



COOLANGATTA
& TWEED HEADS
Golf Club

No. 1/2008

www.cooltweedgolf.com.au



“What’s happening at Coolie Tweed”

Course Matters

- The weather is obviously very topical at the moment with some wild and wet weather hitting the golf courses affecting both play and course maintenance. From Christmas Day until 9am January 3rd, 190 mm of rain has fallen (104 of that in 24 hours to 9am Jan 3rd) with wind gusts up to 80kmh and virtually no sunshine. The lack of sunshine also affects the couchgrass turf particularly on the greens as the low light intensity slows growth and makes the plant more susceptible to insect or disease attack. And for the record, the 2007 rainfall total of 1,293mm compares with 2,103mm in 2006 against the average of around 1700mm.
- Amongst the items discussed at the Course Information Day were greens mowing heights and the way that the River greens in particular are maintained and that verdant green grass doesn't always lead to good putting surfaces. Mention was made of the use of “Plant Growth Regulators” (PGR's) in the maintenance of the River greens and this seems to have been misinterpreted to read that the greens aren't fertilised resulting in lighter/weaker colored greens. This could not be further from the truth as the greens are actually fertilised at the same time the PGR is applied which may sound contradictory, but the addition of the fertiliser helps the plant absorb the PGR faster. The main role of the PGR is to fine the leaf of the plant down resulting in a tighter surface and to prevent excessive growth during the day so that the greens roll at as even a pace as possible throughout the day. The PGR's actually assist in improving all round plant health as a lot of the plants energy reserves are re-directed from leaf growth to root growth. Indeed trials on the nursery green last summer showed a 60% increase in root depth and density in the PGR treated areas.
- Another issue discussed on the day was bunker sand and it was explained that one of the main requirements of a bunker sand in our climate is drainage. This can be clearly evidenced following the current rainfall period where virtually every re-constructed greenside bunker on the River course is fully playable whereas at least 18 greenside bunkers on the West course would have significant water laying in them and severe face washouts requiring many man hours to repair. Mention was also made of the sand that was trialed on the face of bunkers on River holes 3, 16 and 18. The sand has been used in an attempt to prevent balls plugging in the face of the bunker and at this stage it appears to be preventing such plugging however the concern is that during heavy rain it is washed down into the floor of the bunker and will then contaminate the sand and affect drainage. This trial is still ongoing. As a matter of interest the bunker sand used at CTHGC over recent years is the same that is supplied to over 40 golf courses in south east Queensland. For some reason the sand in the new bunkers on 6th River seems a lot softer (although it was sourced from the same supplier) and so a different sand is to be added to the first bunker as a trial.

A reminder that the Match Committee has agreed to allow the Juniors to play on the River course once a month. This will commence on **Saturday the 12th January 2008** with a 1 tee start on the River & a 2 tee start on the West for this day.

OPEN DAYS

CTHGC has listed the first Monday, Wednesday and Friday of **February 2008** as an “Open” Competition day. All AGU & WGA Golfers are invited to play in the **relevant** competition for only \$9.00pp. Please ask visitors to ring the Pro Shop on 07 55 245 545 to book their tee time.

Up Coming Events

Saturday 12 January – Nominations open for Miller Kingston Knockout
Sunday 27 January – Invitation Day, 9am Shotgun Start
Monday 28 January - Australia Day holiday
Saturday 2 February – 2007 Medal of Medals
Tuesday 5 February – Ladies Welcome Back Day, 8am Shotgun Start
Friday 8 February – Miller Kingston Calcutta
Saturday 9 February – Start of Miller Kingston Knockout
Friday 21st March – Good Friday



The **2008/2009 Fixture book** is currently being compiled. If you have wish to change/add your **phone number** or if you are a **trophy donor** and need to change any details, please notify the office ASAP.

And with the tennis season upon us, former Irish Golf Pro David Feherty has been quoted; “The world's no. 1 tennis player spends 90% of his time winning, while the world's no.1 golfer spends 90% of his time losing. Golfers are great losers!!!”