

19th NEWS

Summer 2011



GMA Club Manager of the Year 2011

The Board and management celebrate
a North Ryde Golf Club victory

*A happy, healthy festive season and
new year to all golfers and members*



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Positive year with more to come

Yet another year draws to a close, one that has been successful for our club. We have seen the presentation of a course master plan to our members, a house master plan is on the drawing boards and the Board is working on a strategic plan for the club to give us a direction for the future. There is also work being done on a review of our Constitution and By-Laws, mainly, but not only, to remove any gender bias. On completion of all the above, they will be presented to members to gain ratification.

Congratulations go to all our teams who have represented us in inter club competitions. We are very proud of the way you have represented the club and the manner in which you have played on behalf of the club, ranging from the Major Pennants to the young girls and boys who have played in the Encourage Shield-the future of our club. Also thanks go to the Managers/Coaches of these teams who put in an incredible amount of time working with their teams.



Brenden Ellam & David Burton – Brenden Ellam accepting the award for 2011 Golf Management Australia (NSW) Club Manager of the Year



By Michael Breen

PRESIDENT

Our General Manager

Recently I received a letter from Golf Management Australia NSW division, asking for a nomination for the Club Manager of the Year if the club saw fit to make the nomination. The Board members got together and sent in a letter of nomination for Brenden. We feel we are very fortunate to have Brenden as our General Manager and we rely on his knowledge of Corporate Governance and the different regulations concerning clubs.

All golf clubs in NSW are able to nominate their General Manager. On Saturday, 26th November, Brenden was awarded GM of the Year 2011 from a shortlisted field of 6 nominees. The Board members and all of our members offer our congratulations and believe it is a well deserved recognition for your commitment to your work and a fitting reward for the work you do at North Ryde. Enjoy your trip to New Orleans Conference in February next year.

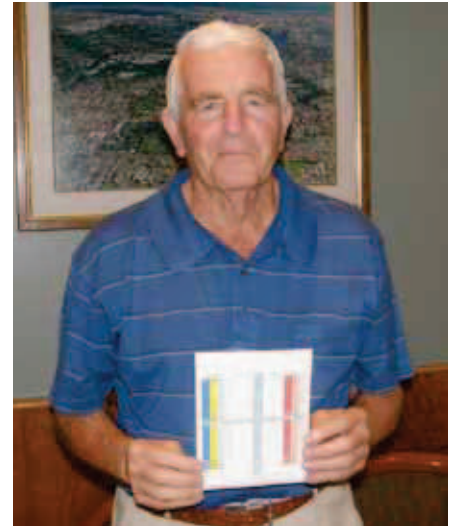


Don Flanagan

In August this year, Don turned 80. There was a little whisper around the club that his game would now start to deteriorate. So, to prove everyone

wrong, Don shot a gross score of 79 (1 under his age) and got nearest the pin on the 6th, on the 11th September. Well done Don!

I know someone aged 67 who would like to be able to do that.
(DF: If you can't do it at 67, sonny, you won't manage it at 80)
And you know, I think Don may be right!



Don Flanagan – Don calls on his "A Game" to break his age.



Season's Greetings

On behalf of the Board and staff, I would like to extend to all our members and guests best wishes for a very happy Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.



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Don't miss our fantastic Christmas festivities

On behalf of all the staff at North Ryde Golf Club I would like to thank the Members for a wonderful 2011. We would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year. May Santa bring you that round of golf you have long desired and the consistency of a seasoned professional.

I would like to invite the Members to the Club to enjoy the Christmas festivities. Every Friday night throughout December right up to Christmas we are raffling legs of ham as major prizes.

Family fun night, the "New Year's Eve Party" promises to be a great success again. We encourage all families to bring their children along and celebrate the incoming year.

Please remember, if you plan on partaking in the festivities, please leave the car at home. We would like nothing more than to see all our Members enjoying themselves responsibly and staying safe. Enjoy your break and we will see everyone back in 2012.



Building the foundation for the future

Despite the health and strength of North Ryde Golf Club, it is not immune to a struggling golf industry. Clubs are desperately seeking new members, urging members to retain their memberships and squeezing their members for maximum return on subscriptions. North Ryde GC is challenging these industry issues and is attempting to develop the best solution for our Members moving forward.

Over the past 12 months the Club realises it needs to plan for the future. The Club has progressively



By **Brenden Ellam**

GENERAL MANAGER

developed plans for the course, and the clubhouse, for implementation. The Board has been looking to merge these plans into one strategic plan for the Club. The strategic plan will determine where the Club is going over the next year or more, how we will get there and how we will know if we get there. A Strategic Plan will include the Club's Mission Statement (vision/values), goals to work towards the mission, strategies to achieve the goals, and action planning (who will do what by when). Of those companies in the Fortune 500 who survived the GFC, each had a strategic plan, together with a strong culture and effective/efficient systems.

The Board and management is looking to continue working towards developing, implementing and monitoring a strategic plan. It will be the foundation for providing a roadmap for positive change, aligning the objectives of the Members and the Board, and give clarity to where the Club should be.



2011 – a year in review

When reflecting over the past 12 months it is hard to recall

the accomplishments without going to reports to the Board. Of course, certain events which were predominant were the indefinite postponement of the Sewer Mining project, the unveiling of the Course Masterplan and the proposal of transferring the State Government fund as a consequence. Other major projects the Club underwent in 2011 are as follows:- Security Risk Assessment – implemented risk controls such as FOB access control system, intercom system and members early morning swipe access to side gate; The installation of new IT server and networking structure; and Redevelopment of the Club BBQ area. North Ryde has also been actively involved in the local community. I was fortunate enough this year to be part of the Max Potential program. This program includes coaching young students from local schools about success and how to realise their potential. We also hosted a Trivia Night for 240 people raising money for the Macquarie Hospital Parents Fundraising Committee. Financially, the Club has performed satisfactorily. Despite a downturn in public green fees and bar sales, the Club has been able to sustain solid revenue streams in all other areas. We have also been able to maintain expenses effectively across the Board. During these difficult times we have still managed to strengthen our term deposit.

In summary, 2011 has been a good year for the Club and a strong platform to launch into 2012. Thank you to all the Members who have continued their support of the Club over the past 12 months.



Something you don't see every day!



- Members and guests at the Club on Monday, 14 November will have seen something we don't often see at North Ryde Golf Club.
- It was arranged for a helicopter to land on the 1st tee to collect passengers on a trip to Newcastle.
- This was certainly a first for the Club and we can look forward to seeing some great aerial shots of the golf course in exchange for us showing this courtesy.

Up, up and away. . . North Ryde Golf Club provides a 1st tee helipad for executives from Microsoft, the international corporation based in North Ryde

YOUR GARDEN



Healthy Summer Turf

After having such good spring weather your home lawn should be looking pretty good right now. If not, it may be something as simple as a good complete fertiliser application to make it spring into good health. If you get a poor result from the fertiliser application the soil P.H could be low. Test kits are available from your local nursery or good hardware stores, and ideally it should be between 6 and 7 for optimum growth. Low soil P.H also encourages weed growth such as bindii etc.

For the people who feel the only good lawn is a short one, chances are it's not so good for the grass. Here then, are three brief lawn care tips:- Longer Is Better

Many people cut their grass too short. Optimal length is around 30-40mm. This helps shade out weeds, keeps the roots cooler and provides enough grass leaf to encourage deeper root growth. **Water Right**

A lawn needs about 25mm of water a week. If you're allowed to use a sprinkler or irrigation system, water twice a week applying 12mm of water per session. Frequent light watering does more harm than good as it encourages shallow root growth. Of course, to avoid wasting water, be mindful of proper sprinkler setup. Be sure water is not being wasted on paths or driveways. **Dormant Is Okay!**



Don't panic if there's a prolonged period without rain. A lawn is able to go brown and dormant for as long as eight weeks. When the drought is over, apply a summer fertiliser and repair damaged areas if needed. Follow these simple tips and you should be enjoying a luscious lawn in no time.

Ron Duffy
Course Superintendent

GOLFING TRIVIA

Umbrellas have their uses on a golf course, but can sometimes get in the way. Two of the best players of their day, Abe Mitchell and John Ball were battling it out in the final of the British Amateur Championship in 1912 at Westward Ho! in North Devon when Mitchell drove hard for the green on the 14th. The ball was certainly heading towards there until it reached a woman carrying an umbrella. With pinpoint precision the offending

accessory neatly deflected the ball into the nearest bunker and cost Mitchell the hole. He went on to lose the match. The self-same John Ball was not only a very talented golfer but crafty as well. In 1907 he bet he could go round Hoylake Golf Course, Cheshire, in thick fog under 90 and without losing a ball. Ball won his bet by using a black ball which he could spot easily in the fog – and went round with the same ball in 81.

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Rain disruptions but course never better

As at 30 November 2011, the annual rainfall was 1040.25mm compared to 1106.5mm recorded for the same period in 2010. The weather has caused some disruption of play however it has provided ideal conditions for grass growth entering the summer months ahead. The members and public alike have all rated the condition of the course as very high which is very pleasing for our Course Superintendent. Whilst there is plenty of moisture around, please adhere to all traffic management indicators (signs and ropes).

Major course projects are currently on hold whilst the Club awaits further outcomes of the Course Masterplan. This has not hindered our Superintendent from performing other improvements. Improvements and significant maintenance issues completed since the last report are: The filtered water coolers are now complete with the gardens planted out attractively at each station; Re-levelling and couch turfing of the 11th and 16th tees; Eucalyptus tree at the 18th was uprooted and collapsed over the boundary fence at the 18th tee. Tree cut up and removed; Ponds have been effectively treated for weed growth; and Greens have been dethatched and lightly top-dressed. As you could appreciate, with recent weather being conducive to aggressive grass growth the course staff have been keeping the grass length to an ideal playing length.

Practice fairway

The Match Committee has recently reviewed the rules pertaining to the use of the practice fairway. Early morning use



By Dennis Mather

CLUB CAPTAIN

of practice fairway will be reintroduced on selected weekdays. It is still an important consideration that the reopening of the practice fairway does not impede on competition and public play or slow play in any way. Information is on the noticeboards outlining the new changes. The times the practice fairway is now able to be utilised is Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from first light up to 8.00 am or up to 30 minutes after the first group in any competition hits off the 1st tee, whichever is the earliest. Another condition the Match Committee have imposed is, the practice fairway is not available on Wednesday mornings. Any member wishing to use the practice fairway on a weekday morning must first report to the Pro Shop and practice balls, which must be "Yellow", are able to be hired from the Pro Shop at a reasonable cost. This will still accompany other rules currently in place, such as golfers playing the 4th hole socially having priority and practice balls must not be hit until golfers

are out of range, all practice balls must be picked up before the first group in any competition hits off the 4th tee and that the practice tee is a part of the competition course and practice in this area is prohibited prior to a competition round.

The wrap up

Our Junior Pennant team and Eric Apperly have just concluded their round matches of the 2011 Pennant series. Both teams performed commendably in tough divisions with Junior Pennants finishing 3rd out of 4 teams and the Eric Apperly team 4th out of 6 teams.

It has been a wonderful couple of months for golf on the big stage. Many of the world's greatest golfers stepped onto the Lakes Golf Club to contest the Australian Open, then onto Royal Melbourne for the President's Cup and to round things up with the Australian PGA at Hyatt Cooloom. I hope you all had the opportunity to see them live, up close and personal. To see their ball striking and short game ability is truly amazing!

Quote: "Golf is a game where the ball always lies poorly and the player always lies well" – Anonymous

Course Care: "Remember this is your course: make the effort and please fill divots and repair pitch marks – even if they are not yours!"

Lastly, I would like to wish all members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Good golfing in 2012!

Dennis Mather
Club Captain



Recent changes to the rules of golf confirmed

As many members may be aware, the R&A have released their latest Rule Book 2012-2015. Together with the release of the book are some important rule changes coming into effect on 1 January 2012. Below is a brief outline of some of the important changes: Ball Moving after Address (Rule 18-2b) – If it is known, or virtually certain, a player did not cause his ball to move after he addressed it he may be exonerated from a penalty. Ball in Hazard: Prohibited Actions (Rule 13-4) – An exception exists where it allows a player to smooth sand or soil in a hazard prior to playing their shot provided it is only to care for the course, and they do not improve their lie. Time of Starting (Rule 6-3a) – If a player is up to 5 minutes late their penalty is reduced from Disqualification to Loss of the 1st Hole (Match Play) or 2 stroke penalty on the 1st hole (Stroke Play). Types of prizes and their impact on Amateur Status were reviewed and have been somewhat loosened. Amateur golfers may now win any prize for a Hole In One without it compromising their status. They are also allowed to practically win any type of vouchers up to \$1,200 (except those redeemable for cash). This has been a significant move away from the old rule where a trophy must be symbolic of a trophy or prize.

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VETS 19TH NEWS



We would like to warmly congratulate all Grade winners in the 2011 Veterans Championship which concluded on 21 November 2011 and was conducted over two rounds. The winners were: **A GRADE** Paul Hill (4) 144 **B GRADE** - Barry Cummerford (15) 173 **C GRADE** - Henry Fong (21) 180 **D GRADE** - Jock Kelso (30) 196. Excellent golf gentlemen!

Your Committee take this opportunity to wish all Vets a Merry Christmas with a happy and healthy 2012 to follow, plus plenty of good golf over the next 12 months.

CHUCKLE CORNER



WHATS IN A NAME??

The famous Olympic skier Picabo Street (pronounced Pee-Ka_Boo) is not just an athlete...she is now a nurse, currently working at an intensive Care Unit of a large Metropolitan Hospital. She is not permitted to answer the hospital telephones any longer. It caused too much confusion when she would answer the phone and say, Picabo, I.C.U. A good clean joke is hard too find these days... (admit it your smiling).



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profile



How well do you know your general manager

Brenden Paul Ellam, born 26 March 1974, attended Greystanes High School. Since completing High School he furthered his education through a Diploma of Hospitality Management and Certificate in Corporate Governance. In 1996, Brenden came to a crossroads in his life - turn professional golfer or get a real job. It was at this point Brenden realised his passion for golf was at an Amateur level. Having already commenced in the Club industry at Cumberland Golf Club, he pursued his traineeship as a Club Manager. After spending 11 years rising up through the ranks at Cumberland Golf Club he moved to Ryde-Parramatta Golf Club as the Assistant Manager. Only 18 months into the role he realised he was ready to take on the position of General Manager. The opportunity presented itself at North Ryde Golf Club and the Board at the time provided the perfect opportunity. Now, six years later, he is still loving his role.

At what age did you start playing golf? I first hit a golf ball at about the age of 9 years in the backyard with an 8 iron my neighbour had given me and some plastic balls. Once I started hitting them over the back fence my Dad decided to take me to the course. At age 9 I struck the flagstick on the short par 3 6th hole at Fox Hills for my first shot. That was when I was hooked.

Your current handicap?

Scratch. My first handicap was 25 at 12 years of age and by 15 was on scratch. The lowest handicap I reached was +4 in my early 20's.

Your favourite golfer?

If I had to pick just one it would definitely be Payne Stewart. In my top five I would have added Ben Crenshaw, Jack Nicklaus, Steve Elkington and Seve Ballesteros.

What is the best golf course you have ever played?

Australia has the best courses and I rate Metropolitan above most others. Outside of Australia, I rate Carnoustie as a great challenge and St Andrews for atmosphere.

Golfing Representations:

Australia: World U14's - San Remo, Italy (1988) Doug Sanders World U18's - Twice Runner Up (1990 & 1991); and Clare Higson Trophy vs New Zealand (1991)

NSW: NSW State Men's Team - 1998, 1999 & 2000 (Winner in 1998); NSW State Colts Team (1993, 1995, 1996 & 1997).

Other Achievements: Winner 1991 NSW Champion of Champions, Winner ACT Amateur Championship, competed in 1999 Australian Open Championship and over 20 Vardon events.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time? Playing golf, guitar, gardening/landscaping and spending time with the family.

What the future holds? No short term plans except try and get a little more golf in where possible, maybe a return to the Mid-Amateur and Vardon circuit.

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HOLE IN ONES OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2011

Peter Findlay – 5 October 2011 (8th) Dennis Mather – 5 October 2011 (10th) Jim McFarlane – 9 October 2011 (3rd) Paul Hill – 12 October 2011 (6th) Thomas Ong – 6 November 2011 (3rd)

MAJOR CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2011

Club Championships

A Grade: Kyle Mathieson – **A Res Grade:** Dylan Crockart –

B Grade: Michael Chapman **C Grade:** Ron Norton – **Junior**

Champion: Ben Wilson

Mens Foursomes Championships (Gross)

A Grade: Matthew Gordon & Matthew McFarlane (145) **B**

Grade: Steven Bradley & Anthony Cross (166) **C Grade:** Allan Gant & Frank Pengelly (188)

Mens Foursomes Championships (Nett)

A Grade: Peter O'Connor & Ben Young (67.5)

B Grade: Anthony Cross & Steve Bradley (70.5) c/b)

C Grade: Neville Catterall & Terry Bolton (73)

Veterans Championships

A Grade: Paul Hill (144) – **B Grade:** Barry Cummerford (173) – **C**

Grade: Henry Fong (180) – **D Grade:** Jock Kelso (196) **Husband**

and Wife Trophy: Phillip Pitt & Robyn Pitt (49) –

Left Handers Trophy: Matthew Wilson (67)

MONTHLY MEDALISTS

A GRADE **B GRADE** **C GRADE**

October James Cheeseman (64) – Barry Goron (64 c/b) –

Jackson Fennell (64 c/b) **November** Ryan Bailey (63) – Mark

Mathieson (64) – Alan Fletcher (67) **December** Matt Furness

(66cb) – James Burt (63) – Jonathon Walsh (64)

GREAT 2B STABLEFORD SCORES

Steve Larvin & Bill Green (56) – Dave Evans & Robyn Pitt (53) – Razmik Aghajanian & Kerry Flanagan (52) – Robert Positti & Victoria Positti (52) – Ashleigh Sprague & Victoria Positti (51) – Graham Sherin & Jonathan Walsh (51) – Dharna Karthi & Lindsay Doherty (51) – Tricia McManus & Helen Lee (51) – Bev Boyer & Bob Harvey (50) – Lorraine Clarke & Elena Gonzalez (50) – Michael Bow & Keith Bow (50)

GREAT SINGLES STABLEFORD SCORES

Steve Larvin (47) – Calvin Su (47) – Chris Ricketts (45) – Glenn Burkett (44) – Paul Hargreaves (44) Razmik Aghajanian (44) – Ross Wilson (44) – Lindsay Doherty (44) – Clem Cawley (44) – Russ Fennell (44) – Howard Pharo (44) – Robert Stubbs (43) – Eamon Conboy (43) – Chris Jeffers (43) – Robert Positti (43) – Allan Beeks (43) Mark Sherin (42) – Matt Furness (42) – Dave Parsons (42) – Tom Hukins (42) – Calvin Su (42) – Nathan Barbieri (42) – Ross Fazzalari (42) – Stewart Skinner (42) – Neil Couper (42)

MAJOR UPCOMING EVENTS – DECEMBER TO FEBRUARY

Through December 2011, January and February 2012 major events to keep your eye out for are:-

- Christmas Turkey Day – 14 December 2011;
- North Ryde Amateur Cup – 7 January 2012;
- North Ryde Amateur Shield – 7 January 2012;
- North Ryde Junior Open – 19 January 2012;
- President's Trophy – 21 January 2012;
- Gear Cup Qualifying – 28 January 2012; and
- Gear Cup Proper – 4, 11, 18 & 25 February 2012



Foursomes Winners 2011 – (L-R) Michael Breen (Pres), Matthew Gordon & Matthew McFarlane (A Grade); Steve Bradley & Anthony Cross (B Grade); and Allan Gant & Frank Pengelly (C Grade).



Robyn & Phillip Pitt – 2011 Husband and Wife Trophy Winners – Robyn & Phillip Pitt



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