

CAPTAIN'S REPORT 2021

And we thought that 2020 was a turbulent year!!!

Little did we know. We may not have had the horrific fires of December 2019 / January 2020, but we did have more rain and flooding and we did have the continued effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on all our lives. The severe rains of early 2021 caused many problems and brought an early end to the representative season as Pennants and White Horse cup events were cancelled.

The wrath of the Covid-19 pandemic picked up pace as the more virulent Delta strain spread in the community. The daily (and sometimes hourly) changes to the restrictions imposed by the Dept. of Health were a constant challenge. I am grateful to our Board and to the members of the Pro-shop team who remained up to date with the legal requirements and at the same time provided us with a safe place to come to play golf. The shutdown from July to October was very disruptive, especially to members who live outside the Shoalhaven LGA.

Back we went to play in groups of 2, one person per cart, noodles on the hole and preferred lies in the bunkers. Fortunately, through careful planning and close adherence to regulations, our club got through the worst of the restrictions with only a minor impact on our ability to play the game we all love.

Despite our best plans, a number of the regular championship events were affected. We failed to run a Men's Foursomes event and the 2BBB Match Play Championship final has still to be completed at the time of writing this report.

However, many events did take place and I would like to congratulate the following Championship winners:

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|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| A Grade Champion | Ian Asbury |
| A Reserve Champion | Garry Hoare |
| B Grade Champion | Warwick Merchant |
| C Grade Champion | Jason Groves |
| Individual Match Play Champion | Steven White |
| Mixed Foursomes Champions | Peta Merchant & Warwick Merchant |
| Medal Of Medals | |
| A Grade | Stephen Jermyn |
| B Grade | Garry Miles |
| C Grade | George Miller |

We also had 10 Hole-in-Ones during the year.

There have been a number of improvements to our golf course over the year.

We made the 13th hole fairer by removing the right-hand side fairway bunker.

We increased the playability of the greenside bunkers on the 4th and 11th and the left-hand fairway bunkers on the 5th and 9th by raising the level of sand. The use of coarser sand has also assisted in improving the playability of bunkers.

We renovated the 6th tee and introduced artificial grass mats on this tee and in the practice nets.

Through the efforts of **Robert Edgerley** and his team, we are gradually reducing the impact of Parramatta grass on the course.

We widened the fairways of the 3rd, 16th and 17th holes, so that they now follow the natural flow of the land, giving a better look to these holes while reducing the impact of Parramatta grass.

We purchased a second rough mower to allow us to have a first and second cut level which again improves the look of the course and provides the secondary benefit to players of wider target areas.

The cart path team, led by **Geoff Collins**, was also hard at work improving the look of the course. We now have full paths down the sides of the 2nd and 8th fairways, an improved path greenside of the 15th, and a path between the men's and ladies' tees on the 16th hole.

I would particularly like to congratulate **Damian Spelta**, our Course Superintendent on the wonderful job that he and his team of **Chad Casinelli**, (Assistant Greenkeeper), **Garry Hoare** (Course Mechanic), **Todd Mitchell** and **Nicholas Neilsen** (our 2 apprentice Greenkeepers) do, by providing us with a gem of a golf course, that is the envy of players who come from near and far. **Damian** was presented with a challenging yet rewarding opportunity when our previous Superintendent, **Keenan Hobbs** moved on to a new career. He has accepted that challenge and given us his best. His team has supported him and thereby, maintained our great golf course to the highest of standards, and have also introduced improvements that make our course even better.

Once again, I want to thank all members for allowing me to perform the role of Captain of this wonderful Golf Club.

Phil Behan

Club Captain