

RAAF WILLIAMS G.C.

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Members,

COURSE WORKS

Below is an update from the Secretary regarding course works.

As a consequence **Holes 6-8 will be CLOSED Monday 12JUL from 0600.** Large machinery and trucks will be on-site, please avoid all work areas and be alert to transiting trucks along the road adjacent to the 6th hole. It is hoped all work will be completed within 1 day. However, an update will be provided via email and Facebook Monday afternoon regarding Tuesday status. We apologise for any inconvenience.

ORDER OF MERIT

A new system of point allocation has been adopted for the 2020/21 season. Points will be awarded to the top 50 place getters in a modified PGA FedEx cup style distribution. A full points chart will be posted on the results board at the clubhouse. The reason for change is twofold, 1. Participation rates have held at a high number for several months allowing for a larger point allocation. 2. A larger points allocation will reward steady players who score reasonably well over time whilst the distribution will still reward high placing performances.

OUT OF BOUNDS (OOB) MARKERS 5/14

The OOB markers have been moved slightly further out along the left side of the dogleg as Committee determined that they were a bit too close to the Fairway.

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER

Mick O'Toole has tendered to the Committee his resignation as the Club Membership officer and is not continuing on as a member at the club. Mick has been a constant over the last several years, working tirelessly with memberships, social groups and supporters whilst also filling the role of starter and organising the Summer 9's competition. Whilst it is sad to see him go, we wish him well as he pursues other interests and as he is still living in the area hopefully we will see him around the place from time to time.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY - JULY 10
STABLEFORD

WEDNESDAY - JULY 14
PAR PLUS

FRIDAY - JULY 16
FRIDAY 9S WINTER COMPETITION

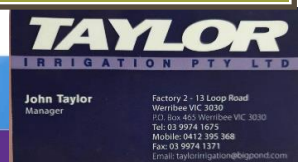
SATURDAY - JULY 17
PAR PLUS

WEDNESDAY - JULY 21
STABLEFORD

FRIDAY - JULY 23
FRIDAY 9S WINTER COMPETITION

DO YOUR PART

- FILL YOUR DIVOTS
- REPAIR YOUR PITCHMARKS
- SMOOTH BUNKERS AFTER USE





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DRIVING RANGE

The President's efforts in mowing the range regularly have seen the range look at its best for some years. The Committee is investigating making an all-weather concrete pad on which golf mats will be placed. Louis Guzzo has purchased ball buckets which are kept in the clubhouse. If you purchase a bucket please return the bucket to the clubhouse of place in the blue tub on the range.

RESULTS OF NOTE

Congratulations to Noel Solas on winning the Terry Bourke Final defeating Paul Walker 1up.

CAKE OF THE WEEK

Hummingbird Cake

Paul Walker On behalf of the Secretary

WORKING BEE

There will be a Working Bee next Sunday 18JUL to finish off the turf works and other odd tasks following the soil positioning on the 7th Fairway. Turf will be pre-cut and the ground prepared prior so all that is needed is a helping hand moving and laying the turf.

If you can spare an hour or two please come along, we'll be getting underway at 1000.

Anyone that has a trailer or 4WD with a tow bar please bring it along to assist with turf relocation.

FIREWOOD

Due to an OH&S decision the Club is no longer able to use the pot bell stove under the awning.

As a consequence there is no longer any use for the firewood stored at the Club.

Members are invited to take as much as they wish for a \$5 fee per trailer.

RESULTS

The adoption of ONEGOLF by so many members allows all players to see their results, competition by competition. So, results will no longer be posted into the newsletter. However outstanding play may see an honourable mention in the results column. Results can also be seen at the following link.

<https://leaderboard.miclub.com.au/show-leaderboards?club=raafwilliams>

Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to summarise for you the events involving the mounds of soil across the course over the past several months.

As you would all be aware, the Club took delivery of approximately 3000m³ of Soil beginning mid-January with the intention of correcting soil erosion issues on the 7th and 8th fairways.

Towards the end of the delivery process in February concerns were raised by Base management and environmental staff as to the quality of the soil, specifically from a PFAS content viewpoint. For those not familiar, there are issues across several Defence sites nationwide with ground contamination from historical PFAS use.

Work was halted and the Club provided all the soil lab reports to the Base for review. Whilst all soil was deemed to be EPA certified clean fill additional testing was required to test specifically for PFAS. This testing was done in April by a Base contractor and a report provided later the same month. This report grouped the soil into 4 roughly equal sized categories, groups 1 & 4 where 100% clean, good to use soil. Group 2 had trace amounts of metals such as arsenic that were slightly above the minimum allowed amount for use around a water table (note: 0-0.02 mg/kg is acceptable, these levels were 0.03 mg/kg). Group 3 had trace amounts of PFHxS and PFOS (0.0053 mg/kg and 0.0054 mg/kg), deemed slightly above threshold.

Whilst all soil was deemed useable for the purposes intended by the Club, it was decided, through an abundance of caution, the soil containing the slightly elevated arsenic would not be used.

That brings us to today, so what now....

An agreement has been reached between the Committee and Base management and environmental representatives that will see the group 2 soil (which equates to 33 piles and approximately 650 tonnes) removed and all the remainder cleared for use on the course in accordance with the 2019 approved Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) that detailed the reconstruction of the levee, but has been negotiated to encompass remediation of the seventh and eighth fairways. While the desired result of presenting newly profiled fairways sufficiently filled to prevent future flooding will not be eventuated due to requiring an estimated 10,000m³ of soil, we are confident utilizing the remaining fill and a modified plan will see a generous top layer on the eighth to enable re-turfing. This coupled with the reconstruction of the levee to a height of 0.5 mtr along the entire length of the lower dam should prevent further flooding during and after high rain events.

Whilst every effort is being made to stick to the schedule and have work done as soon as possible, this is Melbourne, and it is winter, and we are at the mercy of the weather for most of what we need to do. That aside...

This coming Monday, 12 Jul 21, at 0600, the Base contractor will attend the course with trucks and machinery to remove the soil mounds marked as group 2. It is expected this will take 1-2 days. Once the soil deemed unsuitable for use has been removed, we will be conducting a working bee:

The works will split into 2 focus areas;

1. Spreading of mounds on seventh and completion of turf laying (estimated 2000 m²), Yes a large task that will be achievable if we all assist.
2. When the area adjacent to the dams are sufficiently dry to enable large earthmoving equipment access, profiling and repositioning of the levee along the eighth as well as distribution of all remaining soil to lift the height of the eighth to correct the erosion and prevent flooding.

To achieve these goals work will progress as follows;

1. A bobcat has been arranged to batter down and profile the soil on the 7th, it is hoped this can be completed on Sunday 18 Jul 21. The Course manager, Terry, is currently identifying suitable donor locations to provide the turf to complete the fairway. This work will also take place Sunday 18 Jul 21, with pre-cutting on 16/17Jul.
2. A D6 bulldozer has been arranged through a club member. The existing levee will be repositioned closer to the dam wall, and battered back to the fairway, increasing the overall fairway width, at the same time all remaining soil would be distributed evenly and profiled along the eighth, this work is subject to equipment and operator availability and weather. As this area is significantly larger than the seventh, there is insufficient turf available around the course and cost to buy turf is prohibitively expensive in the quantities needed (Local turf quotation for the supply ONLY of sufficient turf was \$90,000). Also, the task is simply too large for manual turf lifting, moving and laying. The proposal is to use what turf we can source and create a dozen or so 10mx10m pads at various spots across the fairway, seed the remainder and wait for the warm weather to let the grass fill in and grow over.

It is the intention that the eighth will remain being played from the temporary tees until the fairway has suitable grass coverage, this allows for work to continue and not impact the play of the course, and for the work to be done correctly and the turf to establish without any traffic, giving the best chance. Whilst this may all happen quicker, the focus is to have the courses ready for Club Championships in mid-November.

For the seventh, the turf laid last month is progressing nicely, with a bit more favorable weather it is hoped the hole can be returned to its normal length later this month, with the center strip of Fairway in play and GUR along the soon to be laid areas on the right and left edges.

This will only happen if it improves play, it is not the intention of the Committee to reinstate fairways or tees that are not ready or would not provide an enjoyable experience.

I am aware this issue has been going on longer than we all would have liked. Be assured, the committee has been working continuously this past 6 months to progress the task as quickly as we could. No one is to blame for the delays, it is simply the nature of our situation, being a tenant on a RAAF Base and having additional stakeholders that must be involved in these processes. We are through all the regulatory hurdles now, and weather permitting should start to see real, tangible progress towards the final goal of returning the course to a fully grass covered, adverse weather resistant state. So let's band together, support, assist and enjoy our iconic facility.

More updates will be provided as things progress, thank you for your understanding and patience over these last few months.

Sincerely,

Damon Burke

RWGC Secretary

On behalf of the Executive and Course Committees