



Dear Members,

Did you know that, according to Golf Australia, a total of 3.5 million adult Australians played golf in the last year, at golf courses, driving ranges, simulators, or mini-golf facilities, with 2.2 million of those people playing on a golf course at least once in 2022-23. And despite some NSW politicians trying to get rid of some of them, Australia has over 1,800 golf courses.

and...

According to the Australian Golf Digest, The Heads is ranked 138<sup>th</sup>. First time in! Speaks volumes for all the hard work done by our Greens Staff, all our other staff, the Pro and his team and, of course, the volunteers and you the members, who have all contributed in one way or another to make this possible. Not much more to add really,

we should all sit back and bask in our success, then try and do better next year!

As we move from our busier months into cooler days, (and rainy, when will it ever stop?), there has been quite a lot going in the background. One thing many of you will have noticed is that there has been a steady improvement in club communications and keeping our members informed. There is still much to do, but it's a project in progress. More below.

In other news.

Young Vincent Muller is going to Pinehurst in August to represent Australia in the U.S. Kids Golf Championship. A raffle is currently being held and will be drawn on 29<sup>th</sup> June to help Vincent compete against the best in the world for his age. First prize in the raffle is a Ping G430 Max 10k. If you see either Brendan or Kate Muller, his proud parents, selling tickets at the Club, say hi and buy a few.

A while back one of our members took part in the London Marathon. Ming Leung finished in the very competitive time of just over 3 hrs. 30 mins. Well done, Ming, Marathon Man!

Most of us will be aware that the use of credit cards gained prominence during Covid and, soon after, using them attracted a bank fee charge. The Club has been avoiding following suit on this; however, it is recognised that bank fees are now a major and increasing cost to the Club. As such our finance team has been looking at having to introduce such a fee, while keeping it as low as possible. We will certainly keep you informed when this happens.

A lot of members, particularly our lady members, will know that Chris Russell has resigned as our Ladies' Captain. During her time as Captain and member of the Greens and Match Committee, Chris has done a fantastic job. And I thank her for the wonderful job she did in carrying out her duties in such a dedicated manner.

Recently I enjoyed a dry week's golf in the Murray River area. It was during the time that the Big Soak was happening here. After returning I got out for a quick nine holes practice after the day's comp round. I was amazed with the fantastic condition of the course considering the amount of rain we had had, and it is a great credit to Will and his dedicated staff. Well done and thanks guys. I was also disappointed by the poor condition some bunkers were left in, and the number of fresh unfilled divots and pitch marks on the greens. There were nearly 130 golfers competing that day. And yes, there were golfers from other clubs playing but we can't blame them. We all need to make the extra effort to leave our course in good condition. Be responsible in your group to repair any damage down by both us and others. It is up to each and every one of us to maintain our course and support Will and the Greens Staff. No excuses. If you don't think this is serious check out the Club's Code of Conduct Policy, it's on the website. Lecture over!

**From the Secretary, Jackie Boaden.**

In March we launched a new [website](#). We hope that members are finding the content useful.

While there is no change to access the Member's Portal, the "Latest News" and the "Results" on the Home Page are updated regularly, including informing members of adverse weather conditions.

The website also has the entire contents of the 2024 Programme Book, along with any updates and changes since its publication.

Members are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the Constitution, By Laws and Policies of the Club, especially the Code of Conduct and Member's Protection Policies. For those that don't have access to the website, there is a folder with printed copies for viewing in the Clubhouse.

If you are an Instagram or Facebook user, then you may have noticed a lot more activity recently on our page. We would like to acknowledge our volunteer, Rebekah O'Reilly, who has been instrumental in raising our social media profiles.

So, how well are we doing?

If you are enjoying the content of the website and/or Instagram or Facebook, or have any constructive feedback, then we would like to hear from you. Please email [secretary@shoalhavenheadsgolfclub.com.au](mailto:secretary@shoalhavenheadsgolfclub.com.au).

If you have photos, or anything else, you would like to share on Instagram and Facebook then please contact Rebekah directly at [clubnews@shoalhavenheadsgolfclub.com.au](mailto:clubnews@shoalhavenheadsgolfclub.com.au)

As mentioned below, the Club needs volunteers for a variety of reasons. With the increased focus on our communications based on our IT platform, we are looking for anyone with basic IT skills that would be prepared to join the IT and Comms Committee and potentially help the current team to keep these new improved systems relevant.

#### **From the Chair of the WHS Committee, Nic Hall**

- Smoking Area:

There have been complaints about members and visitors smoking and using e-cigarettes in areas where smoking and using e-cigarettes is banned under the NSW Smoke-free Laws (<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/tobacco/Pages/smoke-free-laws.aspx>). No smoking areas around the clubhouse and Greenkeeper's sheds are clearly marked. A designated smoking area has been established at the bench seat under the Norfolk Pine to the south of the Clubhouse.

- Kitchen/bar Access:

Access to the kitchen/bar area is strictly for staff/volunteers who are working in those areas. Some members are regularly entering the kitchen/bar area to return dirty dishes and/or get ice from the ice machine. While these members are undoubtedly trying to assist kitchen and bar staff, unauthorised access presents several safety risks.

- Corner of Staples Street and Scott Street.

Members are advised that when driving out of the Club we should give way to any traffic turning from Scott Street north into Staples Street and vice versa. We are currently investigating the status of this small section of road in regard to traffic compliance. In the meantime, be alert.

### **From The Chair of the House Committee, Rob Russell**

Volunteers needed!!!!

As you may be aware the Clubhouse bar is run primarily by members who do so voluntarily.

With the success of our Links 19 Restaurant the bar volunteers often take food and beverage orders at the food counter as well as taking drink orders at the bar. In busy times this can become quite onerous, to the point where some of our bar volunteers feel overwhelmed and no longer want to do bar shifts.

One possible way of overcoming this would be to have additional volunteers who take on the role of taking the food and beverage orders at the food counter in the busy part of each day. These volunteers may also help with the collection of plates etc. from the Clubhouse and verandah. The shifts would be two to three hours in length starting at around 11am depending on how busy the day might be.

All volunteers can deduct \$2 from their annual membership fee for each hour worked. If you would like more information or are ready to volunteer, please let Rob Russell know by speaking to him in the Clubhouse or via email to [vicepresident@shoalhavenheadsgolfclub.com.au](mailto:vicepresident@shoalhavenheadsgolfclub.com.au).

In the not-too-distant future, parts of the kitchen will be upgraded to exceed our food premises requirements and will mean that the normal full kitchen services will not be available for one or two days. Members will be informed more at a later date.

### **From the Club Pro, Greg Collins.**

Once more with the extreme rainfall our region has experienced, many other courses will be closed, possibly for quite a while in some cases. In 2021 and 2023 we averaged 125 players per day which grew to 160 per day when the other courses are closed in 2022.

As expected, playing numbers are already increasing and with courses saturated it could be extra busy all through the cooler winter days when drying out will become an issue. The Pro Shop will follow our normal principles in that the timesheets will open 15 days prior at 6 pm to our members and 7 days prior at 1pm to our visitors. We have many on-going arrangements with a variety of groups that have long supported us and

are an integral part of the successful running the Club. These long-term visitors and travelling groups staying in accommodation are excused from this rule being able to book in more than two weeks out, while the long-term visitors are able to book 14 days out when the Pro Shop opens in the morning.

For these coming few months it is essential that members take advantage and book in during the first week when the timesheets are open, to avoid disappointment. This includes social play (including Gold members), don't just turn up expecting to play on the day, check first.

Play well, stay well!

John Clawley

President