

CHATZGOLF



2020 Edition

Fourth Quarter

CHATZ SOCIAL GOLF CLUB INC.

NEWS LETTER

FOURTH QUARTER REPORT

And so another year ends. One can say that it was a bastard of a year, certainly an unprecedented one: unprecedented bushfires, unprecedented epidemic, severe floods, widespread droughts, lost dreams and opportunities, significant unemployment and business failures, unprecedented government debt, several political scandals (nothing unprecedented there!), unprecedented travel restrictions, unprecedented lock downs.... and Laurie got his shirt embroidered. Now that's unprecedented!!!

But for Chatz it has been a reasonably successful year. We only lost 1 Sunday game because of weather (way back in February) but we were forced to cancel the usual Mittagong and Springwood games due to the onset of covid19. But, to partially compensate, we plugged in a scratch game at Balgowlah. For reasons not entirely clear, covid also meant the cancellation of the inaugural Asquith game but we replaced that with what proved to be a very popular Massey Park outing. Apart from those points, we managed to play through the pandemic. We welcomed a total of six new members (Cameron Bezer and Nick Young in May, Steven Tan in June, Connie Long and Robyn van Yzendoorn in October and Michael Singleton in November) and ex-member Don Garrett also joined in for a few games mid-year. But we have seen a couple of people fade from the scene and covid 19 meant a couple of others missed some or most of the year. As well, Danny did himself a nasty (you should come down a ladder at the same speed you go up!) and Jake and Vlad were laid low with physical problems. As well, 'father of the house' Graham Hadfield suffered a fall in October which saw him miss a few games.

Let's hope that 2021 is a better year for us all. At least, surely it couldn't be any worse than 2020. With most covid restrictions now eased, we should be able to look forward to a better year. Except, as we go to press, things are starting to deteriorate again.

Next year will see Chatz break with a long standing tradition and feature the club championships in Spring rather than Winter. This change will bookend the year with the matchplay comp at the start and the club championships at the end. Maybe the warmer weather will make the scoring and competition hotter. We'll be staying with Massey Park and trying again for a hit at Asquith. Better luck this time!



Despite the trials and tribulations, Chatz members played a total of 463 games, which was just a little down on last year. We averaged 15 at home and 15 for away games and therefore 15 overall. Our most popular game all year was the final hit-out on 13th Dec when 23 members played. Turra II in September was our best attended away game when we saw 20 play. The Challenge continues to be popular and provided good competition throughout and the various club competitions were all close.

Bruce, let me tell you about my tee shot on the 16th!

The term just past commenced with Mal Garrett racking up yet another win at Peat's Ridge. He does like that venue! Graham Young scored his maiden Chatz win when he won a tight game at Windsor and Neil Vidler followed his 2nd at Windsor with a narrow win at Moss Vale. Col Loughlin amazed all (not least himself) with 42 points for a win in the term's first home game with Graham Montgomery, Laurie Benkovic, Neil Vidler and Danny O'Brien also recording GGC wins.



That was close! It was windy on Nov 29th.

Eclectic Competition:

At the outset of this term, Mal Garrett and Col Loughlin posted some good scores to momentarily lead the way in the Eclectic comp. But those same good scores inevitably mean handicap penalties. Mal had a series of good scores and Col had that spectacular 42 to lower his handicap by 3 in one go! In the meantime Monty was quietly birdying holes to sneak through and by mid-October set up a lead and, while maintaining his friendly handicap, managed to hold it to win this year's comp on 44.5 with a net 58 (7 birdies and 11 pars). Second place was shared by Mal Garrett and Anthony Toh, both on 46 points and both with net 61s. Fourth was Gavin Fisher (46.75) with the year's best net score of 55. Neil Vidler was fifth, net 60 and 47.25.

(Neil Vidler won in 2019 on 46.0) (The full Eclectic table is available separately.)

Pointscore:

Jack Saliba had set up a narrow lead by end of September and whilst subsequently not adding to his win tally, he did play every game and scored a couple of minor placings to secure the narrowest of wins on 87 points. Neil Vidler had an excellent final term with 2 wins and a second to fall just 1 short on 86. (Shoulda played at Peat's Ridge!!!) Gavin and Terence shared 3rd place on 76 points while Allan Garrett squeaked into fifth on 67. (Neil Vidler won in 2019 with 91 pts) (The full point score table is available separately.)

Club Champions:

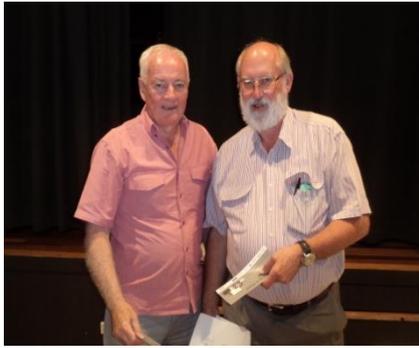


Other awards:

Matchplay

Patron's Trophy

Encouragement



Participation:

As mentioned previously, 2020 saw 263 games played on 32 Sundays. Wins across the year were well shared with 18 separate people recording a win. Allan Garrett was the best in this aspect with 4 separate wins while Jack Saliba, William Soo and Neil Vidler each had 3 wins. Dual wins were scored by Laurie Benkovich, Bruce McGregor and Graham Montgomery. Eighteen people played 10 or more games, 14 played more than 20 times and Terence Cheong, Allan Garrett and Jack Saliba topped the participation table, each playing 30 times.

Chatz Challenge:



As is the nature of the Challenge, it again went down to the wire this year and, in fact, was a very close finish in both the feature teams event and the singles. The Forewarning team (Benkovich/Fisher/Soo) hit the front in August and kept that lead despite a fast finish from the Sunshine Band (Charles/Vidler/Young) who rose from 5th to finish second just 5 points behind after the Moss Vale finale.

It was a similar story in the singles comp with Jack Saliba setting up a good lead in August courtesy of a great double up at Turramurra II. But it got very close and, on 280, Jack took just a 1 point advantage into the Moss Vale game. Despite Neil winning on the day, it was not quite enough and (after deductions) Jack held on to win 287 to Neil's 285 with Col so close on 284.

Challenge meister Monty confirmed it to be the closest finish in both the teams and singles events since the inception of this comp.



LAST OF THE SUMMER WINE GROUP



Another big year has seen the Wednesday Warriors demographic develop a few extra grey hairs accompanied by joint problems. That hill on the 13th does seem to get steeper each year! We had a good year but suffered a washout on the very last day - woe! a wicked wet wednesday warrior washout! In winning our points competition this year, Terence reversed last year's result with 7 point win on 136. The minor placings were close with Neil on 129 and Buddy on 124. So the wet finale possibly prevented a very close finish to rival last year. Keenest of the

group was TC who played 45 times with Buddy playing 43 games. A fine lunch at the Manchu restaurant at the RSL mid December topped off the year.

Another big thanks to Ken for his great efforts with the weekly tallies and handicaps and 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 2019 winner was Neil Vidler with 140 points.)

CHATZ HAPPENINGS

Following the retirement of Barry Fisher after a very long and meritorious time as President of the RSL club, Chatz member Garry Owen was elected unopposed as President at the October AGM.

Congratulations Garry! Garry is thus our new club patron.

The easing of covid restrictions meant that, unlike our earlier scheduled AGM, we were able to hold our traditional Christmas lunch and awards event. Since we were permitted to have a lunch, the management committee also decided to take advantage of the permitted gathering to hold something of an ad hoc AGM. With both the lunch and the abbreviated AGM there were some changes to the normal format but nevertheless they were both successful and enjoyable.

Chatswood RSL again generously provided the venue and a really excellent 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 2020. It is fair to say that Chatz would not be the club that it is without our parent club's fantastic support.

Following a great waiter service meal, presentations were made to all the various competition winners across the year. Congratulations to all those winners and runners-up. (All separately reported).

From our 2020 Christmas lunch and awards:



And earlier in the day:



Some thoughts to finish with:

Whilst the covid19 pandemic cut a swathe through most activities and decimated social life in Australia for much of this year, golf was the one activity that was able to continue (except in Victoria). Despite the Victorian shutdown, Golf Australia has reported a 126% surge in interest with more than 42,000 membership applications for the year until end of October. This would translate into a 5% rise in golf club membership across the country. So if you noticed a few extra players on the courses recently, that could be why.

And that's also why attempts by misguided politicians in several jurisdictions to reduce the size of golf courses should be resisted and called out for what it is: outright populism and a cheap attempt to cover their own mismanagement in not creating and mandating recreational areas in their electorates during rampant over-development. Golf is perhaps the only really active sport that can be enjoyed by all ages all year and provide much needed (for some) and valuable exercise at the same time. When one looks at the health benefits of golf it probably pays for itself in medical terms. Save our courses!!!

And penultimately:

Usually creating the annual fixture list is a relatively straightforward exercise. Mostly it means following the same as last year, adjusting for changing public holidays and long weekends, liaising whilst on site with the away venues, multiple phone calls and getting the list to GGC for approval about 18 months ahead to ensure we maintain our priority tee positions at our home venue. Moves

to get even a single extra game or other away venue can mean multiple adjustments to the overall list. It can be done but it's a little like changing the course of the Queen Mary. (Okay, the rubber dinghy in a swell!) Members can be assured that requests for variety are seriously considered but are often simply not possible. It is difficult to find a course with Sunday am slots available and in our price bracket! Next year's fixture list is a little more varied and crowded than usual so it will be interesting to see the membership reaction and acceptance (and participation!).

And finally:

Apropos the above, this year I had to do quite a bit of shuffling to get games and venues where we wanted and when we wanted with quite a number of venue changes and tee time alterations. I was particularly indebted to GGC pro shop manager Steve Edney in this regard. He was very tolerant with me through quite a few alterations to the original list. Also, it was Steve's initiative that got us the golf bags (for the Christmas raffle) and made a few alterations of his own to maintain our priority at GGC. His sense of humour might not appeal to all but he certainly does the right thing by Chatz.

The Committee members of Chatz Social Golf Club wish all club members and their families all the very best for a safe, happy and prosperous 2021 and good golfing.

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the Editor and not necessarily those of the Chatz Social Golf Club