

Annual General Meeting

Firstly a great thank you to those members able to attend the AGM. The Board is keen to hold the AGM at a time when the majority of members can attend and it is always difficult to find that happy balance. During the year we will again ask members to indicate their preferences.

Attendees did represent a good cross-section of the Club, with both playing and social members in attendance.

A number of recommendations were proposed in respect to the Operations of the Club and these will be considered as part of the Board's on-going review of improving efficiencies and minimising costs.

There was particular interest in the Club's strategic and operational plans and two sections below are devoted to outlining what they are.

A vote of confidence in the Board and Management was well received by the Board members. It was acknowledged that 2009 is going to be a challenging year and the members will need to support the Club wherever and whenever they can.

This year two of our Directors have decided to retire from the Board. On behalf of the Board and the Club Ian Harvey thanked Barbara Church and Lol Barratt for their contributions to the club and the Board over the last few years.

There were therefore two Director vacancies on the Board. John Townend, a true stalwart of the Club, was nominated and seconded to fill one of these positions. John has subsequently withdrawn his acceptance as he believes he and the Club would be better served by him being on the Match Committee, supporting Tom O'Sullivan as Club Captain, in what is in itself a challenging role.

Subsequent to the AGM we received two nominations to fill the Director positions, Lindsay Munro and Gary Flynn, and are pleased to report that Lindsay and Gary

have accepted the invitation from the Board to join them for 2009. Congratulations and we look forward to working with you.

Business / Strategic Plan

As with most business or strategic plans we have developed a short term five year view, supported by costings, and a longer term ten year view which is more about where we want to be if we had unlimited funding and no roadblocks .

Holistically, the ten year view is to develop the Gordon Golf Club, the course and its surrounds into a vibrant golfing and community centre that is well-patronised by golfers and the residents and is integral to the Ku-ring-gai municipality.

Briefly, this encompasses a consolidation of the buildings, ie Clubhouse, Pro Shop, Meals on Wheels and other buildings, into a common façade that makes it clear that there is a Golf Club here and you are invited to join us.

This incorporates revised car parking and a driveway that enables members and guests to drop their clubs off at the doorstep rather than un-packing in the street.

We have submitted an Expression of Interest to the Council for use of the Meals on Wheels building and we are hopeful that we can firstly make it to the tender stage and ultimately be selected as the lessee. In line with our strategic plan we have identified some options with respect to how we would use the building, ie as a community meeting room, juniors' room or buggy storage area.

The five year view is more conservative and looks at what we can reasonably target to achieve in that time. The plan includes financial targets for the next five years, the over-arching target being an annual 5% growth, in revenue and membership. This will be reviewed prior to setting the budget for the coming year to ensure all factors are taken into account. How we achieve the targets is

also outlined in the plan, these include Marketing, on-going review of Council lease, Capital Works that will increase revenue, to name a few.

At the AGM our President indicated we would not be undertaking any capital works this year and that it would be a year of consolidation. With the economic climate we felt this was the most prudent approach to keeping a cap on costs. On the revenue side however we now have a marketable Clubhouse that looks great.

We are slowly building on the support of our core golfing members and developing a social side of the club which is generating a good lunch trade on various days of the week.

Board Operations

The Board positions for 2009 are now filled. Last year the Board introduced a structure where each Board member was accountable for a specific area of Board operations. This proved to be an effective process so we will continue with the structure this year.

Once the accountabilities are agreed they will be published in the newsletter and posted on the website.

On the Course

We have been receiving a lot of positive comments about the presentation of the course and we would like to thank all the council staff working on the course for their continued efforts in presenting the course at such a great standard.

Sewer Mining

There have been some unforeseen delays in the commencement of these works, but it looks likely that works may commence in the latter half of this year. We will provide more information as soon as it is available.

Slow Play

Please don't forget that slow play is a poor aspect of our great game. It is up to each individual player to do their utmost to make sure that you keep up with the group in front and finish your round with in the guidelines set down. These are on display on the local rules board.

Players Not Showing up for tee times

A number of members are forgetting to cancel their tee times. Please ensure that if you can't play you either cancel your time via the online bookings prior to the day of play or notify the pro shop on the day of play that you won't be playing at least 1 hour prior to your tee time.

Club Promotions / Functions

We are aware there were no functions held last year and the primary reasons for that were that renovations were underway and secondly the nights we tried to run were not patronised enough to even break even.

We however are going to try some different activities this year.

Our first promotion for this year is a

Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament to be held over 6 weeks starting on Thursday 16 April. Registration starts at 6.00pm for a 7.00pm start.

We encourage members to get behind the promotion so that it can become a regular event and help build the profile of the Golf Club for members and the community.

If you have any ideas or are prepared to help plan and run an event please let us know. You can speak to any of the directors or Brian, we are only too happy to listen.