



# Byron Bay Golf Club

AUSTRALIA

# 2024

ANNUAL  
REPORT

A Company Limited by Guarantee  
ABN 62 001 043 205



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# **BYRON BAY GOLF CLUB**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – MINUTES**

Held at Byron Bay Golf Club 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023

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**Meeting Commenced 6.06pm.**

**Chair:** John Hertzberg (Acting President)

**Minutes Secretary:** Shaun Breheny

**Apologies:** Chris Barto, Pete Sinclair, Zane Stewart

**Voting members present** = 105 Member attendees

**6/8 Board members (one vacant position), 3 Staff (SB, SCh & SCr)**

**Welcome to Country – Paul Bird**

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### **Published Agenda Items:**

#### **1. Welcome and opening of the AGM**

John Hertzberg welcomed Members to the 2023 AGM and officially opened the meeting. He introduced the Board Members and the key management staff and informed the meeting that a quorum was satisfied and that the meeting was being recorded.

#### **2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from:

Chris Barto, Pete Sinclair, Zane Stewart

#### **3. Motion to receive and confirm the minutes of AGM on 12 December 22**

Moved: Adrian Bell, Seconded: Steve Parker

Motion Carried

#### **4. To receive, consider and adopt the 2023 Annual Financial Report**

Moved: John Hill, Seconded: Adrian Bell

Motion Carried

**John Hertzberg** thanked **Tim Finlayson** (MF Partners, Ballina, external Club Auditor) for his attendance. Tim commented that from an audit perspective he is pleased to report an unqualified audit opinion and was pleased with the financial position of the Club. Tim thanked the work of **Shaun Breheny** and his team and was pleased to report an unqualified audit opinion.

**John Hertzberg** introduced the topics of interest from the annual report.

**Shaun Breheny** presented information on the 2023 financial year result followed by the improvements to the Member experience.

**Jeff Rake** presented information:

- Future fund update
- 2023 Highlights
- Carts – first year performance
- 5-year Board financial report card

John Hertzberg then informed the meeting, that for the benefit of timing, item 6 (life membership resolutions) would be moved prior to item 5 (election of Directors).

## **6. Life Membership Resolutions**

**John Hertzberg** presented information about the Life Membership nominations, being **Rob Macmillan** and **Judy Priest** and stated that the vote result would be determined by acclamation.

The life membership nominations were passed for both **Rob Macmillan** and **Judy Priest**, who both then gave a brief thank you speech.

## **5. To declare the results of the election of the Directors of the Company**

The 2022/2023 Directors vacate their positions for re-election and the Directors were thanked for their contribution.

As a result of the nomination process held before the AGM, there were more nominations than positions available and as such, a vote is required.

All nominations presented a 2-minute profile. All nominations who were elected unopposed (**Paul Clark** and **Steve Anderson**) were not required to present. **Pete Sinclair's** nomination information was read by **Bruce Westwood** as **Pete Sinclair** was absent. Following these presentations there were no questions raised by meeting attendees.

Members were then asked to complete voting cards which were collected by the Returning Officer (Judy Priest and Kevin Banauch).

There was a break in the meeting whilst the vote counting occurred. Members were then called back into the meeting after the vote count was complete.

John Hertzberg announced the elected Board of Directors for 2023/2024 as:

President – Gary Charles, Vice-President – Paul Clark,  
Captain – Steve Anderson, Vice-Captain – James Barnes,  
Directors – Pete Sinclair, Deb Stewart, Shane Wilson, Gary Whitelock, & Bruce Hammond

**Gary Charles** (as the new President) was asked to Chair the remainder of the meeting.

**7. To transact any other business that may be brought forward in accordance with the company's constitution or the Corporations Act 2001.**

**Gary Charles** thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for voting. He asked the meeting attendees for any questions. Gary also moved a motion that all voting records be destroyed which was accepted.

**Dave Mulley** asked for the names of the newly elected Directors for which **John Hertzberg** responded.

No other questions were asked.

**Gary Charles closed the meeting at 8:26pm.**



# Byron Bay Golf Club

AUSTRALIA

## Notice of Annual General Meeting

### BYRON BAY GOLF CLUB LIMITED

Notification is hereby given to all Full Playing Members of the Byron Bay Golf Club Ltd that the Annual General Meeting of the above Club is to be held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 6.00 pm to transact the following business:

1. Welcome and Opening of the AGM
2. Apologies
3. Confirm the minutes of the AGM held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023
4. To receive and consider the year ending 30 September 2024 Financial Report. (Members can access a hard copy of the financial report from the administration office during business hours available 21 days prior to the AGM. Members can access an electronic copy of the Financial Report through the Club's website ([www.byronbaygolfclub.com.au](http://www.byronbaygolfclub.com.au)) on the "news" page and in the footer section of each page, also available 21 days prior to the AGM). Any questions in regard to the content of these reports is to be submitted in writing to the Manager seven days prior to the AGM to enable a well-considered response to be made at the meeting.
5. To declare the results of the election of the Directors of the Company

(NB: nominations for the Board open on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2024. See Administration for a nomination form and to arrange a time to meet with the Club Manager to discuss the duties, roles, responsibilities, and skills of a prospective Board Member. Nominations close on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024. In the event a vote is required, members will be able to vote at notified times in the 7 days prior to the AGM)

6. To consider and, if thought fit, pass the Life Membership Resolutions appearing under the heading “Life Membership Resolutions.”
7. To transact any other business that may be brought forward in accordance with the company’s constitution or the Corporations Act 2001.

By order of the Board of Directors,

**Bjorn Peterson**

**President**

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### **Life Membership Resolutions**

1. To consider, and if thought fit, to pass the following Resolution to elect Mr Reginald (Reg) Wallis as a Life Member of the Club:

“That Mr Reginal Wallis is elected as a Life Member of the Club in recognition of his long and meritorious service”

2. To consider, and if thought fit, to pass the following Resolution to elect Mr Mark Wilson as a Life Member of the Club:

“That Mr Mark Wilson is elected as a Life Member of the Club in recognition of his long and meritorious service”

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### **Explanatory Notes – Life Membership Resolutions**

1. The Board has resolved to recommend Mr Reginald Wallis and Mr Mark Wilson for election to Life Membership of the Club under Rule 10.38 of the Club’s Constitution in recognition of their long and meritorious service.
2. Under Rule 10.36 of the Club’s Constitution a person may be elected as a Life Member at the Annual General Meeting
3. Life Membership Resolution will be passed if at least three-quarters majority of those eligible members present and voting at the meeting, cast their vote in favour of the Resolution
4. Life Members and financial playing members are entitled to vote on the resolution, with the exception of Junior members, Cadet members, Social members, Corporate members, Sponsor Corporate members, Tourist playing members and Limited Golf playing members.



## President's Report

With little over two months in the role as President, I feel somewhat underqualified and overwhelmed with the task of providing a synopsis of the past year at Byron Bay Golf Club.

I suppose I would use the analogy of a rollercoaster ride to describe the past 12 months; there have been exhilarating highs, followed by regrettable lows; periods of excitement and joy, followed by periods of uncertainty and trepidation. Though never a smooth ride, 2024 has perhaps had more ups and downs than any time in recent memory.

Last financial year was a record result and this positive performance continued through the first quarter (Oct-Dec) of 2024. Golf activity and functions activity were strong and there was significant performance momentum.

Fast forward nine months, and the Board has experienced unprecedented Director turnover, dissatisfaction from some members and unbudgeted legal expenses. Ultimately, this is why I am tasked with writing the President's report, having been nominated as a Director, but not elected at the December 2023 AGM. Gary Charles was duly elected as the Club President and, along with eight other Directors, aspired to continue the positive trend of Club performance. However, for a variety of reasons, Gary and seven other Directors have resigned in the past year, leaving the Board at times fragmented, distracted and forced to devote time and resources to issues unrelated to our core Club activities. I was asked to rejoin the Board and felt compelled to, once again, offer my time to help wherever I could.

Whilst there are some Club issues that are not yet resolved, I would like to thank all Directors who have offered their time to help guide the Club in the best way they could. What has been evident throughout my time, is the obvious level of passion that members have for their Club. All Clubs have members with differing opinions, and we are no different. This offers the benefit of a variety of ideas and viewpoints, but can also cause friction and division between some of the divergent segments of the Club. Ultimately, I hope our Club can put these differences aside to work together for the betterment of the Club and continue to make Byron Bay Golf Club the jewel in the crown of the Northern Rivers golfing community.

I would like to thank the all Directors who have served this year, with special mention to Ralf Pelz, Andrew Preistley, Sam Leo and Fiona Grigg, who have put their hands up to assist in guiding the Club through challenging times. Finally, I would like to acknowledge and express gratitude to Peter Sinclair for his 17 years of service as a Director and 12 years as Club Captain. His countless hours of hard work, dedication and undertaking many of the thankless tasks are truly appreciated and have made a significant contribution to the improvement of the Club.

Whilst FY24 has been a successful year, there were various headlines that I believe are worth highlighting:

- Purchase of a new pump, which should easily take care of the future irrigation requirements of the course.
- Completion of the 16th hole, which is now testing our golf skills as well as improving our water management capabilities
- The running of the Club's junior clinic program which has now also extended into a developing relationship with the Byron Bay High School

I wish to thank the significant support made by our sponsors, contractors and volunteers. The running of a successful golf club is dependent on these generous contributions. Finally, a huge thank you to our dedicated staff, with special mention to the management team of Shaun Breheny, Sue Charles and Shaun Cross, who work tirelessly to make our Club a brilliant place to visit and play golf, for members and visitors alike.

**Kind Regards**

**Bjorn Peterson**

**President on behalf of the BBGC Board**

## Captain's + Course Chairman's Report

### GENERAL

Reflecting on composing my 13th Captains report, after unexpectedly resuming Captain duties in July, following Director resignations, this report will at least be briefer compared to previous lengthy reports.

Our 2024 Golfing calendar was thankfully a little quieter after hosting/co-hosting 3 Golf NSW events during 2022/2023, with our everdiligent Superintendent Shaun Cross, always keen to present the course in its best possible condition for major events and the greens considerably quicker than "normal" weeks.

Our major course project of 2023, the remodeling of the 16<sup>th</sup> hole, opened in mid-December to some fanfare with an official ribbon cutting ceremony and those members present participated in a putting contest to mark the occasion. Great result with huge inputs from course crew and some vollies putting in major efforts. BBGC Member Ian Ridges, in particular put in some 50+ hours or so operating the excavator, which was loaned to us – great effort, which contributed hugely to us being only a modest amount over budget.

Shaun Cross took Long Service leave, during the first half of the year to travel with his family and entrusted the course to his young 2IC, Tom Bath. The entire course crew, led ably by Tom, really stepped up in Shaun's absence and the course was presented in its usual mint condition for the entire time, weather conditions notwithstanding. Despite some challenges with the tee decks on the new 16<sup>th</sup> hole, Tom did an outstanding job, even working around a new pump set installation to really test him out – unfortunately Tom left our employ some months back to travel and work overseas. We wish him well.

### GOLF EVENTS

One of our biggest club events annually, the **Byron Bay Open**, was reformatted in late 2023 to a 3 day event sponsored by **Traeger Grills**. Easing into the 36-hole stroke event with a 2 person Ambrose on the Friday, all participants embraced the expanded Open. The 2024 format is the same and we trust the expanded event will gain an even bigger foothold in its second year.

#### 2023 EVENTS:

#### BAILEY NELSON MENS FOURSOMES CHAMPIONSHIPS

**WINNERS**

**C. Whitelock/ K. Whitelock**

**RUNNERS UP**

**M.Reedman/ R. Shaw**

**NETT WINNERS**

**S. Wilson/ R. Burvill**

**NETT RUNNERS UP**

**D. Tygh/ G. Whitelock**

**TRAEGER GRILLS BB OPEN**  
**GROSS WINNER**

**A. Hawkins (Sanctuary Cove)**

**GROSS R/UP**  
**NETT WINNER**  
**NETT R/UP**

**C. Whitelock**  
**C. Harper**  
**P. Cumberlege**

**CAPTAIN V PRESIDENT MATCHPLAY**

**Not held**

**MEDAL OF MEDALS**  
**WINNER**  
**RUNNER UP**

**I. Dominguez**  
**Z. Stewart**

**2024 EVENTS:**

The flagship event of any Australian Golf Club, is of course the Annual Club Championships and thanks to our major sponsor **Korff Wealth**, for once again sponsoring the Mens CC. Couple of change ups for the 2024 event, saw combined Mens and Ladies CC final rounds on a Sunday. With a full club house and a \$1000 give away on offer, a great atmosphere pervaded the 18<sup>th</sup> hole for the final rounds and presentation. The BBGC Ladies CC report can be found in the Ladies Captain's report.

With perfect weather on the final day, the golf course was in great shape as well, befitting both final rounds. In the Mens CC, 14 time Champion Mat Crandell, trailed by a few shots from Matthew Butler after 36 holes. Sam Leo and Bruce Hiam were 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> respectively, to round out the final group.

After some solid, pressure golf on the front 9, Mat C took the lead on the 11<sup>th</sup>, then Sam Leo dropped out of contention after a big number on 13. Mat C bogied 13 and 14, then standing on the 16<sup>th</sup> tee Matt B had closed the gap to 1 shot and had the momentum. Matt B pulled his tee shot up towards the 7<sup>th</sup> green and Mat C seized the opportunity by pumping a bullet drive down the middle to within 70m of the green. Matt B tried the risky low punch shot from trees near 7 green, but it came out and went into the hazard beside the 16<sup>th</sup> green. Mat C turned the screw by wedging it to 3-4m and holed the putt for birdie. The screw turned again on 17 when Mat C lasered a 6 iron to 2m to set up back to back birdies. With a comfortable lead now, a regulation par on the 54<sup>th</sup> hole, saw Mat C savouring the applause from the crowd after an amazing finish. The last 3 holes were arguably Mat Crandell's best ball striking of the tournament to close out his 15<sup>th</sup> BBGC Club Championship.

***(my thanks to Bruce Hiam for this eye-witness account of the final round)***

**KORFF WEALTH CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
**CLUB CHAMPION**  
**RUNNER UP**  
**NETT WINNER**  
**A RESERVE WINNER**  
**RUNNER UP**  
**NETT WINNER**  
**B GRADE WINNER**

**M. Crandell**  
**M. Butler**  
**G. Sanderson**  
**J. Rutter**  
**M. Patterson**  
**D. Keevers**  
**P. Cumberlege**

**RUNNER UP**  
**NETT WINNER**  
**C GRADE WINNER**  
**RUNNER UP**  
**NETT WINNER**

**R. Denton**  
**P. Bird**  
**P. Woollard**  
**A. Mcphail**  
**A. BcBride**

**BYRON BAY MASTERS**

**WINNER**  
**RUNNER UP**

**B. Saul + Pro B. DeChambeau**  
**A. Bell + Pro X. Schauffle**

**MIXED FOURSOMES**

**WINNERS**  
**RUNNERS UP**  
**(unrelated)**  
**NETT WINNERS**  
**NETT RUNNERS UP**

**M. Reedman/ S. Symonds**  
**M (Boof). Brown/ G. Brown**

**C. Korff/ A. Korff (related)**  
**T. Hart/ J. Hart (related)**

**BALTER XPA AUTUMN CUP**

**WINNER**

**Entire month was a wash out**

**COCK O' THE WALK 2BBB MATCHPLAY**

**WINNERS**

**D. Beerens/ Kim Kairies**

**RUNNERS UP**

**D. Jones/ H. Kress**

**ASAHI/ CUB RED MARKER CHALLENGE**

**SINGLES WINNER**  
**TEAM WINNERS**

**R. Al-Bahrani**  
**Z. Sarris, C. Coulton, P**  
**Sarris, P Woollard**

**BROOKIES GIN HOLES IN ONE (BBGC COMPS)**

Congratulations to the special handful of Members who holed out this year and received Brookies gin as their reward.

**2024 NRDGA PENNANT**

Rain again played havoc with the 2024 Pennant season, with courses waterlogged and in some cases closed in May. Subsequently, the decision was made to cancel the entire competition. The NRDGA hierarchy decided to stage a 1 day competition, based on the Eisenhower Cup team format in September.

BBGC fielded 3 teams, which saw 7 players team up in an aggregate stableford event with the top 5 scores counting to determine the winner. BBGC Team 1, Captained by Mark Hefford, took out 2<sup>nd</sup> place in their division. Gary Sanderson Captained Team 2, but didn't place and James Dannenberg Captained Team 3 which didn't place. Congratulations to all those players who represented their club in 2024.

Congratulations to all other Members who tasted success during 2023/2024. Ladies and Vets golf results appear in their respective reports.

## **GOLF COURSE**

The 2024 course highlight for mine, has been the remodeling of the 16<sup>th</sup> hole, which I touched on earlier in this report. Of course, many Members would have their opinion as to what we should have done, but in the end the BBGC Course Committee in conjunction with the Superintendent have done a wonderful in-house job, to address all the technical issues and improved the playability/aesthetic of the hole.

My congratulations to all involved in its concept, design, construction and grow-in. The late-minute decision to clear the lake beside the 17<sup>th</sup> green of all trees and open up the view down across 16, 17 and up to 18, has been very well received by the membership too. Special Vollie acknowledgement to Bruce Westwood and Mark Hefford, who constructed and installed the hitching rails on the southern side of the “once was a secret lake”. My congratulations to the following Members who served on Course Committees which contributed to this project – David Calvert, Paul Clark, Mat Crandell, Bruce Westwood and our Pro Greg Stewart. Shaun Cross has done a wonderful job in interpreting all these inputs and making it happen on the ground, all whilst maintaining a wonderfully conditioned golf course with his fabulous crew.

Thank you to all the BBGC Vollies: on course, Ladies Golf office holders, Vets Golf office holders and Directors who have contributed over 2024 – unpaid, but not unheralded or unappreciated. Everything you do is a bonus for Members and visitors alike.

In closing, after what can only be described as a very wet, controversial and challenging year for BBGC, we still managed to come within a whisker of making budget for FY 2024 – a remarkable achievement. The 4 pillars of BBGC, Shaun Breheny, Sue Charles, Shaun Cross and Greg Stewart and their respective teams have once again displayed their tenacity, creativity and diligence to keep BBGC moving forward and improving our amenity.

Special thanks to Gary Charles after 17 years of Board service, comprising of 16 years as House Chairman (I think) and 1 as President. Stellar job Gary, unflinching in his commitment to BBGC, reflected by his long tenure and now one of BBGCs longest serving Board members – THANK YOU.

Big thanks to the 5 new Board Members, who stepped up mid-year, following Board resignations. Bring on 2025

**Pete Sinclair**  
**Club Captain +**  
**Course Comm. Chair**

## Course Superintendent's Report

The start of 2024 saw the long-awaited new look 16th Hole open for play after a few years of delays due to COVID, floods and contractor commitments. It is starting to settle in now and over time will only improve further with hopefully another good growing season under the belt. This will allow us to refine and soften some of the shaping with continual top dressing, renovating and mowing regimes seeing the turf vigour improve the playability of the new surfaces.

The main aim of this project was to reduce and reroute stormwater runoff in and around the green, which has been well tested over its short life and proving to be a real success. On the other hand, it has also highlighted the western end of the hole and blockages in the 22-year-old drainage outlets from the large tree roots entering the perforated pipes. These trees along the southern side have now been removed seeing any future impact on any new outlets installed, now minimised. The addition of a new forward tee has also added to the available variation in which the hole can be attacked, as the distance between all three tees is quite vast. I hope everyone is enjoying playing the new hole and starting to work it out, and again I would like to thank all the volunteer members that assisted in seeing this project come to life.

Late January 2024 saw myself utilise some overdue Long Service Leave to hitch up the caravan and travel over to WA with my family, to enjoy a 3-Month Road trip. A lot of planning went into making this happen to ensure the golf course was in a position for my team to share the reins and maintain our expectations. I would like to congratulate and thank each, and every one of them, along with our regular volunteers for all their tireless efforts. This ensured that our standards were maintained, and we continually improve our golfing experience that we offer at Byron Bay Golf Club. I am sure all our members really appreciated the extra hours required to keep delivering our product at the highest possible standard.

Through the back end of this period and upon my return the weather wreaked havoc with our planned works programs and golf revenue, with April and May alone recording over 800mm of rain! So, it was no surprise by the end of August we had pretty much reached our average rainfall for the year and by mid-October we had surpassed our yearly average by 200mm! Although this impacted our golfing revenue, we still managed to recover some losses throughout the drier months, as we went onto achieve some record green fee months in June and July. However, the reduction across our revenue streams did affect our plans with upgrading the Chipping Green surrounds and constructing a much overdue new putting green. Not to mention the weather again, which would not have allowed the planned works to take place as per scheduled on these sites anyway.

Regardless of some unfavourable weather throughout the year, I believe the golf course held up very well and produced good playing surfaces for all golfers to enjoy. Again, it did highlight the impact that some of our large trees have on certain low lying fairway areas that struggle through the Winter as they remain in the shadows for too many sunlight hours. Specific tree removal and pruning across the golf course needs to remain high on the priority list to minimise these impacts and promote consistency across all our playing surfaces.

This year we encountered the most changes across my team in some time, with Tom Bath (Assistant Superintendent) departing overseas in August for few years on a working visa and Nathan Baker completing his Trade Certificate in October and accepting a position at Kingston Heath. Along with our short-term greenkeeper Dante Barsanti returning to the Whitsundays with his partner. I wish them all the best and future success with their chosen paths. At this point in 2024 and looking into the future this is hands down my biggest concern. Staff! Where do we find them, how do we attract them, how do we retain them... Increases in living cost, rental properties, real estate, etc... it is real concern and is only getting worse as the years roll on.

On the other hand, we have seen an increase in people moving to the area and joining BBGC, the social golf throughout 2024 played by visitors, guest and members seems to be at an all-time high, with the tee sheet being regularly booked up. The same could be said for our member competition days, if you were not pre planning and booking in advance you could easily miss out on a spot. I often wonder how this looks in the future. Golf is booming, is our model accommodating, how much more can we grow? It is a very interesting spike in participation at present and I look forward to seeing where this all lands in the upcoming years.

Enjoy your Golf and your Golf Course.

**Shaun Cross**  
**Golf Course Superintendent.**



## **House Committee Report**

As with my President's report, I feel similarly underqualified for the task of writing the House Committee report, having only been chair of the Committee since July. Our 'House' area is made up of the Bar, Gaming and Clubhouse environments, which have seen various significant challenges during the year.

Pleasingly, despite these challenges, the House result was only \$2,000 below budget, which is fantastic considering the obvious trading impact that 10 weeks of rain brought. 2024 provided real-time data regarding golf-related bar activity, as the Club waded through a full month of almost nil golfing activity, plus another 6 weeks of limited golf. Our yearly result is a credit to Sue Charles, Tom and Keelin at Bowerbird, and all the staff that make up the team. It is widely reported that 2024 has been a difficult environment for many hospitality venues, which makes the results even more pleasing.

During the year, our long-term loyal cleaner and handyman, Trev Pinkerton, left the Club. Trev was tasked with the general fix-ups that only a seasoned handyman could accomplish. On behalf of the Club, I thank Trev for his many years of service. Staffing the bar area is always testing and this year was no exception. We had a positive influx of new and returning faces, combined with our seasoned campaigners. Special mention to Sal, who has now clocked up 16 years – well done. Our functions and corporate bookings continued to increase, with regular repeat bookings that helped support trade during the unfavourable weather noted above. A new Happy Hour promotion was also introduced, with the aim to extend the post-golf bar trade later into the evening and hopefully convert some of these patrons into diners at Bowerbird.

I would like to thank previous Directors from 2024 for their contributions to the House Committee, as well as Sam Leo, who like me, joined the committee mid-year and has been instrumental in providing guidance and support to our House team. Finally, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to our House staff and managers for their hard work and dedication which resulted in continued success in spite of significant challenges.

**Bjorn Peterson**  
**House Chairman**

## **Byron Bay Ladies Golfers - President's Report.**

Looking back on the year .....

We commenced the year with a well-supported opening day and good fellowship to follow. Opening day was also an occasion for us to celebrate the life and contributions of Jean Milgate, who was for many decades, a stalwart of ladies' golf and the BBGC.

In July, maintaining the tradition and the fellowship, we celebrated the significant "0" birthdays of several of our members; past and present.

Although persistent wet weather had an impact, we hosted an enjoyable Invitation Day, look forward to hosting Wallace Shield with Ballina and our two-day tournament in November and have enjoyed a mix of inclusive team and individual events – many enabled by our sponsors. Alison Dreyer once again organised our "renos trip;" with 19 members travelling south to enjoy the challenges of Maclean and Yamba golf courses.

In 2024 we once again recognise the generosity of our sponsors. Many thanks to Jeremy Bennett and Kath Vaubell (Ladies Championships and tournament), Greg Stewart (tournament), The Cellar (Invitation Day), Ballina Car Wash, Eden Nursery, Huxley Insurance, KBRE (Katrina Beohm), Loft, Baz and Shaz Fruit & Veg, and Young Henrys.

For a golfing year to run smoothly a team effort is required. My thanks to: Shaun Cross and the Course team. Your tireless efforts have kept the course "going" and "growing" in the most demanding of years; to Shaun Breheny, Sue Charles, Admin and Clubhouse staff for your assistance in all matters social, clerical, and hosting related; to Greg Stewart and the Pro Shop staff for assisting us, (at times "above and beyond..."), in all activities golf related; and to Keelin, Tom, and Bowerbird staff for your affability and catering expertise.

Finally, thank you to the 2024 Ladies' Committee for your support, enthusiasm and much valued contributions, and our members, both longstanding and more recent, for your support of our golfing program and activities this year.

Wishing everyone a happy festive season and a healthy, happy, and satisfying golfing year in 2025.

**Judy Priest**  
**Ladies President**

## Byron Bay Ladies Golfers – Captain’s Report

Our Ladies’ Programme has a mix of events – some more ‘serious’, some more ‘fun’ and some more ‘regular’ - and seeks to meet the needs and wants of our players. This is our challenge and this year, as we all know, we have been somewhat thwarted by the ‘Wet’.

Firstly a summary of the more ‘serious’ (or prestigious?):

Championships: As introduced last year, which proved popular, 4 rounds of stroke with your best 3 scores to count. And we were keen to trial the Club’s suggestion of a final round for all on the final Sunday; which we thought afforded a great finale and Club Day. Congratulations to our winners:

- Club Champion: Tracey Timperley – making it 3 in a row.
- Division 1: Nett Winner: Sally Symons, Runner-Up: Sue Charles
- Division 2 Nett Winner: Barbara Reilly, Runner-Up: Stella Reakes

With some last-minute decision making and reflecting the growing popularity of our 9-hole competitions, we decided to run a 9-hole Stableford Championships in parallel with the main event; for this best 2 ex 3. This was well supported by our 9-holers and it was great to see an ‘oldie’ and a ‘newbie’ as winner and runner-up: Maureen Bertoli and then Gail Inkpen.

Handicap Matchplay: Sue Charles defended her title from 2023, this time defeating Marjorie Askew 2/1 in the Final. The event was somewhat ‘stop-start’ with the wet early in the year, and it was encouraging to see some of our newer golfers ‘have-a-go’.

The Foursomes Championship is still to be competed – scheduled for November 23.

Wallace Shield: As we go to press the 61st happening of this inter-club event with Ballina was about to happen, this year at Byron Bay. But the ‘Wet’ impacted again and so we wait to see if Byron Bay can make it 5 wins in a row!

Our 2023 Tournament in November was a great success and we are just about booked out already for this year with lots of ‘returners’ (from ‘far-and-wide’) and also some ‘newcomers’; with our key promotion tool being word-of-mouth.

Next to our ‘fun’ events: These are invariably team events, including Ambroses, Scrambles, Multipliers and Best-Balls. Often they afford a great opportunity to mix-up our newer and more experienced golfers.

Then our ‘regular’ events are invariably single stablefords, with a choice of 18 or 9 holes. Stroke/medal rounds are definitely not popular, especially with our newer golfers!

I endorse Judy's thanks to our sponsors and supporters, and to everyone in the Club Team who give us great support – and with a smile. I thank Tracey Timperley our Vice-Captain, our Committee, for their hard work and support, throughout the year, and our members for their support, encouragement and camaraderie.

**Marjorie Askew**  
**Ladies Captain**

## **Veteran's Report**

Byron Bay Vets were well served in 2024 by the executive - Denis Cody (Vice-president), Doug Trigg (Secretary), Andrew Ostroumoff (Treasurer), and Kim Butler (Publicity). Kevin Brady also stepped up to fill the void created by the loss of our much-respected long term Captain, Peter Larsson.

Peter's enormous contribution cannot be overstated. Every week he was an early arrival to set up our regular competitions and later to collate results, supply trophies and liaise with the overall Club administration and Professional. On the committee, Peter provided wise counsel and was generous with his time and energy. It was clear that the Vets were special to him and in turn we recognised his sincerity, modesty, commitment and integrity.

Sadly, we also said goodbye this year to long-term member Peter Wood.

Byron Bay Vets are affiliated with many other clubs from the Northern Rivers Region extending from Coolangatta/Tweed to Grafton. Each club hosts and welcomes others their own Open Days. This year inclement weather forced many cancellations, including two attempts at our own club. Our members were unable to bring home many 'away' trophies – the exception was Rod Denton at Ballina.

We had one overnight trip away at the end of last year to Kooralbyn. It was eagerly contested by 24 travellers and well organized by Denis Cody and Doug Trigg.

The Vets Club Championships were played over two rounds in 2024, with Kevin Baunach edging out Russell Varcin for the gross Trophy and Peter Harrison runner-up to Colin Jones in the net event. Monday events produced 2 holes in one – by Kim Butler (12th) and Dave Robertson (17th).

Towards the end of each year, we are privileged to hold the Peter Farrell Day which is open to Byron Bay Club members. Peter's generosity ensures that almost all participants receive a trophy. The 2023 event saw the course at its best and William and Sue Tapper emerged as winners.

The success of these events and our fund-raising raffle allowed us to donate \$6000 to the Club for the purchase of outdoor, all-weather furniture.

Thanks to Shaun and Sue in Admin, and Greg in the Pro Shop for helping to facilitate our regular events.

**Paul McCann**  
**Vets President**

## Finance Report

I am pleased to report that the Byron Bay Golf Club (the Club) remains in a strong financial position and has concluded the 2023/24 financial year with an operating surplus of \$306,578.

	<b>FY24</b>	<b>FY23</b>
<b>Trading result</b>	<b>306,578</b>	<b>440,661</b>
Less depreciation	(237,240)	(187,864)
Plus Dave Smith Easement	136,504	136,364
Plus sale of gaming entitlements	0	30,000
<b>Annual report bottom line</b>	<b>205,842</b>	<b>419,161</b>

Net Assets and Total Equity improved by \$206k in 12 months. Capital expenditure and projects of \$418k were completed during the financial year with the 16<sup>th</sup> hole - \$152k (across FY23 and FY24), Cart path completion - \$20k and Ladies 2<sup>nd</sup> tee - \$7k being the major projects. Member feedback has been positive on all projects.

The Club also experienced unforeseen/unbudgeted expenses such as the replacement of a Tractor (\$51k) and Pump equipment (\$129k). An unusual spout of 10 weeks wet weather in the first half of the year furthermore contributed adversely to the bottom line (\$30k). Two sponsorships also cancelled/not renewed (\$14k) their partnership with the Club.

To address the risk of reliability of good weather, and to explore other opportunities, the board has taken the following internal and external measures:

### **Internal:**

Management has been asked to develop a Business & Marketing Plan with the objective of identifying and implementing multiple potential revenue streams and opportunities. All senior staff will now have Objective and Key Results (OKRs) targets set by the board for each financial year.

### **External:**

The Board has engaged in a benchmarking exercise with Golf Business Advisory Services (GBAS) which is currently subscribed to by over 100 clubs around Australia. Club data will be benchmarked across several operational areas including:

- Key Performance Indicators
- Available Cash
- Revenue & Expenses
- Food & Beverage
- Golf Operations
- Golf Retail
- Golf Carts
- Course Maintenance

- Membership
- Labour & Salaries
- Gaming
- Balance Sheet

The second part of the benchmarking review will be the strategic assessment with a 'deep dive' into the club's operating results, market standing, current and future threats.

These key findings will inform the board operationally and strategically of the club's strengths and opportunities so that appropriate and sustainable actions can be taken, setting up the club for the future and its success.

In closing, I would like to thank and acknowledge the dedication and hard work of all staff, whether it be front, back of house, or ground staff. All play a very important role in our day-to-day operation, and I am very proud to be part of it during this exciting time.

Best wishes,

**Ralf Pelz MHA, MBA**  
**Director**  
**Finance Committee**

## Club Manager Report

I have started to write this report numerous times, but inevitably end up asking myself the same questions, do I try to make it all positive, how much emphasis do I put on the negatives, do I mention the disruption, if at all? To ignore the disruption would mean the report does not accurately reflect the largest challenges that the year presented, and ultimately would do a disservice to any member who made it to the back of this annual report and are still reading. Of course I have many feelings about these matters, however I best leave these at the door, and report purely on the factual information.

We finished 2023 with the Club in the best shape it's ever been in. Golf rounds were up, member sentiment was up, functions and event activity were thriving, and this all resulted in the best year in the Club's history. We don't expect every year to be a record year, but when I hear stories from Rob Macmillan (ex-president) about the stress and difficulty of working through cash-flow challenges, I take comfort that the Club no longer have these challenges at the same level. The work done by Rob, other ex-Presidents, and all ex-Directors, set the framework for the Club to thrive, and all members should be extremely grateful to these stewards of the Club.

The recent trading performance and resulting cash position allowed the Club to fund the new 16<sup>th</sup> hole, new course pump equipment, a new tractor and a remodelling of the 2<sup>nd</sup> tee. I wonder how the course would look right now, if the old pump had decided to give up, and the funds were not available to replace it. Members might see benefit in hitting much longer drives due to the rock-hard fairways. Maybe I'm a tad cynical after reading the anonymous article in the Echo claiming the membership is too expensive, as there was no mention that the grass is too green.

The start of year saw eager new Directors, coming in with new ideas, old ideas reimaged, and fresh eyes. Putting up a hand to be a Director involves a large time commitment, large responsibilities and just enough risk to make it a very thankless task (although the dedicated car park space and monthly meeting pizza arrangement should not be understated). It's a hard role; a once golfer, customer and patron, suddenly responsible and accountable for the success of the Club, not to mention the willingness to take on complaints from other members. In FY24, the role of Director was a significant undertaking, having to migrate through the years key issues. Starting in October, in rough order these were:

- The 'For Sale' sign erected onto the prominent corner sign
- Mid-term resignation of President, Chris Barto
- An employee complaint regarding Director conduct
- Temporary suspension of 2 members
- 8 Director resignations
- An anonymous complaint made to Liquor and Gaming
- Signs put up in the local shire degrading the Club
- Another anonymous complaint made to Liquor and Gaming
- Member petition for EGM and immediate resignation of President & Captain



- Mid-term resignation of President, Gary Charles
- Anonymous complaints made to the Echo, and published

Somewhere in between these issues, Directors have also needed to perform the necessary Director functions. Needless to say, the role of Director is much more than eating cold pizza. Which I suppose is why it was such a surprise to see a cohort of members sign a demand to remove 2 long-standing Directors. Both Directors contributed over 17 years of time and effort. Is it controversial if I thank them for their contribution? It feels disrespectful to not thank them.....so:

Thanks to Pete and Gary, if not from all members, then at least from me. You have both been part of the Board since I started 4 years ago, and after many robust discussions, it has been clear that your heart and head have always been in the right place. Thanks for passing on your experience and wisdom of the BBGC environment. I sincerely hope you can find enjoyment at the Club in the future. Also, thanks to Deb Stewart, who had also been on the Board since I started. Deb was always a rational ear for me to use a sounding board.

As I reviewed my report, I can sense there is an air of pessimism. This could not be more accurate. Whilst this year had plenty of good news stories, they were completely overshadowed by the regular and repeat negative activities the Club and Members experienced. Chris Barto had commented in a previous report, that 'the Club is what you make it'. I couldn't agree more, and unfortunately some members chose to damage the Club. Some members chose to be supportive, and some chose to remain silent. Some even managed to stay out of the disruption and come and enjoy golf and a cold drink. I do believe that most members want to put the corrosive division within the membership behind us, and I am hopeful, with time, this can be achieved.

Which brings me to the team. I couldn't be more thankful to those who endured the year and been part of the journey. The year would have been more challenging without your support, and I say well done, and thank you to:

- The Board of Directors (quite a lot this year with the 3 varying Boards)
- Members who serve on Committees
- The numerous Volunteers and Volunteer groups
- Shaun Cross and the course staff
- Sue Charles and the bar and events team
- Greg and the Pro-Shop team
- Tom, Keels, and the entire team at 'Bowerbird Dining & Events'
- Our administration team, Lizzy, Kate and Andrew (Shero)
- All of our Sponsors

For the sake of all Members and our Club, I sincerely hope my report is full of great news next year. As always, happy golfing.

**Shaun Breheny**  
**Club Manager**