



Orford Golf Club

THE BUNKER
NEWSLETTER

June - August 2021

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Mike Clayton, designer of the new Seven Mile Beach golf course

A new golf course for Southern Tasmania

The new Seven Mile Beach course, near Hobart airport, is becoming a reality. Tasmanian golfer, Mathew Goggin, had thoughts of building a course on the Seven Mile Beach peninsula, ever since he was a young lad. He and his Grandfather used to hit balls with a 3 iron along the beach. Those early thoughts have now been realised.

Mathew Goggin turned to long time friend and fellow tour player, Mike Clayton (pictured top right), to design the layout of this exciting new course. Mike grew up in Melbourne and developed his game on some of the great courses the Melbourne area has to offer. This included the world renowned Royal Melbourne course.

Mike was the 1978 Australian Amateur Champion and Victorian Amateur Champion in 1977 and 1981. Mike turned professional in 1981 and went on to have a stellar career including the PGA tour. Mike's name will be forever etched in Tasmanian golf history. He won the 1984 Tasmanian Open Championship, held at Kingston Beach, by 2 strokes, with a score of 13 under.

We had the opportunity to chat with Mike about golf course design and his thoughts on the Seven Mile Beach course (first hole pictured bottom right). Here is what Mike had to say.

Bunker – How did you become interested in golf course design?



Survey work being carried out on the possible location of the first hole at Seven Mile Beach. It shows the undulating sand dunes and the magnificent back drop from the tee area.

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Mike – Golf course design has interested me, even from an early age whilst growing up in Melbourne and having the opportunity of playing some great courses. When I played at Royal Melbourne, I knew I was playing on another level. The more I played there, the more interested I became about golf course design. When I had the chance of joining the PGA tour, I was introduced to some great courses, especially in Europe. So, for me golf course design became a special interest, developed over a long period of time.

Bunker - When you designed the Barnbogle Dunes course, how difficult was it to balance the placement of the course layout whilst maintaining the natural contours of the land?

Mike – It was tough. The club house site was settled upon because of where the water was and the road and other infrastructure. The course layout was always going to be the front nine and the back nine, either side of the club house. The final layout of the back nine was reversed to enable the final hole to finish near the water. The natural contours were so good that we did not need to move much ground. Although, the first hole did have a massive sand dune seventy metres in front of the tee, which needed to be removed and reshaped. There were some other areas that required reshaping. However, overall we tried to maintain the natural lay of the land.

Bunker - Have been able to play Barnbogle Dunes in recent times?

Mike – I have not played since February last year, due to the covid situation. I do plan on playing there in the next month or so. I normally get to play the course a few times a year.

Bunker – The last time you played Barnbogle, did you have a smile on your face?

Mike – Yes I did. I think it is a great place to play golf and with the addition of the Lost Farm course and Bougle Run course, Barnbogle has become a fantastic place to play golf. For me the most satisfying thing is that the business works. During the planning stage, many people were sceptical about the course being successful for the owner, Richard Sadler. I always knew that the course would be a great place to play golf. We did not build a white elephant for Richard and most of the success is because he knows how to run the business.

Bunker - Mathew Goggin has spent several years developing the idea of constructing a golf course at Seven Mile Beach. Could you let us know some of the major obstacles and how they were overcome?

Mike - Raising the money to build a golf course is always an issue. But for us as designers the biggest issue is ensuring we have the best possible routing. There are so many options and we will never really know but hopefully we come up with the best combination of holes. It does mean leaving a whole lot out that'd be brilliant individual holes.

Bunker - What were your initial thoughts on building a course on the Seven Mile Beach peninsula, when Mathew Goggin first approached you to consider designing the course?

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Mike – Mathew has spent the last twenty five years looking at the land and the possibilities of building a course. I first saw the land back in 2010. It was obvious to me that it is a world class piece of land for building a golf course. The land is on the water, plenty of space and undulating sand. It has everything needed to make the project successful. Mathew has a permit to build an eighteen hole course, on the Seven Mile Beach side of the land, down to the water. The area is expansive and even has enough land to build four courses.

Bunker - Have you developed any general ideas about the layout of the course?

Mike – We have commenced designing the routing of the course. At the moment the trees are being removed and once done this will give us a clearer view of how the hole routing will unfold. We have developed tee, fairway and green placement for about half the holes. The initial routing produced a par 72 layout. However, this is not set in stone. Many of the top 100 world class courses are par 70. Our aim is to use the natural layout of the land and the final design will dictate the par rating.

Bunker – Do you have a time line for construction through to completion?

Mike – The trees are being removed now and we expect that course construction will commence by the end of September early October this year. Course construction will take about eight to nine months. Then we need to develop tees, greens and allow time for the sowing and growth of the grass. This may take another eight to nine months. At this stage the projected opening may be February 2023.

Bunker – What ancillary facilities are we likely to see at the course?

Mike – We envisage a club house along the lines of Barnbougale, simple, comfortable with good food and beverage facilities. The course will feature a practise driving range and putting green along with a pro-shop.

Bunker - Once the 18 hole course is established and develops into a strong business, do you see the possibility of a second 18 hole course at Seven Mile Beach?

Mike – Yes I do. Like Barnbougale, one course is great, two courses are better. This offers more variety and will keep people there longer. It will make it a next level destination. Tasmania has the potential of having five courses of the best ten courses in Australia. At present Cape Wickham on King Island, Barnbougale Dunes and Lost Farm rank in the top 100 courses in the world. I do not see any reason why Seven Mile Beach would not rank in the top 100 in the world, which would be great for Tasmania. Tourism in Tasmania plays a big part in the local economy and golf tourism should be a big part of tourism in Tasmania.

The potential of Tasmania becoming a major golf tourism destination in the world cannot be understated. The Seven Mile Beach course will enhance this potential.

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The developer, Mathew Goggin and course designer Mike Clayton are on track to produce a world class golf course. The anticipation is palpable.

The Bunker Newsletter thanks Mike Clayton for his time and insight to golf course design. We wish Mike and Mathew every success with the Seven Mile Beach project. Tasmania is very fortunate to have two golfers that will continue to put Tasmania on the world golfing map.

Orford Golf Club Work Health And Safety Audit.

Members may be aware that late last year the Committee sought and secured the services of a WHS consulting group (IPM Consulting) to conduct an audit of the Orford Golf Club.

The aim of conducting the audit was to ensure that the Orford Golf Club was complying with multiple Acts, Standards, Regulations and Codes of Practice to ensure a safe and healthy environment all employees, volunteers, club members and visiting golfers.

The audit included the clubhouse, kitchen and bar areas, green keepers maintenance shed and surrounds as well as the buggy shed. The audit was completed last February and the report provided to the committee.

The audit was comprehensive and referred to multiple situations that require some improvement and updating to ensure compliance with Acts, Regulations and Standards, below is a brief summary and some examples;

- Training and Competency – The club is to ensure that we continue to provide appropriate induction for staff and volunteers operations hazardous equipment, this requires appropriate certification for those operating certain pieces of equipment i.e. chainsaws.
- Risk Management – the club is to develop a WHS Risk Register that identifies WHS hazards of the golf club and controls to manage those identified hazards e.g. have a clear identifying point in adverse weather conditions (wind speed / lightning) that work and golf play should cease. Establish a risk / hazard identification reporting process for use by employees and members to the Committee.
- Hazardous Chemical Management – Appropriate storage and labelling of all chemicals to be continued and improved, provision of bunding to contain fuel or chemical spills, segregation of chemicals, fertilisers and fuels, provision of spill kits to the maintenance shed.
- Diesel Fuel Tank – to have bunding installed or the tank upgraded to a dual skin tank to provide spill containment.
- Appropriate HAZCHEM signage at the course entry points for attending emergency services.

- Gas Cylinder Storage – cylinders stored at the front of the club house to have bollards installed to prevent collision by vehicles manoeuvring, those cylinders at the BBQ area to be chained to the wall.
- Electrical Safety – Implement a 6 monthly inspection and tagging of electrical items within the clubhouse and maintenance shed, the buggy shed following the initial inspection would only require 5 yearly testing.
- Evacuation Plan – the clubhouse Fire and Evacuation Plan requires updating and displaying in the clubhouse entry.
- Course Tree Management – members may have noticed multiple trees around the course have been identified to be removed or limbs removed to improve the safety for employees, volunteers and golfers, this work will be done progressively.
- The Clubhouse - has seen improvements to WHS by the installation of a new dishwasher and non-slip flooring.

The Committee will develop a priority plan to address all areas noted within the audit report and action those over the coming months, we cannot ignore our statutory obligations to WHS and continue to ignore situations that may compromise employee and member safety. If any member has any questions or comment please do not hesitate to contact any of your committee members (John Rainbird, Jordan Woods, Roger Barnes, Mat Pedler, Roger Wooley, John Smith, Fiona Smith, Ross Nixon and Peter Berry). A sub Committee comprising Roger Barnes, Peter Berry and Greg Fannon has been established to oversee the implementation of the OH&S report.

DARLINGTON VINEYARD

The Orford Golf Club welcomes a new sponsor. We thank Paul and Louise Stranan of Darlington Vineyard for their support.

Darlington Vineyard has a great selection of award winning cool climate wines. Many members know that the vineyard is a picturesque backdrop to the sixth hole on the Orford golf course. If you have visitors and want to offer them a different experience, why not organise a wine tasting at their cellar door? Four different wines are on offer for tasting and purchase, including Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Riesling and the popular Sauvignon Blanc. They are open daily 10.00am to 5.00pm (except Christmas day & Boxing day). Book ahead by giving Paul and Louise a telephone call.

Darlington Vineyard 63 Holkham Court, Orford 7190, Tas

Phone/Fax:
(03) 6257 1630

Email:
sales@darlingtonvineyard.com.au



The picturesque Darlington Vineyard

Member Interview

We had the opportunity to chat to our new club patron, David (Juggy) Walker. Juggy is pictured right.

Not only is David the new patron, he also became our newest life member at the last AGM. We asked a few questions about his life at the Orford Golf club and this is what he had to say.

Bunker - Do you recall when you first picked up a golf club?

Juggy – I cannot remember the exact time. However, it was over 44 years ago that I first played the game seriously. So, I have been playing for a long time.

Bunker – What influenced you to take up the game?

Juggy – I was a member of the Rotary Club and a number of Rotary members played golf. They asked me if I would like to have a go at playing golf. I liked the idea and that is where it all started for me. Ever since then, I have been a member of the Orford Golf Club.

Bunker – You have many family members that play golf. Could you tell us a little about how that evolved?

Juggy - When I first joined the club, I spoke to some of my relatives about taking up the game. All of a sudden I had four relatives that expressed an interest in playing golf. This included Barney Hobden, Tom Bishop, Ricky Jenkins and Robbie Tunstal. All of us commenced our journey with the game of golf.

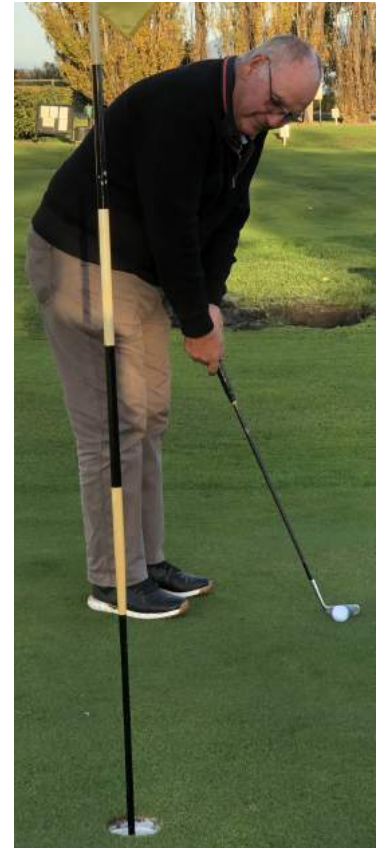
Bunker – Your family connection, with golf, continues as most of your children play golf. How did they become involved?

Juggy – All of my children, bar one, play golf. I suppose I had some influence on them. They took note of what I was doing and became aware of the great friendships that developed between members of the club. In their wisdom they decided to join the club and play golf with me and Christine.

Bunker – Have you always lived in the area?

Juggy – Yes. I grew up in Triabunna and when I was 10 years of age, we moved to Orford. So, I suppose you could say that I have lived in Orford for most of my life. Certainly, I am an East Coast Boy through and through.

Bunker – Do you have any memorable golf games?



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Juggy – I always liked playing pennant golf. There is a mental side to playing pennant and I enjoyed that part of the game. There was one great series where we were playing Colebrook, at Colebrook, in the pennant final. I was the last player in our group and the final was tied. We got to the eighteenth and myself and the fellow I was playing with, named Headlum, were tied after eighteen holes. We had to continue playing until there was a winner. Headlum teed off on the first, only to drive his ball into a heap of grass tussocks. I teed off with a seven iron and played all the way to the green with a seven iron. I knew my opponent was in an awful lot of trouble and I wanted to make sure I did not get into trouble. I won the hole and our team won the pennant flag.

Bunker – Can we ask how you got the nickname of Juggy?

Juggy – It was because of the comic called Jughead. In my younger days, when I had saved enough money, I would often buy Jughead comics and read them. I always liked to read about Jughead, Archie and all the other characters. People that knew me started to call me Juggy because of the comics I read.

Bunker – Is there a hole at Orford Golf course that you rate as the hardest for you personally?

Juggy – The hole that has caused me the most grief over the years is the third hole. I remember one particular year, playing in the second round of the club championship. I scored 13 shots on the hole. Being a left hand golfer, trouble always looms when you slice the ball a bit and end up in the trees to the left of the fairway. It is a difficult spot to recover from and catches out many golfers.

Bunker – How do you see the future of the Orford Golf club and are there any changes you would like to see?

Juggy – I see the future to be very rosy. We are starting to attract younger members, not young members but younger members. I think we are on the right track there as younger members will have friends that may be attracted to the game. It is a little like when I first started playing. People you know may become interested in golf and become members of the club.

The future direction of the club is in good hands. It is important that this continues. We must look after our members and not become too greedy. Our members are the reason we exist and if we look after them, the club will always receive good support.

Bunker – The 2021 AGM saw you being elected as the club patron. How did this make you feel?

Juggy – Peter Mitchelmore was retiring as patron. The committee approached me and asked if I would be prepared to take up the role of patron. I was overwhelmed to be asked, especially considering that I am just the fourth club patron. People do get some accolades for what they do for the club. For me, after being asked to become patron and then at the AGM to be nominated and accepted as a life member was an absolute thrill.

Bunker – You are a strong supporter of the club and if you could give any advice, what would it be?

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Juggy – The club has survived because of the great, forward thinking, committees that we have had over the years. There have been times in the past when committees have become bogged down and resulted in losing members. When a committee is forward thinking and looks after their members, the future will always be bright. As I have said before, look after the members and the members will always support and be loyal to the club and ensure that we continue long into the future.

We thank Juggy for the chance to dig into some of his history with the club. We also congratulate him of becoming patron and a life member, a reflection on how the club holds him in such high regard. Juggy, you are a long time loyal member and supporter of the Orford Golf club. On behalf of all members, please accept our deepest thanks for what you do for the club and we wish you every success for the future.

In the clubhouse kitchen

The club offers all members and visitors a great night out, every Friday night. You will be able to enjoy a main course and/or dessert. Main meals are just \$17 for a large serve or \$12 for a medium serve and \$5 for dessert. The club house has a notice board that shows what will be served each coming Friday Night.

Dinner is served at 6.30pm. Bookings are advised and the club entrance foyer has a booking sheet that you can put down your name and the number of people that will accompany you. Kids are very welcome.

Come early, 6.00pm, and have some fun by entering our meat tray lucky wheel spins. There are only 25 tickets in each spin and only cost \$2 each.

Let your friends know about our Friday night meals and invite them to join you for good food, a well stocked bar and fun on the lucky wheel. Remember, visitors are most welcome.

Don't forget, Friday night is also the lucky jackpot draw for members.

Is it time to party? Yes, Yes, Yes.

The Orford Golf Club is available to anyone that wants to hold a function. Birthday, wedding, family get together or any type of party. Our kitchen is able to produce a menu, tailored to your needs. Contact Raylene at the club, to see what we can offer. Our aim is to put together a great catering package to ensure your event is a huge hit. We cater for small groups or large groups up to 100 people. A warm fire and extra room heating will keep you and your guests comfortable.



New aprons for the kitchen babies

Mandy, Raylene and Cheryl, showing off their new aprons, made by Vicki Rowbottom. Not only is Vicki a good golfer, she is a great seamstress.

Orford Golf Club Info

Street address : 79 Tasman Highway, Orford; 7190. Postal address : PO Box 300, Orford; 7190
Website : orfordgolfclub.com.au Email : orfordgolf@keypoint.com.au. Telephone : (03) 6257 1249

Visitor Info

Regular competitions are held on Saturday, Ladies day Thursday and a 9 hole chicken on Friday. Green fees are \$20 per day. The course may be closed to social play during regular competitions. The course may be open, after regular competitions, for social play at about 2 - 3pm. Check the course notice board outside the clubhouse for exact times.

Visitors that are members of a club and hold a current handicap are able to play in the Saturday and Thursday competitions for just \$15.

Once a month (usually the last Sunday of each month) the club holds a family fun day. It is a nine hole three person ambrose game that is held at 9.30am for 10.00am shotgun start. For just \$15 per person you get to enjoy a fun game of golf, lunch after the game and a good array of prizes. If you are in Orford on the last Sunday of the month, give this great fun day a go. The entry sheet is on the clubhouse notice board.

For social play, golf cart hire (up to 2 people per cart) \$20 per round. A full set of hire clubs are available for just \$10. Orford Golf Club is a member of Mylink and visitors are able to book a tee off time via the App.

If you are visiting Orford for the first time and need some help arranging a game of golf, just give the Club House a call on (03) 6257 1249.

Jim Playsted

The Orford Golf Club thanks you as a long term sponsor and supporter of our club.

Married for 25 years, Jim & Margie Playsted have been members of OGC since Margie took up golf before giving Jim golf clubs for Christmas and announcing he now played golf! Many good times have been had at OGC over the years including the now 8 'Autumn Classic' golf days run for the Spring Bay Maritime & Discovery Centre at Triabunna where Jim has been president for 10 years.

After a 35 year career in mining and construction equipment, Jim commenced a second career in real estate in 2011 and began developing an East Coast business for Knight Frank which now employs 3 people on the coast. Jim and Margie live at East Shelly beach with a black Labrador called Daisy

and enjoy their garden and fishing trips in between the demands of a busy real estate life.



In need of real estate advice? Jim Playsted of Knight Frank Real Estate is always available. They have an office at 5 Victoria Street, Hobart and at 1A Arnol Street, Swansea. Call Jim direct on 0437 222 600

Recent happenings

The Autumn Classic tournament was held in March. The event is sponsored by Jim Playsted of Knight Frank Real Estate and all funds raised go to supporting the Spring Bay Maritime and Discovery Centre. The event was well supported by a bumper field. The winners were John and Fiona Smith and they are pictured below holding the Autumn Classic Trophy. Congratulations to John and Fiona.



2021 Easter Tournament

On Saturday 3 April, the club held the, very popular, Easter Tournament for the John Brougham Memorial Trophy. The winner was Timothy James. Timothy said " my game held up well, especially towards the end as I only won on a count back. I was thrilled with the win".

Congratulation Timothy on a fine round of golf.

Tuesday Boys

The annual Bugalugs Vs Jugalugs Trophy was held recently. The team captains, David Walker (Jugalugs) and Roly Foale (Bugalugs), had their team members selected from a hat. The format was match play and there were some interesting results. Most games were halved. However, Roly Foale's Bugalugs team just managed to beat the Jugalugs team.

The first trophy match was run was in 2020 and was won by the Bugalugs team. It is without doubt that the selection of the Jugalugs team for next year will be carefully adjudicated by David "Juggy" Walker.

Remember, Tuesday Boys play every Tuesday afternoon, 12.30pm for a 1.00pm start. If you want some good company and a fun afternoon of golf, do come along. You will be most welcome.



Winners are grinners and the Bugalugs team is pictured (left to right) Rob Daly, Cliff Southorn, Gary Lorado, Steve Rowbottom, Captain Roly Foale, Geoff Daff and Grant Gaffney. Congratulations fellows.



Orford ladies finish top of the wazza

The Southern Country Division 3 pennant competition has been won by the Orford ladies pennant team. Throughout the season, the team played some great golf. Everyone at the club congratulates the girls on their win.

The ladies pennant team played Seabrook in the State Final play off, held at Riverside in Launceston, on Sunday 30 May and Monday 31 May, 2021. The team only lost by one match. The final score was Seabrook 3 1/2, Orford 1 1/2. Our team Captain said " the girls played well and I am very proud of their achievements". Indeed, all members at the club were proud of the great golf the team played through the pennant season.

A big shout out to Jim Playsted of Knight Frank Real Estate for his sponsorship of the ladies pennant golf team.

And, the ladies do it again

On Tuesday 24 May, 2021, The Royal Hobart Country Cup was held at Royal Hobart golf course. To say that our Lady golfers shone, would be an understatement. The winner of the Country Cup was Orford's very own lady golfer, Chris Bishop. Chris put in a fine performance and won on a countback from, again, our very own lady golfer, Wendy Cunningham. Congratulations to Chris and Wendy.

However, it does not stop there. Wendy Cunningham also took out first place in division 1 and Vicki Rowbottom took out second place in division 1. More was to come. In division 2, first place was taken by Libby Brown, second place was Chris Bishop and third place was Margie Playsted.

To Chris, Wendy, Libby, Vicki and Margie, well done. The whole club is very proud of your achievements.

Around the club

As part of the club's commitment to ensure safe practises, in line with the need to implement OH&S standards, the club will soon be installing a siren to the outside corner of the clubhouse (near the practice green and the first tee). The siren will be pointed in the direction of the BBQ hut behind the seventh tee. It will be used when weather conditions dictate the abandonment of play. The siren will also be used to sound the start of a shot gun start.

All trees that require removal have been identified and marked. Removal work will be carried out over the next three months.



Orford Golf Club Ladies Division 3 Pennant Team, looking resplendent in their Knight Frank golf tops.

Pictured (left to right) Deb Baker, Chris Bishop, Beth Bachelor, Helen Fox, Fiona Smith, Anne Mason, Vicki Rowbottom, Kim Hudson and Wendy Cunningham. Not pictured, but valuable members of the team are Libby Brown, Annie Wells and Jenny Woods.

Continued ...

Work on installing the practice net continues. Some supplies are still on order. However, the club expects that the practice net will be completed in the next six to eight weeks.

Repairs and replacement gutters on the seventh pathway have been completed. This included new gravel for the pathway.

The club has initiated the purchase of a second defibulator. It will be installed in the BBQ hut behind the seventh tee. The defibulator is the first of it's type and requires no special charging. It is full self powered. Orford golf club may be the first club in Australia to instal this machine and it is expected to arrive before the end of this year.

Landscaping work is planned for the area behind the second green and third tee. As a prominent feature, the old gang mower will be on display in this new landscaped area.

FOBS

After the first round of FOBS, held at Swansea, we trailed the leader. However, after the second round, played at Orford, we went to the top of the leader board. Congratulations to all members that played. The current total scores are Orford 362 points, Swansea 347 points, Freycinet 320 points and Bicheno 320 points.



The third round is set to be played at Freycinet on Saturday 18 September, 2021 at 9.30am for a 10.00am shot gun start. If we want to hold on to our lead, it is vital that as many members as possible travel to Freycinet. A strong field of players from Orford will increase our chance of retaining the FOBS trophy for 2021.

Check the clubhouse notice board for the entry sheet and put down your name to join in a great day of golf.

Golf gear for sale

Full set of PGF Status TPW clubs. Includes 12.5 degree driver, 3 wood and 5 wood, all with graphite shafts. Irons are 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, PW and SW; all with Status Lite, regular flex steel shafts. All clubs have quality Ping grips. Also includes PGF Optima MKII putter.

All clubs are in very good condition. This full set of clubs comes with an older large style Titleist golf bag. If you want to try before you buy, happy to accommodate you.

Price is \$125.00. Please call Vincent on 0468810501.

Who Knew

Rock legend Alice Cooper, the musician behind "I'm Eighteen" and "School's Out" doesn't exactly line up with one's classic mental image of a golfer. Known for wearing loud clothes on the golf course, Cooper loves the game so much that he released a memoir titled Alice Cooper, Golf Monster, and has credited the game with helping save him from alcoholism. Alice Cooper once said "Some people turn to God,I turn to golf."

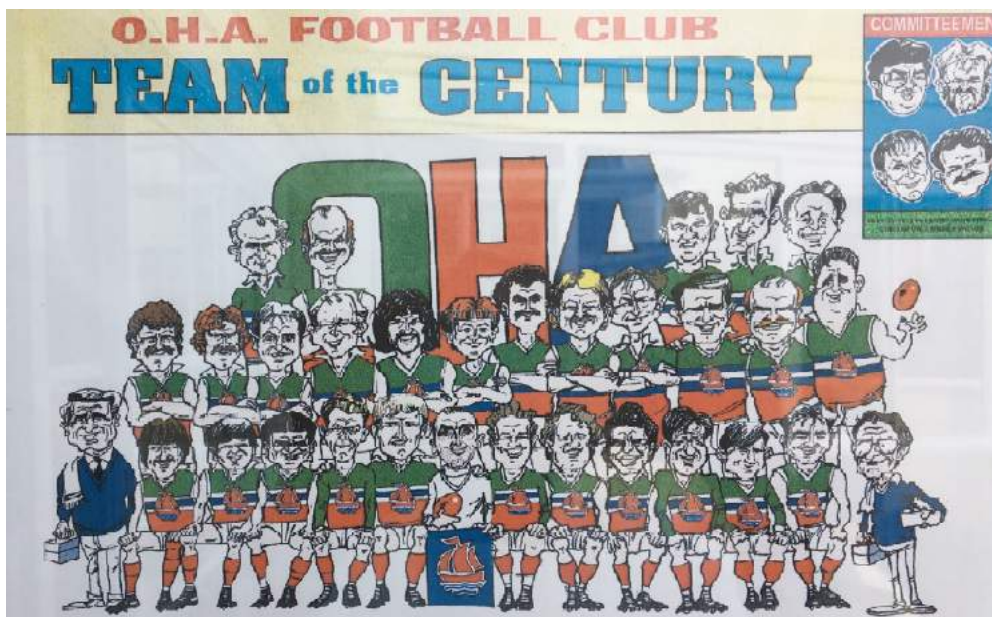
The Bunker Competition

Here is your chance to win a sleeve of three new Callaway golf balls. Depicted in the photo below is the OHA football team of the century. What you may not know is that two of our golf club members are also members of the OHA century team.

Can you identify these two great footballers? If so, write down their names on a piece of paper, along with your name and telephone number. Put your entry into the box named the "Bunker Competition", which is located in the foyer of the clubhouse.

Entries close at 6.00pm Friday 25 June, 2021. The draw will take place, after the close of entries, at our Friday meal night. The first correct entry drawn will be the winner.

Get in quick and note the close of entry date. Hint, have a close look at their cartoon mug shots. Good luck to everyone.



How blessed we are. Is this the best nine hole course in Tasmania?



A Quick Golf Tip

Our last newsletter contained a putting tip. Continuing on with that theme, here is another putting tip designed to help you putt the ball whilst maintaining the putter face square to the ball on impact.

If you are like many golfers that hit their putts left or right of the hole, this mostly happens because the putter face is off centre on contact with the ball. Does this happen to you, especially, with short putts of one to two metres? Here is a drill that may assist you to correct this common problem.

The drill is called “putt through the gate”. Pick a flat area on the practice putting green, about one metre from the hole. Set up two tees a few millimetres wider than your putter face. The top photo shows the set up and the bottom photo shows the view to the hole. It is important that you place the tees square to the hole. Most modern day golf balls have a strike line on them. Use this to your advantage to line up the ball in the direction of the hole. The top photo shows this in action.

Use four balls, putting each whilst ensuring that you do not hit the tees (if you keep hitting the tees, move them a few millimetres wider). Concentrate on putting the ball with a smooth centred swing. Allow the putter to follow through the swing in the line of the direction of the putt to the hole. You will soon get the feel and ball after ball will drop into the hole.

Once you have mastered the centred stroke action at one metre, move the tees out to one and a half metres. Repeat the drill. When you feel comfortable at this length and begin to sink a number of balls, move the tees out to two metres and repeat the drill.

When you are comfortable with your putting stroke on a flat area, move the tees (again starting at one metre from the hole) to an area that has some break to the hole. The important lesson to be learnt here is to putt the ball on a line that will allow the ball to move to the hole. Practice this drill from an area that the ball will break right to left into the hole and then select an area that will see the ball break left to right into the hole.

Hitting through the gate should improve your confidence on short putts and in turn, ensure that you swing the putter while keeping the ball square to the hole on impact. Stick with it. Practice the drill. Your putting will improve and so will your score.

Help, Help, Help

We are in desperate need of help. What do we need? Your input to the Bunker Newsletter. Do you have a story for the newsletter? If so, please email the club or write down something on paper and hand it to a committee member. Any (hi-res) photo would be most welcome.

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