



CHATZGOLF NEWSLETTER

Edition: 2022 - 4th Quarter

Well, finally we seem to have turned the corner, so to speak, with covid-19. October saw most restrictions lifted and reductions in the self-isolation periods. There are still a significant number of cases being reported but a high degree of normality seems to have been restored albeit with health professionals continuing to warn us of complacency. And China (where it all started way back in 2019) is seeing something of a resurgence in the disease with case numbers rising again and multiple cities in whole or partial lockdown. Their zero-tolerance policy is causing considerable angst for their population, certainly affecting their economy and causing not a few protests, unusual occurrences in China. Variations in the Omicron strain have seen infection increases recently in Australia but, so far, all manageable.

This quarter commenced in all too familiar fashion with our first game at GGC (9th Oct) cancelled because of the weather. But since then, all scheduled fixtures were played.

It was interesting to play at Windsor on 30th Oct. This is one of our favourite venues and we were keen to see how the course shaped up after the deluges and floods earlier in the year and the long-term closure of the course because of them. Members were impressed with the way the course came back although the very furry (and very slow) greens were difficult to judge. The few mud pans around didn't affect play too much and the pink stake cart path guidance system with the new GPS controlled carts is ensuring the fairways are being left to recover as quickly as possible.

Also in October, 8 members played another game at Asquith in their annual Legacy charity day event.



On a lovely dry spring day in October, six Chatz golfers headed to play at Asquith for their annual Legacy charity event. The last time we were at Asquith it was a rain soaked, shortened course, but on Friday 21st October the sun was shining, and all holes were in play. Each pair of Chatz players were coupled with 2 Asquith members and we took on the course in a 4 ball best ball ambrose competition, along with mystery holes (that is the hole was outside the green!), nearest the pins and longest drives. The course was challenging, long (thank you for the carts) but picturesque and the company enjoyable. In true Chatz style, Bruce and Kathy took a second-place finish and Gav took out the longest drive on the 11th. The day was long, and we will never know if we won the meat raffle as we headed home – weary but delighted to have been part of a special day, raising money for a worthy course.





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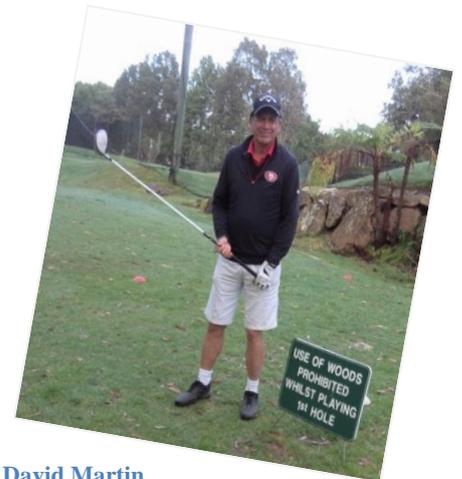


Our membership received a further boost this quarter with yet another Lane Cove member joining us. Phil Dennis made his presence felt immediately in his first game with Chatz at Windsor despite, by his own admission, not playing all that well. He did, however, score when it counted and combined well with Neil Vidler for second placing in the 2ball multiplier on the day. That same day, another 'newbie', David Martin, made good use of his brand new Chatz handicap to take out the individual score with 40 big ones! Hmm, perhaps the handicapper needs a second and closer look here!



Phil Dennis, Greg Curby, Jacky Chan

And in November, our numbers rose still further when a friend of TC's, Jacky Chan joined us. Jacky has already played 2 GGC rounds so that prized Chatz handicap is not far away. But wait, there's more: Greg Curby has also joined us playing a first game in late December. Welcome Greg.



David Martin

Our 33 scheduled games for the year saw 9 games lost, either through weather washouts (5) or course closures (4). Most of the remaining 24 games were well attended although, for a couple, attendance was low because of weather and/or course conditions. Average for home games was 16.2 and for away games 15.4. So overall, we averaged 15.9, a pretty good result given the conditions throughout the year. With increasing membership and better weather, we should see a steady improvement in playing numbers for 2023.





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COMPETITIONS

Club Championships

Finally, we completed our 2021 club championships. We first teed off in this comp on 17th October, '21 so it took almost 13 months to complete. Having played 3 rounds way back when, Neil Vidler led narrowly from Jack Saliba. Gavin Fisher & Danny O'Brien were a little further back, as was Graham Hadfield. Unfortunately, Danny and Graham were unable to play the fourth round so it became a 3-horse race. Neither Neil nor Jack played at their previous level (both carding high scores) but Gavin put himself right in the mix with a great 79 off the stick on the day. However, Neil held on to be club champion for 2021 with 238 (best 3 of 4) from Gavin on 241 with Jack third on 242.



B Grade proved to be even tighter, and we finished with a 3 way tie. After 3 rounds, Terence Cheong led by 4 with Allan Garrett and Anthony Toh equal second. TC faded to post his worst score whilst Allan and Anthony both improved on their previous best with rounds. So 254 was the B Grade final score, shared by all three.



There were only 2 contestants in C Grade and, with Graham Young not playing the final round, Col Loughlin carried his 3-point lead to victory.

It was an all-ladies affair in D Grade. Having missed an earlier round, Connie long needed her top game to push Robyn van Yzendoorn and whilst she did manage to make it a contest on the day, it wasn't quite enough, and Robyn is our D Grade champ for 2021.





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That round was also the opening round (after 2 postponements) of the 2022 club championships and since then another 2 have been played. Currently we see Mike Singleton leading with 239 and Gavin Fisher second on 246. The 4th round will be all important. It's close in B Grade with Anthony Toh 266 narrowly leading Allan Garrett on 268. In C grade, Kathy Fraser has established a lead on 303 while in D Grade Robyn van Yzendoorn leads on 315. Let's hope this '22 comp sees a speedier conclusion than last year's! With just 1 round to go, we should manage it!

Pointscore:

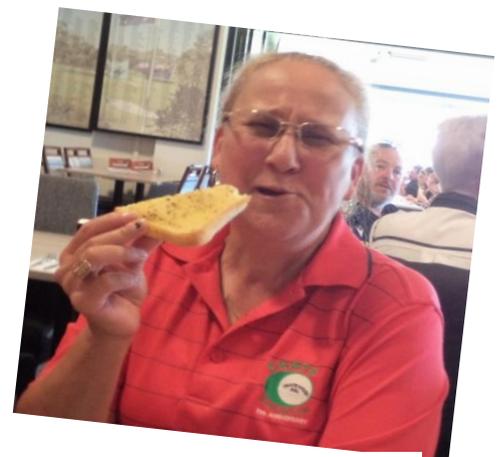
Scores were low again this year because of all the cancellations. Nevertheless, competition was strong and the award for most consistent player goes to Steven Tan who carded several wins and other high placings for a final tally of 68 points. Congratulations Steven. Second was Laurie Benkovich close on 64. Kathy Fraser, Chris Bruton and Terence Cheong filled in the minor placings. (The 2021 winner was Neil Vidler on 62 points) (The full pointscore table is available separately)

Eclectic:

Eclectic scores also reflected the shortage of games and hence the opportunities to post really low scores. But Laurie made the most of that available to record a creditable score of 49.25 to score the narrowest of wins from Allan Garrett on 49.50. Bruce McGregor was right in it too finishing on 49.75. Graham Hadfield finished fourth (51.25) with Kathy Fraser on 51.75. (The 2021 winner was Neil Vidler with 48.75) (The full eclectic table is available separately)

Chatz Challenge:

The Chatz Challenge usually goes down to the wire; that's the nature of this comp. This year Kathy Fraser held the narrowest of leads over Steven Tan going into the last round at beautiful Moss Vale. Whilst Steven comfortably outscored her on the day, Kathy combined a little better with her partner to post a winning score of 330. Chris Bruton made a late charge to push Kathy all the way and finished a very close second on 328 points. Steven held onto his podium spot with 323 but only just as Dave Martin (322) and Terence Cheong (321) also finished strongly. Only 9 points between first and fifth! Even for this comp, that's close.



Toasting a win !





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LAST OF THE SUMMER WINE GROUP

As usual, the Wednesday warriors finished their competition year early in December with the last game played on Wed 7th. Terence Cheong led almost from the start this year for a 'threepeat' and finished with 113 points, a good score considering how few games were played. Buddy Hyde came in second on 95 with Bruce McGregor on 55. The low number of games played because of the twin ravages of covid and the weather reflected an even greater disruption to the playing schedule than our Sunday colleagues. We are looking forward to better luck in 2023.

(The 2021 winner was Terence Cheong with 101 points.)

Big round of thanks to KC for continuing to post our weekly scores and tally despite being unable to play himself. And TC has maintained the books and the money throughout the year again.

CHATZ HAPPENINGS

Following her election as Publicity Officer at the August Annual General Meeting, Connie long has been hard at work doing a little modernising and IT upgrading of your golf club. Thanks to her initiative, we now have much better presentation on the RSL web site with a generic email contact address. This email site (chatzgolfclub@gmail.com) is also intended to provide intra-club communication. We have also removed individual officers' details in the interests of privacy and to obviate potential identity theft. 2023 will also see your newsletter in a slightly different, more modern format. Connie has also taken over management of our facebook page. And, in future, our officer reports to the AGM will also feature a standardised format. Thanks Connie.



For our annual Christmas celebrations, 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 2022. It has to be said 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).

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 2023 and good golfing.

