

Breakfast of (for?) champions



Our penultimate game for 2023 saw yet another new(ish) member receive the prized Chatz shirt upon achieving her handicap. On this occasion it was Vivien Lindsay looking resplendent in Chatz red and Vivien joins the D grade ranks with a 39 handicap. That makes 10 new members this year to get shirty. If this keeps up, we might have to get Tony Abbott in to help after he's done with Mr. Putin of course.

COMPETITIONS

Pointscore

Basically the 2023 pointscore comp was a 2 horse race. Graham Montgomery leapt out of the blocks in the 1st term to shade Kathy Fraser by 6. By mid-year Kathy had caught up and they shared the lead on 45 points. By the end of term 3 Kathy had surged ahead by 17 leaving everyone in her wake. Despite missing some games through his medical sabbatical, Graham made up a little ground during the last quarter but Kathy is our clear points champion for 2023 with an 89 points tally. Despite a last round win, Graham was forced to settle for second on 75. Laurie Benkovich and Terence Cheong tied for third on 70 and Greg Bax was fifth on 62 completing a very satisfactory first year with Chatz. Kathy's consistent scoring featured 4 wins, 2 seconds and 3 thirds. She had a purple patch mid-year with 2 firsts and 3 thirds in 6 games to establish what proved to be an insurmountable lead. Across the year, Graham showed consistent form too with 3 wins and 3 second placings. For first places, Terence shared that honour with Kathy on 4 wins for the year.

(The 2022 winner was Steven Tan on 68 points) (The full point score table is available separately)



Eclectic Competition

The Eclectic comp this year proved to be one of the most interesting ever. Across the year we had 4 different leaders with other positions changing considerably as scores improved and handicaps altered. Our winner moved from 5th place in March to 2nd place in June, slipped back to 4th place in September and then into the lead, improving his score in the meantime from 54.00 to 46.75. Congratulations to Anthony Toh, Eclectic winner for 2023. Our second placegetter, David Martin put up a valiant effort, leading at one stage and was always in the picture despite a severe mid-year handicap cut which saw his 48.25 lead score drop to 50.5 but impressively, he then recovered to 47.75. This score was shared by Laurie Benkovich who was equal second after term 1 only to drop out of the top 5 altogether by mid-year and then recover to second and then stay there to share the silver medal with Dave. Previously described as a dark horse, Chris Bruton came from nowhere to lead at the three-quarter point but only marginally improved thereafter and was overtaken finishing equal fourth on 49.00. Bruce McGregor was an even darker horse through the year. His 54.00 was good enough for 4th from the outset but then he disappeared altogether towards the back of the field until the home straight when he surged again to finish with a final score of 49.00 to join Chris on 4th place.

(The 2022 winner was Laurie Benkovich with 49.25) (The full Eclectic table is available separately)

Club Championships



After a one round delay due weather, our annual club championships wrapped up on 3rd Dec. Mike Singleton followed up last year's win with 3 rounds in the 70s, including a fine opening 72. His 226 bettered Graham Hadfield who was very consistent with two 80s and a 79. In B grade it was a little closer with both Steven Hipsley and Anthony Toh each posting scores in the mid 80s. However, Steve's 254 just shaded Anthony by 3 strokes. Patrick Chye was relatively untroubled in C grade with a final 285 to beat Steve Grace by 10 shots. Congratulations to our club champions for 2023.

CHATZ CHALLENGE

The '23 Challenge was one of the most exciting and closest yet. Monty has fully reported elsewhere on the outcome and how the podium was filled. Suffice here to say congratulations to Robyn van Yzendoorn - and her various partners across the year - for her win. As she said herself: "Team work makes the dream work". But to quickly recap: Robyn won by the narrowest possible margin on 355 from Dave Martin on 354 with Kathy Fraser on 353. So close! And for the record, Chris Bruton was fourth on 347 with Anthony Toh on 343.



The Challenge concluded with our final away game for the year at Moss Vale. MVGC is one of our favourite venues and this year it turned on a perfect day with the course as good as we have ever seen it. Twenty members joined in, some posted some good scores and all enjoyed a raucous lunch after.



A keen observer on the par 3 11th.

CHATZ HAPPENINGS

Chatz was again represented (this year by 7 members) at the Legacy charity golf day as Asquith GC on Fri 20th Oct. A 12 noon shotgun hit off in perfect golf conditions saw a field of well over 100 players compete.

The day's stroke event was won by a fourball on a group handicap of just 6! Their score was 12 under par for a net 52! Chatz Team Bezer/Cheong/DGarrett/Vidler recorded a 1 under for a net 58 to be not too far off the pace. Team Bax/Fraser/van Yzendoorn came in with ... a few more! We didn't win anything on the course but afterwards Neil won a slab of beer – apparently for eating a sausage pre-game. This is a good day out and for \$70, including a feed after, it was a great day for a good cause. Keep it in mind for next year.



Photo credit: Terence (Fuzzy) Cheong.

MOVEMBER MASTERS

Dave Bezer reports:

On November 14th, 2023, the inaugural Movember Masters was held at Royal North Turramurra Golf Course. The weather was perfect, the course was in superb condition. There were 72 starters including 18 Chatz members.

We played a four ball Ambrose event for the Yogi Cup in memory of former Chatz and RSL Club President Garry "Yogi" Owen.

On the day, Kathy Fraser's UnderParfect team (Kath, husband Andrew, Simon Cook and the effervescent Laurie Benkovich) were winners with a net 52.1 beating Team Bang (which included David Kalcher & Chris Moran) by 0.3 of a stroke.

Team JDS (Jack Saliba) had the best scratch score with 60. Other notable mentions are Laurie's eagle on hole 3, Jacky's NTP on hole 15 and Danny's NTP on Hole 14.

A great day that raised \$4,100 for the Movember Foundation.

LAST OF THE SUMMER WINE GROUP

Your Wednesday Warriors revel in the early starts during this final quarter after daylight saving kicks in. Across the year we averaged a healthy 5+ players every week but that figure increased to almost 7 in the last couple of months. Compared to 2022, we have also been blessed with much better

weather this year and lost only a couple of Wed games including, unfortunately, our last for the year.

It's been good to see Ken Charles re-join the group on a regular basis following his knee operation but we lost Jacky '10 holes' Chan in December as he has transferred to Hong Kong with his family. Terence Cheong has also gone missing from the Wed ranks following his house move to Schofields and joining Stonecutters GC. At 6am, 5 minutes is an easier drive than 40 minutes! RvY also became a semi-regular mostly playing 10 holes, but then hi ho, hi ho, off to work she'd go! And we still remember the morning she scored 27 points just for the front 9.

As usual, the year-long pointscore contest wound up mid-December and this year we saw Neil Vidler head the table with 139 points from 32 games. Coming in second was the ever steady Buddy Hyde on 108 points from 37 games. Over a 44 week program, we played a total of 226 games with seeing 16 different players and 11 different winners.

Thanks again to KC for maintaining the weekly records and handicapping and to first TC and then Buddy for the financials. The year's play will be celebrated with a lunch in January. Here's to 2024!

Looking back at 2023:

It would be fair to say that 2023 was a bumper year for Chatz social golf club. Now seemingly past the tribulations of covid and generally blessed with good conditions (we only lost 3 games all year through weather), we saw 10 new members join the ranks, average playing numbers well up and closely contested competitions. Our membership now is well into the forties with a very consistent participation. Twenty-seven members played 10 or more games and we saw 18 different winners with 4 first time winners.

Across the year, we played 652 games averaging almost 22 people per game. At GGC we averaged 22.3 players and away games averaged 20.4. Our best attended game was the last for the year (10th Dec at GGC) when 29 played (and then over 30 attended the Christmas lunch). We also saw 28 members at the NTM game in July. For unknown reasons, our least popular game was at beautiful Blackheath with just 18 players. No eagles or holes-in-one were scored on Sundays but our Wed group managed two aces.

On the playing front, the only real downer during the year was the need to apply priorities to game participation. Caused by the embarrassment of riches through increased membership, the need to prioritise tee slots caused headaches and considerable coordination (and badgering) with the GGC pro in particular. Fortunately, on most occasions we were able to gain some additional tee times and the members who missed out on a Sunday hit were

few. With the re-negotiated slots for 2024, this problem should now be behind us.

Sadly, May saw the passing of long term member and club Patron, Garry Owen. RIP Garry.

Looking forward to 2024:

There are a few things to look out for next year. Massey Park proved popular in '23 (check the CC scores!) so we have again slotted in 2 games. We return to Springwood following this year's absence. Unfortunately, we couldn't get a suitable booking for Asquith but it has been replaced by a mystery venue. This will be a closely guarded secret until (very) close to the event but we can say that it is a course that suits all provided you have validity on your passports because (for some) it



The 8th green & fairway at GGC looking a picture!

requires crossing the bridge! We'll be back at Asquith in '25. We move up to 5 games at NTM, one of which is on Easter Sunday. We have never previously booked an Easter game but some people do seem keen to take advantage of the holiday to play and it was one of the few available slots open to us at NTM. What all this means is that we have 35 games scheduled for next year: 19 at home at GGC, 5 at NTM and 11 away games plus the Hunter Valley weekend. Hopefully that's enough quantity and quality to satisfy.

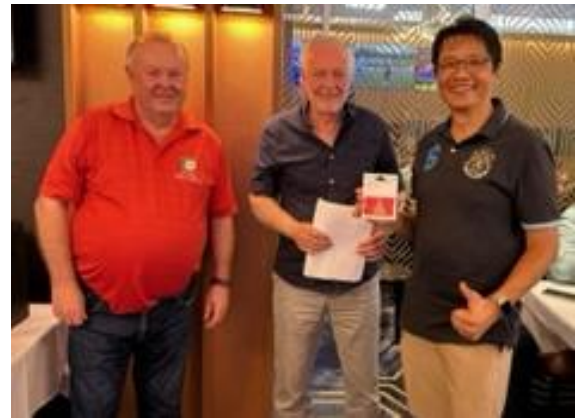
For all but 2 games at GGC, we have been able to increase the bookings to 7 slots, ie 28 players. That should obviate the need for priorities but also, let's hope that the playing numbers stay up (and in fact increase a little) to justify this late re-arrangement to the bookings.

And we'll be in different buses next year following a change in companies.

Sadly(?) you won't see much of your secretary/editor over the next 2 quarters. I will be away overseas for 3 months on 2 separate trips. Your popular Starter Robyn van Yzendoorn has agreed to step up into the secretarial role with our assistant handicapper Greg Bax assuming the handicapper duties during my absence. Please give Robyn & Greg every assistance and consideration as you would me. Assistant Starter Dave Bezer will take over RvY's starter duties. Thanks to all three for filling in.

And so another year ends. Following are some pics from our very enjoyable and well attended Christmas lunch and awards ceremony on 10th Dec.

Happy New Year to all members.





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



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