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NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

If you have news, humorous anecdotes, stories or information for inclusion in **Down the Fairways** forward to Loraine Smith no later than 22nd of the month in written format or via email russloraine@optusnet.com.au

Down the Fairways is available on our website: www.waratahgolfclub.com.au

EDITOR'S NOTE

"Down the Fairways" will continue to feature popular stories, activities within our club, upcoming events, course etiquette, course care, rules and continue with new member/member profiles, so, yes, I will be requesting profiles from members during 2024.

Support from you, by the way of providing stories and humorous/serious anecdotes, to ensure our publication each month remains entertaining as well as informative will always be appreciated. Great golfing, to each and every one for 2024! *Lorraine, Editor*

PRESIDENT'S PEN

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all our fabulous women members and welcome to our 2024 golfing season! I hope you've all had an outstanding Christmas/New Year break and are getting ready for our golfing program to commence once again, with Opening Day being Tuesday, 6 February. Our Women's Committee is looking forward to seeing all your happy faces back at the Club and playing on our awesome golf course. In saying that, I would like to commend the Club staff and you, its patrons, by playing each week at Waratah Golf Club (WGC), even through these hot Summer months. I know I say this more often than not, but I reiterate that golfing is therapeutic and the social element is good for all, particularly when we meet afterwards in the clubhouse on Tuesdays for Presentation and, besides, it's the best golf club in the District! Am I biased?! Of course I am! LOL

For the members who were unable to attend the 2023 AGM held at the end of October and other readers of "Down The Fairways" newsletter, we have a new 2024 Women's Committee appointed and these women are: Jenny Quist (President), Jan Gillies (Vice President), Renay Robertson (Captain), Loraine Smith (Vice-Captain - new), Kate Brownsmith (Secretary), Jo-Anne Baird (Treasurer), Carol Tutt (General Committee), Lynne Page (General Committee - new) and Colleen Wren (General Committee - new). I look forward to working with this great team of ladies.

The Committee works hard to ensure that every golfing season at our Club will run smoothly and effectively, with some fun times thrown in to boot! Let's hope that we have good weather to enjoy our golf this year!! That was difficult for the Match Committee at times in 2023, having to change the program and fit in what needed to be played when possible. Let's all hope that 2024 will run without a hitch. We'll cross fingers on that! Additionally, should you have any queries, feedback or suggestions relating to golf here at WGC, your Women's Committee is here to assist as best as we can, endeavouring to respond accordingly.

The 2024 Program booklets will be available for distribution to you on our scheduled Opening Day which is Tuesday, 6 February, as mentioned by our Captain, Renay Robertson.

PRESIDENT'S PEN cont....

The opening game should be a nice, fun day of golf to start off the program. Please see Kate Brownsmith or myself for a copy of the 2024 Program. I'm looking forward to seeing you out on the course and after the game at our first Presentation of the year.

Vale Jacqueline Margaret Johnston – I have conveyed to Col Johnston and his family our sincere commiserations and heartfelt sympathies on Jackie's passing by phone, card, and I also sent flowers on behalf of our women members in memory of our friend. She was a happy, effervescent, engaging, funny, thoughtful human being and, personally, I will miss her and the time she had for me when we were together at the Club.

To those ladies who had a tough year health-wise in 2023, we wish you a steady recovery and look forward to seeing you back at the Club when you are ready, even if it is to catch up with friends and having lunch and/or a drink with them.

As always, I'd like to end this report with a quote from the professional German golfer, Bernhard Langer: "*Be decisive. A wrong decision is generally less disastrous than indecision.*"

Be happy, be safe, and stay well. *Awesome golfing everyone for the months of January-February!*

Jenny Quist, Women's President

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Happy New Year Ladies. I hope you have all had an enjoyable and restful break over the Xmas season. My Match Committee and I have been busy behind the scenes producing your playing program for 2024. The booklet should be ready for collection on our Opening Day which will be February 6th. Our first game will be a 2-person Ambrose, so get your partner organised for when the draw opens online. We have also elected to hold an Invitation Gala Day on Tuesday, February 13th in lieu of Australia Day this year. It is a 4-person team event - Split 6's (1 score on holes 1-6, 2 scores on holes 7-12, 3 scores on holes 13-18). There is a booking sheet for Waratah Ladies in our clubroom. So please get in there and add your team to the list. Cost is \$45 per person which includes lunch. Morning tea will be available from 7.30am with an 8.30am shotgun start. Hope you all come along and enjoy the fun.

Our Monthly Medal/Stroke rounds this year will continue to include a putting competition. As the majority of us are now using MiScore and we do not have a card to write our putts on, we recommend that one player in your group takes note of everybody's putts, and only the player with the least putt count needs to be verbally advised to me on completion of your round. Please also remember we have a 10 shot rule for all our individual rounds. This is a measure taken to speed up play. However, when doing this, it will take you out of the putting competition for the day. We also allow the Orange Tees to be used on any individual round (NOT Team games) excluding club Championships.

We will have two Pennant teams for 2024, commencing mid-March. The NHDLGA have decided that every club in the district will have one scratch team and one handicap pennant team only. Therefore we have nominated a team to compete in Division 2 (scratch) and Bronze South (handicap). If you are interested to be part of our squad for 2024, please give me a call, I would love to include you in the team.

Good Golfing Girls, and see you on the Course.

Renay Robertson, Women's Captain



VALE – Jacqueline (Jackie) Johnston 1933 – 2024



Sadly missed along life's way, quietly remembered every day. No longer in our life to share, but in our hearts, you're always there. Jackie was a caring, compassionate and delightful friend who enjoyed the camaraderie and friendship of our club. She was a joy to play with as she never complained or had a negative outlook and enjoyed the company of all the girls. A truly gracious lady, who will be missed by all of us. In our hearts a memory is kept, for a friend we respect and will never forget.

PROGRAMME FOR FEBRUARY

- 6 Opening Day – Two person Ambrose
- 13 Invitation Gala Day – 4-Person team event Split 6's**
- 20 Stableford
- *Extra Competitions Commence***
- 27 Stroke/Monthly Medal/Scratch/First Round of GNSW Medal/Putting in Conjunction

UPCOMING EVENTS – OPEN DAYS

February

- 08 Nelson Bay Gala Day
- 13 Waratah GC Invitation Gala Day**
- 19 Belmont Open Day



March

- 04 Hawks Nest Ladies Classic
- 13 Halliwell Cup - Charlestown GC
- 19 St Patrick's Day - Newcastle GC

All information for above events can be found on the ladies' notice board.

2024 GOLF NSW MEDAL COMPETITION

Programme of six (6) stroke events between 1 February and 30 September in 2024, played in three divisions. These events are run in conjunction with Club Medal Rounds.

Entry fee \$5 per player, to be paid prior to the commencement of the first round of the competition. Late entries can be accepted prior to the 3rd round of the competition with payment of the appropriate fee.

Divisions for the 2024 Golf NSW Women's Medal Competition are determined by the player's GA handicap on the first medal round they play.

If you wish to participate in the above competition submit your payment in an envelope, with your name, current GA handicap, Golf NSW Medal written on the front, and place in the Treasurer's drawer in the Ladies Meeting Room.

INVITATION GALA DAY



**Tuesday 13 February
4 person team event
(Split 6's)**

Entry Fee \$45.00

**Includes morning tea and lunch
8am registration for 8:30 shotgun start
Entries close 6 February 2024
Organise your team and come along for
a great day of golf!**

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Birthdays are filled with yesterday's memories, today's joy, and tomorrow's dreams.

JANUARY

- 1 Tracey Cooper
- 3 Michelle Clarke
- 14 Kerrie Brooks
- 18 Margaret Robertson
- 22 Ann Young
- 27 Virginia Alexander
- 30 Chris Muddle

FEBRUARY

- 5 Renay Robertson
- 7 Joan Smithson
- 17 Monique Gordon
- 12 Yvonne Kaluski
- 20 Marlene Russell
- 27 Alison Roser

WARATAH GC PRO-AM

Scheduled for Wednesday 28 February

Organise a team of three, submit to Pro-shop and your team will be allocated a Pro. For further details contact WGC Pro-Shop.

WGC JUNIOR GOLF

Good Luck WGC Juniors who are competing in the NDGA Junior Classic to be held at Newcastle GC on Sunday 14 January.

"In golf as in life, it is the follow through that makes the difference" - Anonymous

VETS INFORMATION

Veteran Women's Golfers' Association (VWGANSW) annual subscriptions are due for 2024 and are \$7.00 for current members and \$17 for new members. By becoming a member, you are eligible to play in VWGA events. If you are not a member and would like to join, speak with your VWGA representative, Loraine Smith.

If you require further information on how these Comps are administered, I am happy to explain in more detail. **Loraine Smith (VETS Delegate).**

2024 VWGANSW TOURNAMENTS

FEBRUARY

26 Beverly Park, 2BBB Stableford
Marge D'Elmaine Salver

MARCH

12 Eastlakes GC – 2BBB Stableford
Sheila Carr Memorial Salver

APRIL

08 The Coast GC – 2BBB Stableford
Ella Backhouse Foundation Trophy

If you wish to enter please speak with your VETS Delegate, Loraine Smith.

WEEKLY COMP WINNINGS/PRIZE MONEY

We are offering our women members the choice of two options again in 2024 for redeeming their prize money; Members Card or Coles/Myer Card. Advantages for transferring to Member's card where it can be used for purchases:

- ❖ Over the bar for drinks, chips, coffee etc.
- ❖ Bistro, lunches
- ❖ Pro Shop for golfing needs
- ❖ Pay for hire of golf carts
- ❖ Winnings can be redeemed to Member's Card on weekly basis
- ❖ Good for two (2) years from the date amount is transferred to Member's Card

We encourage members to redeem to Club Member/Account card; by doing this you are supporting the viability of the Golf Club.

NHDLGA PENNANT DRAW - 2024

DIVISION 2 SCRATCH PENNANT Draw 2024

Round 1: 11 March 2024 at Pacific Dunes
9:10 Waratah v Muree

Round 2: 18 March 2024 at Toronto GC
9:10 Waratah v Pacific Dunes

Round 3: 8 April 2024 at Shortland Waters GC
8:30 Waratah v Shortland Waters

Round 4: 15 April 2024 at Muree GC
10:20 Waratah v Hawks Nest

Round 5: 29 April 2024 at Waratah GC
8:30 Waratah v Hawks Nest

NOTE: With a 6 team draw, one team does not get to host but will then, not play any of the other teams at their home course. The team not hosting for 2024 is Hawks Nest. There are No Byes.

Washout Game to be played on Monday 6 May

Final to be played on 27 May 2024

BRONZE SOUTH PENNANT DRAW 2024

Round 1: 11 March 2024 at Toronto (Bye)
8:55 Waratah v Newcastle

Round 2: 25 March 2024 at Maitland (Bye)
10:25 Waratah v Belmont

Round 3: 8 April 2024 at Newcastle (Bye)
10:25 Waratah v Charlestown

Round 4: 15 April 2024 at Merewether (Bye)
9:20 Waratah v Maitland

Round 5: 29 April 2024 at Belmont (Bye)
9:17 Waratah v Merewether

Round 6: 6 May 2024 at Waratah (Bye)

Round 7: 13 May 2024 at Charlestown (Bye)
8:30 Waratah 1&2 v Toronto 1&2
8:37 Waratah 3&4 v Toronto 3&4
8:44 Waratah 5 v Toronto 5

Washout Game to be played on Monday 20 May

Final to be played on 27 May 2024