternoon on the course we all enjoyed our Christmas party that evening. We were very pleased that our four Vice-Presidents, Joyce Heny, Pearl Glazer, Gift Gardner and Doreen Legg were able to enjoy the party with us. Gift is still a very active golfer and was out on the Course battling the weather with the rest of us. Bella and her catering ladies produced scrumptious snacks which were thoroughly enjoyed by all. At Prize-Giving, Joyce Heny presented the Heny Trophy to Margie Siegers who won the Winter Knock-out Match Play. Joyce donated the lovely shield to the Ladies Section in 1985 during her term as Lady President.

The Ladies' Committee held their first meeting of the “new” year and welcomed two new members, Ronel Hough and Shirley Heny. Both are old hands having served on the Ladies' Committee previously. The various portfolios and responsibilities were awarded as follows:

President:	Joy de Bruin
Vice-Captain:	Ronel Hough
Secretary & League Captain:	Ingrid Griffiths
Treasurer:	Peggy Southey
Handicaps for ECWGA:	Margaret Reid
Catering & Welfare:	Glynnis Renecele
Eclectic & Scribe:	Mel Harris
Lockers & Locker Room:	Shirley Heny
Trophies:	Marj Henley

I should like to take this opportunity to wish all Golfers and their families much joy, happiness and fun during the Festive Season, and excellent golf and good times in 2010. Take care and drive safely.

THE 1820s

The 1820s section has had another good year, with many of the more senior, male members getting together on Monday and Thursday mornings for 13 holes of 1-to-count Medal in (mainly) 4-ball Alliances. Richard Broderick was the “keeper and maintainer” of 1820 statistics until his untimely passing away early in October. Gordon Campbell has taken over this duty and carried on the great work.

The 1820's enjoyed their Annual Christmas luncheon at the club on 26th November. Sadly, the first statistic announced were the names of no fewer than seven past and present 1820 members who have passed away during the year. A minute's silence was held in their memory.

The party did liven up and was a particularly well organised affair with superb in-put by Gordon Todd (where did you get that joke from, Gordon?), Noel Heale and Alan Thompson. Bella and staff lived up to their reputations and provided a truly delectable lunch.

Gordon read out some very interesting statistics. The average age of the regular membership was given at 72.4 years, exactly the same figure as in 2008. The oldest member is Charlie Tullis at an

extremely young 88. Charlie rarely misses a competition and still pulls his own cart for the 13 holes.

Altogether, a total of 3 172 rounds of official 1820s golf were played on Mondays and Thursdays from December '08 to November '09. This represents some 40 651 holes, but does not include the more "casual" 1820 rounds played on Wednesday and Saturday mornings. The largest fields (it happened both on the 29th Jan and 23rd Feb) were 49 players.

The lowest winning score and best score of the year (35, or 15 under par) was made by Bruce McFarlane, Lionel Timm, Cecil Jones-Phillipson & Tony Border. The worst score of the year (51, or 1 over par) was the Moosehead won by Bruce McFarlane, Oscar Pearson & Louis van der Walt.

Altogether, 275 two-clubs were holed, 105 on the 6th, 90 on the 8th, 77 on the 11th and 31 on the 13th.

Guy Hilton Barber and Charlie Tullis had the most individual wins (12 each) whilst the unluckiest player to be drawn with would be John Clayton who won the Moosehead no fewer than 12 times as well.

The 2009 1820's champion is John Muggeridge who scored 49 points.

THE KENTON GOLFING BROTHERHOOD (KGB)

The KGB have also enjoyed another successful year. The KGB play 18 holes on Tuesday and Friday mornings with a draw and in an Alliance format. Their competitions are open to both male and female handicapped members and visitors. The game is usually a 2-to-count Stableford in 4-balls, but Bonus Bogey and 3-ball 1-to-count Medal competitions are also frequently played. Every now and then a weird Portuguese inspired format is imposed on the field in order to complicate the scoring skills of the various coveys.

Between 12th Dec '08 and 1st Dec '09, a total of 2 914 rounds of golf were played in 92 matches at an average of 31.67 players per round. With 1½ weeks to go before the full 12 months is completed, the scribe has every confidence that in excess of 3 000 rounds would have been played. The average turn-out has more than doubled in the last 8 years, but is down from last year (32.38). This may be due to fewer visitors (economic), but also due to colder, wetter weather this winter compared with the drought of 2008.

The best turn out of the year was 52.

Altogether during this period, 222 145 shots were played and over 20 000 man/km were traversed. The average gross score was 88.53 and the average nett score was 72.57. No fewer than 249 two clubs were holed.

Highlights of the year were Trevor Taylor's Hole-in-one on 8th May, Terry Harris' infamous destruction of his Club Car by combustion next to the 13th green on 5th June and Devon Brittle holing out his eagle on the 9th green on 2nd October.

The KGB continued to enjoy wonderful social events for their families and themselves at regular intervals during the year and are looking forward to their annual Christmas luncheon at the club on the 4th December.

JUNIOR GOLF

There is still a good turnout of youngsters on Friday afternoons guided by a dedicated team of volunteers. Whilst each and every junior is equally supported by the club, one individual does deserve special mention.

On Saturday, 28th November, the scribe had the opportunity and pleasure to play with 10 year-old Wian van Aswgegen in a PAM 4-ball along with a couple of his mentors in the Junior Section, Neville Henley and Glynnis Renecke. This notable youngster is playing off a 14 h/c (11 in the alliance format) and hitting the ball long and straight through the fairways and with an uncanny appreciation of weight and line on the greens. Playing off the blue tees, he shot a gross 81 and was largely responsible for our covey being placed second in the morning's play.

This year he has played in 9 foundation tournaments, finishing as winner twice and runner-up four times. In April he represented E P at the U/12 Fish River Sun Challenge, finishing 14th out of 36, despite being 2 years younger than the majority of his competitors. He followed this up in another U/12 competition, this time the S A Boys Challenge at Clovelly, Fishhoek, where he finished 25th out of 92. He was also nominated by E P as one of 4 to play in the U/14 Boys champs in Kloof, a great learning experience for him.

The last U/12 Inter-Provincial Competition of the year was held in Katberg between E.P., Border and Free State / Northern Cape. Wian won the competition, coming home with two gold medals as E P also won the event.

Wian, we are very proud to have you as a junior member of our club and look forward to following your continued success into 2010.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS

Ladies' Competitions:

1 st December:	Homewoods 3-Ball Stableford Alliance
8 th December:	Rosehill Superspar Better Ball Stableford
15 th December:	Ladies Section Individual Stableford
5 th January:	Rosehill Superspar Better Ball Stableford
12 th January:	Pick n Pay LGU Medal and Putting
19 th January:	Jones-Phillipson Cup Bogey
26 th January:	Homewoods 3-Ball Stableford Alliance

Please note that on the 22nd and 29th December there will be no organised competition. Nevertheless, the 1st tee has been booked for ladies from 12:28 to 13:00.

Gents Wednesdays' Competitions:

2 nd December	D & A Timbers Monthly Medal
9 th December	Pick 'n Pay 4-Ball Alliance
16 th December	<i>OPEN DAY – Mixed Better-Ball</i>
23 rd December	PSG Konsult Albany Better-Ball Stableford
30 th December	Brandhouse Individual Stableford
6 th January '10	PSG Konsult 2-ball Alliance
13 th January	D & A Timbers Monthly Medal
20 th January	Pick 'n Pay 4-Ball Alliance
27 th January	Brandhouse Individual Stableford
3 rd February	D & A Timbers Monthly Medal

Weekend Competitions:

5 th December (Sat)	Rosehill Superspar Better-Ball Stableford
12 th December (Sat)	Unique Properties Better-Ball Medal
18 th December (Fri)	Periwinkle Day
19 th December (Sat)	Sotheby's Better-Ball Stableford
26 th December (Sat)	S A Breweries Two-Ball Alliance
27 th December (Sun)	Kingswood Day
2 nd January (Sat)	Air School "Air School Victory Cup" Better-Ball Stableford
9 th January (Sat)	Rosehill Superspar Better-Ball Medal
16 th January (Sat)	Remax Kowie Better-Ball-Bonus Bogey
23 rd January (Sat)	S A Breweries Two-Ball Alliance - Championship Cup (Spinning Reel)
30 th January (Sat)	GBS Mutual Bank Better-Ball Stableford
6 th January (Sat)	Rosehill Superspar Better-Ball Stableford

WILDLIFE MATTERS

The recent light showers have kept the grass fresh, green and palatable and the green 'bite' has been good for the nursing mothers, as well as "young and old" in all our species.

It was wonderful to see that every **springbok** mum dropped a single calf within the first ten days of their calving season. Better still, there doesn't appear to have been any birth problems or malformations of any kind amongst the new youngsters. They are all looking fine and making good progress.

The **bushbuck** ewe that produced a new calf last month has been "showing it off" around the small dam behind the 12th green and both mum and youngster appear to be doing well. Of course this is the youngster that was sired by the "mystery bushbuck ram", and it remains to be seen if we will get any more ewes dropping new calves over the next month or so.

The five or six **Impala** ewes that have not dropped calves during the last 12 months, should be heavily pregnant and due to calve down over the next month or two. However, it should be remembered that this species tends to drop their calves at almost any time of the year under "semi-domestic" conditions such as ours.

I notice that **bush duiker**, **grysbok** and **blue duiker** are all showing themselves more regularly. All these species appear to be in good condition and doing well.

The **fallow deer** have recently shed their antlers and are now difficult to distinguish from a number of other species.

The **blesbok** are, as usual, doing well.

THE LIGHTER SIDE OF GOLFING

Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today, it's just called golf!

A young fellow with a big, if not accurate drive, was visiting the RPAGC and had entered the Saturday afternoon competition. He took a massive swing at his ball on Shelly Beach's 7th tee box and hit it miles with a huge slice, out of bounds and into the road. He teed up again and played three off the tee.

At the end of the game, Captain Colin Howard came over and introduced himself to the young man and, in casual conversation, asked him if he sliced his ball out of bounds on the 7th.

"Yes", replied the young man.

Colin looked at him with a very serious look on his face and said, "Then I have some rather distressing news to tell you. Your ball hit the windscreen of an on-coming vehicle which then swerved into a taxi in a head-on collision. I'm afraid 5 passengers lost their lives".

The young man nearly fainted with this terrible news and, swooning and only just holding his breath gasped, "That is terrible! Oh my Gosh! Wha..wh....what shall I do? What can I do?"

Colin looked at him thoughtfully and answered, "Have you tried moving your grip a little further down the shaft and rotating your left hand....."

A retired pair of senior gents were enjoying their regular Wednesday morning 2-ball, when a funeral procession passed on the road adjacent to the course. One of the gents stopped, turn to face the procession and removed his hat. He held this position until the funeral had passed.

"It was mighty chivalrous of you to do that", remarked the other gent.

"Well, when you've been married to her for 48 years, I guess that's the least I can do", was the reply.