

Sunday 4 December 2022

New South Wales Hardware Social Golf Club - Presidents Report 2022

Firstly, I would like to make a special mention to Club Captain, Jacques Duvenage.

Over the past 2 years as Club Captain, Jacques has juggled late course cancellations, late course changes, late player requirements due to changing course conditions, late player numbers due to COVID and other, to mention a few.

As past Club Captains would attest, the role of Club Captain is the toughest gig, planning and booking courses 12+ months in advance, managing and communicating player numbers, working out handicaps and game results (with Mal's help), sorting game prizes, the list goes on. Throw in a pandemic and ridiculous amounts of rain causing flooding and course closures, Jacques has had it all. I'm sure that all members would agree, Jacques has done an amazing job for our club over the past 2 years.

Secondly, I would like to thank club members for hanging in there, for adapting and being flexible, for accommodating late changes. It hasn't been easy. Together we kept our club spirits high, we attended as many games as we could, we made the most of our time together. We grew our mateship, we huddled under umbrellas in torrential rain, we gathered around tables after monthly games, we enjoyed spending time together on our stay & play weekends. Thank you for your support, your patience, and for your understanding.

After an eventful 2021 and off the back of a change in membership structure, 2021 paid up members received free membership in 2022. A gesture of goodwill in recognition of a disruptive year prior and reduction in games scheduled.

In 2022, we introduced a rolling sponsorship agreement for Club Sponsors. \$500 for year one, \$250 for year two, and \$125 for year three. We'd again like to thank Club Sponsors, Macintype Design (Steve Sutherland) and Garnett Certifications (James Garnett). Your sponsorship has provided members with new club shirts, contributed to our interstate costs, and contributed towards our financial position.

The *TeamReach* app has become the source of truth for game schedules, game attendance, game day photos, and the odd 'bat' photo. The bat holds a special place with Greg Cass, just not in his hands. Please make sure to RSVP to each game on the app, whether you're attending or not. We use the app to confirm final player numbers with courses prior to attendance.

The club website provides members with a list of upcoming games, course information, game reports, game results, player scores, and member payment facility. If you haven't looked at the site, please do so, it's the envy of every other golf social club.

.... and finally, after a few years without an Interstate, we made our way up North to the sunny Gold Coast to challenge our QLD colleagues for the Hardware Interstate. The weather was perfect, the courses pristine, the company great and well let's leave it at that. As they say, there's always next year!

Mal enjoyed the trip so much that he left a special memory on the carpark post of the accommodation. The remnants of Mal's rear right tail-light and grey paintwork, a permanent reminder for all other hotel guests to check their reverse camera carefully when reversing in the carpark, and not to pay attention to other golfers walking in the carpark.

I'd like to take the opportunity to thank the club executive for all their support in 2022, for joining me at Castle Hill RSL for the odd club meeting, for our numerous conference calls, for your suggestions, and for your general support in making things happen. Thank you.

Club Captain Jacques Duvenage, for booking and coordinating our games, often under extraordinary circumstances.

Club Secretary Alison Garnett, for doing an amazing job of taking notes, making suggestions, putting together raffles, and pretty much everything that happens behind the scenes.

Temporarily permanent Club Treasurer and club stalwart Dave Garnett, for balancing our budget, making sure that we stick to the rules, and generally keeping things in order.

Club Public Relations Officer Steve Sutherland, for managing the club website, writing game reports, and taking game day photos.

I'd also like to acknowledge Mal Skinner for his ongoing support, his ever-willingness to jump in wherever needed to add scores, increase handicaps, throw in a prize, or take a trip with his trusty sidekick Steve Sutherland to scout a golf course or accommodation options. He is a genius when it comes to organisation, how anyone can fit in work, 20 games of golf, and a weekend away in a 7-day week is extraordinary.

I'd also like to acknowledge the passing of Peter Roberts. A member of the club for many years, Peter was quick to jump in whenever needed to facilitate a meeting, an AGM. Known for a good chat, Peter was always willing to share his opinion on any matter. Sadly, Peter couldn't play many games in recent years, his illness preventing him from joining us on the course. I'm sure he's up there right now, chewing the ears off Adam Thompson, telling him how we should be doing this, we should be changing that. We love you mate, happy heavenly golfing.

I'd also like to acknowledge our members that have dealt with serious illnesses in 2022. We're thinking of you and wish you better health in 2023.

Once again, thank to the club executive for your support in 2022, and thank you to our members for your continued support under extraordinary circumstances.

On behalf of the club executive, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas, and happy, healthy & prosperous New Year.

Adam Reid

President, NSWHS GC