Sale Golf Club

Newsletter

April 2026

Presidents Report

Hi Members,
As you would be aware our club house manager Al Smith has called time and is ready to relax into retirement. I would like to thank and congratulate Al on his 21 years' service to our club. Al managed everything from bar service, food, ordering stock, managed staff for bar and pro shop, cleaning, catering for events, bar and pro shop finance, and has helped a lot with office equipment. You name it Al has done it. Along the way Al has made many friendships and I'm sure he has enjoyed the banter and friendship of members. Approximately 60 people attended a sendoff at Sporting Legends. Cards were signed by committee and members and a travel voucher was presented to Al as a gift from the club for him to use in his well-deserved retirement.

A sub committee was formed to find Al's replacement; this was advertised on Seek. 12 interests were received with 3 getting to interview and eventually Ryan Hewett our current club secretary was successful and appointed into the position. We welcome him on board and look forward to working with Ryan into the future.
Congratulations to all Club Champions and thank you to Jeremy Fleming Jewellers for their ongoing support in sponsoring the championships.

The club has engaged a professional shooter to reduce the number of rabbits on our course. He has a permit and will only shoot after the course is empty and will notify us each time he is going out. He had his first look on Saturday night, got 10 and now understands where they are and this should hopefully reduce the number of rabbit scratches on our course.

Our development committee is in conversation with Paul Mogford golf course architect on the final design of the golf holes and the fairways will be pegged out in readiness for slashing. A couple surveys to be completed over the next few weeks and hopefully we can see some progress. We had a family group of 40 golfers use our course on the long weekend and their feedback was that the course was in great condition and the service provided by our staff and committee with food, golf carts, drinks etc was excellent and they will be back again in the future. Thanks to all that helped on the day.
Again I thank all volunteers and staff for your service to our club.
Good Golfing
Bruce Carter President

Woman President's Report

March has been a very busy month for our lady golfers. The East Gippsland 2-day event held at Sale which was a big success, Yallourn, Newry vets and of cause our Club Championships followed by the Championship dinner. Congratulations to our 2026 Club Championship winner Joanne Ballinger, B Grade winner Helen Gerrand, C Grade winner Heather Ireland and D Grade winner Viv Reiner. The event was once again sponsored by Jeremy Fleming for whom we are extremely grateful. The Championship dinner was again held at Legends. From all reports it was another great night.
We said goodbye to Al Smith on his retirement with a special presentation and hope to see him wearing his shirt of many faces when he drops by for a visit.
Tickets have sold well for the Annual Easter Raffle with a profit of $1333. The winners of the Easter baskets were Jack Bailey, Pam Pitman, Sandra Kirkpatrick, Rob Mahon, Jenny Cashman, Heather Ireland and Mel Schaper
The ladies have set up a small fridge near the office for anyone to "share their spare" fruit and vegies. Please feel free to donate your produce or take whatever you will use.
A gold coin donation can be made but is not essential.
Good luck to everyone playing in various events during the next month.
Wishing all a safe and Happy Easter.

Cheers Sandra.

Captains Report

Monthly Medal winners during March were;
Wednesday March 4th – Cory Markovic 67 nett.
Saturday March 14th – Emilio Yanez 68 nett on 3-way count back.
Master's Qualifiers are Cory Markovic, Emilio Yanez and Rob Walker.

Men's Club Championships
The Jeremy Fleming Jewellers Men's club championships have been played and won with the winners listed below;
Jack Darby Club Champion – Kai McDonald 75, 73 & 73 – total 221
A Grade Nett Winner – Emilio Yanez 68, 72 & 71 – total 211
B Grade Champion – Matt Jackson 85, 85 & 84 – total 254
(won on 1st play-off hole from Cory Markovic)
B Grade Nett Winner – Anthony Sheedy 72, 72 & 70 – total 214
(on countback from Mark Hurst)
C Grade Champion – Mark Durrant 49 scratch points
C Grade Nett Winner – Ryan Hewett 108 points
Junior Boy's Champion – Will Braden 75 & 75 – total 150
Runner-up – Emilio Yanez 77 & 76 – total 153.

RSL Cup winner (best overall nett winner) – Emilio Yanez 211.
Congratulations to all the winners and special thanks to our sponsor Jeremy Fleming Jewellers. Thank you to the members who played in the championships. We had our biggest fields for many, many years and had 11 juniors compete in the championships.

Wellington Real Estate Challenge winner in March was Wayne Brownlee.
Congratulations and thanks again to Tony Kiss and his team for your continued support.

Men's Pennant
A pennant practice session on Sunday 12th April at 9am for all players that have put their names on the list will be held.

Course Change
The out of bounds (OOB) markers on the right-hand side of the 1st hole will be changed in the next 2 weeks. The white markers with the black top posts will be moved from the practice fairway to the other side of the road. The posts will be extended further past the NBN tower and a tighter boundary will be in place for our longer hitters.

Upcoming Other Club Events
Maffra Easter Tournament – April 3rd to 6th.
South Pines Plate – April 12th.
Heyfield Tournament – April 15th to 19th.
All Gippsland Men's Championships – May 30th & 31st.
(including junior boys)

Simple Golf News & Features
iPhone v3 Beta Scoring App Release
We are happy to announce the new v3 Scoring App for IOS (Apple I-phones) will be released officially to the App Store from next Thursday 26th March, this bringing parity across IOS and Android platforms.
This will be a staggered release as per Apple's release mandate over 7 days being 1%, 2%, 5%, 10%, 20%, 50%, 100% for all existing IOS users that have automatic updates enabled, but can also be manually updated from the App Store at any time after release.
For anyone who is currently running the TestFlight beta version of the IOS app, they should logout, uninstall the beta app, then install the release version from the App Store.

Good Golfing
Brian Cahill

Welcome to our new Members approved at the General Committee Meeting, March 17th

UNDER 40s – Reilly Davis
SOCIAL HANDICAP – Levi Sclater, Faye Flint, Samuel Hughes, Alan Lanman, Kate Brown
JUNIOR – Archie Wallace, Noah Kewish
MEMBERSHP VARIATION – Jim Sutton & Jie Van Berkel, both Social Handicap to Full.

Woman Captains Report

Women's Captain's Report for Newsletter
Golf East Gippsland held their 2 Day Open at Sale on March 2 and 3. The weather was not kind but the event went ahead and everyone seemed to enjoy the days.

Our 2026 Championships were held on March 17, 20 and 24 and the results are:

2026 Champion Jo Ballinger
A Grade Nett Jo Ballinger
B Grade Scratch Helen Gerrand
B Grade Nett Helen Gerrand
C Grade Scratch Heather Ireland
C Grade Nett Carolyn McMillan
D Grade Scratch Viv Reiner
D Grade Nett Viv Reiner
Julie Stothers Salver (best nett score)- Helen Gerrand

Once again, our members represented Sale Golf Club at other clubs. We had representation at Maffra Invitation Day and East Gippsland Vets at Newry.
We also had 4 members participate in the Golf Australia Autumn Tournament at Warragul on March 30/31.
Karen Cashman was the overall C Grade Net Winner
All the results available on GA website.

Helen Wood
Women's Captain

Phillipson's

Nine - Hole Comp

The Phillipsons Thursday 9-hole comp is over until Daylight savings kicks in again later in the year. We are fortunate to have Phillipsons sponsor the Eclectic and Domino's Sale sponsor the weekly winners. Over the 25/26 season we had 606 rounds played of which 356 men, 65 women and 116 non-handicap players returned their scorecards. The winners in the Eclectic were Vicki Horton (scratch), Joanne Adamson (handicap) and for the men, joint scratch winners were Joel Brayshaw and Byron Shingles and joint Handicap winners were Joshua Norris and Jim Sutton.

Many thanks to all that played each week and supported the event.

Golf Clinics and Lessons

The next date for Golf Clinics and Lessons will be April 12th

To book a lesson you can either check out Sale Golf Clubs Facebook page, a post about clinics is pinned at the top of the page, and in the comments click on the lesson you want and complete your details or on the notice board in the passage way of the Golf Club you will see a flyer with QR codes on it, select the clinic or lesson, scan the QR code and enter your details.

Greens Report

More welcome rain last week although it did put our bunkers out of play (not a bad thing sometimes). The new pump for the river has arrived and is being installed at the moment. The old pump was well past its use by date and beyond repair. We do have an issue with the bore electrical box as it cuts out while pumping. We have a quote to upgrade it of $4000.00 but can get by for now. We are in discussion with Gippsland Links on water supply for the new holes and may need upgrades to bore, pumps, dam capacity etc so we will deal with it later. The course continues to be in great condition thanks to Brett, Herb and the great band of volunteers. With price and supply of diesel and petrol an unknown we may have to back off on rough cutting etc, it's a wait and see. We have piped a few drains on 15th and 16th and are looking at a few more, this will rid us of having so many gur areas on the course. Tree 🎄 work is always ongoing and we have sprayed around the base of trees to tidy up weeds.

The humidity always gets a few funguses moving but Brett is onto quickly and I'm sure you would all agree our greens are in great condition.

Again l received comments of pitch marks on the greens. PLEASE repair yours and any pitch marks you come across, it is becoming a real issue. We have big fields and lots of green fees so more people are going through our course. Filling divots and raking bunkers is also an issue, let's work on it together for the betterment of our course. Anyone wishing to join our Monday volunteer group don't hesitate to contact us, you are most welcome

Bruce Carter

COURSE REPORT MARCH

1. Overview

March presented typical late-summer to early-autumn conditions in Gippsland, with warm days and intermittent rainfall. The focus remained on maintaining green speed and surface consistency while managing moisture stress and increasing disease pressure. Overall turf performance was good, with proactive management preventing significant decline in surface quality across both greens and fairways.

2. Weather Summary

- Average Temperature: ~24°C daytime / 13°C overnight
- Rainfall: 85 mm
- Notable Conditions:
- Periods of high humidity
- Isolated heavy rainfall events
- Mild cooling toward end of month

Impact on course:

The 85 mm of rainfall, combined with elevated humidity, created favourable conditions for fungal disease development on greens and accelerated growth on couch fairways. This required increased monitoring, growth regulation, and timely intervention to maintain consistent playing conditions.

3. Turf Health & Condition

Key Observations:

• Turf density: Strong overall, minor thinning in disease-affected greens
• Colour: Healthy with some localised yellowing on greens
• Root depth: Moderate, improving with seasonal transition

Issues Identified:

• Localised dry spots on elevated greens
• Minor compaction in high-traffic areas
• Presence of Yellow Tuft and Take-All Patch on greens

4. Maintenance Activities

Mowing:

• Greens: 3–4 times per week at 2.5mm
• Fairways: Regular schedule maintained to manage growth at 12mm
• Tees: Regular schedule maintained to manage growth at 12mm
• Surrounds: Regular schedule maintained to manage growth at 9mm
• Rough: Regular schedule maintained to manage growth, varied heights of cut

Irrigation:

• Adjusted frequently to balance natural rainfall (85 mm) and evapotranspiration
• Hand watering used on greens where required

Fertilization / Soil & Plant Health Applications:

• Wetting agent applied to improve water infiltration and uniformity
• MP Promote and MP Vitalise applied to support plant health and recovery
• Marvellous growth regulator applied to greens
• Thatchzyme applied for thatch reduction and organic matter control
• Reserve Stressgard applied to greens on 16/03/2026 to assist with stress tolerance and disease suppression

Fairway Management:

• Couch fairways sprayed with Marvellous growth regulator to control excessive growth, improve density, and enhance playing surface consistency

Verticutting:

• Completed on 05/03/2026 across all greens
• Assisted in reducing thatch levels, improving surface smoothness, and promoting upright growth

5. Pest & Disease Management

Diseases observed (Greens):

• Yellow Tuft
• Take-All Patch
• Low levels of Dollar Spot
• Minor Brown Patch

Treatment applied:

• Compass fungicide applied
• Reserve Stressgard application on 16/03/2026 as part of preventative and curative program
• Wetting agent program continued
• Plant health support applications

Pest activity:

• Minimal

Control measures:

• Ongoing monitoring and preventative practices

6. Fuel Usage
• Unleaded fuel used: 663 litres
• Diesel fuel used: 273 litres
Fuel delivery (10/03/2026):
• Unleaded: 450 litres
• Diesel: 300 litres
Summary:
Fuel usage remained consistent with high mowing frequency and additional spraying operations, including growth regulator and fungicide applications.

7. Challenges & Issues
• Increased disease pressure due to humidity and rainfall
• Managing turf recovery from Yellow Tuft and Take-All Patch
• Rapid fairway growth requiring regulation
• Moisture variability across the course
Impact:
• Required increased inputs in fungicides, plant health products, and growth regulators, along with additional labour.

8. Improvements & Achievements
• Effective control of fairway growth through regulator application
• Successful containment of turf diseases on greens
• Maintained strong playability across all surfaces
• Improved surface smoothness following verticutting

9. Plans for Next Month (April)
• Continue disease monitoring and preventative fungicide program
• Adjust fertiliser program for cooler conditions
• Maintain growth regulation on fairways as required
• Ongoing thatch and moisture management

10. Summary
Overall, March delivered good playing conditions despite weather variability and disease pressure. The use of fungicides, including Compass and Reserve Stressgard, along with growth regulators and cultural practices, ensured consistent surface quality. Focus will now shift toward autumn recovery and strengthening turf resilience.

BRETT RAWSON – COURSE SUPERINTENDENT

DID YOU KNOW?

On the Sale Golf Club web site, www.salegolfclub.com.au you can find;
All the Golf Results & The Golf Program for 2026

If you are using your computer, click the Members tab, the drop-down box gives you options to look at

If you are using your phone, click the 3 horizontal lines, select Members, the drop-down box gives you the options to look at.

From this point after selecting either Golf Program or Results a calendar comes up; a blue dot indicates info.

Results; clicking the blue dot will display the event played on that date, click on the event to see results of the days play.

Program; clicking on the blue dot will display the event to be played on that date and the daily sponsor.

Our Sponsors & Events for the Month of April

Date	Sponsor	Event
Wed 01.04.26	Drummond Golf	Monthly Medal Stroke & Stableford
Thu 02.04.26	Lakeside Club	Vets 9 Hole Stableford
Sat 04.04.26	DMG Partners	Mens & Womens Stableford
Tue 07.04.26	The Retreat	4BBB Stableford & 9 Hole Stableford
Wed 08.04.26	CJ Office Choice & Warren, Graham & Murphy	Stableford
Thu 09.04.26	Lakeside Club	Vets 9 Hole Stableford
Sat 11.04.26	Drummond Golf & Ranford's Family Butchers	Cec Jackson Memorial - Monthly Medal Stroke & Stableford
		Womens Monthly Medal Stroke
Mon 13.04.26	Sporting Legends	Medley Stableford
Tue 14.04.26	DMG Partners	Monthly Medal Stroke & 9 Hole Stableford
Wed 15.04.26	Ian Freeman Cleaning & Sale & District Garage Doors	Stableford
Thu 16.04.26	Lakeside Club	Vets 9 Hole Stableford
Sat 18.04.26	Specsavers & Simic's Betta Home Living	Mens & Womens Stableford
Mon 20.04.26	Sporting Legends	Medley Stableford
Tue 21.04.26	Ranford's Family Butchers	18 & 9 Hole Stableford
Wed 22.04.26	Sale Sign Torque & Glencoe Angus	Stableford
Thu 23.04.26	Lakeside Club	Vets 9 Hole Stableford
Sat 25.04.26	m.hotel	Mens & Womens Stableford – Shotgun Start
Mon 27.04.26	Sporting Legends	Medley Stableford
Tues 28.04.26	Bulmers Gifts	Stableford Aggregate & 9 Hole Stableford
Wed 29.04.26	Morelli's Furniture & Bedtime	Stableford
Thu 30.04.26	Lakeside Club	Vets 9 Hole Stableford

Strategic Plan

The Committee are currently reviewing and updating the Strategic Plan. This will be available for all to read on the Club's website after it is ratified at the General Committee meeting on 14th April.

Please email through any pics if you are out and about on any course, share your wins, fun and frivolity with your fellow members to schaperp17@gmail.com