



SHORTLAND WATERS GOLF CLUB LTD.

Director's Annual Report 2020-2021

President

What a dramatic year this has turned out to be! Just as the new golf reporting year commenced, the nation was threatened with a complete shutdown as the Covid-19 Virus that had hit the world was impacting on us here in Newcastle. It brought a whole new regime to not only our own personal lives, but also that of the Golf Club. During March, we were suddenly faced with having to close the course altogether which would have been disastrous for our Club. Fortunately, we only closed for one day, but we were faced with having to change our whole operation and much has remained as the virus is still with us. Fortuitously, GNSW took a proactive role for all member clubs and were quick to advise me on action we needed to take under State Government directives necessary to provide a safe environment for everyone. I had constant advice from Stuart Fraser, the CEO, often several times a day, keeping me informed which I very much appreciated.

While we were required to close the Club House for several months, we were able to keep the course open and continue with golf as this was seen as providing the community with an avenue of exercise. It did mean that the rules of golf were modified to meet the stringent health requirements. Anyone coming to the course was required to check in and the QR Code became our first port of call on arrival. The Golf Shop was carefully laid out for social distancing, rakes were removed from bunkers, holes were filled with noodles so that people weren't touching the flag stick or hole, we marked our own cards and cart use was changed to accommodate the new regulations. And of course, we were all encouraged to constantly wash our hands and use sanitiser. However, these stringent conditions did keep everyone safe, we continued to play golf and we have largely avoided the adverse impact of restrictions due to the virus.

With the Club House closed, Select Dining (owned by Aveo) promptly shut the Bistro, leaving us without a food service. Fortunately, we were able to overcome that problem to some extent by using the food van to provide a restricted service. The closure of the Bistro did however have a huge impact on the Club House income which is yet to still fully recover. During this period, Select Dining forfeited their lease, and the Club was able to once again take control of the Bistro which was an aim of our strategic business plan. The Club has since leased the Bistro operations to a private business operator, and it has been a far more positive relationship and development for the Club.

On a positive note, as with golf clubs throughout the state, the golf course became a very busy place. While at the start of the year, a number of our members were loath to renew their membership, worried that we would have to close or were cautious and took out PAYP membership, it soon became evident that golf was one activity that could continue. The Board took the decision to extend annual membership renewals to May. By June and July, members became more confident that they could play golf and returned in force. We also experienced a number of people arriving to play social golf. To meet this demand, the Board offered a social golf category of membership in hope that these new players would become attached to the Club and continue to be members here. The Golf Shop offered competitions

for all days of the week and they were well supported as other sporting activities and workplaces closed down.

Finances

Obviously, Covid-19 had an impact on the Club's finances. The Board still had to keep the purse strings tight and watch spending, ensuring that the Club remained a viable going concern. Increased patronage on the course meant that course income provided welcome relief to the finances which helped to offset loss of income in the Club House. Of great benefit however, was the opportunity to apply for and receive the Federal Government's Job Keeper payment. We also applied for every government grant for which we were eligible which helped boost our income. The government grants also ensured that we were able to retain all our staff and keep them gainfully employed. It did mean that some staff were doing jobs other than their normal work routine but all were happy to fit in with what was offered to ensure that they had an income and remained in employment. During this period, we also received the last payment from Aveo for the purchase of the course. It is now vital that we expand our business as we can no longer depend on those payments to provide the extra funds that have enabled us to cover costs.

Board Activities

With the advent of Covid restrictions, Board meetings took on a new dimension. During the strict restrictions, we continued to meet regularly and resorted to meeting on Zoom for both Committee and Board meetings. Despite the lack of personal interaction, the meetings were quite constructive and worked well. With the easing of tight restrictions and the re-opening of the Club House, we then returned to meeting in the main body of the Club House while still abiding by social distance requirements. All the Committees have made a valuable contribution to the functioning of the Club and have provided significant input for the Board. The Annual General Meeting and election of the new Board was delayed until October and I thank the 'old' Board for taking on the task of overseeing the business for an extended period of time during very difficult and different circumstances.

I would make special mention of the great contribution of Dennis Marr who did not stand for the Board elections in October. Dennis chaired the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee and put in considerable hours and hard work to ensure the business was run smoothly and we kept to budget. I thank him on your behalf for his dedication and counsel. We have missed him on the Board.

We welcomed two new members to the Board at the October AGM – Les Oliver and Brian Penfold. Brian resigned from the Board on 30th November. The Board was delighted to welcome Steve Goverd to fill the casual vacancy.

The Board has worked hard during the reporting period to provide the best possible services both on and off the course for our members while also understanding that we must be fiscally prudent ensuring that the Club survives and can grow. I thank all the Board for their contribution, support and hard work in ensuring that we achieve our goals.

Government Grants

Apart from the financial assistance from the Federal and State Governments due to Covid, we have continued to apply for grants to improve the course and services. Following the GNSW Roadshow in 2019 where clubs were encouraged to get more women playing golf, we applied for funds to run golf clinics for ladies. We received a grant for \$1450 but didn't

receive the funds until after Covid hit which delayed the start of the clinics. However, we were able to get the clinics underway in February 2020. They were advertised on social media and in the Club House and we were overwhelmed with support with 87 ladies initially joining the clinics. We offered two classes on Tuesdays and three on Saturdays which proved both successful and popular in exposing the ladies to the game. Once the classes were completed, the Club offered them membership for three months and we've run competitions over seven then nine holes where the ladies have put what they have learned into practice. Quite a few have indicated that they will be joining up when their free membership expires.

We also applied successfully for funds to build a pergola in the area outside the bar to provide a shaded spot for patrons to sit and relax. This project should be undertaken in the near future. We also applied for an Infrastructure Grant to seal the cart paths on the course but are yet to be informed if we have been successful in this endeavour.

I thank Wallsend MP and Club Patron Sonia Hornery and her staff for their continued support for our applications to the State Government.

The Course

Perhaps the most significant event for the course was the breaking of the drought in February 2021. In the last months of 2020, the big dam was just about completely dry and we were forced to buy water to just keep the greens and tees going. The Board was forced to impose a levy on all players to cover this cost and I thank everyone for their co-operation in helping us to pay for the water. The levy was lifted as soon as it rained and we had water again.

The course responded well once it did rain and it enabled Lee and his staff to begin repairs, especially replacing turf on the 3rd fairway. Continued rain has seen a great revival on all the fairways and it is certainly good to see all the dams full once again. For the first time in a very long time, especially over the summer months, the staff had plenty of water to keep up fairway watering and keep the course fresh. The new holes have continued to receive praise as do our greens, especially from visiting golfers.

I thank the Greens staff for their hard work on keeping the course up to a standard that members expect and enjoy.

Sponsors

The support of sponsors and members has been greatly appreciated by the Board and Club. We have managed to now have sponsors for all tees and a number of members have either sponsored events or pennant teams. The financial support has meant that important events can be acknowledged appropriately and I'm sure that winners on those days appreciate your support. Of course, we would encourage and welcome any new sponsors.

Volunteers

What a great band of volunteers we have! Even through the worst of Covid, they still turned out to garden and work on the course and what a difference they have made. We even had some non-golfers turning up to do a couple of hours on Monday mornings. The Tuesday band of workers under the leadership of Martyn Rigby have provided a significant service in assisting the Greens staff in completing tasks on the course.

I also would like to make special mention of Bob and Carol Aitken who have put in countless hours working in the gardens, watering (especially during the drought) and the endless task of mulching. Your contribution has been significant and very much appreciated.

Staff

The staff have provided the backbone to the day to day running of the Club and rose to the occasion during the Covid period, often under very stressful and difficult circumstances. As mentioned previously, some of our staff worked in areas different from their usual workplace and did so with generous and good hearts. Without our staff, there wouldn't be a Club! The Board acknowledges them for their great service in their various roles.

We also had some staff changes with Andrew Rollo, the Golf Operations Manager, resigning in August after three years of service at the Club. We also lost some of our bar staff as their university days were completed and they moved on to permanent employment. Some had worked with us for five years.

I especially acknowledge the work of the administration staff who worked under incredibly difficult circumstances during the lockdown and especially during the stressful period of the AGM. They always approached members enquiries and demands with grace and dignity and were always very patient and understanding.

Of particular note, I acknowledge the great contribution Yvonne Kelly has made to the Club in the role of Club Operations Manager. Due to family circumstances, Yvonne stood down from that role in February this year. Yvonne took on Club Operations Manager when the Club was in crisis with virtually no funds, literally managing to keep the Club open on a daily basis on the smell of an oily rag. Through her work with the Board, appropriate systems that were lacking were put in place and the business has moved into a much safer place. She has been a great support to the Board and I thank her for her dedication to the Club and the support she provided personally to me.

Membership

The Club experienced significant growth during the reporting period and I thank all members for the confidence they have shown and support given. Playing figures have significantly grown both in competitions and social games. Members may find the table below of interest regarding playing numbers.

2020			
Month	Member	Social	Total Games
January	1726	1391	3117
February	1496	713	2209
March	1425	640	2065
April	1232	1082	2314
May	1830	1009	2839
June	1598	1076	2674
July	1630	1655	3285
August	2121	2265	4386
September	1827	1951	3778
October	1960	1613	3573
November	1752	1551	3303
December	1748	1701	3449

Total Player numbers	20,345	16,647	36,992
-----------------------------	---------------	---------------	---------------

Notes

- Data not 100% accurate due to how some social players were entered into SWGC systems.
- Vet comp not included in numbers
- COVID impacted social play during February and March
- Student lessons not included
- Social groups included in Social

2021			
Month	Member	Social	Total Games
January	1896	2064	3960
February	1461	1653	3114
March	1294	1262	2556

- March figures were affected by several days rain and closure of the course for two days due to adverse weather.

Membership Numbers

	2021	2020
	March	June
7 Day	184	204
7Day Senior	50	49
7 Day Young Adult	14	57
6 Day	68	99
6 Day Senior	28	27
6 Day Young Adult	6	13
Colt	13	58
PAYP	65	131
Veterans	37	52
Social Golfers	25	73
Country Member	1	0
Junior	1	6
Sub Junior	0	4
Non Playing	7	0
Social Members	85	
Total	584	773

Note:

- The figures for 2020 were delayed due to the fact that the Board extended membership renewals due to the lockdown
- Figures for March 2021 are low but there have been a number of late renewals in April and May which don't accurately reflect membership numbers (this can be seen in player numbers in the first table).

I thank all members for the support provided to me, the Board and the Club.



Kaye Simmons

Captain

I would firstly like to thank our green's staff led by Lee Goldie, which under variable weather conditions, has continued to prepare our course to a standard that most other courses in the region would be envious of. Next I would like to recognise the efforts of our Pro shop, clubhouse and administration staff that are at the front line of interactions with business partners, members and visitors alike. Even with some personnel changes, the team continues to hold strong on the friendly reputation our club is known for. The professionalism of the Board of Directors to plan and implement forward thinking programs to ensure SWGC is in a position where the club's future is secure should be recognised and appreciated by all. Special mention must go our valued sponsors and volunteers that continue to support our club.

Last but definitely not least, I would like to thank each and every member of the club for their understanding, patience and support of decisions I have made. I value the constructive suggestions of members and encourage this to continue so that the club can evolve and prosper.

At this time I would like to express on behalf of all involved with SWGC, our sympathy to the family and friends of our greatly respected and loved passed members. I would also like to welcome all new members that have joined the club in the past 12 months.

This year's golfing program has continued without to many disruptions. Our strongly contested Championships have been completed and our knockout events are continuing with some new contenders.

Event	Grade	Winner/s
2020 Club Championship	A	Glen Laws
	B	Michael Lacey
	C	Robert O'Brien
	Senior	Bill Buchanan
2 Ball Championship	All in	Mark Baber + Bill Buchanan
Mixed Foursome Championship	All in	Maree Breen + Robert Piltz
Men's Foursome Championship	All in	John Osborne + David Busch
Mid-Week Championship	A	Jeff Lobley
	B	Robert Cooper
	C	Trevor Van Kemenade
Singles KO		Still in progress
2 Ball KO		Still in progress
2 Man Ambrose		Still in progress

SWGC had teams in almost all of men's and women's pennant series. I would like to thank all members involved in the pennant series and qualification events for their commitment and how they have represented the club. Special thanks to the generous sponsors of our teams.

It has been an honour and a privilege to be the Club Captain of such a fantastic club and would be proud to continue in this position.

David Busch



Lady President

The Annual General Meeting of the Lady Members was held in Nov 2020 with a few changes to the committee Colleen French took up President's position Judy Hayes Captain, Melissa Minto Vice Captain, Sandra Freeman Secretary, Gail Isles Treasurer, Sharyn Neilson Assistant Secretary, Glenys Martin, Carol Aitken and Alana Herron form the committee.

Club Championships 2020

The Ladies Champion	Maree Breen
Silver Division	Kylie Neems
Bronze Division	Sandra Freeman

Melbourne Cup 2020

This event was a smaller event due to Covid but everyone still had a great day. This year our sponsor was Neil Davis from NHD Constructions, many thanks to Neil for sponsoring this day.

Charity Day 2020

Unfortunately, Charity Day for 2020 was cancelled due to Covid.

Pennants 2020

Pennants 2020 were cancelled due to Covid.

Thank you to our Major Sponsors for 2020 2021.

Bass Floor	Piltzy Freight Services
JMC Building	Hunter Valley Private Hospital
NHD Constructions	Mark Harper
Wilson's Pharmacies	Healing Wave Chiropractic
Dens Health and Fitness	Sue and John McConnell
Joanne Rose and Frank Bowen	Local Hearing Aid Specialists
Newcastle Water Proofing	Noel Millard
Petro Gleeson	Newcastle Integrated Physiotherapy

Thank you to these Ladies and Gentlemen for sponsoring our golf days
Sue Mangan, Sue Baartz, Carol Aitken, Melissa Minto, Kaye Simmons, Ann Danks, Janise Snedden, Sheila Wise, Sandra Sommerville
Virginia Cadell, Marlene Edman, Colleen French, Judy Hayes, Chris Jackson, Sharyn Neilson, Mary Coleman, Kaylene Gaynor, Robin Hill, Judy Hayes, Mavis Collinson, Glenys Martin, Carol Aitken, Gail Isles, Melissa Minto, Kaye Simmons, Ann Kiker, Gloria Achurch, Paula

Harding ,Sue Stanley and Sue and John McConnell, Cathy and John Nolan ,The Roach Family, Maree Breen, Lesley Gallagher, Alana Heron, Liz Johnston, Sandra Freeman, Kylie Neems, Effie Roach, Donna Jones, Fran Haynes and Robyn Pickin. Thank you ladies and Gentleman.

Lady Captain, Judy Hayes and I have continued to attend monthly Operation Meetings. These meeting provide a valuable avenue for communication with the board members and an opportunity to exchange ideas and bring lady members concerns to the attention of the Board.

Donations to Course

With the help of all our members the Ladies Members Fund was able to donate \$2000 for Turf and \$560 for small Tee signs this year. Thank you to all who donated.

Thank You

I am very fortunate to have a happy, diligent committee who always carry out their duties with enthusiasm. I would like to thank them for their cheerful friendliness and loyal support. Thank you to Kim and Bistro staff, Elaine, Bar Staff, Lee and green staff, Andrew, Bruce, Jane, A J and Staff in Golf Shop and the volunteers who come in every Monday and Tuesday to do work on the gardens and on the course.

Finally, a big thank you to Yvonne Kelly, Stuart MacAskill and Staff and the Board of Directors for their help and support throughout the year.


Colleen French

President of the Ladies Committee