



Annual Report

2020

NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 50th Annual General Meeting of the Yamba Golf & Country Club Ltd will be held at the clubhouse, River St Yamba, at 9am on Sunday, 25th of October 2020.

AGENDA

1. Apologies.
2. To confirm the minutes of the 49th Annual General Meeting held on the 20th October 2019.
3. To receive reports from the President, General Manager, Match and Greens Committees, financial statement of the Directors and the Auditors report for the financial year ending 30th June 2020.
4. Correspondence received.
5. To receive the results of the election of The Board of Directors.
6. To elect the President for the ensuing year.
7. To elect the Captain for the ensuing year.
8. To elect Patrons for the ensuing year.
9. To consider the Ordinary Resolutions to be moved by the Board of Management.
10. To Consider the Special Resolutions to be moved by the Board & Management (if any).
11. To consider Special Resolution on Life Membership to be recommended by the Board of Management (if any).
12. To appoint an Auditor or Auditors in the event that there be a vacancy in the office of Auditor.
13. To determine the membership subscriptions for the 2021/22 year.
14. To receive recommendations from members for consideration by the incoming Board of Directors.

ORDINARY RESOLUTIONS

1. That pursuant to the Registered Clubs Act the members hereby approve that the members of the club's Board of Management shall be entitled to receive the following benefits and advantages:
 - a) Reasonable food and beverage for each member of the Board of Management at meetings of the Board and meetings of Committees of the Board;
 - b) The reasonable cost and expense of, and incidental to, representing the club at functions held within the club and elsewhere, and undertaking such other duties as may be approved from time to time by the Board; and
 - c) The reasonable cost and expense of, and incidental to, the professional development training and education of members of the Board, including (but not limited to):
 - i) Attending meetings of organisations and associations of which the club is a member, or of which members of the Board are members;
 - ii) Attending such conferences, seminars, lectures, trade displays, study tours, fact finding tours and other similar functions as the Board may from time to time determine to be appropriate.
2. The members hereby approve the Board of Directors to pay such premiums as may be necessary to insure Directors and Officers against liability arising from duties performed from time to time.
3. The members acknowledge that the benefits in paragraph (1) and in paragraph (2) above are not available to members generally, but only for those members who are Directors of the club.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION ON LIFE MEMBERSHIP

That the members hereby consider the following nomination for the position of Life Member of the Yamba Golf & Country Club Ltd: If any.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1. To be passed, each Ordinary Resolution must receive votes in its favour from a majority of eligible members who vote in person at the meeting.
2. To be passed, the Special Resolution on Life Membership requires votes from no less than two thirds of eligible members who vote in person at the meeting
3. The Board of the Club recommends the Special Resolution on Life Membership to the members.
4. Proxy voting is prohibited by the Registered Clubs Act.
5. Under the Registered Clubs Act members who are employees of the club are not entitled to vote.
6. Admittance to the Annual General Meeting is STRICTLY by current membership card only.
7. Only Life Members and Full Playing Members are eligible to vote at the Annual General Meeting.
8. Members attending the Annual General Meeting who wish to ask questions relevant to the Financial Statements are asked to do so in writing, addressed to the General Manager, and received no later than Monday the 19th of October 2020.

NOTES TO MEMBERS:

Voting for Directors is held at the Club at the times and dates listed below. Life, full golfing and social members (with the exception of staff members) are eligible to vote in Board elections.

Dated: 01/10/2020

By the Direction of the Board

**LUKE STEPHENSON
GENERAL MANAGER**

Sat 17th October	11am - 12noon 3pm - 5pm
Sun 18th October	12noon - 2pm
Mon 19th October	4pm - 6pm
Tue 20th October	4pm - 6pm
Wed 21st October	1pm - 3pm
Thu 22nd October	1pm - 3pm
Fri 23rd October	1pm - 3pm 4pm - 6pm

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Well, I have to say that I didn't think I would ever see a year like 2020 during my lifetime. Having to close our club down for 10 weeks and stand down 45 staff was an unbelievable situation to encounter.

My grateful thanks are due to so many people.

I would like to thank all of our staff, led by Cate in the clubhouse and Mark on the course. They all performed well above what might be expected of them for our club. Thanks to Job Keeper, they worked all of their hours and more, to see that the club came through a very difficult time.

To Management, Luke, Durro and Khara. I appreciate the hard work they put in to close the club and then re-open it. It was hard in so many ways and they all worked so well to make it happen.

I must also thank the board for the work and time they spent coming together at short notice to make decisions so that management could move forward to make things happen.

Luke was a tower of strength, working very long hours, well beyond what might be expected, displaying his passion for our club and it's future. Many long, sleepless nights with phone calls at all hours of the night and morning, just to keep up to date with an ever changing situation on a daily basis.

A very special thanks is extended to you the members, for playing golf, being patient and doing all that was asked of you so that we could stay open.

I thank all the volunteers in all areas of the club, course and gardens. The ever lengthening concrete paths and beds of hippeastrums do not just happen by themselves.

The Covid-19 situation is not over by far and during the coming months we will all have to face change in how we operate within the club.

Regarding the option to purchase our Lease. We expect an answer "next week". It has been "next week" for some months now but when the answer comes you will be the very first to know.

Recently we have lost several long standing members and my condolences go out to all the families and friends who have lost loved ones throughout this year.

Again, thank you to everyone for working together to get our club through some very difficult times. See you all on our great course.

Best wishes.

TONY MORAN
PRESIDENT

GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Without doubt, 2019-20, has been the most challenging year of my 'Club life'.

Writing this year's report has been very difficult with two very strong emotions coming through; pride and relief. I am relieved our Club has prevailed strongly through this extremely challenging time when nobody could accurately predict what would come of the future beyond 12.00 pm Monday the 23rd of March, when we were required to close our doors due to COVID-19.

I am extremely proud of our Board for their commitment, leadership and support. I am extremely proud of our staff for their unified commitment to our club and the personal sacrifices made by them. I am extremely proud of our members who continued to support our club and offered so much encouragement through those ten weeks when golf was played under rapidly changing rules and restrictions.

The meetings with our team of staff on the 23rd and 24th of March I will never forget. The extremely difficult decisions made by the Board & Management, which were delivered in these meetings, were absorbed respectfully and professionally. Your response in the ensuing weeks I will be forever grateful for. Yamba Golf & Country Club (YGCC) secured the JobKeeper wage subsidy and our team went to work, freshening up our club through many hours of cleaning, painting and general maintenance tasks; I thank you.

The impact of COVID-19 and the shut down period pushed our club to its financial limits. April 2020 was a period of great uncertainty. Financially, 2019-20 has definitely been a very challenging year for the Club. YGCC had financial outgoing commitments from the busy first quarter, including fixed costs, staff costs, course costs and membership commitments to meet before any COVID support was accessible. The Board and Management successfully applied for the 50% government guaranteed COVID loan of \$250,000. We closed the 2019-20 financial year with a profit of \$155,334 and an EBITDA of 14.8%. This positive result, despite all the challenges, provides a positive outlook for the Club moving forward.

The Board and Management committed to allowing permanent staff to access their entitlements for an initial period of four weeks. The JobKeeper announcement was very welcomed by us as I'm sure it was for many businesses across the country. Staff continued to 'top up' the JobKeeper payment with their entitlements for the entire duration of the JobKeeper 1.0 period.

The Board & Management's focus was to 'close clean' which included closing clean physically and financially and start preparing for the reopening. During this time our industry partners and suppliers allowed extreme flexibility with deferments, waivers, stock returns and overall, solid support. This allowed time and space to assess the situation and begin to move forward once again. The closure and restrictions impacted on all areas with sales in all departments down on last year.

Never the less, golf continues to perform extremely well, experiencing year on year growth. Thanks and congratulations to Mark and his green team. Under reduced hours and budgets the team has been able to maintain and present our course in a condition and level which I believe we can be very proud of.

To John, Tash and the team, the pressure of running a small business plus comprehending and implementing the ever changing restrictions and regulations was immense. Your work on the frontline so we could all continue to enjoy golf and our course safely is greatly appreciated by all.

Our cart paths continue to march onwards and thanks must go to the volunteers who responded to my text messages throughout the year at a moments notice. There have been countless hours contributed by our members volunteering for the betterment of our club. I thank each and every one you, for without you YGCC would not be the same.

To Tony, Chris, Khara and my family, I thank you for your unwavering support throughout the early period of the shutdown. In what was an extremely challenging time for a General Manager, to know I had the strength and support in my corner, helped me meet any challenges regardless of how great they may have first appeared.

I always say "if you look after your club, it will look after you". When there was nothing else, there was golf. The chats I had with members through the deck window during the shut down was extremely encouraging and motivating. There was relief, frustration, education and many other emotions but, overall, we were just plain happy to be able to continue playing golf.

I join Tony in offering my condolences to those who have lost loved ones throughout the year.

Thanks again to President Tony Moran and the Board of Directors, staff and all the members of YGCC. We have come through this unusual time together and I look forward to working for you all towards a very exciting future full of optimism and opportunity for our great Club.

Luke Stephenson
General Manager

GREENS REPORT

During the last year, the staff at the Yamba Golf Club have certainly dealt with some extremely difficult situations, fires, drought, irrigation issues and Covid-19. We had very little rainfall last spring, seeing the course severely dry out. Issues with the Decoder system that operates automation of the irrigation system for the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 6th greens, tees and fairways stopped working leaving us with only hand watering capabilities through the day for these areas.

Fires were another massive concern not only threatening the golf course but the township and surrounds. The Golf course was closed down on the 10th of September due to wind gusts up to 65km with excessive smoke and ash blanketing the course. Thankfully the wind changed direction during the morning from the South West to the South East which removed the potential of the fire rolling over us, that and the efforts of the Fire fighters certainly saved a lot of heartache for the community.

The dry spell lasted well into December with the water holes and ponds all but drying up. The pond on the left side of the 5th fairway was so dry that even the birds that used to frequent it have moved off and not returned.

In December, the work on the irrigation system conversion from Decoder to Solar was completed, thus enabling night-time irrigation throughout the whole course.

With the advent of the New Year 2020, good rainfall in January brought about a restoration of the course and allowed the water table to slowly recharge.

With the recent arrival of two new Jacobsen greens mowers, (one with a set of inbuilt grooming reels) we have been able to start a programme of consistent thatch and grain removal that is not intrusive on the playing surface and is having some excellent results in the presentation of the green surfaces.

The work with the Kikuyu removal on the 8th fairway is behind where I would like it to be but with the staff restrictions due to Covid-19 I had to prioritise my focus and attention. Considering what resources I had available I made the decision to concentrate on the greens as my number one priority.

The water couch removal from some green surrounds needs a more aggressive approach. This will require turf removal and replacement. The turf will need to be grown on course using chauff and cores from our November renovations. This will be grown on the site of the old 10th green. This area will be sprayed and new local sand will be brought in with no common couch contamination.

The cart paths have been growing at an extraordinary pace and we are now turning our efforts towards the back nine golfing holes. Thanks to all the volunteers and greens staff who do a great job consistently and thoughtfully.

MARK RYAN
COURSE SUPERINTENDENT

MATCH REPORT

What a year it's been so far! The main, and maybe only positive aspect of the COVID situation will be the expanded interest in our great game and increased numbers of new golfers to our club.

Golf Australia reported that golf is up 22% compared to last year. One influencing factor for this would be more young people discovering the game and enjoying their isolation time on the course. Our timesheets are filling faster than seen in years which is great for both our club and game.

Unfortunately we have witnessed cancellation of some annual events. All we can do is look forward to when they recommence next year. The annual men's Pro-Am is currently looking like it will be re-scheduled to the end of October. Confirmation will be available soon.

Earlier this year the Ladies Pro-am saw the English player Holly Clyburn shooting 69 taking the FINDEX cheque home. Unfortunately, our very first sponsor of this event left us this year and my condolences go to his family.

Our championship's have concluded and we congratulate the worthy winners, Darrie Nightingale winning the Ladies A Grade over Jennifer Fagan. In B Grade, Glen Czarnota was the winner over Jane Bonner and C Grade was won by Yamba Stalwart Moira Morrow, age unknown, over Maiva Burnham.

Sue Quilty was the winner over Annie Green in the 9 hole Championship, which is growing greatly.

The Ladies Foursome's division 1 Championships saw winners Darrie Nightingale and Sue Scott over Jennifer Fagan and Jeannie Doolan and in division 2 Sue Wilson and Jo Simmons were the winners over the two Lynne White's.

In the men's Championships Jolon Homewood won a 2 hole play off over Reilly Wunderlich. In B Grade, Richard Beresford beat Craig Penman for the title and C grade saw the shortest man in the club, Col Wall, defeat the tallest man in the club, John Maguire.

The match play champion was Brian Smith who defeated Reilly Wunderlich in the final. The 2BBB Champs, Rex Bolte and Mitch Brash, defeated Luke Hitchings and Dan Nikas in the final. The Mens Foursomes Championship was won by Col Lindsay and Barry Fisher over Geoff Flett and Rick Addinsall.

As well as featuring in the final groups of most things Reilly Wunderlich also took out the NRDGA Junior Championship for the year. Congratulations Reilly and keep it going.

Most of the thanks must go to our Superintendent Mark Ryan and his team for making our course the best in the Clarence Valley. I also want to thank John and Tash Wright in the Pro Shop for assisting with everything golf and encouraging so many new members to join our club. John has been the epitome of fostering the game of golf with his clinics and Track Man technology he gives his all to help others in their game.

A special thank you to Greg Laforest who put his hand up in the middle of the pandemic to take on the role as Men's Captain. Greg has been handed some difficult tasks in his short time as a Captain but with his background in dealing with school children he faced these complex issues with ease. Thanks for making my job easier Greg!

Huge thanks goes to David Miles for whom I can contact any hour of the day with any issue that may occur, and more times than not he managed to find a solution. Thanks to Dorothy also for allowing us access to this fine man.

Thanks to Graham Niland who is at his post week in week out encouraging the smooth operation of Golf at our club. Graham always puts the club first and that's why we admire him so much. Thanks Rowdy.

I also would like to thank the Ladies committee for running the Ladies golf, especially in this difficult time. We can see what a great job you've done by the sheer increase in numbers to our game.

Thanks to Greg Starr, Ken Hall and Teddy Tuchin for running Veterans golf and to all the Vet's members for their generous donations around the club. The new mats in the practice nets, new shoe cleaners, post hole diggers, new hole cutter and many more things that you give makes our club stand out to everyone. Thanks.

Thanks to Harold Roberts, Ken Hall and the Senior's committee for running your competitions so smoothly and to the seniors and their patronage of the club.

Thanks also to Cate and her fantastic bar staff and their professionalism. Making everyone feel welcome and giving us such a good name in the industry.

Thanks to Greg Syle and your staff for continually producing great meals that we can all enjoy.

Thanks to Khara, Lou and Eryn for helping with all your behind the scenes work with anything golf related. You make us look good and that isn't an easy job.

I would also like to thank the social clubs, the Tramps, the Oyster Cove group, the DRC, the Skins group, the Friday Angourie Chook runners. All your patronage continues to support the club that supports you.

Thanks to President Tony and the board for steering us in the right direction and maintaining this path to ensure the clubs future for many years to come.

A huge thanks to Luke for getting us through, what I would say, has been the most trying time in Yamba Golf Club history.

Last but far from least a huge thanks to the members of the Yamba Golf and Country Club. It is because of your positivity and support that we, the staff, are happy to continue working at such a fine club that we are proud to call ours.

Thanks once again to everyone and for allowing me to represent you as the Golf Operations Manager, a job that I am proud to do.

CHRIS DURRINGTON
OPERATIONS MANAGER & GOLF CO-ORDINATOR



FINDEX

SEAFIRE
STEAK + SEAFOOD

THE DECK
BAR AND CAFÉ