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News Letter- February 2023

Dear Members,

What a joy it is to be out playing golf after the difficult times encountered by all in October, November and December last year.

I am sure you will all join me in commending the work of the Course staff and the volunteers to get firstly some 9 holes playing and then to quickly get onto an 18-hole layout. We are thankful that the 9th bridge is of such a robust construction. There is more improvement to come as the weather improves and the work continues, we're hoping to have all our greens back in play for the Forbes Men's and Ladies Open by the middle of May.

A significant effect of the floods was the loss of income during the closure of the course. In all, the course was closed for 8 weeks. The consequent financial impact was an approximate \$60,000 loss of income and another \$50,000 in damage to the course plant and infrastructure.

But with the concerted and loyal effort of our members and patronage by social golfers we will be able to recover well. It was fortunate we had a strong finish to the last financial year.

In addition, much work has been put into presenting applications for Grants. The range of schemes propositioned include – State Government Disaster Relief, Small Business Relief, Golf NSW Disaster Assistance, and a few others. The Forbes Shire have been very helpful in their assistance, both in kind and through their ongoing support. Quite obviously our focus for expenditure is on getting the course back into order. Some projects proposed before the interruptions' will be put on hold, and reviewed when we are in a position to revisit them.

Quite obviously the floods impacted the whole course, with the most obvious effects being the damage to the 15th bridge and to most of the greens. Some of the not so obvious effect has been on our irrigation system, both pumps and network across the course, water quality after the flood and disease in the greens, necessitating regular fungicide applications.

The biggest expenditure on the recovery work around the course has been on the 15th bridge and the causeway access to the workshop, on the repair to the dam pump and irrigation system, and on the recovery of the damaged greens.

Some of the greens will take longer to recover than first thought, thus requiring the need for the temporary greens for a while longer. But efforts are being made to bring some of the least damaged greens back into play as soon as possible.

Attention will be given to improving the drainage around the 8th green and 9th tees, and the 17th tees, 2nd green areas. To assist in this we shall be trialling a pathway system that will hopefully retain the gravel where it is needed.

As part of the improvement process, a proposal has been put forward to install large 100m and 150m distance markers in the fairways. I am aware that many golfers still use the post Distance Markers along the edge of the fairways. I welcome any feedback on this proposal. If you have any?

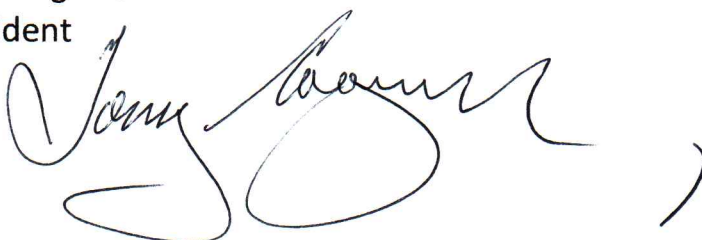
It is good to see Head Pro Adam back in action with the Junior clinics and individual coaching to the members. A big thank you to Asst Pro Michael Brindle for his efforts while Adam was away dealing with his growing family – their second child. (a boy).

Some openings are available for sponsorship of men's and ladies' events in the new calendar year. If you are interested, please contact Warwick Judge or Heather Davidson.

I would like to give a big thanks to all the members that have made themselves available for working bees to speed the recover from the floods. A sterling effort by those members.

I welcome your continued support to the club by playing as often as you are able. Good golfing and stay safe,

Tony Cogswell
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Cogswell', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned below the typed name and title.