

## CAPTAIN'S REPORT 2024

Dear Playing Members,

The past 2 years have flown for me since taking up the position as Club Captain at "The Heads". A position I have become proud to represent.

It's been a real learning curve because I have not come from a golfing background. Thankfully, I have had overwhelming support from so many people including all Board Members (current and past), our Professional **Greg Collins** and his team, **Will Ockenden** and the Greens staff and the many playing Members who I have always appreciated their input and advice.

I had a good friend that was the Club Captain at The York GC in the UK and he said if I took up the position 2 things were certain. One that I would meet many new friends and the other that my handicap would suffer. He was correct on both counts!!

My aim as Club Captain is to try and communicate to our members basically what is going on and I endeavour to do this via my monthly Captain's Report. Also to include information on all members, especially the Ladies and I truly thank **Chris Russell** our Ladies Captain for working so closely with me.

The Vets as well, with **Greg Montgomery, Brian Rowe, Barney** and **David Wilson** has been a breeze. They are a well-drilled team that has never posed any issues, and the Club always appreciates their donating funds for worthy upgrades around the course. There has now been a recent change in the Vets Committee, and I look forward working with the new team as well.

Many thanks to the Match and Greens Committee members that meet every month. We have always had an excellent working relationship doing our best to keep everything on track. We have, however, had a very trying past 6 months with the Greens issue and requiring to use 3 temporary greens while repairs continue. I won't, and can't for legal reasons, elaborate on the whys and how comes but prefer to look forward to having the new 4th, 7th and 13th back in play soon. We have now built 2 permanent/spare greens (located half-way down the 9th and adjacent to the right of the 17th tee which will also be used for lessons). We have Board approval to now reconstruct a new green and tee box on the 11th which will commence in June and be ready for play by the end of 2025. Hopefully by then we will have our regular 18 holes back in play and the 2 permanent spares as backups when required. Then, Will and his green staff can concentrate mainly on course maintenance.

There will also be many challenges for our Golf Club into the future. Other than the usuals, one in particular being how to manage playing numbers. We are constantly putting through 4,000+ rounds per month and the golf course is seeing the effects. One member said to me, because our golf course has become so popular it has become 'loved to death'. If we continue to see even more playing rounds, both comp and social, we will need to find a way to balance what is beneficial to players and to the golf course. I am confident we have the right people to navigate our way to the correct solutions.

Thanks to all members for being so understanding from late 2024 till now. I'm positive our Golf Course will continue to thrive and maintain as a centre piece of the Shoalhaven Region. Lastly, thanks to my wife, Janine for putting up with me doing golf club 'stuff'.

Cheers,

Phil