



NEWSLETTER

Autumn2023

The Editor

Greetings to all members and others reading this newsletter.

The Club is looking towards bringing in new events and activities for members and guests. Amongst these is a trivia quiz which will likely be conducted on a Thursday evening. If the concept works, it may become a regular activity. If anyone would like to sponsor this activity, this would be greatly appreciated.

In the meantime, we ask members to come forward with sponsorship, ideas or suggestions, either to me or members of the Management Committee.

Rules of Golf: **Golf's 10 most Misunderstood Rules (Part 2)** [*see below for answer*]

Mark Johnson
Editor

The President

As you may by now be aware, our Greens Superintendent, Karl Krauss, has resigned. We understand that this was largely for family reasons. He has done a lot in not only maintaining our course in great condition but also done a lot of improvements. While we are sorry to see him go, we wish him all the best for his future. He was due to start a holiday the weekend of 3-4 June, so this will be when he will finish up.

The Club continues to be in a strong financial position and membership continues to grow. The bar continues to go well with much thanks to Nicki/ Cheryl and other volunteers. We have been trying, relentlessly, to find another bar person but, so far, have not found any suitable candidates.

The Management Committee continues to focus on addressing the problems of aging equipment in the clubhouse, wet weather drainage and green upgrades.

Members need to remember that MC members are volunteers and not avenues of abuse. Please speak to them with respect as per our *Code of Conduct*. Recently, a member was very abusive towards 2 MC members after he had changed his billing address and didn't notify the club. Members need to ensure that their contact information - phone number, email and postal address are correct - this is your responsibility, so that you will not receive newsletters, etc unless we have the correct details.

Smokers need to be reminded we have a *DOSA (Designated Outside Smoking Area)* - this is the only place where smoking is permitted around the clubhouse. We not only

There's a lot happening here.



should ensure compliance with the smoking laws, but we MUST do so. Please check notice boards or ask bar staff, etc if unsure where you can go for a choof.

We have applied for a grant to replace the clubhouse ceiling, which is much needed. But we won't find out if our application has succeeded for a few months.

We are in process of replacing the tee signs.

I wish to thank all members and non-members who volunteer their time. But it is unfortunate that there are some members who have negative opinions and comments. Please try and be constructive in your criticisms, put your name up to volunteer or keep your negativity to yourself.

Members are asked to book in before coming to the Club for all competitions, especially on Sundays and Wednesdays, which are very busy days. Turning up and expecting a game without booking beforehand has been putting additional pressure on Niki, esp. when she is busy with other duties.

There is currently a position vacant for a volunteer to empty the bins on the course, for recycling etc. If interested, please talk to Cheryl/Niki for more info.

Russell (Pup) Hilder
President

The Secretary

The Club has a leasing contract with *Toro* whereby a number of machines are leased for a 5-year term. At the end of term, the old machines are replaced with new machines with a revised leasing cost. The advantage of this policy is that it



drastically reduces maintenance costs, and the Club's machinery expenditure, being over a fixed term, makes it much better for us to budget. There is also the added advantage that staff and volunteers are using the latest machinery to perform the everyday tasks on the course. The current leasing term expires this year. The Committee has prepared a new leasing contract but delays are expected in providing the machinery.

The Club is investigating the possibility of obtaining road base material from a local contractor for the purpose of upgrading cart paths on the course.

The Club has adopted a Random Drug Testing policy for staff and volunteers.

The Club resolved that *a clean, neat and tidy appearance* should be the criteria for the Club's dress code, rather than the outdated policies presently in place.

All Club policies, including WH&S policies, are being reviewed and will be rewritten and released in the near future.

A Reciprocal Agreement with Redcliffe Golf Club has been formulated, allowing our members to play at that club at the same cost as Redcliffe members.

A recent check of the number of existing playing members revealed that there are

270 members who have a GA handicap. This makes Atherton Golf Club one of the top three member clubs in the FNQ area.

Dave Morrison
Secretary

The Treasurer

Our Club is going along well financially and a year-to-date comparison with last year shows the following:

- Increase in - bar sales, food sales, course advertising, pro shop and cart shed hire.
- Decrease in - competition fees and membership fees.
- Overall, our income has improved.

The not so good news, of course, is that some costs have increased areas:

- affiliation fees,
- advertising,
- fertilisers & poisons,
- fuel,
- wages,
- insurances,
- cart repairs,
- course improvements,
- workshop and
- office supplies.

Planned future projects that will be *big ticket* items:

- Drainage on 6th and 7th fairways (completed)
- Dismantling and rebuilding of the dam wall on the 13th hole
- Reconstruction of the 13th green
- New stove and deep fryer (purchased and installed)
- Construction of further cart paths



The notice board that Niki put out on Good Friday was worth the effort as many players on the day used the honesty box. Too often, social players have the pleasure of using our course on a complimentary basis.

Once again, if members have any questions regarding the finances, I am happy to answer them, i.e., if I am able.

Heather Beaven
Treasurer

The House

Things have been rather quiet with functions of late. But recently:

- we have catered for 4 wakes, one involving 250 guests.
- we have catered for another 50th birthday party.
- the Atherton Lions Club held a dinner meeting recently and have booked their

change-over dinner for the end of June.

Our *goose club* on Friday nights – we are thinking about having a members draw instead.

The Management Committee is discussing whether the *goose club* is worth continuing, due to 2 factors: the lack of tickets sold and the same volunteers being continually *used*. Maybe Friday night will be just a members draw/*chook run*.

Our new stove and deep-fryer are up and running (refer above) - thanks to Graeme Blaney.

We also have a new *stick* vacuum cleaner - no more leads - so much easier. Thanks to McMahons *Betta Electrical* for a good deal.

We had new lights installed throughout the clubhouse, also a new switchboard. A good job by Ruben from *Cummings*- always there whenever we had a hiccup.

Thanks (again) to Jenko (Jim Jenkins) for cleaning the carpet regularly.

Our sandwiches are sold out every week - usually 4 loaves of bread. Thanks ladies, especially Sharon, Dawn and Marea.

Niki is continuing to do a fantastic job - thanks Niki. Still looking for another staff member.



Cheryl Piccone
Vice President House

The Course and Greens

What a busy month it has been coming into winter. Over the past 2 weeks, we have worked on the drainage, starting with holes 6 and 7. This was done by digging trenches 200/250mm wide and 500/600mm deep. This was filled with ag pipe followed by refilling with 20mm *quican* rock. We also worked on bunker drainage on holes 15&17 and the bunker next to the nursery. A big thank you to all the volunteers especially, Stevo and Irish, for some very long days on the digger and shovel.

The troubled bunkers on 9 that have been sitting in water for the past 6 months have been filled in and returfed. Everything has slowed down with the colder days coming into winter. This is giving us time to work on the small details of the course and making sure everything is neat and tidy for our upcoming events. Over the next 2 weeks before Club champs, the tees, fairways and greens will be fertilized. Any bare areas will be fertilized, top-dressed and aerated. Bunkers, tee signs and signage will be snipped and sprayed.

Karl Krauss
Course Superintendent

The Ladies Captain

We have had an average of 20 players for most games this year.

At the moment we are coming 2nd round in the interclub competition - we have a lot of work to do to catch the El Arish ladies, who are leading. Special thanks to Mel Pensini who has supplied all the lady golfers with a new club shirt.

Thanks also to all the ladies who are making my job this year a little easier.

Marea Mead
Ladies Captain

The Men's Captain

We are now well into Autumn, so after our worst wet season in a number of years, hopefully, the weather will be kind, especially leading up to our fast-approaching Championships. These are only a couple of weeks off - June 10,11 and 17,18. Good luck to all players.

We lost a fair bit of golf in January/February with only a few keen walkers on some Saturdays. With 6th&7thholes being boggy, we had to resort to the *Yellow* and even our *Blue* course. Hopefully, with the recent drainage works, these holes will remain playable.

Saturday fields now have healthy numbers. The Sunday and (both) Wednesday comps are averaging good fields. The Friday *Chook-Run* has also been very popular.

The *Atherton Open* has been scheduled for the weekend 5 & 6 August. We had been toying with the idea of a change in the format to allow for bigger fields but have decided to stick with the normal format, i.e. both men and women to play on the 2 days of the weekend with time-slots on a *first come, first served* basis. We will be trialling a *book & pay* system for the Open, so that you will be able to log in and book your preferred tee-times (assuming they are still available) and pay your fees. Posters are being prepared to publicise this and to provide more information.

Just after the *Open*, we host the FNQGA *Senior Open* on Wed 16 and Thurs 17 August. There will be 2 comps for seniors: 55-64 years and 65+ years.

The popular *COPS & ROBBERS* will be on again on Saturday September 9. Get the info sheets at the Clubhouse and nominate your team-of-4 ASAP as this will fill up fast.

We had a very Successful *Survivor* series on Sunday April 30. 50 teams with Joel Anderson winning a car for a hole in one on the 18th. Many thanks to the volunteers that day. Happy golfing.

Dave Hazlett
Men's Captain



Juniors

Atherton Junior Golf had a very successful year in 2022 with Robert & Stephen Close, Emily & Abby McEwan competing in the 2022 *Greg Norman Junior Masters* at Palmer Gold Coast Golf Course.

This year we have 16 juniors participating in the *MyGolf Australia* Junior program and 8 girls participating in the *Golf Foundation Australia* Girl Scholarship program.

Luke Newman will be conducting coaching clinics for both programs throughout the year.

Over the weekend 22-23 April, we conducted our annually *Curlew Junior Open* with 34 participants playing across 5 divisions. The overall champions were Caine Cockle and Angel Pizzichemi.

Tom McEwan
Junior Co-ordinator

Volunteers Corner, etc



Wendy Pelich has only been a member of our Club since July 2022. Born in the UK, she has been in Australia for 60 years and comes to Atherton after a long stint in Perth. Wendy has reignited her enjoyment of our game after playing in Perth for around 5 years but then having several years off. In Perth, she volunteered with the *ECHO Community Services Group*, which provides help to elderly citizen groups and also with a group who give Mums dealing with the trials of multiple births a break. Since moving up here Wendy has found a role house-sitting for people who might be away for various reasons.

Mostly this is about doggy-sitting and currently, she is looking after Disco's 3 hounds at Kairi.

She loves the course and the layout but particularly enjoys the welcoming attitude of the members with whom she has been associated. In fact, Wendy loves being around happy people. In the time she has been with us, Wendy has volunteered in the kitchen for a number of functions "just doing what needs to be done". You'll see Wendy often enough in the Clubhouse, so please say g'day and thank her for her efforts keeping our Club ticking along.

Kev Shaw

Rules of Golf:

Golf's 10 most Misunderstood Rules (Part 2)

You can't always hit a provisional ball (Rule 18.3)

Hitting a provisional ball is allowed under the rules in the interest of saving time when you believe your original ball might be out-of-bounds or lost *outside* a penalty

area. You must, however, announce that you're playing a provisional, or the next shot you hit will be considered in play as if you took a stroke-and-distance penalty.

There is, however, a time when you're not allowed to hit a provisional: when you believe a ball is lost *inside* a penalty area. The reasoning is because, if the ball is in the penalty area, you have multiple relief options to choose from. If you've hit a provisional, you've gotten to preview one of those options (re-hitting from the previous spot), which might shade what relief option you take.

One more thing about hitting a provisional: IF you hit one off the tee and it lands in the middle of the fairway AND you're pretty sure your original ball will be in a precarious spot if it's somehow found, you can elect not to search for the original ball. Though you cannot declare your ball lost, if you play your provisional ball from a place nearer the hole than the estimated spot of your original ball, your provisional becomes your ball in play. This is important to note because, if the original ball is found before you've played the provisional, either by you or somebody else, and it is in-bounds, you must now play that original. And if the lie is unplayable, you can't just use your provisional ball. You must take relief for an unplayable lie, which might mean you still have to go back to the tee and hit another shot.



Your ball is not considered embedded if somebody stepped on it (Rule 16.3)

Under Rule 16.4, a player can mark and lift a ball to see if it lies in a condition where relief is allowed. If you proceed under this rule and it's determined that the ball isn't embedded, you replace the ball on its original spot and play from there. If the ball does meet the objective conditions that define being embedded, a player can measure one club length, no nearer the hole, from the spot directly behind where the ball became embedded (so the pitch-mark isn't in the relief area) and take a free drop.

What defines if a ball is embedded? First, the ball must be in *your own* pitch-mark as a result of the previous stroke. That means that, if your ball is plugged in the ground because somebody stepped on it or ran over it with a cart, the ball is not embedded. The ball also must be at least partially below the surface of the ground. So, if the ball is just in really long grass but resting on the surface, it's not embedded under the rules.

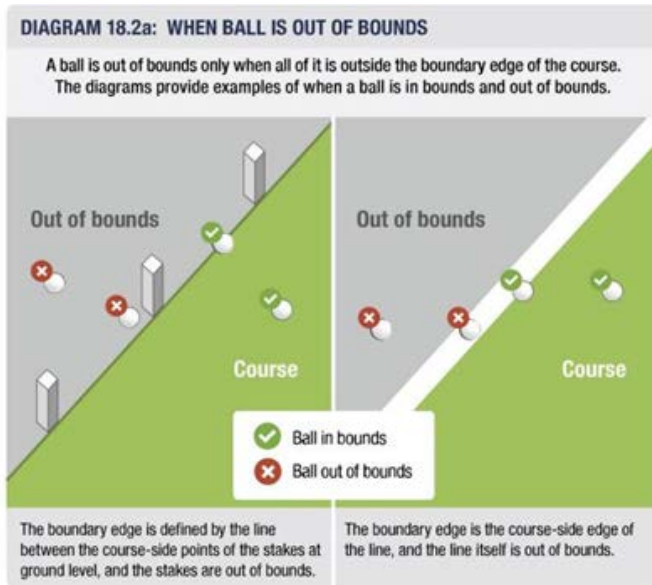
You must correct hitting a wrong ball, even though it will cost you (Rule 6.3c)

You hit your drive into the rough off the tee, walk to where you think your ball is and hit your second shot short of the green. You chip your ball up on the green with your third but when you mark it, you realise it's not your ball. Now what? In match-play, the hole is over because the penalty for playing a wrong ball is loss of hole. In stroke-play, the proper way to proceed is to correct your mistake. That means that you need to go back and play your original ball. Hopefully, you will be able to find it, and if you do, you add two strokes as the penalty for playing the wrong ball, but you

don't count any of the strokes you hit with the wrong ball. You're hitting 4 and you play on.

You're only OB if your entire ball is OB (Rule 18.2)

While tricky at times because out-of-bounds boundaries aren't always continuous



on golf courses, the standard for determining if a ball is OB is straight forward: the *entire ball* needs to be out-of-bounds for the ball to be considered OB. So, if there's a painted line and half the ball is on the painted line and half is on the course, the ball is in play. If there are stakes where you might use string from stake-to-stake but you don't have string and you're eyeballing it, if a part of the ball is on the course, you're in play. If the entire ball is touching the painted line, none touching the course, then it's OB.

Maybe you get lucky and your ball remained in play, but now it's near an OB boundary and that OB boundary is a chain-link fence that inhibits your swing. In that situation, unfortunately, there's no relief from the boundary object. You'll have to play hard, or you can take unplayable ball relief for one penalty stroke. One other note: if your ball is in-bounds, you are allowed to be standing out-of-bounds and still play the shot.

Red penalty areas give you three relief options, yellow gives you two (Rule 17.1)

There is one notable difference between the options a player has when taking relief after hitting a ball into a red penalty area versus yellow. Red stakes allow players to also take lateral relief (up to two club-lengths, no nearer the hole) from where the ball entered the penalty area in addition to returning to the spot from the previous shot and back-on-the-line relief where you can drop anywhere on an imaginary line drawn from the hole through the spot where the ball last crossed into the penalty area. The last two are the lone options if the penalty area is yellow. All options require a player to take a one-stroke penalty, but the player does also have the option to play the ball as it lies.

Jokes aside:

A preacher who liked to play golf every Wednesday at a modest public golf course was standing on the elevated tee at the 6th hole of that course. He took a few practice swings and looked across the river to the immaculate private country club nearby.

"Just once I'd like to play at that gorgeous course," the preacher said to his foursome.

Another player spoke up: "My company has a reserved tee time at that club for us every Sunday morning, and it's all paid for, too. But all of a sudden yesterday the boss says we have to travel out of town for a week. It's a shame to let that tee-time go to waste. I could give you a guest pass and you could have it all to yourself. What do you say?"

Of course, this was a dream come true for the preacher, but it put him in a terrible predicament. If he accepted the gift, he would have to miss Sunday worship. He thought to himself, "I haven't missed a Sunday service in 17 years of preaching. A sin to be sure, but I am after all just a man trying to do my best like all the rest." He succumbed to temptation and accepted the invitation.

On Sunday, the preacher awoke, called his deacon, and said, "I'm terribly sick today, and will not be able to offer service."

"Well, we surely hope you are feeling better soon," said the deacon. "What matters most is that your health is blessed, and we shall all pray for you today."

This made the preacher feel a little guilty, but it was a beautiful clear cool morning, and promised to be a beautiful day. He opened a box from under the bed that had a new folded golf shirt, his cleaned and polished golf shoes, and he put them on instead of his usual clothes.

Later, on the beautiful practice green, the preacher fitted right in but couldn't help feeling conspicuous. At that exact moment up in Heaven, Saint Peter was looking down. He said to God, "Do you see what is happening down there? I'm very disappointed in this preacher. Surely you are going to do something?"

God replied, "Don't worry Pete, I've got it all figured out."

St. Pete knew it was best not to question any further, but to just wait patiently and watch for it all to play out.

He watched the preacher walk confidently to the first tee, a short par-4. The preacher teed it up, and hit a pretty fair drive, low and straight.

But just then, God waived his hand and created the perfect little wind. The wind carried the ball as if in the hand of God and lifted it down the fairway. The ball took once bounce and landed on the green, kept rolling, swung to the right, barely crept up to the hole, and fell in. It was beautiful.

Up in heaven, St. Peter was very upset. "An albatross! Are you kidding me? Here is one of our own preachers committing this sin, on a Sunday no less. Just when I'm certain that you are going to offer up the perfect punishment to befit the sin, you instead go and reward him with a once-in-a-lifetime shot?"

God says, "Yes, but calm down Pete. Who is he going to tell?"



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