



In Club

News from
Taylor Range
Country Club
Est. 1970

Taylor Range Country Club Ltd. A.C.N. 009 818 277, 28 Greenlanes Road, Ashgrove Qld 4060 Phone (07) 3366 1560 Fax (07) 3366 7430 WINTER 2018

PRESIDENT'S COMMENT

It was a different summer from most previous years being hot and cool and protracted wet but the Club was busy whenever the conditions were right. Still it is great to be having cool nights and warm days.

Tennis has been very popular with members and squash is having some resurgence. The Taylor Range Squash club is welcoming to new members and has been running coaching classes for juniors as well as social and competition fixtures. It is a great sport with lots of cardiac benefits so if anyone is interested in learning to play, playing social or competition, ask at the kiosk and our staff will put you in contact with the appropriate squash person.

Both pools are still swimmable although some people are finding the top pool a little cool early mornings. It warms up during the day as we have a solar warming system that extends the swim time by several weeks on either side of winter. We will close the top pool for a few months in the peak of winter.

BBQs are great this time of year and the kids and the hardy lap swimmers can still swim the whole year around in the bottom pool.

The bottom pool is heated by gas which makes it a lot more popular in winter. We have solar blankets which reduces heat loss and we have had the pool open from 6.00am to dusk for the past many years. However, the cost of gas is rising fast and the board decided that more intensive use of the blankets during winter would help keep costs down. After discussion with a number of members who use the lower pool in winter, we have decided that the best arrangement is to have the covers off the bottom pool Monday to Friday from 6 am to 10.00 am and from 2.00pm to 6.00pm. On weekends depending on use, we will extend these hours somewhat. In addition we will drop the temperature by one degree on the principle that every little bit helps. We propose to measure the energy savings to get an idea of the efficiency of the blankets. By the way, a new solar blanket on the bottom pool is being arranged as the old one is wearing out.

The need for these cost savings initiatives arises out of the ever increasing pressure on the budget particularly from energy use but also from the need to repay the various improvement costs we have made over the past few years. An unexpected need to upgrade the squash foyer entrance (rotting wood around the window) put us further behind. On top of these expenses we have a drop in income caused by a 9% drop in membership

over the past two years. For several years before that, we had a full membership of 600 families and 2400 members with a waiting list. Despite more advertising and marketing efforts, membership has dropped to around 550 families and 2200 members. It seems a lot of clubs, fitness centres and recreation facilities are experiencing the same situation so it may be a factor of economic conditions such as the ever increasing cost of living despite supposed low inflation.

This begs the question of whether our fees are too high driving down membership or alternatively, not high enough to fully cover ongoing operational expenses. Our financial report of last year shows a small profit and we anticipate a small loss this year although this won't be clear until our auditor sorts out the capital from the maintenance costs. Operating expenses are closely monitored and reviewed by the board every month and we can certainly pay our bills. However ongoing decline in revenues is a worry given the ongoing rises in energy costs and materials such as chlorine. Our fees are close to the same as other organisations offering similar but lesser facilities and both the family and single membership arrangements are significantly cheaper per person than for example gym memberships.

The board has been deliberating what to do for some months. At the moment our consensus is to reduce operating costs where we can, hence the restricted bottom pool hours. Another option under consideration is to raise the fees slightly more than our usual policy of matching inflation. The problem with the inflation approach is that the Club uses more of those items that are increasing faster than CPI such as gas, electricity and water rates. We don't propose a radical shift but are considering a once off 5% increase in fees as opposed to around 2% to ensure we have the capacity to operate at full service over the next few years. The board will be doing the figures and considering the impacts over the coming several months prior to the subscription notices going out.

Obviously the main concern is to increase membership and existing members can help here by promoting the Club to people whenever the opportunity arises. Small measures such as finding a person to whom you can sell your share when you leave will help. The club provides a listing service whereby shares for sale are displayed in the kiosk and given precedence over any shares held by the club. However, word of mouth and personal contacts are a great asset. Come down and have a BBQ with friends.

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The sort of gradual upgrade and maintenance of the past decade needs to be continued as any facility needs to continually modernise. Fortunately with careful management, we have managed to constrain our refurbishment debts to reasonable levels which we will pay off within 4 years. Along with continuing maintenance, we have a number of projects that we would like to do but need to progress prudently with them only as funds become available; Air-conditioning of the hall & possibly the squash area, upgrading the car park, re-painting the pool, re-surfacing the tennis court, solar power on the roof of the squash hall to drive the pool pumps, upgrading the old basket- ball court at the back of the club, building extra BBQs, moving to town reticulated gas for BBQs and pool heating, upgrading the lights around the tennis courts and pools to longer life and brighter LEDs, upgrading the lights in the squash courts: all these spring to mind but must wait. We have looked for grants to assist but interestingly we are precluded from the Queensland Community Gambling Benefit fund despite its advertised purpose being “to allocate funds to Not-for- Profit community groups to enhance their capacity to provide services, leisure activities and opportunities for Queensland communities”. It turns out that their rules now preclude any company, NFP or otherwise that is based on share ownership. Companies and Associations limited by Guarantee that provide similar service to Taylor Range are able to receive such grants but not a company Limited by Shares. Strange business which the board took up with our local member and will follow up again.

We are looking to IT based tools to reduce costs and improve communication. Before long we plan to have the ability to undertake member surveys using a tool like survey monkey as we need to develop more knowledge about where and how to focus our advertising. Also we are still progressing towards having full member contact-ability by email, so we can do things like send this newsletter by email, provide alerts during the storm season, and make contact for things like the Christmas sausage sizzle or for the occasional working bee. Fact is it is significantly cheaper by about \$500 each time to do this and every little bit helps. By the time this newsletter is published we may well have a Facebook page up and running. Our club website at <http://taylorrangecountryclub.com.au/> contains resources such as the Constitution, the Club Rules and a copy of this Newsletter so a look every now and then is recommended.

We have a good & active team of directors Sharon Webb as Club Secretary and Treasurer, Geoff James, Ken Carmichael, Tony Perkins, Jo Carey, Jim Parsonage, Alistair Camm, Cathryn Lloyd, Andrew McQuarrie, Leon Drewe, and myself as President.

There are 12 director positions available and at the time of writing we have one volunteer (Lionel Poustie). If any member would like to have a say in the future direction and policy formation of the Club, please contact the Manager and then I will contact you when a position becomes available. All positions are honorary and generally mean one meeting a

month unless you get involved in a project or a sub-committee. Mike and the other staff do all the operational work and the board's interests are about finances, governance, policy and direction. It is good to have a strong board as the more ideas the better.

John Harvey

HEATED POOL WINTER HOURS



Don't forget the 18-metre pool is gas-heated throughout the winter months. In order to make savings on gas expenses the pool will be open during the following times;

Monday - Friday; 6.00am - 10.00am & 2.00pm - 6.00pm

Weekends; 6.00am - 5.00pm

WHAT'S ON AT THE CLUB?



Hang out with the Fit Crowd
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SUNRISE YOGA

Sunrise Yoga is a winter beginner's class which is held at 6.00am every Monday & Wednesday morning in the function hall. Cost is \$10 per class.



For more information contact Bronwyn; 0411 515341.

MANAGER OFF TO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS!



Your administration assistant Serena will be holding the fort at Taylor Range in July.

Mike will be heading to Denmark as part of a 127 strong Australian age group team selected for the 2018 International Triathlon Union Multisport World Championships.

The festival will see competitors ranging from 16 to 84 years of age across 6 different triathlon based disciplines. We wish Mike all the best in his event.

There will be no change to normal club operations during this period with Serena at the helm in his absence.

TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE; LOWER POOL SUBMERGED BY THE ENOGGERA CREEK.



Almost nine years ago to the day, just when the club thought the worst was over after the November 2008 storm that ripped through our suburb the local area was again badly hit by the 20th May 2009 flooding.

The new pool pumps and heaters (installed after the storm) had barely had time to warm up when they were submerged by the combined storm water and rising creek. Not since 1974 had the lower pool been totally submerged as it was in May 2009 (picture). Fortunately the Club insurance covered the repairs to the damaged equipment (again) and replaced one pump which was not salvageable.

In order to minimize damage in the future the club purchased stainless steel stands to raise the gas heaters a further 1.2m out of harms way. A system of pulleys was also installed so that the large three phase pool pumps could be unbolted and hoisted up away from rising waters.

These contingencies have been put into action several times in the subsequent nine years which has kept all equipment safe from rising waters. Fortunately the creek however has not reached the levels that it peaked at in May 2009.

Michael Wilson
Club Manager

SQUASH AT TAYLOR RANGE

The winter season for squash fixtures is under way. We have 8 teams playing Monday, Tuesday & Thursday nights, 2 teams competing on Friday mornings and 4 junior teams on Saturday morning. The juniors are our growth area. These junior teams are a direct result of the Saturday morning coaching sessions provided by Squash Australia under the banner of OzSquash. Two sessions are available 10:00 – 10:45 for 5-8-year olds and 10:45 – 11:30 for 9-12-year olds. If your child has never played before – no problem, we will supply the racquet & safety eye wear. The coaching focuses on fun and cooperation and is delivered by a range of coaches provided by Squash Australia and from within the TR Squash Club. Your child might be lucky enough to be coached by a former #5 in the world!! Coaching is also available on Tuesday & Thursday afternoons from 4pm. All sessions are \$5. You don't need to book, just turn up for a fun session of squash. One final piece of exciting news about juniors is our upcoming Junior Tournament. This is being held at Taylor Range on Sunday 4th August. This event is organised through Brisbane City Squash (our governing body) and is a qualifying tournament for juniors to compete in if they wish to be selected for next year's representative team. Two categories of registration are available, firstly junior entry for fixture players and a novice entry for those players who are new to squash and would like to experience the thrill & excitement of playing in a tournament. Please contact the reception or Susan Hird susanjhird@yahoo.com.au for further information on the registration process.

Fixtures isn't the only avenue to play squash. Maybe you are interested in a more social atmosphere. On Wednesday night from 6.00pm several players come for a hit. There is a wide range of abilities, so you can be assured that there will be someone to have a good hit with. In addition, Thursday morning from 9:30am is a good time for a hit. The highlight is the morning tea and chat that is shared afterwards. Saturday afternoon is another option for social squash. Play starts about 2.00pm and is open to all ability levels.

Hopefully we'll see you on the court sometime!

Susan Hird
Squash Club President

DID YOU RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER IN THE MAIL? PLEASE LET US KNOW YOUR EMAIL

The club has compiled a database of shareholders email addresses. If you received this newsletter as a hard copy we do not have your email address. Please therefore could you forward your preferred contact email to trclub@bigpond.net.au. The email addresses will not be used for any other purpose than Taylor Range Country Club related emails such as future newsletters/invoices etc. and will save your club hundreds of dollars annually which can then be used to further improve the club's facilities.

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