



9 December 2018

Heritage Room, CHP RSL

Christmas Party and Presentation

59 members and partners along with our Patron's and Director's with partners gathered in the Heritage Room for the Annual Event which is our grand Golf Club's Christmas Party and Presentation of the Trophies for our Club Champions and Runner-ups

All the preparations had been completed for the arrival of all from 1.00/1.30pm. Brendan Carroll our music man with the green axe was all set to entertain us with his special brand of music from soothing songs to set the mood on your arrival, to Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer and Jingle Bells when Santa arrived and then ramp it up after the Trophies had been presented for some dancing.

Ron had prepared a PowerPoint display on the dropdown screens of all his photos taken on and around the golf courses and shows and do's that members had attended from 2008 through to 2018. Next year Mal Tyler has a few photos from 2003, so when I get hold of them I'll add them to the nostalgic photographic tour that is displayed on the screen through the day. Neville Brown asked could I send him a copy of when Beverley had her foot in a moon boot and was up on the dance floor bopping away

When all had arrived and found their seats, Ron welcomed all that were in the room, Didn't Sifa look smart in his green shirt, with his children and three grand-children in tow, and seated with Troy Wilks, Monica and his 3 kids. The children were great and a throw-back to years gone by of "seen and not heard". Well done kids as sometimes an adult's day can be boring for young kids. Three games of Heads and Tails also breaks up the monotony of all speeches not only for the kids but all in the room, for a bit of fun

During Ron's welcome, people were wondering who the two Chinese, two Greeks, (really one wasn't from Marrickville), and the two Hungarian's were, sorry that should have been, one Hungarian, one Czechoslovakian, one Italian, etc and as a speech writer I had to use some alternative facts to embellish the story of a diverse group we are, to go with the Noah's Ark theme of my opening remarks.

It was time for the buffet lunch and wasn't the ham and turkey succulent with all sorts of veggies and salads .As President I got to jump into the head of the queue, as I had to eat then transform into a different identity, Big Red so to speak.

During lunch, George thought I was having him on when I told him that Steve Baker's partner was "Wendy" and he said stop adding to the myth of most ladies in the Golf Club are called Wendy. George then took over and announced the winners of the hams at Chatswood and presented the vouchers for 4th and 5th placings. George then started up the singing of Jingle Bells and Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer by the assembled revellers, which was the cue for Santa to arrive with the jingling of the reindeer's bells. Santa then gave the kids some candy canes and chocolates from his Santa bag before checking out if everyone had been Naughty or Nice. Santa's helper then gave all the Golf Club Members a Christmas bag with the new Golf Club cap along with the New Golf Rules that come into effect on the 1st January, 2019 as well as the CHP RSL Golf Club "Year of Golf 2018" booklet .What a great effort Joanne puts into the publishing of the summary of the events the members do during the year

While this was occurring Roger Harriman sang "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas" before Santa bid the room good bye and was off to the North Pole to prepare for Christmas Eve. The questionnaire stumped a few as they searched for answers among the members seated at their table or you had to get up and seek answers from other tables. Jimmy Yip isn't an engineer but he is a Project Manager, and John Kottaridis and Ellen van Dam have accumulated many frequent flyer points.

Laurie McMartin did for a short period of time, work for the Railways but the intended answer was John Parsell and Denis Carruthers was a mechanic before working 10 years as a metal roofer, while Gary Pleasance has a big Blue Mercedes Buses along with Volvos in his garage at work



After dessert, and you were lucky if you got a lamington or a chocolate éclair if you got in before Joanne and Laurie. It was time for the Presentation of the array of trophies on the table. John Crowhurst, CHP RSL President had a few words before presenting the Championship Trophies with Keith Johnson taking the top A Grade gong for 2018, with Laurie McMartin and Greg Parsell winning multiple Trophies each this year

As usual, to break up the day, next it was Heads and Tails, with the first round no winner declared as neither picked the appropriate call, so our next round we doubled the prize and Sifa's daughter won four bottles of wine. The third round of Heads and Tails finished the same way as the first round but as we would have another round gave a bottle each to Mary Lu and I think it was Anna Oriti.

We asked Steve Baker to present the next round of trophies, followed by Neville Brown and Lee Fitzgerald but somehow I missed Michelle Boon and had to apologies to her for not getting her up to present the newest of the Perpetual Trophies for the Best Ladies Golfer as we now have nine Ladies playing. My suggestion of calling the Trophy, for Ladies was the "36 B Cup" 36 being Par, B Cup was self explanatory but was deemed to be far too inappropriate so we settled on "The Best Lady Golfer" Perpetual Trophy. Joanne Kinkead won this trophy with 2 wins and contesting B Grade in the Championships followed closely by Robin Ricketts with a win and also winning the Achievement Award. There is no substance to the rumour that the girl's modelled for their caricature trophies, not a bag of concrete in sight. All the caricature trophies were a great hit with the kids in the room, and that's not only the one's under twelve year's of age.

We had 20 raffle prizes ranging from a golf bag, ball retriever, golf towels, to wine, cake and biscuits, to two half hams so if you didn't win a ham at Chatswood you had two chances in the raffle. My \$20 worth of tickets resulted in Joanne pipping me both times when Blue tickets in the 90's got drawn out, with the tickets well stirred up and all colours and numbers being drawn out. Gary Morrison won the Galway Port and gave the bottle to Brendan, Joanne Kinkead and Kathy Ferguson taking the hams and Fiona Bruhns the first ticket drawn took the golf bag. Mary Lu Harriman took the ball retriever so Roger can challenge John Kottaridis in the art of ball retrieving from murky waters

The questionnaire on Golf Members and people in the room had a few people stumped, especially "Who was the Sweetie in the room", with the answer in my President's Report at the very beginning of the Year of Golf Booklet, thanking the Staff and Venue Co-ordinator Glenda Sweet, our Sweetie. People with double letters was 17, a few more than Troy Wilk's estimate of four, one being Glenn with his double NN's. Laurie McMartin had the most correct and won two bottles of wine. By the way Wendy's middle name was "Joy" a fitting reminder of Christmas and Joy to the World at this time of the year

The day was going so fast and next was some dancing to top off a great day and a big thanks to Brendan Carroll and his brand of music to fit our Golf Club Party requirements. All of a sudden it was 6.00pm, time for the Perpetual Trophies to go back into the Trophy Cabinet only to come out and be dusted off for the occasion next year

We have another game before we wind it up for the year at Muirfield G.C. 16th December 2018 7.30am Barclay Road, North Rocks Par 69 5644 metres Stableford The Committee wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year if I don't see you at Muirfield and our first game next year , 2019 is at Bardwell Valley G.C. 20TH January ,2019 7.30pm.

The Bearded One