

Around the Club



February 2020

Phone: (02) 6059 1552

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A newsletter for Wodonga Golf Club members

Josh joins pro-shop team



Josh Smith was a relative latecomer to the world of golf, but he has certainly made up for lost time.

Smith, 19, took up the clubs just five years ago after previously being involved in Motocross and currently has an impressive handicap of 3.

This month he took up the position of Pro-shop assistant at Wodonga, following in the footsteps of his predecessor Tim Purtill.

Smith is looking forward to gaining as much knowledge and experience from Wodonga Pro Gavin Vearing as he can.

He currently hits the course as

much as five times a week to hone his skills.

"I am looking forward to learning the ins and outs at the club and learning as much as I can from Gavin and the other members," he said.

"There is a great atmosphere at Wodonga and I get along well with all the members."

Smith said he planned to work throughout the 2020 year in the Pro-shop before applying for a three-year traineeship through the PGA, which he hopes to complete at Wodonga.

FIGHT MND.

MND Golf Day

Friday 21 February
Wodonga Golf Club

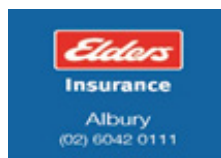


To raise money for the Bike Ride we are
holding an MND Golf Day

4 Ball Ambrose | 4 Players per team | 12pm lunch provided
1pm Shot Gun Start | \$60 per head/ \$240 per team
An extra \$60 for hole sponsorship available
Major raffle plus other prizes

To register for golf, contact Wodonga Golf Club Ph: (02) 6059 1552

Golf Day proudly supported by:



Mathews'
Group



Want to join the Bike Ride Ungarie to Melbourne, 8-14 March 2020?
Contact John Fox 0447 239 216

Golf tips - with Wodonga pro Gavin Vearing

I hope everybody had a good break over the Christmas and New Year period.

Do you have any New Year's resolutions about your golf game?

What handicap are you on now?

What handicap were you on 12 months ago?

If you have lowered your handicap, well done.

If you have stayed about the same or have gone out I would highly recommend reading a book by Clive Scarfe called "Why you suck at golf" It is a very interesting observation about the mindset and mannerisms of golfers.

Some of the key points that I would like to share with you from the book are below:

1. Most people who put 4 to 8 hours a week into doing any activity would expect to get better.

If you spend 4 to 8 hours a week learning a musical instrument you would expect to get better.

If you spend 4 to 8 hours a week going to the gym you would expect to be fitter and stronger

Golfers spend 4 to 8 hours a week playing golf and 90 per cent of golfers are on a similar handicap or even worse handicap than what they were 12 months ago.

In a nutshell, if you keep doing the same thing, you will keep getting the same results

Here are three things that can help you improve your golf in 2020.

1. Book a nine-hole playing lesson with me.

The goal of golf is to get the ball in the hole in the least amount of hits. There is more to the game of golf than just the swing. Driving is very important, hitting shots into the greens is important, chipping, pitching, bunkers and putting are important.

Course strategy and the mental side of golf are important and by doing a nine-hole playing lesson will allow me to look at all aspects of your golf game and give you strategies on how to improve it.

I am also going to suggest doing the playing lesson with a friend. One it



halves the price, but it also allows you to help each other.

Offer: Book a nine-hole playing lesson in February for 2 people \$75 each (\$150 total) Normally this would cost \$180

2. Sharpen the Short Game.

Think back to your last round of golf and count how many shots you would have saved if you had taken a total of 2 hits (1 hit, 1 putt) each time you were inside 100 metres.

If it is more than 18, then it is time to do some short game practice (and maybe a lesson or two) This is the area where all club golfers can save themselves lots of shots.

With the right technique and a little bit of practice, you can quickly save yourself 3 or 4 shots a round.

My tips: When around the greens, the higher you hit the ball the higher the margin for error

If you can putt

If you can't putt, chip

If you can't chip, pitch

If you can't pitch, lob,

If you can't lob, pray

Offer Purchase four x 30 minute lessons 1 x putting, 1 x chipping, 1 x bunkers, 1 x pitching for \$175 (normally \$200)

3. Fix your slice.

According to Hank Haney one of the greatest coaches in the world and

former coach to Tiger Woods, the path to good golf is never through a slice.

Nobody in the history of golf has ever gone from being a slicer to playing great golf.

Most higher handicappers fight a slice, most low markers (5 and below) fight a hook.

The only way the golf ball can slice is, "if the clubface is open to the path the club is travelling on".

Since Trackman has come along there are no longer any mysteries in why the golf ball goes where it goes.

On average 99 per cent of times the golfer has an 'out to in' swing path, For right handers, the club is swinging too far to the left through impact. It can be challenging for most golfers to swing to the right when they are already hitting the ball to the right, but that is what is required.

You must also be aware of what the clubface is doing as well. On many occasions, golfers who slice the ball have their hands too far to the left. If you want the ball to curve to the left, move your hands further to the right (on the grip) and swing further to the right. If you want the ball to go to the right, move your hands further to the left (on the grip) and swing further to the left.

Offer: Book 3 x 30 minute lessons with me and if I can't fix your slice you will receive your money back.

Ladies dig deep for bushfire appeal

Happy New Year ladies!
We hope you are all well rested and recharged ready for lots of golf.

Our long-awaited summer has hit with a vengeance and not only brought blistering heat but unfortunately dreadful fires. God speed everyone who may have been impacted.

The Wodonga ladies have donated \$1,000 to Foodshare supporting the Bushfire Appeal.

On a brighter note the January monthly medal and the monthly glass were both won by Maureen Barry with a 71 for the medal and a plus 5 for the glass.

Maureen is pictured on this page with her awards.

This is an awesome effort and a great start to her golfing year. Well done Maureen!

We look like fielding two teams in the Monday Pennant this year and also have ladies in this year's inaugural Sunday Pennant, which is fantastic. Good luck ladies!!



Our season start information day is February 13 and we are looking forward to seeing all ladies there on the day.

An invitation day will be held on February 20, which will provide an opportunity for ladies from surrounding clubs to join Wodonga golfers for a shotgun start and enjoyable day.

Members can find more information about this on the Team App.

Again in 2020 we will be working closely with Gavin and the team in the Pro-Shop

to bring several invitation days to Wodonga this year.

Wodonga Ladies will be hosting the Howlong Challenge, the Thurgoona Challenge and the Judy Guilfoyle event.

This is in addition to our own two-day tournament event, the Clubhouse Classic, held on May 25 and 26, which incorporates our bowls.

Wodonga has welcomed at least 11 new ladies for the over 65 free lessons initiative from Golf Australia, which is a fantastic achievement.

This year a plaque will be installed on the bench seat at the ladies 16th tee, following a suggestion from one of our lady members.

This will record the names of all future ladies who have a hole-in-one on any of our holes on the course.

We encourage all our lady members to remember to be sun smart.

We have recently purchased a bulk supply of sunscreen to be placed in the



ladies toilets for the use of our members.

We are looking forward to another exciting year at Wodonga and will keep you updated in this newsletter each month.

Just a reminder to all of the ladies, past and present members inclusive, there is a lunch held at the Golf Club on the first Friday of every month. So if you would love to catch up, please feel free to join the ladies on this day. The next one is Friday 7 February at 12.30pm.

- Di Bainbridge, Secretary

Veterans' news

It has been a busy time for our veteran golfers as we embrace the 2020 season.

The Blackbull tournament at Yarrawonga proved to be a great event with 46 of our golfers taking on the challenging course, consisting of many bunkers and fast moving greens.

The abundance of mondo grass proved for some rough and errant shots but all golfers took it in their stride.

The Christmas Ambrose event and luncheon held in early December was enjoyed by 55 veterans and proved to be a great success.

John Walpole and David Crutch showed great sales skills convincing many of our members to buy additional raffle tickets resulting in more than \$300 being raised.

A big thanks to everyone involved in organising the event.

The club Pro-Am on December 10 saw 180 players take to the Wodonga course, which was in top condition.

It was a team effort with our members playing a big part in car park duty, sign erection and painting and the barbecue, ensuring a great day all around.

The annual fee for NEDVGA is currently due. We ask members to place \$15 in an envelope in the green Vets box and a receipt and calendar of events will

be subsequently placed in front of the box for collection.

The dates for events will also be available in our 2020 program booklet.

The playing fee for 2020 NEDVGA events will be \$17.

Coming events:

Monday February 10 will host the Border Challenge at Albury.

This is a Stableford event with an 8am arrival for an 8.30am start.

Max Mueller has advised the committee that members may be able to play in the Albury Vets competition prior to the event to gain some experience on the course.

A list will be posted in the Pro-shop prior to the event.

Monday February 17, the monthly medal Stableford event will be held.

The first prize is a \$50 voucher and a \$50 clubhouse voucher will be presented after the event if members are present for a blind card draw. Nibbles supplied.

A trip to Bright has been planned for late February for members to play in the NEDVGA Stableford.

Members can book accommodation at the Bright Colonial Motel for February 23 and 24, to line up to play Stableford on Monday February 24 and 18 holes the following day.

The plan is to return home after lunch at the Bright Golf Club on February 25.

Please place a \$50 deposit and your details in the green Vets box as well as your name on the list in the Pro-shop.

A \$17 deposit for the Stableford can be placed in the green Vets box as well as posting your name on the list with time sheets to be posted in the Pro-shop.

Results:

December 23 Stableford 1st Ken Garner 42 pts, 2nd Tom Penski 42 pts.

Balls: Brian Stevens, John Woolbank, Andrew Klotz, Des Malone, Bill Ryan, Tony Davies, Neville Jarvis.

January 6 Stableford 1st Michael Fraser 40 pts, 2nd Tony Barlow 39pts.

Balls: Gary Byrnes, Neville Isaac, Michael Fenton, John Walpole, Tony Austin, John Hamilton, Ken Garner, Ted Murray

January 13 Stableford 1st Colin Thompson 41pts, 2nd Michael Fenton 39pts.

Balls: Les Myers, Tim Trigione, Phillip Missen, David Crutch, Bob Whitehead, Grant Smith, Gary Byrnes, Ted Murray.

- Des Malone

Spotlight on our sponsors

Colin Haynes has vowed he will play more golf this year after his recent success with 40 Stableford points at Wodonga.

The owner of Albury-Wodonga RV World is a proud sponsor of not only the first tee at Wodonga Golf Course but also contributes to additional events.

He recently put forward a caravan worth more than \$100,000 as a prize for a hole-in-one at the Wodonga Pro-Am.

"The prize didn't go off unfortunately," he said, without dismissing he may look to another similar prize in a future event.

"It's great to get involved in the local club, clubs need businesses and individuals to help out with sponsorship and donations to make things happen," he said.

"It's a good little club with really nice people.

"By sponsoring it not only provides help to the club but also exposure for our business.

"We will keep sponsoring into the future and hope to see the club grow further.

"There are improvements that can still happen and I encourage people and businesses to look to supporting this."

Haynes has lived on the Border with his family since 1970, and considers himself 'almost a local'.

He bought Albury-Wodonga RV World four years ago and proudly employs 12 local people.

The business sells brand-new and second-hand caravans, motorhomes and campervans and has an extensive display.

Albury-Wodonga RV World is an authorised dealer of Nova Caravans and JB Caravans.

The large range includes single axle and touring vans, to bunk family caravans and air bag suspension full off road caravans.

The team not only sell vans they also operate a large service centre, priding themselves on experience, knowledge and old-fashioned service.

