

# Around the Club

A newsletter for Wodonga Golf Club members

## New conditions apply

Stage 3 COVID-19 restrictions in Victoria have brought about changes in the rules at Wodonga Golf Course.

Playing groups will be limited to two people per group and club competitions will not be held.

Golf Pro Gavin Vearing said Golf Australia had engaged in in-depth discussions with the Victorian Government about the fact competition golf was a key aspect of club life across the state.

“It was confirmed by Golf Australia that competition golf was unable to be conducted under the Stage 3 restrictions.

“This restriction will obviously have a significant impact on revenue for myself and the club.”

Vearing said the practice nets, putting green and chipping area could not operate unless a distance of at least 100 metres between groups of two could be maintained.



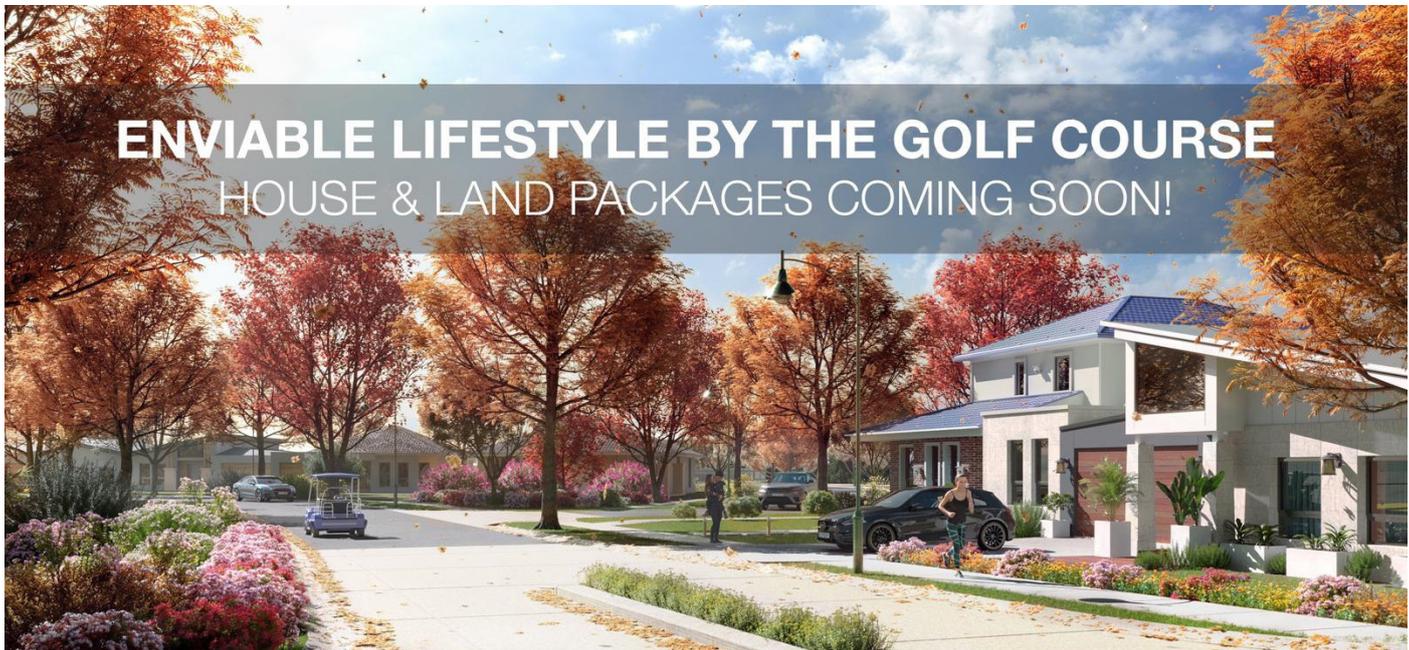
Chris Dixon, Jo Whitehead and Penny Mullumby don the masks. More women's golf: P3

“No hire equipment, including golf clubs, pull buggies and golf clubs can be available,” he said.

The only exception to this rule is a golf cart may be hired by a

person who has a disability, or who is over the age of 65 or who can demonstrate they need one due to having special needs.

**CONTINUED P6**



**ENVIABLE LIFESTYLE BY THE GOLF COURSE**  
HOUSE & LAND PACKAGES COMING SOON!

# Men's news

Welcome to August and the second wave lockdown of golf.

There was plenty of good golf played between the resumption of play from lockdown 1 and now with no slowdown in the size of fields and difficulty in getting a game on a Saturday.

It looks like we'll be back out in the backyards getting ready for the next resumption of play, let's hope that's sooner rather than later.

Unfortunately, with the first lockdown cutting short the Club Championships prior to the final round and uncertainty surrounding the resumption of play and what that might look like, the extremely difficult decision was made to belatedly call the event after the first two rounds.

Our Men's 2020 Champions are as follows: Club/A Grade, Daniel Gill;

B Grade, Ken McQuilton; C Grade, Mattias Larsson; A Grade nett, Steve Nusser; B Grade nett, Stephen Bohun; C Grade nett (and Saladin Trophy), Daniel Sutton; Junior Champion, Jack McAuliffe; and Junior nett, Connor Flavell. A huge congratulations to all of our Men's champions!

Some excellent scores and results were had over the last two and a half months or so. The June monthly medal was won by Dean Connell with a very nicely crafted 69 nett.

The July monthly medal was well won by Aaron Morrison with an amazing 65 nett including an eagle at the 4<sup>th</sup>.

You wouldn't believe that Aaron backed that up by winning the August monthly medal as well with, you guessed it, 65 nett; well done Aaron.

Well done to Victor Westlind on

winning the June Monthly Mug with 40 points, unfortunately Victor has left us to travel back to Sweden so we wish him all the best and hope to see him back in Wodonga at some point. Congratulations also to Dave Rye who won the July Monthly Mug on count-back with +2.

Best score of the period has been 45 points scored by Jay Hillary, there's also been a 44 and a generous helping of 43's; well done to all the boys.

Fingers crossed that the restrictions do the job and the positive case numbers go down soon so we can get back to the game we all love.

Stay positive, look out for each other and I look forward to catching up back out on the course.

All the best, good company and good golfing!

- Mark Evans

# Veterans' news

Many things have happened in the last month and golf is quite challenging at present with face masks and bookings in pairs due to COVID-19 restrictions.

In saying that the course is playing very well and is a credit to John Anderson and the ground staff who take care of the course.

"We should not forget and take for granted the fantastic organisation of

Gavin and his Pro Shop staff too," said Des Malone.

"Thank you to Ross Black for your efforts in detailing some of the improvements your amazing group of members have planned and completed on our golf course."

The Corowa NEDVGA event has been cancelled and Bright helped out by arranging an event to take its place.

"We had 14 players attend and all agreed that it was a great day," he said.

"The Veterans Annual Meeting will be held in October and although we appreciate the efforts of all our committee members, a few are not standing again."

Any members wishing to help please contact Des Malone or Vice President Kevin Tracy.

## TORQUE IS THE WORST...



Whether we know it or not, all of us have been sabotaged by torque. Remember that downhill slider you put a good stroke on only to have the putter face twist open or closed inexplicably?! Well, that's torque! Over the years, coaches, players, and manufacturers have tried to minimize the negative impact of torque using things like oversized grips or heavy putters, often combined with some methodology or unique way of holding the grip. But despite their best efforts, the putter still twists on its own...until now!

## THIS IS WHY L.A.B. IS JUST BETTER.

In 2013, we set out to rid greens of "torque torture" misfortune. Bill Presse and our team of engineers invented Lie-Angle Balance (L.A.B.), a physics equation that eliminates unwanted head rotation by allowing the putter head to stay square to a player's putting arc and stroke DNA.

Grip lighter and roll it straighter, simple as that. The Directed Force 2.1 and BLAD.1 are the world's only lie-angle balanced putters and represent the most impactful innovation in putter design in over 60 years. Finally, a putter that works with and not against you to start the putt on the intended line!

## CUSTOM FIT FOR YOU!

Radical innovation is never a one-size-fits-all movement. We assure your putter is crafted to suit who you are and how you innately swing. It's extremely important that your L.A.B. DF2.1 or BLAD.1 putter is built with the optimal length and lie angle for your stroke and body type. For your convenience, we offer a remote customization process through our website to ensure a precise fitting. You can also contact us for in-person fitting options in your area. precision HAAS CNC machines, our engineers interpolate the shaft hole to create a snug fit and clean look where the shaft connects to the head.

**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT L.A.B. IN CLUB PRO GAVIN VEARING'S COLUMN IN THIS MONTH'S EDITION**



**L.A.B. GOLF**

## Ladies news

This is the year that just keeps on giving!! It's Masquerade Mask Month, except these masks unfortunately are covering our noses and mouths, not decorating our eyes and heads.

It's not too much of a sacrifice however, if we can continue to play golf.

Keep in mind the current restrictions are only for six weeks, which will pass quickly.

Obviously because there are no competitions, all events are on hold. We are not cancelling anything that was on the calendar for August and September and will advise later if we can reschedule.

Gavin and his staff are doing their best with all these changes and restrictions to keep us on the course, so let's try hard not to criticise the things we are not happy with. Take the positive out of it. We are golfing!!

July's Monthly Medal was won by Jackie Surman with a score of 73, followed by the July Monthly Glass being won with a -1 score by Amanda Smedley. The third round of the Silver Spoon was won by Penny Mullumby. The fourth round of the Silver Spoon was won by Glenda Smeaton. Congratulations and well-done ladies.

We would like to give a special big round of applause to two ladies who had awesome scores in the mainstream competitions in July. Kelly Hogan played a Stableford event and came in with a score of 50. Chantelle Shaw played a Stroke event and she came in with a net score of 63. Well done ladies.

With no other events or golfing news to speak of, I thought we could share some July highlights. Names will be withheld to protect the innocent but there may be a hidden hint that could accidentally identify our ladies.

Runaway electric buggies appear to have been a July theme.

Late one Thursday afternoon, as the light was rapidly disappearing from the sky, one of our ladies was making her way home. She was very careful and even walked across the 5th and 4th fairways towards her hole in the fence that she goes home via, rather than round under the trees. There is a ditch/gully just



**Jackie Surman gets her Monthly Medal from Maree Barnes.**

near the opening in the fence that is normally not a problem. However she failed to see the enormous duck poop on the very edge of the downhill side and next minute her heel skidded in it, there was a flurry of arms and legs and panic as she went down in a screaming heap onto her bum and back whilst watching her electric buggy trundle away at high speed without her at the helm. As it careered up the side of the ditch, it toppled and went down into the bottom of the ditch, emptying out all the clubs and lay spinning on its side like a wounded animal, coating the bag in mud. No injuries occurred, and only her wallet was damaged with the cost of \$70 for a 'tweak' at the chiropractor. You could almost say that was a "Di in a Ditch" moment.

On yet another comp day, another of our ladies parked her buggy between the 7<sup>th</sup> green and the 8<sup>th</sup> tee while she finished putting out on the 7<sup>th</sup>. When walking across to stow her putter, her buggy had disappeared. Her group sprang into action, scurrying everywhere like a mob of chooks with their heads chopped off, searching for the buggy. They couldn't find it anywhere. They even checked across the road at the school. "How on earth can an electric buggy just vanish into thin air?" was the question on everyone's lips. They waved the group behind through. They couldn't hit off due to the player without clubs. She was also refusing to drive with her



**Amanda Smedley with club pro Gavin Vearing.**

putter. Finally, after 20 minutes, they noticed a wild vibration of leaves on a tree in the distance and maybe; birds and birds' nests lying on the ground. Yes, it was the missing buggy, happily spinning its wheels at the base of the tree. There was Moore relief when nothing was found to be damaged. Confucius say, 'Lady wi lectic buggy must press stop button.'

Disappointment came for another lady when she discovered that after nine years of using her cart to get home from the clubhouse; that it really doesn't have a homing beacon and it has NEVER taken her home on auto pilot, EVER!! Yes, after yet another Thursday comp, about 7ish, in the dark, one of our ladies became lost. It's believed the residents who live on the side of the 6<sup>th</sup> green thought there was a ride on mower going backwards and forwards doing night mowing, but it was actually our lady trying to find the track and that dratted gate which leads to home. She has lights on her cart that would give a blind man retina burn, so go figure. Howard you be? Yes, she did arrive home safely eventually.

Happy birthday wishes for those celebrating August birthdays.

Get well wishes to anyone who may be unwell.

To those of you who made it out of Dodge before the Border closed, enjoy your holidays/travels, you lucky sons of guns.

See you around the greens.

*- Di Bainbridge,  
Secretary*

# WODONGA GOLF CLUB

# NOW HAS ITS OWN APP



Your Team. Your App.

Download our awesome new app now and stay up to date with all the latest information!

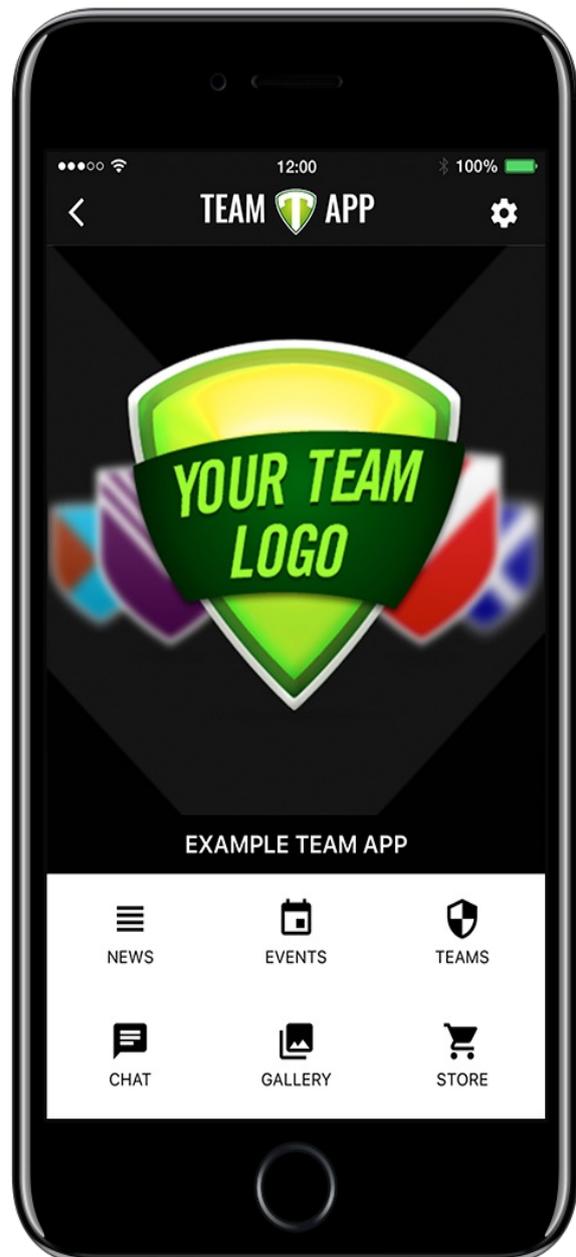
Install the Wodonga Golf Club App on your smartphone or tablet now!

#### Follow these steps:

1. Download Team App from the Apple or Google Play app store.



2. Sign up to Team App. You will be sent an email to confirm your registration.
3. Log into the App and search for "Wodonga Golf Club".
4. Choose your applicable access group(s).
5. If you don't have a smartphone go to [wodongagolfclub.teamapp.com](http://wodongagolfclub.teamapp.com) to sign up and view this App online.



#### Need help?

Contact: Jenny Garner

Email: [admin@wodongagolf.com.au](mailto:admin@wodongagolf.com.au)

Phone: 0260591552

[teamapp.com](http://teamapp.com)

# Don't undervalue putting's role

## With Wodonga Golf Club pro Gavin Vearing



We have heard the statement that we "Drive for show and putt for dough".

How important is putting?

According to Dave Pelz in his book *Putt like the Pros* the statistics of golf consist of:

- 43% Putting
- 25% Woods
- 13% Wedges
- 8% Short irons
- 6% Medium irons
- 5% Long irons

In my opinion the three most important clubs are:

1. Your putter
2. Your driver
3. Your sand-iron

Many years ago, I was fortunate to play with Padraig Harrington in the Irish Amateur.

Padraig went on to win three majors including two British Opens and one US PGA.

A friend I used to live with in Melbourne spent several years on the European tour caddying and noticed that Padraig was one of the hardest practicing golfers on tour.

During the time my friend was over in Europe he said he never once saw Padraig practice an iron shot.

All of Padraig's practice was woods, wedges and putter (the scoring clubs).

As some members are aware, I recently purchased a LAB (Lie Angle Balanced) fitting putter.

With the fitting putter I can work out the exact length of putter that you should be using.

There is a 90 per cent chance it won't be 35 inches the length of 90 per cent of putters sold to the general market, and also importantly it will fit you to the correct lie angle.

Some golfers prefer a more upright putter so it makes it easier to get the eyes over the ball, while other players prefer to have their hands low so would prefer a flatter putter.

I then send through your specifications so your putter is made to fit you.

The LAB golf putters are not cheap, selling for \$799 but most golfers use their incorrectly fitted putter 36 times per round while they are prepared to pay \$799 for a driver that they use 14 times per round.

LAB is best defined as the putter head's ability to stay square through the ball during the putting stroke without any adjustments from your hands.

The results are that the body's smaller and less reliable muscle group relax, allowing a player's stronger muscles to maintain a control over swing speed and path.

Lie angle balancing creates a "pendulum like stroke" with unmatched stability, ball direction and distance control.

The next time you are in the shop ask me about getting fitted and for a demonstration.

### Five keys to better putting from Dave Pelz

I highly recommend reading Dave Pelz's book *Putt Like The Pros* and *The Short Game Bible*:

#### 1. Putting is important.

Regardless of skill level, putting accounts for approximately 43 per cent of your total strokes, taking into account your good putting days and the ones where you're ready to snap your flat stick over your knee.

Lower this percentage and your scores will go down.

Allocate at least one-third of your practice time to becoming the best putter you can be.

#### 2. Putts left short never go in.

When you miss, your putts should end up 17 inches past the hole.

If you roll them faster, you'll suffer more lip-outs. Roll them slower and the ball will be knocked offline by imperfections (footprints, pitch marks, etc.) in the green.

#### 3. Face angle is even more important than stroke path.

And not insignificantly — it's six times more important. Even if your path is good, unduly opening or closing the face at impact, spells doom.

#### 4. You're only as skilled as your impact pattern.

Catching putts across the face produces varying ball speeds. Find one impact point. My recommendation is the sweet spot.

#### 5. Aim is critical.

You can't dominate with your putter if you don't know how to aim it correctly, or how much break to play. Nail these fundamentals first.

## LIE-ANGLE BALANCED.

We have reinvented the balance of the modern putter. We call it Lie-Angle Balance.

It is perhaps best defined as the putter head's ability to stay square through the ball during the putting stroke without any adjustments from your hands. The result - the body's smaller and less reliable muscle groups relax, allowing a player's stronger muscles to maintain control over swing speed and path. Lie-angle balancing creates a "pendulum-like" stroke with unmatched stability, ball direction and distance control.

PressGrip available in various shapes and sizes

Elliptical grip design accommodates 1.5 - 3 degrees of forward press lean

Custom steel shaft ranging from 28 - 51 inches in length (available in half inch increments)

Shaft is implanted directly into the putter head at 1.5 degrees forward shaft lean

Lie-angle is measured for every player during a fitting session, ranging from 63 - 79 degrees

Forged aluminum putter head with 2 degrees of loft

### INTEGRATED FORWARD PRESS.

Putters ship fully assembled with one of our revolutionary PressGrips - which feature integrated forward press technology. The putter shaft travels through the grip's elliptical shape off-axis by 3 degrees, not through the center of the grip as found on most putters. This unique shaft alignment creates the forward lean players are looking for to hit up through impact without increasing the loft of the putter. With every stroke, the ball rolls top over more easily and the player is rewarded with a consistent feel.

### ADVANCED ENGINEERING.

Our proprietary formula and head design ensures a consistent center of gravity for every club we make - regardless of a player's unique specifications. All of our putters are mechanically forged from 6061 aircraft aluminum and heat treated to eliminate any natural inconsistencies in the metal. Using precision HAAS CNC machines, our engineers interpolate the shaft hole to create a snug fit and clean look where the shaft



# L.A.B. GOLF

# Volunteers making huge impact

COVID-19 restrictions have fortunately not impacted the volunteers at Wodonga Golf Club with up to eight volunteers attending the Thursday working bees each week.

The major task for the volunteers has been beautifying the areas on both sides of the new watercourse at the north and eastern ends of the carpark and clubhouse.

That work has been ongoing for the past eight weeks with the objective being to allow for regular mowing along the watercourse to keep the grass down and protect the eucalypt trees that have been planted.

The volunteer group said the works would also enhance the landscape view for diners in the new outdoor eating area.

There are plans to plant a row of Sasanqua Camelias along the pathway before Spring to complete the project.

The group has also commenced a beautification project in the area behind the practice nets which has involved removing rubbish, pruning and removing dead trees and shrubs and heavy pruning of existing trees.

“We are seeking to make this area more pleasing on the eye when seen from the walk to the first tee and the ladies 10th tee, “ said volunteer Ross Black.

“The volunteers have greatly appreciated John Anderson’s assistance in making the tractor available to us which has enabled us to avoid much back-breaking work in carrying out these projects.”

Members of the club may have noticed that volunteers regularly pick up fallen branches around the course.

“This is almost a weekly task particularly after heavy winds or storms, “ he said.

“Another weekly test for the volunteers is to ensure that the gardens and area around the Pro shop and clubhouse are always well maintained and shrubs and roses are pruned as required, “ he said.

“During summer, we ensure that the gardens are adequately watered. “

The ladies 13th tee has presented the volunteers with some challenges in recent months as they have endeavoured to regularly mulch along the pathway to the tee to minimise the impact of water runoff.

The volunteer group are working on a more permanent solution for the challenges of the tee.

Another regular and ongoing activity for the volunteer group has been the marking of blue lines around the greens to restrict carts coming too close and damaging the areas around the greens.

“It is a cause for frustration for our volunteers that these blue lines are often ignored and we would ask members to please observe these restrictions when driving their carts on the course, “ he said.

Remedial work on drainage around the cart shed was also recently carried out, with this task ongoing due to consistent rain.

A group of volunteers has also sprayed paspalum under the direction of John Anderson and installed a seat on the ladies 16th tee.

“Since our last report we have lost two of our stalwart volunteers, Alan Cuman and Tony Austin, both who have moved to Rosebud and the Bellarine Peninsula respectively, “ he said.

“They have been longstanding contributors to our small team.

“We are always looking for enthusiastic members to join us and we can promise any member that joins us on a Thursday morning for two to three hours will not be overworked and will experience great camaraderie.

“An enjoyable morning tea will also be your reward.

“If anyone is interested in joining our team please contact Gavin in the Pro shop. “

*- Volunteer co-ordinators Tony Barlow, Mick McCrohan and Ross Black*

## FROM P1

Vearing said players were permitted to bring and use their own cart, however the one person per cart limit applied.

“The one person per cart limit applies unless both riders live in the same household and both

meet the criteria as listed,” he said.

He said one on one coaching could continue in a non-contact and socially distanced setting.

“Face masks are now mandatory, you must wear a mask to enter the Pro Shop, while on the premises

and while playing golf,” he said.

“Please arrive no more than 10 minutes before your hit off time and please leave immediately after your round finishes.

“There is also no socialising after the round permitted,” Vearing said.