



Captain's Report September 2019

It is with pleasure that I present my report as Captain of Wingham Golf Club for 2018-19.

Golfing Program

The golfing program focus group has precipitated the introduction a number of new events to the golfing calendar of Wingham.

- A Night Golf event was conducted this year in April. The event was well supported (approx. 50 players) & was generously sponsored by Burson Auto.
- The Grand Final Ambrose will once again be held shortly with a few changes from last year.
- Friday Ambrose in 2s was successful initially.
- Participated in the Children's Cancer Research – "Doing it for Jarrod" fund raiser by conducting an event in August. Because of the support we received from members & the "doing it for Jarrod" foundation it is planned to run a separate golf day on a Sunday for this event next year.
- Perhaps the best received initiative was the Sponsors Golf Day conducted in mid-August. This day was very well supported by our Sponsors who had a day of golf, refreshments & had breakfast & lunch provided as well. This was possible due to the sponsorship Gary organised with Toohey's & Carlton.
- New directions have been introduced for 2020. Juniors & younger members will be one of the focuses, along with some competition & social golf initiatives.

I am sure this group will continue to improve on our Golfing Program going forward.

Competitions

- Congratulations to all members who managed to win one of 'the Honour Board' events conducted throughout the year. These achievements now become part of the club's history, which is a significant accomplishment. These deeds will be further recognised at Presentation Night, November 30th.
- Representative golf was well supported once again this year. WGC participated in Division 2, 3 & 4 Pennants, District Championships as well as being strong supporters of the Short Courses Championships which is about half completed.
- Saturday competitions & club championships have experienced strong fields throughout the year & I am sure that this is aided by the excellent & generous sponsorship we receive.
- The Match Committee introduced a number of changes to formats throughout the year. The most significant where the changes to the "Top 10" (currently under way!) and the Foursomes Championships being played under the American Foursomes format.
- Special thanks must also go to the following members for their efforts in conducting other competitions:
 - Graham Steel for his efforts in conducting the popular Thursday Chicken Run & the Wednesday & Friday Ambrose events.
 - Bill Osborne & his team who do a great job in organising the Vets competition.
 - Denise Polley & the ladies who run strong competitions on Tuesday mornings.
 - I also cannot thank enough the small band of willing lady helpers, (Denise Polley, Beth Braham, Debbie Stewart & Katrina Greenaway), who have been of continuous support to me in the running of major events and competitions. They make it possible for us all to enjoy our golf without the need to be involved in the day to day organisation.
 - The positive & supportive approach of Elisha & her staff has contributed greatly to the success of our many golfing events.
 - To Rosemary Gilfillan for her support; reliability & ready assistance whenever help has been required. Her many hours of work are appreciated.
 - A special thanks must go to the Match Committee of Wayne Lewis, Paul Muir & Colin Tubby for their support, suggestions & commitment in organising & conducting the many events which we participate in throughout the year. Without their efforts many of the events undertaken would not have been as successful.

The Course

The hard work of our Green Keeper, Dave Henderson & the volunteers who work on the course cannot be undervalued. Obviously, there have been significant challenges to us all in this area due to the unfavourable weather conditions we are currently experiencing. For Dave & his helpers it must be frustrating to see their efforts & hours of endeavour being eroded away. The course conditions will provide many challenges; however, it will also provide opportunities for us all to repair & transform the course into an improved golfing experience in the future. The manner in which the members have supported the club during these difficult times can only be applauded & indicates that the decisions to come will be received in a positive manner which will ensure our on-going success.

Sponsorship

This is an important area as we rely upon it to consolidate the continuing success of our club. Many of our members and local businesses, sponsor events to a level the club would find difficult to match. Other sponsors who are involved with NTPs; the printing of cards; & sign sponsors all deserve our gratitude and thanks. We in turn should support them wherever possible. The Golf Program Focus Group has produced a 'Sponsorship Package' & 'Agreement Form' which will be distributed shortly. If members are aware of organisations who could be approached, your input would be appreciated.

Juniors

Thanks to Ray & Bev Bisby who do a great job with the Juniors. They spend many hours supporting & coaching our golfers of the future. They also put a lot of time & effort into our Junior Open which is steadily growing in popularity & once again was one of the best organised locally.

Club Professional

Nathan Campfield has come on board to act as Wingham Golf Clubs Professional. He is a fully qualified PGA Professional who also works at Drummond Golf in Port Macquarie. He has already visited a number of times & conducted clinics with the ladies of a Friday morning & has made himself known to the men of a Saturday. This relationship can only be beneficial to us as he has a number of ideas & suggestions for improving our golfing experience & membership. I am sure that we will all support him whenever possible.

The Way Forward

The introduction of the Strategic Plan & the subsequent visit of Golf NSW representatives have provided many new directions for the club. It is an exciting time in many ways. We have made significant progress during the year & we now have clear goals for the future. In the meantime, we look to everyone to continue to support Wingham Golf Club by playing their part in its healthy development. Your club needs you.

Conclusion

Finally, I would like to finish with some personal thanks:

- To President Peter for his guidance & direction. His leadership has been invaluable for this club.
- To the Board Directors & manager Gary for their support & ready assistance throughout the year.

Finally, I would like to thank all members for their friendship & support. This has created the environment which has allowed me to enjoy my role as Captain of Wingham Golf Club.

Thankyou
Neville Blanch
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Captain
2019