



MEMBERS UPDATE JULY 2024

THE COURSE

As noted in previous reports repairs and maintenance to the course has been considerable over the past six months. Unseasonal humidity was followed by considerable rainfall and this created the need for “patching” on some greens. Additional chemical treatments were also required and a considerable number of additional man hours were necessary to complete these works. Members would note that the 12th green has needed to be updated and it has now “risen from the ground”. This green will become a showpiece on our course. The temporary playing arrangements that have been implemented whilst this work has been undertaken are working well and it is anticipated to have the new green playable in two months time. Greg and his team have worked tirelessly to keep our course open and playable during these uncertain weather conditions and our thanks go to them all. All of this additional work has overrun our course budget considerably and this will reflect in our trading figures at year end.

FINANCIAL

As predicted the club will operate at a trading loss for this financial year. Several matters have contributed to this trading position and the course work is only one of those factors. Revenue from all departments has increased during the year and a solid improvement in turnover has eventuated. The majority of this growth occurred during the first six months and unfortunately trade slowed during the last few months with visitor numbers being well below those experienced in past years. This slow down was felt most acutely in course revenue and bar sales. It is our view that weather events and cost of living pressures have curbed visitor traffic and whilst this may be temporary your board have implemented some operational changes to ensure financial viability can be maintained. Such matters are detailed below and a new budget will reflect these changes. In addition a full review of all expenditure has been undertaken to ensure that our budget projections are realistic.

A more stable trading month was experienced in June and I hasten to add that the club is still in a good cash position and we are having no difficulty trading.

Actual results for the financial year are not yet to hand but projections indicate that our revenue will reach 3.7M for the trading year. This is \$600K greater than the previous year and income from the restaurant is the largest contributor.

You would all notice our golf cart raffle is now underway and we expect to be able to raise sufficient funds from this source to fund the 12th green renovations. This raffle will be drawn at our Annual General Meeting in November. Please consider buying some tickets to support this fund raising effort.



STAFFING

Some necessary changes have been made to our staffing levels and this is both in numbers and in work rosters. Members may note some change to personnel and you may also notice a reduced number of staff on duty on some occasions. This is a necessary change to operations in order to reduce operating costs. Some of our younger staff will be stepping up to more responsible roles and they are very excited by this prospect and are keen to do well. Our development of these people is now becoming apparent and more detail regarding actual changes will be advised when all positions are finalized.

Our involvement at the Bowling Club will cease at the end of July and Johnathon will be able to spend more time at our club as a result. This will add valued support to the leadership group.

BELLINGEN RSL GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

As previously reported we are continuing discussions with Bellingen with a view to assisting them with future trading. Time lines are now being fixed and we are moving through the contract process. We will most likely commence our involvement with a labor hire agreement which is similar to that entered into at Macksville. All members should be aware that nothing is certain at this time as a final agreement has not been reached and you will all be kept informed as these discussions progress.

SUMMARY

It would be fair to say that we have had an interesting trading year. We have increased revenue considerably and we have also assisted Macksville to increase their revenue considerably. On the other hand we have had additional course repairs and maintenance which has impacted our budget and this, along with a late down turn in course traffic has impacted profitability. Our course has suffered badly and rectification works have been major. Membership of our club has continued to increase and we have experienced continual growth in our restaurant business.

When we are able to complete the trading year a more detailed report will be circulated. In the meantime I wish you all good golfing, weather permitting.

Geoff Harris,
President.