

FAIRWAY NEWS



**FEBRUARY
2025**



Welcome to 2025

Who would have thought we would be a quarter of the way through the 21st century already! But forget the big picture there are plenty of immediate things members need to take note of:

- Club Championships are up and running 1st, 8th and 15th February.
- Pennant starts late February
- Club Function 16 March RSVP 8 March
- Closing date for entry into Match Play competitions – 28 February

More details on these elsewhere in this issue.

Club Function

Sunday 16 March 3pm

Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron

The gala event of the year and one not to be missed.

Come and meet fellow members and partners in a great social setting.

Booking through 1Golf.

Bookings close on 8 March

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Upcoming events

8 February	Stroke, Club Championships R2, LG McDonald Qualifier
15 February	Stroke, Club Championships R3
20 February	VGL Men's Seniors 4888 Stableford Championship
22 February	Stableford.
1 March	Stroke, VGL Medal
8 March	Stableford
15 March	Par, Club Medal
16 March	Club Function Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron
22 March	2 Ball Ambrose, Ray Fraser Memorial Trophy

Recent Results

- The Stableford round on 7/12 saw some excellent scoring with 5 scores of 40 plus. Rod Bridger's brilliant 44pts led the way and won the overall. Gary Gibb 's 41pts won B Grade and Robert Williams'38pts took out C Grade. Mark Brooks' 40 pts won A Grade on a countback. There were two other 40 pt efforts. Club Captain Michael Kent lost to Mark on a countback after wiping the last and Alan Russell lost out to Gary's 41pts.
- The 2 Ball Ambrose on 14/12 was won by Matthew Farrelly and Ashley Turner with 54.75. Alan Russell and David Mallen were runners up with 55.5.
- The pre-Christmas round Overall was won by Julie Coupe with 40pts. Next best was Cam Duncan (B Grade) and Garry Chalkley(C Grade) who both scored 38pts. Tom Strickland's 37pts won A Grade and Kate Caridakis beat Anne Forwood on a countback for the Women's Division after both scored 36pts
- A countback was needed to decide the Overall winner in the last round of 2024. Club Treasurer Christine Nicholson got the maths right and the major prize getting over the line from Justin Lo who won B Grade after both scored excellent 42pts. Cris Payne(40pts A Grade), Phillip Ramsden(35pts C Grade) and Melissa Ansell(36pts Women's Division) were the other winners. The inaugural President's vs Captain's aggregate Stableford was won comfortably by the President's team 1039pts to 1016pts.
- A countback was needed again in the first round of 2025 with Juliet Austin (41pts) getting the nod for the Overall over Ned Brennan who won B Grade. Anne Forwood (37pts) and Greg Scott(36pts) won the Women's Division and C Grade respectively. Remarkably Cris Payne scored 40pts for the second week in a row taking out A Grade both times.

THE PRESIDENT'S BLOG



Well, I am guessing we were all anticipating it, but the inevitable Xmas Gift from the Course Management arrived in January, in the form of increased weekly fees for a round of golf. It is hard to anticipate where the seemingly never ending "gouging" will end.

I know that a lot of members will be doing a financial comparison with continuing playing at Sandringham as opposed to options at other venues. Whilst the Club cannot influence this decision in either direction, we can only hope that we do not witness any loss of members.

As this newsletter goes to publication, the first round of the Club Championships will have been completed. Good luck to all those going forward and especially to those that had a successful first round. To those whose first round was not what was desired (but still left them in the hunt), then think toward the next round and forget the last round, as none of us can control what others may do.

After the Club Championships we will hold a function at the BMYS (our usual "haunt") so as to celebrate the winners and generally relax after three harrowing weeks of Stroke. Unfortunately, due to other bookings at the venue, we will not be able to hold the event until 16th March, but at least this will give everyone plenty of time to construct their respective "war stories" as to what did or didn't go wrong during the Championships.

Finally, a quote that was passed on to me (probably in an attempt to change my previous level of mirth)

"If you pick up a Golfer and hold it close to your ear, like a conch shell, and listen – you will hear an alibi".

Regards Rob

Recent Results (cont.)

- Nearly 25% of the field on 11/1 scored 36pts or better including 6 scores of 40pts or better. Danny Sessions' excellent 43pts won the Overall but only just. Timothy Strickland (42pts A Grade), Gary Gibb (42pts B Grade), Michael Lenkic (41pts C Grade) and Belinda Anson (39pts Women's Division) all had excellent rounds and were rewarded with Grade wins.
- It was tightly bunched at the top of the field in the Par Round on 18/1. Four players recorded a +4 with Matthew Farrelly winning the overall on countback from Vasilis Haralambidis (who won C Grade) and Vlad Dolnikov who got the short straw and missed a prize as Vasilis was in his grade. George Andreetta (+3) won B Grade on a countback from Ollie Cunliffe. Mark Johnson (+3 A Grade) and Alison Kenny (+2 Women's) were the other winners.
- Nearly 98 players sought to fine tune their game before the Club Championships in the Stableford round on 25/1 with mixed success. The top end was led by Andrew Ball's hot 43pts to win the overall. Andrew only just pipped a neat progression of other scores. Jacqui Hastings (42pts Women's Division), Matthew Dowling (41pts A Grade), Florian Henkelmann (40pts B Grade) and James Blangiardo (39pts C Grade) were all winners.
- Since we last checked the mid-week results ten scores of 43pts and above have been recorded. Best was Keith Ding's 46pts in December. Hamish Ogilvie, Paul Watson and Cathy Grant all scored 45pts for next best.

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Hello members and a big welcome to a new year of golfing adventures.



By now I hope you have all seen the fixture for 2025 and have registered for pennant, match play and have made a good start to your tilt at the various trophies in the club championships. We have a full set of teams registered for Scratch, Handicap and Seniors pennant and the field will open later in the year for the Mixed and Women pennant teams. Match play entries are almost full and we had a strong field of 130 for the club championships.

You should have also set your diaries around the key events for the year. There are training sessions for those lucky enough to book a spot, the annual social event (more details in this newsletter) and a couple of surprise events being cooked up. Keep an eye out on the booking page notices for details. I also recommend members review the VGL calendar of events. Get together with other club members to submit a team and challenge yourself against other clubs at a different course in a tournament format.

And to address the elephant in the room,.... wow! what a price rise. Some members will find this a bridge too far whereas others will grumble, Keep Calm and Carry On. Whatever your thoughts, please remember to rake the bunkers and fill your divots. The course may be a bit slack maintaining standards but that doesn't mean the people playing behind you should be required to play out of your footprints.

Happy golfing and I hope to see you out on the course.

Regards

Michael Kent

News and Notes

Best wishes and welcome back

Best wishes to Brad McDiarmid as he recovers from an achilles tendon injury.

After several years battling through medical issues, it is great to see Cris Payne back and playing well. Consecutive 40pt outings have shown Cris is once again a force to be reckoned with.

SGC Bag Tags Available

Yellow SGC Bag Tags are available from the Pro Shop at no cost. Just ask the staff.

How do you know who the members are when you book in Quick18?

The Club is asking members to edit their surnames in their Quick18 account by prefixing the surname with SGC. This idea helps new and existing members to identify fellow members when booking rounds.

Club apparel

The Club has Men's and Women's Polos and Caps for sale. See April 2024 issue for pictures of these items or admire from afar fellow member who wear them with pride. To inquire or purchase Email:

memberservices@sandringhamgolfclub.org.au

OR send a message on the website's [Contact Who](#) page

Competition News

Match Play Competitions

Members will have received an email from the Captain about the procedure for entering this year's Match Play Competitions. Entry is via the 1 Golf booking page and close on 28 February. Remember there are two competitions – a singles (John Pittard) and a Pairs (Ian Fraser). A draw will be made after the close of entries.

LG McDonald Trophy

The Qualifying round for the LG McDonald Trophy will be played on 8 February. Thirty-two players qualify and knockout rounds are played concurrently with VGL Medal events and the field is reduced to 16,8,4 and 2 to contest the final on the basis of the best net scores in each round.

VGL Events

The next VGL event open to Sandy members is the VGL Men's Seniors 4BBB Stableford competition on 20 February to be held at Churchill Park Golf Club. Entrants must be 55 years of age by 20 February. Remember Sandy Golf Club will reimburse members who enter VGL Competitions. Entries close 10 February or when capacity is reached.

Warning: Please do **NOT** apply this local rule in SGC Competitions

The Rules of Golf have provision for Clubs to adopt Local Rules (based on models provided by the R&A) for certain situations. One possible Local Rule is when a player's ball has not been found or is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds, the player may for a penalty of two strokes, take relief by dropping the original ball or another ball on the fairway within certain parameters.

SGC has **NOT adopted this local rule.**

You cannot use it in SGC Competitions.

Pennant Golf 2025

Sandy's Pennant season gets underway in late February with the Seniors Team opening the season on with a home fixture against Craigieburn Wilmott.

Sandy's Scratch team went down narrowly in the final last year so let's hope all the teams can go one better in 2025.

If you are at a loose end and want to support our teams feel free to come along and walk a few holes.

Good luck to all players and teams.

Pennant Schedule

	Scratch (Div 2)	Handicap (Div 3)	Seniors
Rd 1	Craigieburn Wilmott (H) 23/3/25	Elsternwick Red (A) 23/3/25	Craigieburn Wilmott (H) 27/2/25
Rd 2	Lakeside (A) 30/3/25	Royal Park (H) 30/3/25	Glen Waverley (A) 6/3/25
Rd 3	Brighton II (A) 6/4/25	Eastern Sward (H) 6/4/25	Centenary Park (H) 13/3/25
Rd 4	Craigieburn Wilmott (A) 13/4/25	Elsternwick Red (H) 13/4/25	Craigieburn Wilmott (A) 20/3/25
Rd 5	Lakeside (H) 27/4/25	Royal Park (A) 27/4/25	Glen Waverley (H) 27/3/25
Rd 6	Brighton II (H) 4/5/25	Eastern Sward (A) 4/5/25	Centenary Park (A) 3/4/25

That's the way to start the year! Congratulations to Andrew

It was the morning of January 4th, first round for 2025 and on the 7th hole a light zephyr of about 10kmh was blowing from the north. Facing downhill and 143 metres to the pin, former Club Captain Andrew Rumbelow took a nine iron to hit it high and slightly left of centre. One bounce and it started to track towards the hole left to right and dropped in. Watching this was the group ahead on the 8th tee and the group behind on the 6th green and the early birds teeing off on the 12th. Quite a crowd to witness Andrew's first hole in one after 35 years of golf



More VGL Success for Sandy Golfers

In our last issue we reported on the strong performances of Kate Caridakis and Craig Brenner in winning the VGL Mixed Foursomes but we missed reporting their performances in the VGL Champion of Champions event.

Craig shot 77 and finished tied 3rd in a great performance. Kate went even better and finished runner up in the gross competition shooting 78 to the winner's 77. She did however win the net competition – here shown receiving her trophy.

Despite that success Kate had some regrets leaving the course. Here's her tale of the finish of the round:

"I was just behind the leader all day until the last few holes, I had par, birdie, par and not realising at that point I was in front by a stroke. On the last hole, a par three, I hit a poor shot off the tee, the ball landed on the green but rolled back off. My opponent hit a great shot to about 8 feet from the pin. In my mind I really thought I had lost; I missed my par putt finishing with a bogie for a gross 78. My opponent sunk the putt for a birdie to win by a shot with a gross 77. Well that certainly taught me a lesson, check the scores. Would have played that hole a little different. In saying that, I am pretty happy winning the net but disappointed in myself. **Lesson learnt.**"



Speaking of lessons – lessons are the answer? The evidence is in - Colin's Story

Colin Hunter was struggling with his game in September last year. He was on his *19th nervous breakdown* and in a way, *he can't explain* his handicap had gone out to 17.0. In the words of someone (can't remember *Who*) he couldn't "*get no satisfaction*" from his golf.

It was time to seek *Help!* After some lessons from Chris Donovan at Sandy Links who said *we can work it out* Colin turned into a *sunshine superman* and his handicap started *rolling* downhill like a stone. As of 1 February, his handicap is 12.5 after a run that started in October of 36,36,39,39,35,35,40 and 35pts. On 18 January he eagled the 18th and birdied 15 and 16 but left his run too late on that day.

Colin *won't get fooled again* and being *once bitten twice shy* he knows what to do next time his game does *somethin' stupid*.

But then there are cautionary tales – "*I'm certified nuts*" says Victor Hovland as he seeks to remodel his swing. In just the last 2 years, Hovland has hired, fired, re-hired, and re-fired his swing coach Joe Mayo to pursue his "*goofy yet performing swing*" he had in his best year 2023.



With apologies to the younger generations of our members see how many and how much you know about the bands and song references in the story of Colin's golfing journey. Note the graphic is a bit misleading as there are 2 exceptions – one reference is from the 70s and one is not from the UK.

Alternative ways to enjoy golf

1. Spend hours producing golf music videos.

On the golf and music theme here's an out of left field offering. A golfer/musician Nigel Tait has a YouTube channel which includes some parody videos of well-known songs with a golfing theme. The amount of work in these is astonishing.

As he said of his Bohemian Rhapsody parody:

“The song took me 68 tracks to complete, with 1379 individual sound files. It's fair to say that not all of these sound files made it to the final product; there may have been an extra take or two :)”



Not to mention the full music video that accompanies the music. Apparently, the idea started by producing parody songs for their (seems to be the Riverview Golf Club at Ivanhoe which we have played in Pennant over the years) annual Murray River golf trip. There are other parodies of “I am the walrus” and “The Devil Goes Down to Georgia”. Link is to the Bohemian Rhapsody video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3NYu9Nkvfo>

Of course he is not the only one. Just let the algorithm do the work once you've watched one.

2. Cultivate the right attitude on the course.

“You've got to ac-cent-tchu-ate the positive
 E-lim-i-nate the negative
 Latch on to the affirmative
 Don't mess with Mr. In-Between
 You've got to spread joy up to the maximum
 Bring gloom down to the minimum
 Have faith, or pandemonium
 Liable to walk upon the scene”

Accentuate the Positive written by Harold Arlen and the lyrics by Johnny Mercer

3. Go retro and get yourself a golf board game.

Board games may be old school but Monopoly is still ubiquitous and there is a golf themed version so somebody must be playing and enjoying them. Here are some highly rated golf board games.



APBA Golf Game



GolfProfi



Box of Golf

“Where are the windmills and animals?”

The Players Championships bills itself as the 5th Major and has one of the strongest fields of the year (pre LIV) and will be played 11-16 March this year. I

It is played at the Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass every year and includes one of the most famous holes in golf - the island green 17th hole. At only 124m its should be a doddle for the best golfers in the world but the water carry, the nature of the green, the pin position and the stadium like atmosphere all make for one of the most drama filled holes in professional golf.



Mark Calcavecchia said about the 17th hole,

“It’s like having a 3pm appointment for a root canal.” You’re thinking about it all morning and you feel bad all day. You kind of know sooner or later you’ve got to get to it.”

Between 2003 and 2022, an average of 48.68 balls per tournament found the lake not just from the tee alone.

One of the most famous moments in the holes' history is the iconic putt and accompanying TV commentary when Tiger Woods holed a 60ft putt from the back of the green – *“That’s better than most Johnny. Better than most. Better than most”* with the last coming as the ball dropped into the hole. This occurred straight after Fred Funk had nearly putted into the water from the identical spot with Tiger watching from the tee.

When the course was first opened in 1980 many players thought the course was a joke hence the quote in the header above from Fuzzy Zoeller.

So, who designed this monster?

“Golfers just love punishment. And that’s where I come in.”

The “course builder” as he called himself is Pete Dye who was an insurance salesman who parleyed he and his wife Alice’s strong amateur golf credentials into a golf design dynasty whose designs at times drew the ire of professional golfers but nonetheless received plaudits from those doing course rankings and were the site of several major championships. The list of designs includes Oak Tree, Crooked Stick, Whistling Straits, Harbour Town Links, the Ocean Course on Kiawah Island, S.C as well as Sawgrass.



Dye’s philosophy can be summed up by the following quote:

“Golf is not a fair game, so why build a course fair?”

Dye was famous for not working from detailed designs but shaping the features and contours himself, with chainsaws, shovels, and bulldozers. Key features of his golf courses include "smallish, well contoured greens, short yet devious par 4s, bunkers and green complexes revetted with railroad ties (sleepers), and visual intimidation." (GolfPass)



His design for *Brickyard Crossing* (r) includes a four-hole stretch inside the legendary Indianapolis Motor Speedway

Dye is considered to be one of the most influential American golf course architects of the second half of the 20th century and has influenced many modern architects some of whom have strictly followed his approach (the so called Dye-ciples which includes his two sons) whilst others have gone on to develop their own style influenced by Dye such as Bill Coore and Tom Doak.

The Other Half - Alice Dye



Alice Dye was a very accomplished golfer winning nine Indiana State Amateur Championships and two US Senior Amateur Championships. She was called the "First Lady of Golf Architecture" in the US and her influence permeates all of the Dye designs, particularly in the attention paid to forward tees so that even the most challenging courses can be played, and enjoyed, by golfers of all levels.

The design of the island green is also credited to Alice. The original design had a smaller lake alongside the green. The work to build the rest of the course had taken so much sand and soil from the site of the 17th that Pete was unsure how to complete the hole. Alice suggested the island design and hence the birth of the legend.

Kong Hee Fatt Choy



Hope the Year of the Snake brings golfing success to all members and doesn't look this!



Introducing a new Fairway News occasional column













Wednesday Whispers from the News' ace rolling reporter



- Mine host of the All Nations Hotel Bob O'Kane says a big thank you to Course Maintenance for the erection of the Camera Tower on the 12th Tee. Playing the 6th hole slashed his 3rd shot from the sandy wasteland heading for Royal Melbourne but struck the new camera pole and bounced next to the 6th Green, chip on and one putt a magnificent bogey.
- Popular Non Member Fred Cara pocket activated his GMI remote control buggy on the 9th Green causing the buggy to go missing. After a prolonged search it was found in the bushes near the Car Park. Seeking a response from Royal and Ancient for time limit in looking for lost buggies before retrospective penalty applied.



Golf round not going so well? How about trying to fill in our Sandy Links Bird Bingo card?

			
Silver Gull	Magpie	Eurasian Coot	Galah
			
Pied cormorant	Bronzewing Pigeon	Little corella	Welcome Swallow
			
Australian raven	Australian Wood Duck	Masked lapwing (plover)	Kookaburra

Changes to Player's Personal Liability Insurance Policy

A part of your membership fees supports the Club's affiliation with Golf Australia which in turn provides Personal Liability Insurance for each member. The original intention of the policy was to protect members against personal injury claims from other golfers/people. In recent times many of the claims paid out by the scheme have been for property damage and appropriate insurance coverage was getting harder to obtain. Accordingly, some changes are being made to the coverage. An email has been sent to members but the major changes are identified below.

What is changing?

Exclusions: Specific exclusions have been added for any claim, loss, damage, liability or costs and expenses incurred directly or indirectly in connection with third party property damage to:

- golf carts; and
- personal electronic devices include phone, iPad, watch, rangefinder or anything similar.

Excess: There are now three categories of insurance claim:

- a. Personal injury claims – NO excess will be payable
- b. Property damage where golfer is found to have followed all expected duty of care, local rules and the Rules of Golf – NO excess payable
- c. Property damage where golfer is found to have acted in a negligent manner and caused damage to a third-party property - \$1,000 excess is payable

Claims Process: Before the excess is payable on all property damage claims, the insurer will conduct a thorough investigation to determine if the individual member is likely to incur any legal liability through negligence.

The policy was established to provide legal protection for affiliated members, not to provide cover for any golfing incidence regardless of the cause, and in some instances, the cause of the incident may be found to be another party (ie. Club with a known boundary issue).

In these instances, the insurer will indemnify the member as is the intent of the policy and if the insurer determines that that member was not negligent in their actions and therefore not liable, then the insurer may choose to defend the claim rather than settle the claim. Further information and FAQs can be found [here](#)

Fairway News Contributions and Feedback

Fairway News is always looking for contributions so if you have any comments, suggestions, photos have a Sandy golf story to tell or fancy a bit of creative writing please send it along to newsletter@sandringhamgolfclub.org.au

Well. Tickle us Pink! Pink Day is coming -Sponsorship Opportunity

Each year, we proudly host our Pink Day event, a standout highlight on our competition calendar. This special day is dedicated to raising funds for a charitable cause while bringing our community together for a fun and meaningful experience. To make this year's event even more impactful, we're inviting members with businesses to get involved by sponsoring a hole on the day.

Although Pink Day isn't until May 10, we understand the value of planning ahead. This opportunity allows you to showcase your business while supporting a great cause. By sponsoring a hole, your company logo will be displayed on a professionally produced sign, highlighting your support and contribution.

If you're interested in participating, please reach out to our treasurer at treasurer@sandringhamgolfclub.org.au to register your interest. We'll provide all the details you need to get involved.

Thank you for your support—we look forward to making this year's Pink Day the best one yet!

Professional golf engaging with content creators - Part the Second.

A couple of issues ago (October 2024) we discussed how the PGA Tour was seeking to engage and capitalise on the burgeoning growth of online golf content creators particularly with the running of the Creator Classic where several golf YouTubers competed in a 9-hole tournament on the course where the Tour Championship was to be played later that week. Now the Tour has taken a further step with the creation of the *Creator Council*. The Council will include creators such as Bob Does Sports, Bryan Bros Golf, Erik Anders Lang, Fore Play/Barstool Sports, No Laying Up, Paige Spiranac, Roger Steele and Tisha Alyn and will be asked to address:



- Fan engagement strategies
- Collaborative content opportunities
- PGA TOUR media regulations
- PGA TOUR event/broadcast enhancements
- Creator Classic evolution

Luke Kwon won the inaugural Creator Classic

The Council will meet regularly with media, marketing and communications team members at the PGA TOUR to develop shared strategies for content development and fan engagement. The creators will have increased access to the PGA TOUR platform and network to create more compelling content that can serve as both stand-alone content and complementary coverage of weekly PGA TOUR events. This is potentially a big deal as current PGA rules are very restrictive about the use of unofficial footage of tournaments (none allowed) or involvement of PGA players in non-sanctioned content (I believe).

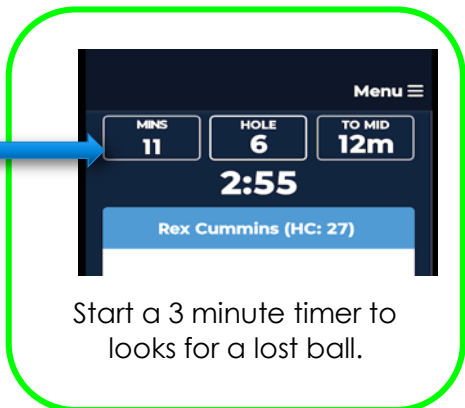
Two other things to note

- creators will not be paid for their time on the council
- there will be three Creator Classics in 2025 – at the Players Championship, the Trust Championship and Tour Championship

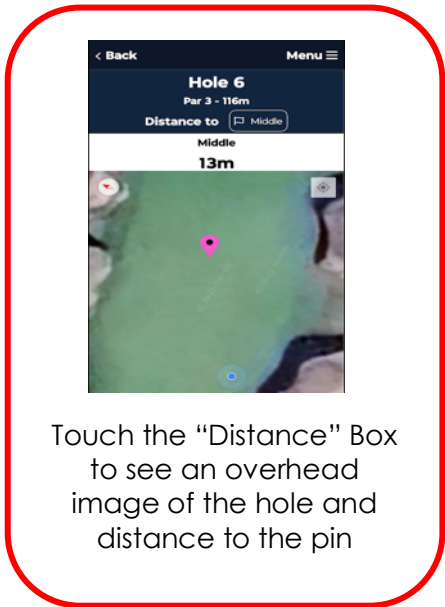
MiScore Features you may not be aware of.

Lost Ball Timer

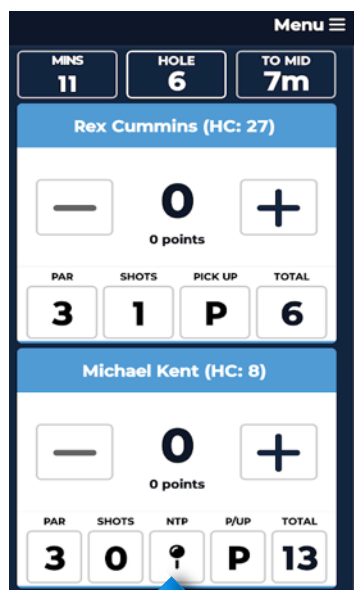
Click on "Mins" box to start timer



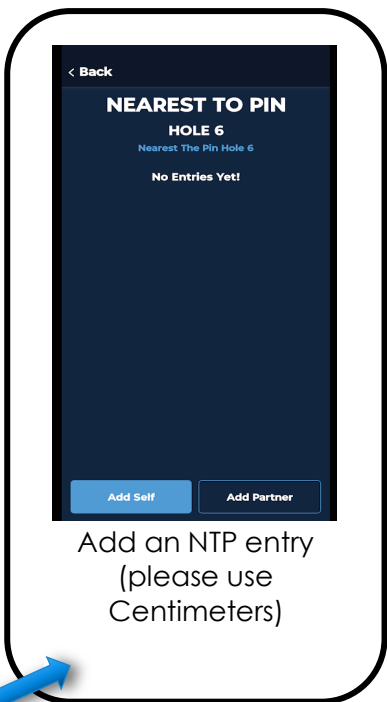
Overhead view



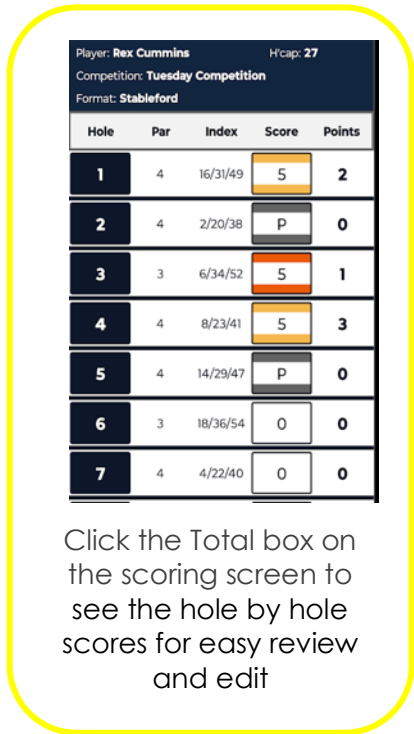
Nearest the Pin



Click here to get this screen.

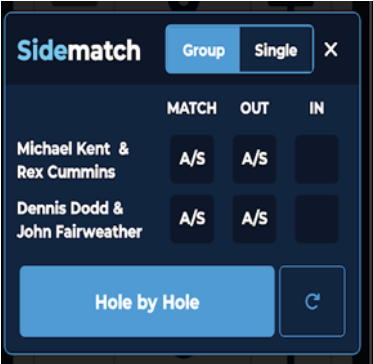


Hole by Hole



Mi Score Features you may not be aware of (cont.)

SideMatch



Create your own Sidematch and see matchplay results for singles, teams or hole by hole

Enable SideMatch in Settings.

After selecting a playing partner on the first hole the number box will flash if Sidematch is enabled. Touch the hole number to view Sidematch.

Toggle between Group and Single for Sidematch scores or touch Hole by Hole for the scorecard view.

For Group Sidematch your pairing must be on same tee time as other group pairing on booking timesheet.

Hole Index



Touch the Shots box on the scoring screen to see the rating for the hole

Professional golf engaging with content creators - Part the Third.

It's not just the PGA engaging with golf content creators but the golf industry is also jumping on board. Equipment manufacturers and golf apparel companies are already sponsoring a number of creators but the content collective *Good Good* is taking it to the next level on two fronts. Firstly, the apparel side of the business will be sponsoring professional golfers on the PGA and beyond including Joel Dahmen - *Good Good* logos everywhere. Secondly the Golf Channel (NBC) has broadcast *Good Good* events in 2024 and will live telecast their next event from Arizona on 5 February.

Good Good front man Garrett Clark is only 24 and the group has stated that their aim is to be a top5 brand in golf. They may well do it. The revolution has started!