

CHATZGOLF

2019 Edition

Fourth Quarter

CHATZ SOCIAL GOLF CLUB INC.

NEWS LETTER



FOURTH QUARTER REPORT

Another year comes to an end. Already! I think it is Newton's fifth law of dynamics that says: *The older you get, the faster times passes.* But one year ending means another starting and the new year will see a few changes for Chatz golf members.

Foremost, we will see our new golf shirts. These are a change of colour from grey to red with a more fashionable styling. We will definitely stand out more on the golf courses. If you can't be a golfer, at least look like one! And the Chatz logo looks great too against the red background. The support of the RSL club in sponsoring these shirts is much appreciated.

Next year will also see us increase the number of away games from 10 to 12. We are slotted in for an additional game at North Turramurra (making 2 games there). This is a little insurance towards Turra as a possible home course in the eventuality that GGC disappears, although there has been little said on that subject lately. And indications from the licensed club are that there is a future beyond 2023 when current leases are due to expire. Also, next year we have secured a scarce slot at Asquith. This venue is a little more expensive than normal Chatz away venues so it is very much a trial. Let's see how the course and the cost are received by the playing membership.

Following an AGM decision, the handicapping will change slightly next year. Henceforth, members who play to handicap (ie 36 points or nett par) will not receive the 0.2 addition to their handicaps. Those scores are now deemed to be handicap neutral.

There have been some comments about the number of scheduled games on the Chatz fixture list. For 2020, we have 21 homes games at GGC and 12 away games scheduled. Whilst this might seem a lot (the Constitution requires us to conduct at least 20 games per year) there is no requirement for people to play all those games. What that number does is provide ample opportunity for those who cannot play all the time but still be safe in the knowledge that a game is (probably) available when their circumstances permit. You can play as often or as little as you like and, if you wish, still be competitive in the various comps (eg. Eclectic, Pointscore, Challenge) conducted across the year. The fixture list is organised to avoid conflicts with long weekends, Mother's and Father's days, Easter and the Christmas period so unless you let your social life interfere too much with your golf, you should be able to cope.

Bushfires!!!

The key feature of this quarter has been the devastating and widespread fires, initially in Northern NSW and Southern Qld. but more recently and more devastatingly some are currently much closer to the city but fortunately none of our members have been seriously affected. The one fire in the inner Sydney city area flared up at South Turramurra (Tues 12th Nov) and actually caused the temporary closure of GGC as a precautionary measure. In the main, the quarter has simply been hot hot hot and getting hotter with precious little rain. Serious level 2 water restrictions (no hoses!) have now been





introduced.

And we saw the mini tornado hit the Gordon/Killara area on Tues 26th Nov. This caused widespread damage in the neighbourhood with many trees and large branches down with considerable house damage and power outages. The golf course was not spared and, playing the next morning (Wed warriors are nothing if not determined), we counted over 30 trees and substantial branches down. One very large sub-trunk of a Moreton Bay fig (behind the 11th green) crashed into the occupied classroom in Killara public school. Fortunately, and incredibly, no one was injured. The course was heavily affected but the club

quickly organised a working bee

Behind the 6th green

with their members

and, with the aid of some Council workers, had made a considerable difference in just a few hours.

Victories across this term were widely shared with Bruno Dalla-Palma, William Soo and Chris Bruton recording away wins at Peat's Ridge, Windsor and Moss Vale respectively. At home, the much improved greens at GGC saw wins to Allan Garrett (in a very reduced field) and Alex Manu breaking through for his first Chatz victory. Well done Alex! Let's hope the savage handicap cut spurs you on to more success. The 2 games in December were won by Mal Garrett and Gavin Fisher. Curiously, the four successive wins to Chris, Alex, Mal and Gavin were all with 43 points!

Eclectic Competition: The Eclectic this year didn't seem to be quite as close as last year but an eventful final round on 1st Dec saw that situation change and we did end up with a very tight finish. Going into the final round, Terence Cheong was on 45.75, Anthony Toh was on 46.50, Neil Vidler was 47.0 and Allan Garrett and Gavin Fisher had 47.50. On the day, Neil and Gavin both improved their nett score by 1 (with Gavin birdying the 5th) and the other three failed to improve. But TC's great 41 points on the day cost him dearly with an immediate 2 stroke handicap deduction (shades of Allan Garrett's similar finish last year at Moss Vale) and a consequent 1/2 point eclectic increase. With all other handicaps remaining the same, Neil had sneaked through onto 46.0 to win his first eclectic comp oh so narrowly from Terence who dropped back to 46.25 with Gavin moving up into equal third, joining Anthony on 46.5. Last year we saw 5 people within 1 point of the winning score, this year we had 4 players within half a point!



Neil finished with a nett score of 58 (1 eagle, 5 birdies, 12 pars to go with a final handicap of 16 while Terence finished on 59 (7 birdies, 9 pars, 2 bogies) and 17 handicap.

(Ken Charles won in 2018 on 43.75) (The full Eclectic table is available separately.)

Pointscore: Neil Vidler pulled off a unique double this year winning the Pointscore as well as the Eclectic. Despite missing 3 games in the quarter, Neil's 91 points saw him a clear winner from Terence Cheong on 71 with Laurie Benkovich and Anthony Toh sharing third with 69. Monty was a close fifth with 67 points.

(Allan Garrett won in 2018 with 73 pts) (The full point score table is available separately.)



Club Champions: Previously reported but worth mentioning

2019 Pointscorers

again here, at the Christmas lunch, our various club champions were awarded with their prizes and new freshly monogrammed shirts. A grade resulted in co-club champions for 2019 in Bruno Dalla-Palma and Anthony Toh. B grade champion was Neil Vidler with Danny O'Brien runner-up. C grade was taken out by Ken Charles with Col Loughlin runner-up. Ken's win was a reprise of his previous victory - 23 years ago - and he brought in the trophy to prove it!



Other awards:

Matchplay

Patron's Trophy

Encouragement



Participation: This calendar year we saw 468 games played on Sunday to almost match last year's participation rate of 472 (500 in 2017!). Twenty people played 10 times or more (19 in 2018) and Terence Cheong, Allan Garrett and Anthony Toh each played 30 games.

Looking at the 15 most active players throughout the year, 10 people managed to lower their handicaps. Graham Montgomery led the way reducing his handicap over the year by 4.4 strokes (20.3 to 15.9)! Most others were in the order of 0.8 to 2.4. Ken Charles led the blowouts with a 3.4 stroke increase in handicap but improved post season close-off. .

(Full handicaps are separately provided.)

Chatz Challenge: The fourth iteration of the Chatz Challenge saw a close-ish finish with the winners again not declared until the final round in Moss Vale. Proving that you can be politically incorrect and win, Bruno, Chris, Graham and Mal took out the teams' challenge, winning by 35 points. Good consistent scoring through the year coupled with the cunning ploy of tripling at the penultimate game and doubling at the ultimate (with the highest double up of the comp) saw them coast over the line. The singles challenge was a closer affair with 5 people finishing within 7 points of the winning score. In the end Laurie Benkovich prevailed courtesy of some consistent scoring in the mid-high 30s all year and his winning 'best six' represented an average of almost 36.

LAST OF THE SUMMER WINE GROUP

This year we saw the usual suspects reliably turning up early most Wednesdays. But we were joined this year by Graham Young and a more regular Trevor Kenneally and Gavin Fisher for the very last game. And occasionally a guest appearance or two. Again we saw some good weather throughout the year and I think we only lost 1 game through weather all year.

Neil Vidler managed to pull off the Pointscore double when he outlasted Terence Cheong to win this year's Wednesday's tally by just 3 points, 140 to 137. After 49 weeks of play that's close! Underlining how tight this year's contest was, Ken Charles was a very near 3rd on 133 points. Ken and Terence each played 41 times and Buddy Hyde was there on 37 occasions. We averaged just under 5 players per game for the entire year.

We drew a line under the year on Mon 16th Dec with another fine lunch and drinks at the Ipoh restaurant in the Chatswood RSL. A big thanks to Ken for his unstinting effort with the weekly tallies and handicaps and many thanks to Terence as our money man. And of course thanks to all who played to make it a most sociable and enjoyable year.

The new year battle commenced just 2 days later. We are certain not to lose many balls in the coming year since we will all have 2020 vision!

CHATZ HAPPENINGS

Members are reminded that on Saturday 8th February, 2020 Chatz Social Golf Club will be hosting a special dinner at the RSL to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the club. All members are invited to help celebrate this auspicious occasion. There will be some select invited guests and some activities (no raffles!) to complement the evening. More details will be forthcoming shortly for what promises to be a great night celebrating your club's longevity. Keep the date! Put it in your diary now!

As usual, we teed off a little earlier for our final match of the year on 8th Dec to let us get back to our annual Christmas lunch at the RSL. Following another great lunch, presentations were made to all the various competition winners across the year. Congratulations to all those winners and runners-up. (All separately reported).

Chatswood RSL again generously provided the venue and an excellent buffet lunch. On behalf of all members, the Chatz SGC committee extends its appreciation and thanks to the club for this generous contribution and especially for its continued valuable support throughout 2019. It is fair to say that Chatz would not be the club that it is without our parent club's fantastic support. To show appreciation, Chatz members are encouraged to provide maximum support to the RSL throughout the year and that includes club attendance and participating in our fund raising raffles!!!

From our 2019 Christmas lunch and awards:





And earlier in the day:



The Committee members of Chatz Social Golf Club wish all club members and their families a very merry Christmas and wish you all the very best for a safe, happy and prosperous golfing 2020.