

MEMBERS INFORMATION NIGHT – 15TH JANUARY 2024

Welcome to our first information night for 2024.

Trading

Trading this year has not been without its challenges, particularly in attracting staff. This is not isolated to our club as there is a staffing problem right across our country.

Duntryleague is a great place to work and if you know anyone who is looking for a very rewarding job in a great atmosphere, please let Michelle and her staff know.

The club recorded a profit of \$269,089 for the for the year. This number is subject to audit; however, it is a good result for the club and for our leadership team headed up by Michelle, Renee, Justine and Josh.

Membership of the club continues to be strong, and we will continue to do everything possible to satisfy our current members and to attract a steady stream of new members.

Food and Beverage continues to trade very well, particularly our functions thanks to the hard work of our functions manager Justine.

Guest House revenue is on a par with last year and we continue to put promotions in place to increase that revenue stream.

Our golf revenue is up on last year and Michelle is working with Golf Shop Solutions to continue to improve that area of our business.

Once again, I emphasize the importance of our Club Operations and the Guest House to the overall health of the business and our club, and I encourage all our members to use our facilities wherever possible.

Strategic Plan

Our Strategic Plan for 2023 to 2027 is the basis of our strategies for the members and their club.

CLUB HOUSE

Our Club House continues to consume a great deal of time for the Board as we work through the asbestos issues.

We are still awaiting a decision from Council and Heritage as to how we progress with the demolition and re-construction.

Heritage is currently considering the current plan for the removal and whilst we were hoping to get a resolution before this, we are hopeful that we have something firm in the near future to take to our members.

This is going to be a big investment by our club, and we will be consulting with members and industry experts before making any commitments for the future.

Greg Madafiglio continues to monitor the building each month and it remains safe for everyone.

HERITAGE BUILDING AND GROUNDS

The Duntryleague Mansion Foundation continues to upgrade the rooms in the mansion and continue with the preservation and conservation of the building as funds allow.

The norther wing has now been finished and the Foundation is now starting work on the southern wing that includes room 16 and the tower.

MACHINERY UPGRADE

Thank you to those members who have contributed to our Machinery Upgrade Program.

We have had donations ranging from \$30 to \$5,000 and we are hoping to see the current figure of \$16,710 increase to enable us to purchase more machinery for our golf course.

It is a way of putting a little back into something we all enjoy so much. Whatever the amount may be - **CAN YOU HELP?**

To make a tax-deductible contribution to our project use the link below or go to

<https://asf.org.au/explore-projects>

Click on Golf and go to Duntryleague Course Machinery Upgrade

COURSE

Craig has now been here for three months, and we have already seen great improvement to our golf course. On behalf of the members, we would like to thank Craig and his staff for the massive effort they have put in during this time.

We have been extremely short-staffed and slowly building an excellent team that will see Duntryleague continue to improve over the next few years.

Craig has great skills and has some great ideas for our golf course.

In saying that he does need time to build his team and we ask members to be patient whilst he puts that team together.

Both he and his staff are working very long hours and the lush growing season we are currently experiencing means that not all jobs can be done all the time.

One thing we do ask members to do is not to ask the ground staff to do work they might think needs doing.

Whilst we welcome member feedback it should be done in the correct manner and that is through the Secretary Manager.

We must acknowledge all the great help we get from our members that volunteer to do all sorts of things around the golf course. Your help is very much appreciated.

Adopt a Hole

We now have 8 holes adopted by members and those participating are enjoying helping cleaning up fallen branches, fixing divots, repairing pitch marks, top dressing uneven ground, fixing potholes, helping with bare patches and the like.

Holes 1, 2, 5, 8, 12, 15, 16 and 18 are now under the tender loving care of our members and they are enjoying the opportunity to come and help with a bit of maintenance and have a yarn and a cuppa.

Specific projects can be done in your own time and where the only 'must' is to observe safe working practices....all in a spirit of mateship.

These types of programs have become one of the most powerful tools in addressing health and wellbeing and helping people to become valued and productive members of our club and community once again.

Cart Paths and Drainage

The cart path approaching the half-way house from the 9th green was completed last week and will be opened later this week.

Special thanks to everyone who helped in the construction of the path and the generosity of a group of our members who contributed significantly to the cost.

Course Toilet (13, 14 & 18)

The approval of a construction certificate continues.

Mike Ryan has been working closely with Council to progress our application and he has informed us today that Council will release the amended DA this week.

Superintendent's Update

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Michelle and the board for all their support over the past 3 months. I know the members are very passionate

about their course and I hope to be able to transform Duntryleague into its potential and make the members proud of their course.

I know not all members are happy with the changes I'm implementing however I'm trying to produce the best product I can for the entire membership and this upcoming televised event as it's a fantastic opportunity to showcase Duntryleague.

I would like to also thank my staff for their hard work and openness to my new ideas and methods, they have done a lot of hours and spent a lot of time away from their families to try and produce the best possible product for the membership. They have done an incredible job transforming the condition of the course over the past 3 months.

The volunteers at Duntryleague also do a fantastic job and help immensely, I have not been able to spend a lot of time with all the volunteers yet but as the growing season slows, I plan on making time and thanking everyone individually and discussing the best ways to move forward.

If you're thinking of volunteering, it's a great way to contribute to the club and see how the course is maintained and what's involved.

Bunkers

Bunkers are a concern and need to be amended, this will take time and will not be an overnight fix. We still have multiple playing surfaces to prepare each day with limited staffing numbers.

We have received 40 tonne of bunker sand today and will start to amend bunkers, volunteers are always welcome to assist the course staff.

Fairways

Fairways have come a long way in such a short period of time, there is however a lot to do as I'm not satisfied with the surface. The weeds need to be treated and pre-emergent herbicide applied to reduce weeds returning, these chemicals are very dangerous and can "track" and detrimentally affect the cool season grasses on our greens, green surrounds, and roughs. It is imperative these applications are executed correctly, especially with a televised event coming up.

Fairway definition should improve further once we clean the weeds out of the fairways.

We also need to find time to re-turf the bare areas from cart damage and high traffic areas, I have purposely grown the nursery turf to be used in these areas once we have the time and labor to complete. This may take several seasons to get 100% coverage.

Greens

When I first arrived greens 14,15,17 and 18 were in very poor condition, they responded well to my agronomic program and the renovations performed in November. 17 is still struggling at the front right edge, I observed last week that multiple groups would walk their buggies over that corner of the green which is slowing recovery excessively. I couldn't understand why the other areas were healing at a much faster rate. If I could ask all golfers to refrain from driving their buggies across greens.

Greens 12 and 18 have a lot of wasted space that isn't pinnable, these greens will need to be reconstructed in the future to create a softer slope that can be used for pins.

There are quite a lot of weeds in the greens, I'm hesitant when it comes to spraying herbicide on Agrostis (Bent grass) as it's a very dangerous practice. I will be trialing some sprays on the nursery green to see if I can remove these weeds without damaging the putting surface.

We incurred vandalism on greens 10,11,15 and 16 in early December.

Unfortunately, we didn't have any viable turf in our nursery green as it was all used prior to my arrival and has not recovered enough to use. I used the chipping green, however, was mindful of how much to take so the membership still had an area to chip.

Elanora were able to provide a staff member to assist me with turfing the worst areas on 11 and 15. I would like to thank Jake Gibbs (Director of grounds) and Sam Rose (Assistant Superintendent) at Elanora Country Club for their support and willingness to assist Duntryleague. These areas are recovering well.

Tees

The tees have needed a lot of maintenance to increase turf density, multiple fertilizer applications have been made and I have also been halving the tee markers to spread the wear and assist our tee surfaces when they go into a long winter period. Hopefully this will help us to have the best turf coverage across our tees in years.

There are a lot of tees that are domed, this should be fixed in the coming years to increase usable surface area.

GOLF

Carts on Course

Once again we ask our members to think when they are in their carts and stay on the cart paths whenever possible to protect our course.

PLEASE OBEY THE DIRECTION SIGNAGE THAT IS INTENDED AND KEEP CARTS WELL AWAY FROM GREENS AND TEES. PLEASE DO NOT GO NEAR GREENS OR TEES UNLESS YOU ARE ON A CART PATH.

None of us have the right to drive wherever we wish and whilst the Board is reluctant to come down hard on the few serial offenders we have in this area, we will be forced to do so if it doesn't improve.

Golf Introduction Programs

Whilst our membership is very healthy now, it is important to have an ongoing program to introduce more people into the sport and Duntryleague.

Juniors are very important to the club.

“Give Golf A Go” has been very popular and we are looking into ways that will improve the take-up rate of potential new members through this and our other introductory programs.

The Golf Shop will keep you up to date on these promotions.

MEMBERS QUESTIONS/ISSUES

Bunkers

Sand arrived today for bunker maintenance and the bunker program will continue over the next four years to completely upgrade all bunkers on the course. We are mindful of the access to the bunkers, and we will be doing everything in our power to improve that access. It is high on our list of priorities.

Early Tee Times

The Board has carefully considered this issue and it is not one that was taken lightly.

Duntryleague now has competitions starting every day at 7.30am and it is essential that the course is ready for the players participating in these competitions.

The late start is essential to allow our ground staff to prepare the course in the most efficient manner. Performing tasks during play reduces efficiency by 40% and therefore reduces the number of tasks that can be performed during the normal working window which means paying staff penalty rates to complete tasks or leaving tasks incomplete. This is especially important the lower the staffing numbers.

It provides a safer environment for greens staff by reducing the risk of golf ball strikes as staff can perform their tasks in front of play rather than between groups.

Allows for pesticide applications to be made away from member play, providing a safer playing environment for members.

Members concerned about sun exposure should ensure they are well protected and follow the sun safe principles.

The Board has made a change to the original decision and now allows social golf to start from 6.30am on Fridays and Sundays off the 10th tee.

Strategic Plan

Agreed that we will require substantial capital for the work to be undertaken in the strategic plan and we have been in contact with our bank and they have indicated they are interested in helping us.

What we first need to know is what Council decide we should do with the club house.

At the moment our hands are tied until we get past this point.

There are no plans at this stage for the tennis courts.

Once all the information is gathered our capital expenditure plan will be made very clear to members in relation to how the many major projects included in the Strategic Plan can/will be funded?

Club Finances

We have a Audit Finance and Risk Committee that meet regularly to oversee the club's finances on behalf of the members.

This is on top of monthly reports and observations to the Board by the Secretary Manager.

Club Future

Both the Board and the Administration Staff closely monitor the business and in particular against similar competition within the city.

Cart Sheds

The Board is currently reviewing cart storage at Duntryleague in relation to recent recommendations made by both GolfNSW and Golf Australia.

Consideration will be given to the Tennis Courts as a location for Cart Sheds.

Raffle for new Course Equipment

The board will consider conducting a raffle(s) to help with raising funds for new equipment.

In the meantime, members can contribute to our Machinery Upgrade Project by making donations through the Australian Sports Foundation.

Future Leaders of the Club Committee

This idea has already been discussed by our Governance Committee and a recommendation has been made to the Board for consideration at our next Board meeting.