

## Pro Shop report 2019

2019 was a great year in terms of participation at the Club with just under 35000 rounds of golf played at an average of 96 players per day taking to the course. This is a great amount of traffic that many golf courses would be envious of and something we as a Club should be very happy with whilst still trying to grow these numbers.

One of the main factors that is attracting so many rounds of golf is the condition of the course and for this I would personally like to congratulate Keenan, Chad, Garry and Damien for a job well done. Whilst I will touch on the Mid-Amateur later on, I would like to acknowledge the effort of the ground staff for this event. The boys went above and beyond to ensure the course was presented in its best possible shape and I can tell you that the Club is still getting praise and return business on the back of the boy's efforts. Hopefully now we have our foot in the door we can again host other major events.

The Heads Hotel Summer teams event again attracted significant numbers, around 2700 players played in the 2018-19 season and numbers for the 2019-20 season are on target for similar figures. Once again, we must thank Lee, Leslee, Col and the team at the Heads Hotel for their continued support of the event and we look forward to the final's series in March.

Throughout the year obviously the club held many major events from the Men's, Ladies and Vet's Championships to the VW scrambles, Foursomes, four-ball and match play events. Without listing all of the winners I would like to congratulate those that were successful and all who competed. Good luck also to those who have qualified for district events and I hope you play well.

Perhaps the biggest story of 2019 was the staging of the NSW Mid-Amateur. This was by far the biggest event the club has ever staged with 192 players each day for the 3 days of the tournament. On top of this we estimate 400 to 500 practice rounds were played and the flow on effect has been fantastic. There have been a number of new groups with up to 20 players who have played here after hearing how good the course is. In November there is a group of 60 ladies, who are all members of Killara in Sydney staying at Bangalay Luxury Villas and playing here for three days. This group are playing here after they heard what a fantastic course we have after some of them played in the Mid-Amateur event. The success of this event and the positive feedback we received from Golf NSW has given us the opportunity to bid for future events which we will be attempting to host in the next few years.

Whilst the Mid-Amateur was a great success, plenty of work was required in order to host it. We had several meetings with Shoalhaven City Council and Golf NSW. Sponsorship deals were struck with The Heads Hotel, the Bowling club along with the accommodation providers, Coolangatta Estate, Holiday Haven and Mountain View Resorts and Bangalay Luxury Villas. I would personally like to thank all of our sponsors along with those who made it all happen especially Glenn Askew, Rob Russell, Col Waller and Cec Montgomery. This event has given us enormous exposure.

To our outgoing Board of Directors I must say congratulations, the ship is on course and all of you are responsible for that. The leadership of President Rob Russell has once again been fantastic, and I would challenge any golf club in NSW to introduce me to a President who is as hands on and

active within their club as Rob. A great job Rob and the Club needs to applaud your work as I certainly do. Good luck to all the new directors and let's keep the ship headed on its current course.

Whilst I have thanked the Board, I must also congratulate our various committees. Our Vets are the heart and soul of the Club and continue to support the Club with their significant fields on a Thursday. Our ladies are also strong and let's hope they continue to attract more players. Many of our Vets and ladies are also heavily involved as volunteers which we all continue to acknowledge. It really is a unique Club and let's hope the volunteer spirit continues for many years to come because it is absolutely brilliant.

In the shop itself I must thank my main suppliers in Titleist, Ping, Murray Golf and EZGO. Your support is appreciated. For those of you who didn't realise it we took possession of 15 new EZGO carts in October and in May 2020 once the new shed is built another 11 carts will arrive taking the total to 28. This number of carts is allowing us to take larger groups and in March 2020 we have a group of 68 players from Queensland booked in on a Friday, which is the largest group booking we have ever had and with the help of a few members carts we can cater for the entire group in carts.

To my staff Jo and Peta along with cart cleaners Harry and Jamie your efforts are greatly appreciated, and a job well done. Peta has now been with us for 3 years and has taken on a few other roles in the shop. Peta is now an ambassador for Ping so for any equipment queries please feel free to bounce them off Peta or myself. To the weekend helpers in Cec Montgomery and Brett Lawson, your efforts are always appreciated. Cec has stepped down from regular weekend helping and whilst you are not around as much the work you have put into this Club and to the shop is undeniable and you are a strong part of the Club's history for which I personally thank you. Brett Lawson, or 'Lawso' as he is affectionately known, has begun helping on weekends and has fitted in seamlessly and I look forward to the future with you being around.

Last but not least I would like to say thank you to the entire Club for your continued support. We try to look after the members the best we can, and we appreciate your support. There are many others who work closely with us to help us run the day as smoothly as possible. To Geoff Collins, Gaz Hoare and Phil Behan a job well done in running our events and I look forward to working with you in the future. Also to Barney Curran, Brad Sharpe, Wazza Cassidy and all others who help around the shop we say a big thanks.

Until next time happy golfing

**Greg Collins**  
**Club Professional**  
**Shoalhaven Heads Golf Club**