



Orford Golf Club

THE BUNKER
NEWSLETTER
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In this issue (released 24 September 2021)

| | |
|--|---------|
| Feature article - The Future of Golf? | Page 1 |
| Veterans Golf | Page 6 |
| The Bunker Newsletter Competition | Page 7 |
| Member interview, featuring Matt Pedler | Page 8 |
| Orford Golf Club Christmas Party, Yes it is time to party, be quick, limited seats available | Page 10 |
| Golf club and visitor information | Page 11 |
| Recent happenings | Page 12 |
| A quick golf tip | Page 12 |



The Orford Golf Club Christmas Party is set for 11 December, 2021. See page 10

The future of golf?

Some may ask why there is a question mark about the future of golf. Over the last few decades, the golfing landscape has changed. The world wide boom of golf during the late 1980's and 1990's has slowed from previous heady heights. Whilst the popularity of golf continued into the 2000's, the 2008 financial crisis had a major impact on the continued growth of the game's popularity. Covid 19 has further impacted the game.

Traditionally, golf courses have eighteen holes. Many of these courses are under financial pressure and struggle to even break even. The increasing need of land for housing, especially in metropolitan areas, has seen a move towards reducing a golf course from eighteen holes to nine holes. This course size reduction has allowed golf clubs to consider selling off land for housing development and using the resulting income to modernise and improve facilities based around an upgraded nine hole course.

A prime example of a redeveloped eighteen hole course to a nine hole course is the Geelong Golf Club in Victoria.

The golf club (which was over hundred years old) ran into severe financial difficulties in 2001. The course was purchased by the Links Group and closed in 2004. The course remained closed for many years whilst the Links Group put together a proposal for a residential estate and a new nine hole course. Planning approval was obtained and construction of the golf estate commenced in 2013/14. The course is now open and boasts a fine nine hole course.

Closer to home, consider the fate of the Rosny Park public golf course. In years past, the course was eighteen holes. The course is now nine holes due to the closure of nine holes for the development of residential retirement homes. In recent times, the Clarence City Council (the owner of the land) has indicated the closure of the last remaining nine holes for development of a public open space. The loss of this popular golfing facility will have a major impact on the take up of new social golfers.

The reason why the popularity of golf has dwindled is due to many factors. Prime amongst these is the change in social dynamics. These days, more time is spent working and

commuting than in the past. More time is spent on television and social media and younger generations in general spend less time in traditional clubs and social settings.

Many beginners are put off golf due to the time it takes to play an eighteen hole round, typically five hours or a nine hole round that takes two plus hours. Add to this the frustration of taking many shots, just to get to the green. This applies to older people that want to experience the fun of golf. They end up saying "it is just too hard and not fun". Young kids, that have never played golf, are always keen to experience the game. They too end up frustrated, hitting the ball along the fairway multiple times before reaching the green.

Whilst the attraction of nine hole golf has increased significantly during the last decade (Europe in general reports increases of over 30%), we need to consider how to evolve the game to make it easier and shorter for beginners and anyone that struggles to play a nine hole round on a mix of par threes, fours and fives. Not to mention those that just do not have the time to spend five hours on a golf course. There is hope!

We, at the Orford Golf Club, have the opportunity to change the way golf is played, whilst maintaining our traditional competition rounds of nine or eighteen holes. It is about offering an option that puts fun into the game, will attract new golfers, both young and old, and provide a fun, healthy and social outing for anyone.

Club member Scott Baker recently put together a proposal that would allow the club to develop a program for younger players and an easy introduction to golf for beginners. Scott's proposal is to establish shorter par 3 holes on the course. Scott's enthusiasm and drive to assist the club's future is a real asset. I commend Scott and hope that my (similar) proposal adds to his foresight. Scott has indicated that he would welcome the opportunity to get the par three proposal up and running.

Scott and I will make a concerted effort together, to ensure the proposal goes ahead, if agreed to.

Over the last eight months, I have developed the idea of making an all par 3 course, within the current 9 hole course. It is about doing something different that will attract a new type of golfer. The concept is to establish a nine hole, all par three course, within the existing course. Let's call the new layout the par three white tee course. The tee to hole distance should be designed to be easy; say between ninety to one hundred and twenty metres. The existing par three second and seventh hole teeing areas requires no change. The par fours and the par five hole only need a separate teeing area, suitable in length to the green.

The first hole white tee could be established on the right hand side of the fairway, just off the fairway, about 100 metres from the green. We do not need to build a teeing mound. A small area of rough (between the fairway and the fence) could be mown, to the same height cut as the fairway grass, during the regular mowing of the fairway. Two white tee front blocks could be placed at the front of the white teeing area. These blocks will simply have signage to indicate the hole number and distance to the green. This could be repeated for all other holes.

We could even take a step further and create an eighteen hole par 3 course. The existing second hole and eleventh hole teeing areas and the existing seventh hole and sixteenth hole teeing areas could be used.

Over time, if the proposal comes to fruition, further different teeing areas could be established on the existing par four holes and the par five sixth hole.

The following diagrams indicate a suggested white tee placement and tee to green distance.



An important consideration is how to rate the par three white course. Whilst we could establish a course slope rating, I do not think this is necessary for now. Having said that, anyone that has a Golf Australia handicap will need to understand that the course rating will change significantly from what we are used to on the existing course layout.

Most course ratings, the slope, are based on the length of the hole from tee to green. There are other considerations such as hazards and bunkers. However, in the main it is hole length that dictates a hole's rating. If we base a rating system mainly on hole length, this will make it

relatively simple to establish a rating for each hole. Initially there may be minor changes. Orford Golf Club can establish their own course rating and allow play under local rules.

The sketches of each hole, above, includes a suggested tee to green distance and stroke index for each hole. The tee to green distance has an accuracy of one to two metres, measured by GPS. However, as the difficulty of the game has dramatically decreased; so to should the maximum allowable handicap dramatically be decreased. Whilst it may seem overwhelming to arrive at a suitable handicap system, we need to start somewhere.

The 18 hole rating system I have developed is to divide a player's existing Golf Australia handicap by two thirds and make the maximum allowable handicap to start at 24. For example, a golfer playing off a handicap of 36 plus will play off a handicap of 24.

Someone that plays off a handicap of 24 will play off a handicap of 16. Further tweaking of the rating system may be required; however, the amount of handicap adjustment should be minor.

In order to give a further overview of the course set up, I have produced a mock up of the Par 3 White course score card, below.

Orford Golf Club Par 3 18 hole White Course

PLAYERS

1.....

2.....

DATE.....

HANDICAP

1.....

2.....

| | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Single |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4BBB |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mixed |

EVENT

STROKE

STABLEFORD

PAR

| |
|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |

GROSS

NET

| |
|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |

| HOLE | METRES | PAR | SIGNATURE | PLAYER | MARKER |
|------|--------|-----|-----------|--------|--------|
| 1 | 107 | 3 | 8 | | |
| 2 | 99 | 3 | 12 | | |
| 3 | 92 | 3 | 17 | | |
| 4 | 108 | 3 | 6/24 | | |
| 5 | 97 | 3 | 13 | | |
| 6 | 115 | 3 | 1/19 | | |
| 7 | 105 | 3 | 10 | | |
| 8 | 99 | 3 | 15 | | |
| 9 | 110 | 3 | 5/23 | | |
| OUT | 932 | 27 | | | |

| HOLE | METRES | PAR | SIGNATURE | PLAYER | MARKER |
|-----------------|--------|-----|-----------|--------|--------|
| 10 | 107 | 3 | 9 | | |
| 11 | 120 | 3 | 4/22 | | |
| 12 | 92 | 3 | 18 | | |
| 13 | 108 | 3 | 7 | | |
| 14 | 97 | 3 | 14 | | |
| 15 | 115 | 3 | 2/20 | | |
| 16 | 130 | 3 | 3/21 | | |
| 17 | 99 | 3 | 16 | | |
| 18 | 100 | 3 | 11 | | |
| IN | 968 | 27 | | | |
| OUT | 932 | 27 | | | |
| Total | 1900 | 54 | | | |
| DEDUCT HANDICAP | | | | | |
| NET SCORE | | | | | |

Marker's signature

Player's signature

Golf Link No:

Home club

Par 3 Challenge entry Yes/No

Full name

Telephone number

Email

Once established, the new par three white course will enable the club to attract people that have not played the game before. As previously mentioned, Scott Baker's idea of attracting younger members is, in my opinion, a very important step into the future.

Our area has two schools; Triabunna High School and Orford primary School. The club could offer an introduction to golf experience, held every few months. In conjunction with school principals and teachers, we could develop a program and set up these experiences to be free of charge. I am sure that there are many club members that would volunteer their time to accompany and give instruction to small groups of school children.

We could also consider holding an introduction to golf for school students during schools holidays. This would give younger kids the opportunity of having a fun introduction to the game.

Not only are we able to give back to our community, we may see future golfers emerge, take up the game and become a junior member of Orford Golf Club.

One of the difficulties of current golf courses is to offer families a quick and cost effective round of social golf. Currently, a family of four would need to pay \$20 each for green fees, plus the hire of golf clubs. The cost to most families is prohibitive. Remember, we are trying to attract visitors to have a quick and fun experience. I think we should consider a price of \$8 per adult (\$12 including clubs) for 9 holes and \$12 per adult (\$16 including clubs) for 18 holes. Students under 18 play for free when accompanied by two paying adults (children share the adult clubs).

During spring, summer and autumn months our area attracts many visitors and tourists. If we could offer a quick par 3 round of 9 holes at a price that is attractive and well promoted, the opportunity to increase our club usage is almost assured.

Scott Baker suggested, in his proposal, that we look at a stay and play package in conjunction with accommodation houses. This is a great idea. We could also extend this by developing a one page three fold brochure (produced by the club, probably me) for placement in every accommodation room in the area. Visitors and tourists are always looking for things to do and a fun, quick and low cost golf experience would be very attractive.

Players that have a Golf Australia handicap would be attracted to a 9 or 18 hole round over the par 3 course. Again, we need to make the cost as low as possible. We could develop a par 3 9 hole competition; let us call it "The Par 3 Challenge Cup". The competition could commence during April and run throughout the year until February the following year. Players are able to play and submit a score card as many times as they like, during the competition period. Play can be at any time other than during normal club competitions, especially Saturday and Thursday. Suggested cost per round is \$5 for non club members and \$2 for Orford Golf Club members.

The top 50 or 60 scores are invited back for the final competition, held over 18 holes, for the Par 3 Challenge Cup during the first or second week of March. Players that are unable to return are withdrawn from the field and the next best scores take their place. I feel sure that the competition will attract golfers from all around Tasmania and be an exciting addition to our competitions for Orford Golf Club members.

The Par 3 Challenge Cup offers the club a golden opportunity to attract a major sponsor. A well thought out proposal may see sponsorship in excess of \$2000, due to the ongoing nature of the competition over eleven months. This will give great exposure to a sponsor, culminating in a gala championship event. A substantial prize pool is very attractive to most golfers and should produce a very high participation rate. I can see no other competition like this, it is unique. It would certainly be a first in Tasmania and should see the Orford Golf Club propelled into the limelight for innovation and forward thinking.

So, there we have it; an opportunity to change the face of golf and provide for the future. It has been said that the future of any golf club is down to a committee that is forward thinking. I agree and we are fortunate enough to have a great committee at the Orford Golf Club.

At a recent committee meeting, I presented an outline of the above proposal and requested the committee to allow a next step approach. The committee have agreed to the next step.

The next step is to form a focus group that will submit a detailed proposal. The proposal will contain all aspects of what is needed to set up a par 3 course. Once completed, the proposal will be presented to the committee for consideration. If the committee approve the proposal, we will then set up the par 3 course and test the waters.

Scott Baker and I are willing to form the focus group and we will seek the assistance of one or two members. The final proposal will be detailed in content and we will endeavour to cover all aspects of what is required.

It is very important to seek member feedback. We encourage all members that are reading this edition of the newsletter to put forward their thoughts to the committee in a written form. Your input is important. If you have any questions, please do let me know by writing down your thoughts and forward them to the club, attention – Vincent Henderson.

It is certain that the future of golf is alive and well. It will only continue with innovation. There are other options. Some courses have introduced a game called quick six. Simply put, a game of just six holes that can be completed in a very short time. I am sure that the future of golf will only evolve with innovation that puts fun back into the game. Long may it live.

The opinions in this article are solely mine, Vincent Henderson. My opinions are a starting point. I encourage the readers of this newsletter to give serious consideration to the proposal and voice their support for the club to consider approval of the final proposal, submitted by the focus group.

To Scott Baker, your input is highly valued. Thank you. To the committee, thank you for allowing the proposal to move forward.

Vetrans Golf



There are a number of members that play in the regular vetrans golf events.

Orford Golf Club has been well represented at vetrans golf, usually played on a Monday. If you have not played vetrans golf before, we encourage you to have a crack. It is always well organised and a fun day out.

We obtained a photo of three members that attended a recent event, held at the Tasmania course. Pictured above are Robbie Haigh (with the magic wand), John Rainbird (flag bearer) and Steve Crosswell (umpire). Congratulations to our club president John Rainbird, the overall winner on the day with a fine score of 42 stableford points. John followed this up with a recent win at Bagdad with another good score of 41 stableford points.

The Bunker Newsletter Competition

In the last issue of the Bunker, we had a competition to name the two players pictured in the OHA football team of the century. The players were our very own members Gary Harwood and Ricky McCulloch. The winning entry was from Raylene Crosswell. Raylene won dinner for two at the club and a sleeve of new golf balls. Well done Raylene.

We have another competition for this issue. Can you name the three players depicted in the photo of the Newtown Cricket Club, circa 1976. One should be obvious. The other two may require you to ask around the club. Yes, all three cricket players are current and very active members of the Orford Golf Club.



The Newtown Cricket Club - Circa 1976

The photo, top right, was a time when he had a bushy beard; not anymore, he has down sized!

The photo, middle right, was a time when he had a head of hair; not anymore!

The photo, bottom right, was a time for growing a mullet; not anymore!

Submit your entry by writing down at least two of the cricket players, along with your name and phone number, on a piece of paper. The winning entry will receive a sleeve of new golf balls. If your entry has correctly named all three cricket players, you will win a bonus prize of a sleeve of new golf balls.

Entries close at 6.00pm on Friday 29 October 2021 and the draw will be at 6.30pm, during our Friday night meal. Put your entry into the Bunker Newsletter Competition entry box, located in the front foyer of the golf club.

Good luck with your entry and remember to ask around the club for clues to the identity of the cricketers. There is one EWE should know!



Member Interview

We chat to Matt Pedler to find out about his golfing journey and get some insight into his thoughts on the game.

Bunker – Do you recall the first time you picked up a golf club?

Matt – It was in a paddock at Altona Victoria, where my family lived. I remember it was my Mother's five iron.

Bunker – When did you move to Tasmania?

Matt – It was in December 1973, the whole family moved here.

Bunker – Your Mum and Dad played golf. Who do you think was the better golfer?

Matt – I think Dad would just sneak in. They were both keen golfers.

Bunker – When did your family join as members of the Orford Golf Club?

Matt – They joined when we moved here in 1973. I joined about a year later in 1974.

Bunker – Your Dad, Frank Pedler, was a long time member of the club. What was his involvement at the club?

Matt – He put a lot of time into admin work in the office and did a lot of manual work around the course. He was well respected in the club. He had the nickname of Pa. I remember when Dad and I would play on a Saturday. We would have a couple after the game and then head home. I was living at home at the time. Mum and Dad were always referred to as Ma and Pa at the club and the names stuck.

Bunker – Who was the greatest influence on your game, your Mum or your Dad?

Matt – I reckon that it was Mum. She was guilty of me developing my loopy swing. I went to school and boarded in Hobart during the week. So, I would play at home on Saturday and Sunday. I would regularly play with Mum on Sunday morning. Mum had a big loopy swing and I tended to copy it and it has stuck with me.

Bunker – Do you have any memorable game that you have played?

Matt – There was a Pro-Am that we had here at Orford. It was not so much the game, it was my drive on the first hole. I was playing with two professional golfers from Rosny golf course. There was a strong southerly wind blowing. I was able to out drive the pros. I am not sure if they were trying, but, I was. Because of my big loopy swing, my drive went up high and with about 30 knots of southerly wind, it went a long way. It did take me two shots to get him against the wind. I also remember knocking off Roger Woolley, sorry Roger, during a B grade championship. That was memorable.

Bunker – What do you think about standing on the tee and gripping it and ripping it with a driver?

Matt – I like it when the ball goes a long way. However, I am not a grip and rip person. I prefer to be 20 metres shorter and straighter, especially at Orford.

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

Matt – I do not have a particular hole as every hole has had its turn in being difficult. I do rate the eight hole and I am always pleased to have a par on that hole. I did have a favourite, the seventh hole, I called it my bread and butter hole. When I was playing for money I would always hit the green. So, I called it my bread and butter hole.

Bunker – Your involvement with the club extends to being a committee member. How long have you been a committee member and what are your thoughts on the committee?

Matt – This is my third year as a committee member. I was asked back in the 1980's to join the committee. I was only twenty something. The club was short of committee members and I was asked to join. Being a member of the current committee, I should pump them up a bit. However, I think the current committee are doing a great job and are very professional in their approach. Very different to when I was a member in the 1980's.

Bunker – Do you have a favourite club in your bag?

Matt – Probably, my two hybrid. It is a ripping club.

Bunker – How do you rate Orford against other nine hole courses?

Matt – I rate Llanherne as one of the best nine hole courses. Having said that, I rate Orford right up there, one of the top courses in Tasmania. It is a real challenge for any golfer.

Bunker – If you could improve one part of your game, what would it be?

Matt – Ha Ha! Probably, my putting. Although, if you can chip very well, you do not have to worry about your putting. But, putting is a part of my game that I would like to improve.

Bunker - Do you have any achievements at the club that you could let us know about?

Matt – I hope that I have been a good member and supporter of the club. The only stand out achievements, regarding golf, is my win in the B grade championship and dad and I did win a foursomes championship. I have not had a hole in one, yet. Secretly, I have my eye on the A grade championship. I had a good chance at it last year. However, it was not to be. I was very disappointed in my score rather than not winning. There is always this year to have another go at it.

Thank you to Matt Pedler for giving us an insight into his involvement with the club. Matt, you are highly regarded at the Orford Golf Club.



Water Babies

A recent winter dip in the icy cold waters was well supported by members of the club. The day was a great charity fundraiser. Some of those that braved the cold and dressed for the occasion are pictured left -

Steve (what a six pack), Anne (rugged up to the hilt), Raylene (oh my goodness) and Daniel (feels no pain). Well done all.



Orford Golf Club Members Christmas Party

The club Christmas party for 2021 is set and bookings for members are open.

When – Saturday 11 December, 2021. 6.30pm for 7.00pm

Where – Orford Golf Club Clubhouse

Live music featuring "Out After Two". Lets dance!

Menu – Traditional Christmas roast pork, roast beef, ham and baked vegies.

Christmas plum pudding with brandy custard, pavlova with seasonal fruit and fruit salad and ice cream.

Cost - \$35.00 per person (payment in advance).



Bookings – There is a booking sheet on the clubhouse notice board. Just write down your name and the number of guests that will accompany you. Be quick, bookings are filling fast and seats are limited.

Come along, have a good time. Lets party!!



Do you feel the pain?

Two women were playing golf. One teed off and watched in horror as her ball headed directly toward a foursome of men playing the next hole.

The ball hit one of the men. He immediately clasped his hands together at his groin, fell to the ground and proceeded to roll around in agony.

The woman rushed down to the man, and immediately began to apologize. "Please allow me to help. I'm a physical therapist and I know I could relieve your pain if you'd allow me," she told him.

"Oh, no, I'll be all right. I'll be fine in a few minutes," the man replied.

It was obvious that he was in agony, lying in the fetal position, still clasping his hands together at his groin.

The female golfer/therapist urged him to let her help him, so at her persistence, he finally allowed her to help.

She gently took his hands away and laid them to his side, loosened his pants and put her hands inside. She administered tender and artful massage to his privates for several long moments and then asked, "How does that feel"?

He replied, "That feels great, but my thumb still hurts like Hell!"

Who New

Star of the Rambo and Rocky movies, Sylvester Stallone is a keen golfer and plays off a handicap of 11. He is so keen that he once owned a \$4.5M mansion on a golf course in California.

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. You do not need to have a golf handicap, which is ideal for beginners that just want to have a fun game of golf.

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.

Where is the wind when you need it?



Recent Happenings

Monthly medal

To date, there have been some outstanding results in the ladies and men's monthly medal rounds. Two time monthly medal winners in the ladies division have been Deb Baker and Anne Mason, well done ladies. In the men's division, Selwyn Dalton and Warren Walker have also won two monthly medals each. The December gold medal play off should see some exciting battles.

FOBS

A huge shout out to all members that represented Orford Golf Club at the recent FOBS day, held at Freycinet Golf Club on Saturday 18 September, 2021. We had many members that made the trip and congratulations to all for being part of the winning team. We lead the eclectic event and with just the final game remaining, a big turnout at Bicheno should give us a chance at taking out the trophy for 2021. So, please consider joining the team for the final round. Remember, there is strength in numbers. Go Orford.

Foursomes Championships

During the last few weeks we have seen the running of the ladies, men's and mixed foursome championships for 2021.

The ladies Foursome Champions are Penny Evetts and Fiona Smith. The net winners were Deb Baker and Christine Walker, mother and daughter, well done ladies.

The Mixed Foursome Champions are Christine and Warren Walker. What a great combination, mother and son. Everyone is thrilled for you both. The net winners were Jacqueline and RolyFoale, keep it in the family!!

The Men's Foursome Champions were Athol Tubb and Tony Wilton (not for the first time). Well done Athol and Crafty, good steady golf wins the day. The net winners were Derek Patmore and Robbie Haigh. Both were stunned at their win. Great game lads.

A Quick Golf Tip - Swing Tempo

We all tend to swing the club as fast as we can, thinking that speed will get the ball moving a great distance. In most cases, a speedy swing will cause many problems. If you suffer from "hit the cover off the ball syndrome" there is a drill that may help you slow down things and achieve a good strike on the ball at impact.

It is all about segmenting your swing and saying a word, in your head, for each segment of your back swing. When you start your swing, just think and say in your mind "Back". When you reach the top of your back swing, say "Pause" in your mind. Then, to start your downswing, just say "Smooth" in your mind.

A slight pause at the top of your backswing should put you in a position to commence a smooth downswing. That is the main tip.

The drill may help you in not over thinking your swing. It is as simple as saying, in your mind, Back – Pause – Smooth.

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