

## CAPTAINS NEWSLETTER: JANUARY 2020.

Fellow members: Happy New Year and welcome to season 2020. In preparation for our new season I thought it would be helpful if I provided you with some information about this years events, so here goes.....

### 1. New golf handicapping system.

There will be some minor changes to the way the golf handicapping system works in Australia as from 30 January 2020 and these changes are explained very well by Golf Australia on their information poster which is on the club Noticeboard. You can also go to their website to obtain further information.

The major change is that mens and ladies handicaps will move up to a maximum of 54. There is some flexibility provided which allows individual clubs to choose to set a maximum handicap for their own club events. At the moment our club events have a maximum handicap of 36 for men and 45 for ladies.

It has been decided that our Club will change our event handicaps so that they are in line with the new maximum handicaps which means that for both mens and ladies events, our maximum handicap for the event will be 54. This will be monitored over the course of the season and should it be found that there is an unfair bias towards higher handicap golfers then changes will be considered.

### 2. Survey of members.

You may recall that late last year a survey was sent out to members asking a series of questions regarding:

- the changing of our mens Grades from A, A1, B and C to A, B, C and D;
- the changing of the handicap ranges for our mens grades so that there is a more equitable distribution of members across the four grades;
- for mens club single stroke events, for D Grade members play a stableford event instead of the single stroke event.

The survey was completed by 190 members which is an outstanding response rate. Thank you to those members who completed the survey.

The survey results were also comprehensive in that:

- 88% of respondents agreed to the suggested changes to the Grades and the suggested changes to the handicap ranges for each grade;
- 87% of respondents agreed to the suggestion that D Grade members play single stableford events instead of single stroke events.

Another thing the survey did was ask members if they had any comments they wished to make in respect to the questions asked in the survey and there were 35 members who offered comments. These comments were varied but one thing that stood out was that a number of members quite rightly questioned

whether our current C Graders are solely responsible for slow play (which is the reason for suggesting that this grade play single stableford instead of single stroke).

After considering all of the data provided by the survey, it has been decided that:

a) effective from the January Monthly Medal (to be played on 11 January) the four mens grades and handicap ranges will be as follows:

A Grade: -5 to 10

B Grade: 11 to 15

C Grade: 16 to 22

D Grade: 23 to 36 (or 54 once the handicap system changes)

b) the mens D Grade will:

- continue to play stroke events on Monthly Medal days and at the Mens Closed Championships;
- play a single stableford event at the NQ Mens Open and the Rowes Bay Mens Open events.

### 3. Speed of Play.

All members are reminded that there is an expectation that an 18 hole round will take no longer than 4 hours 15 minutes to complete. This year I will be regularly running reports which will detail how long players are taking to complete their rounds. These reports will allow the Match Committee to identify whether there are particular players who are regularly slow or if there are particular grades that struggle to meet the 4 hour 15 minute completion. If trends are identified then we will need to consider if further action is required and if so, what would be an appropriate form of action.

Remember also that there are various ways you can speed up play if your group is falling behind. For example:

- play ready golf
- have two of the group putt out and then go and tee off on the next hole while the other two from the group putt out
- be attentive and watch the balls of each of your group so that if one does go in the trees or in the scrub, you have a good idea of where it will be.

To try and help improve the speed of play, the Club is getting some signs made up which will be on certain tees around the course and will tell you how long ago your round should have commenced if you are to meet the 4 hour 15 minute round time. For example there will be a sign on no.5 tee saying that you should be 1 hour into your round up to this point. All members are urged to be conscious of how long their round is taking and to make every possible effort to meet the 4 hour 15 minute round time.

### 4. Mens Single Matchplay 2020.

It has been decided that the qualifying for, and playing of this event will be compressed into a 7 week period taking place from 18 April to 30 May. Specifically, the dates are:

- Qualifying round: Monthly Medal event on Saturday 18 April
- Round 1: Saturday 9 May
- Round 2: Saturday 16 May
- Round 3: Saturday 23 May
- Final: Saturday 30 May.

As per the 2019 event, the tee times from Round 1 to the Final will be the early slots of the Saturday afternoon field with the names of the players to be put into the time sheet by the Match Committee.

#### 5. Mens Fourball Matchplay 2020.

Just like last year, there will be set qualifying and round dates for this event. The dates are as follows:

- Qualifying round: Saturday 4 July
- Round 1: Saturday 8 August
- Round 2: Saturday 29 August
- Round 3: Saturday 19 September
- Final: Saturday 24 October

#### 6. Other dates to remember:

- Opening day: Saturday 7 March
- Mixed Foursomes Championships: Saturday 17 April
- Ladies Open Championships: Sunday 7 June
- NQ Mens Open Championships: Saturday 20 June and Sunday 21 June
- Mens and Ladies Foursomes Championships: Saturday 11 July
- Mens Closed Championships: Saturday 25 July, Saturday 1 August and Sunday 2 August
- Ladies Closed Championships: Saturday 1 August and Sunday 2 August
- Mens Monthly Medal Finals; Saturday 7 November and Saturday 14 November
- Closing day: Saturday 28 November
- Green Renovations: April and October

In closing can I also wish each and every member all the best for 2020. Remember as well that in our club we have some players who are better players than others, some players who have shorter tempers than others and some players who play slower than others but despite this, all of us play the game to enjoy it. Can I therefore ask that above all else we show respect to our fellow members and club staff so that at the end of the day we can all go home thinking that we have had an enjoyable day at The Bay.

May the golfing Gods be kind to you.

Cheers

Mick Moriarty

Club Captain