

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2024

Once again it is pleasing to report that the club was financially viable, and we had a healthy net profit of \$69K in 2024. This positive result helped to ensure that we continue to have a sound and secure financial position moving into 2025. I would like to acknowledge and thank our Treasurer **Sam Stalgis** and Director **Marilyn Schott** for their conscientious approach and the fact they were very mindful of being frugal with our expenditure wherever possible.

Throughout the year the Board continued to ensure our club satisfies all the Golf NSW, Clubs NSW and state government requirements to help keep all our members safe and healthy whilst at the club. We reviewed important policies such as the Code of Conduct Policy, Severe Weather Policy and Use of Private Carts Policy and created policies for Pace of Play and Dress Code.

Once again one of our major objectives is to continue to provide a quality golf course for our members, which is well maintained and challenging for golfers of any ability. Pleasingly, we received many positive comments about the quality of our course from visiting golfers and our own members.

Early in the year, we welcomed **Adam Walker** to our green's staff. Adam was previously employed at Royal Canberra.

In June, the 9th green was renovated, and the end result is an improved green that allows for more pin placements. The temporary green that was built leading up to the renovations created an interesting Par 4 hole that did not detract from the quality of our course.

Clearly, the greens staff had certain challenges throughout the year with torrential rain in May and June leading to an influx of golfers from other local courses that were closed. Also, towards the end of the year the 4th, 7th, 11th and 13th greens were badly impacted by the application of a chemical that not only killed the Poa Annuu winter grass, but also the bent grass. This was a consequence primarily of a combination of high humidity and poor water quality. In October and November, we had minimal rain and this meant we needed to access our bores and the affluent water more frequently. Unfortunately, this water proved to have a high pH and sodium levels which is not ideal for turf. This ultimately led to the necessity to create temporary greens on the 4th, 7th and 13th greens which are currently still in use. Hopefully these greens will be reopened in the very near future. On the other hand, the 11th green is beyond repair and will be rebuilt in late June 2025. The tee box will also be modified at the same time.

During the year we added a fairway mower, a surrounds mower, 2 cylinder grinding machines and 2 electric rollers to our fleet of machinery. The grinders will help us maintain the sharpness of the cylinder and a more accurate sharpness that is required. As Will says, "Sharp machinery means a sharp golf course".

On behalf of the entire club membership, I want to applaud our greens staff of **Chad Casinelli, Adam Walker, Cooper Maddinson, Kane Albert** and **Garry Hoare** ably led by our Course Supervisor **Will Ockenden**, for the monumental work they do in ensuring we have a quality golf course to enjoy.

They have been ably supported by our hard-working volunteers led by **Rob Edgerley** who oversees the removal of Parramatta grass from the fairways and surrounds and our Bushcare team led by **Noel Schneider**. Additionally, **Jim** and **Sheelagh Preston** do a fantastic job maintaining the gardens around the Clubhouse and **Mick Collins** who ensures the immediate surrounds of the clubhouse are well maintained.

On the golf course our C Pennants team was successful, and our clubhouse is now adorned with their flag and team photo. A fantastic result for our team! For the second consecutive year we hosted the NSW Vets Matchplay Championships and although the playing numbers were a little down compared to the previous year we were applauded for the quality of our course and the overall organisation.

In the Clubhouse we replaced the old furniture that was given to us many years ago by the Bowling Club with furniture purchased through a successful Community Building Partnerships grant application. Thanks to **Mark Henning** and **Phil Ross** for putting together the grant submission. The new furniture has certainly created a certain ambience to the clubhouse.

During the year we upgraded our website making it more informative and 'user-friendly'. Thanks to **Jackie Boaden**, **Rebekah O'Reilly** and **Mountain-Eagle Pitt** for their work on this project. Also, to **Steve Hancock** who inputs golf results on the website. We are also in the process of continually improving our IT capabilities and for that I thank **Nic Hall** for his work in this area.

The Links 19 Restaurant had a very successful year showing a profit of \$45K. The kitchen staff of **Mountain-Eagle Pitt**, **Gail Bateman**, **René Kendall** and **Jodie Bell** and ably supported by our young baristas have worked tirelessly to ensure the club provides quality food at very reasonable prices. In 2024 we had 304 social members compared to 256 in 2023. This is an increase of 18.75% which reinforces the success of the kitchen.

In November we installed a cool room at the rear of the clubhouse which was kindly donated by **Jeff Dudgeon** from the Bailey bottle shop. Thanks to **Warwick Merchant**, **John Schott**, **Garry Hoare** and **Peter Badman** for its installation. The addition of the cool room has allowed us to create more space in the bar cool room and back storeroom.

Coupled to the kitchen's pleasing performance is the bar which had a profit of almost \$180K. I want to thank all the bar volunteers for their continued efforts and **Lee Maddinson** for taking on the onerous role of Bar Manager which includes overseeing all kitchen operations.

In October the pathways between the car park and the greens shed and the rear of the greens shed were concreted and a new fence erected. Thanks to **Warwick Merchant**, **Gary Salway** and **Rob Walker** for overseeing this work.

During the year the club continued to support charities and the local community. In February we held the Col Waller Memorial charity day that supports Noahs. In August we held the annual Shoalhaven Cancer Care Centre Day that raised \$15K and in December we had 43 golfers participate in the Longest Day event that raised \$67K for cancer research. This significant amount saw our club being the second highest fundraising club in Australia. Thanks to Colin Brown and his team for their organisation.

During the year we also supported the Glen McPherson Memorial golf day, the Heads Primary School Charity golf day, the Heads Fishing club and the HMAS Albatross golf day.

We are very fortunate to have a significant number of sponsors who support our club. Their support is critical to the ongoing success of our club. I would hope our members utilise our sponsors where possible.

Another essential component of any successful golf club is the Pro shop. In most instances they are the first port of call for golfers and to have a team who are friendly, obliging and make you feel welcome is a massive bonus and helps make a golfer's day a memorable one. Our team of **Lloyd Herron**, **Barney Kingdom**, **Brett Lawson**, **Phil Behan** and **Greg Stephenson** under the guidance of our club professional

Greg Collins and his wife **Jo** do an admirable job in this regard. Without doubt Greg has been instrumental in attracting more and more members to our club by adding additional golfing events to our annual calendar.

As has been mentioned many times in the past the success of our club is primarily the result of our volunteer base, and without that base we most certainly would not be as profitable as we are now. In 2024 there were 4013 recorded hours of volunteer work.

I have mentioned many of our volunteers in this report, but I must add the finance team that undertakes the payment of all the accounts and ensure the daily takings balance. To **Marilyn Schott**, **Leanne Jeffs**, **Brian** and **Lorraine Rowe** and **David Wilson** thank you for your dedication and perseverance.

Also, of significant importance in the club's success is the role undertaken by the various committees who strive to both manage and meet the expectations of the membership and help ensure the club runs smoothly and efficiently. Thanks to all the members of the Building, Greens and Match, House, WHS, IT and Comms committees for your involvement. It is very much appreciated!

Our Vets committee led by President **Greg Montgomery** continue to do a tremendous job in ensuring that our Vets can still compete in club and interclub competitions. At the Veteran's AGM late in the year **Greg** and **Brian Rowe** resigned after many years on the Vets committee. Their efforts have been instrumental in the Vets being such a successful component of our club. The club thanks you for your hard work and dedication.

Similarly, the small team of lady members ably led by **Captain Chris Russell** are doing a great job in organising and running the various women's competitions at club and Pennant levels. Additionally, they organised a fantastic Melbourne Cup luncheon.

Without doubt 2024 was another successful year for our club and I have no doubt we are the envy of many other clubs not only in close proximity to us but even further afield. The Board who have worked tirelessly to ensure we meet member expectations and to support all aspects of club operations in 2024, I thank them all on your behalf.

Rob Russell
President (Acting)