



# **Saturday Men's Golf Competition**

## **January 2016 Survey Results**



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## Introduction

A successful *Saturday Men's Golf* Competition is important to the ongoing success of *Cooroy Golf Club*.

This Survey is a response to concerns about lower than usual fields for our Saturday Men's Golf Competition in 2015 and seeks to gain a better understanding of member expectations for this competition together with any suggestions for improvement or change as input to a review of all aspects of this competition.

The Survey also seeks to gain a better understanding of what a *typical golf week* looks like for the broad spectrum that is our male membership as well as their choices and expectations.

Thank you to members who participated by taking the survey and for your honest feedback and valuable insights which will assist in developing a response to the issue that is practical and relevant to "*today's expectations and choices*" of members.

This report summarises the results of the Survey and makes some observations. *The Club* is now reviewing the survey results in detail and will advise the outcome as soon as practical.

## The Survey

The Survey Form was created in digital form to allow respondents to complete the survey *on-line*. The Survey was also available in paper form to allow those without email or internet access to participate but no paper responses were completed.

Members were invited to participate in the survey by email circulated to **211 male Subscribers** to our newsletters on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016. Subsequent follow up emails were aimed at ensuring the highest possible number of responses.

The survey closed on **31<sup>st</sup> January 2016** with **105 responses**. This is considered a good result.

The Survey provided members the opportunity to make '*open responses*' to **Q11** aimed at Members who play or have played on Saturday and **Q12** aimed at Members who do not play on Saturday. A selection of Member comments are provided later in the Report without attribution.

## Demographics

Questions **Q1 to Q4** gathered key demographic information. The size of the sample response suggests the results present a reasonably representative profile of male membership of *Cooroy Golf Club* as a whole.

**Q1- HOW LONG have you been a Member of Cooroy Golf Club**

Response count - 105

Answer Options	Response Count	Response %
Less than 2 Years	24	23%
2 - 10 Years	48	46%
More than 10 Years	33	31%

**Observation:** *Nearly 70%* of respondents have been members of *Cooroy Golf Club* for 10 years or less.

**Q2. Your AGE GROUP**

Response count - 105

Answer Options	Response Count	Response %
Under 18	0	0%
18 - 22	0	0%
23 - 54	17	16%
55+	88	84%

**Observation:** If the response is indicative of total club male membership then this demographic skews more to the higher age groups than the broader golf community. The fact there were no respondents in the under 23 age bracket probably reflects the reality of the age profile of our membership.

**Q3. Your HANDICAP GROUP**

Response count - 105

Answer Options	Response Count	Response %
0 - 12	14	13%
13 - 18	22	21%
19 - 26	41	39%
27 - 36	28	27%

**Observation:** *66%* or two thirds of respondents fall into the 19 – 36 Handicap range.

**Q4. Tell us about your TYPICAL GOLF WEEK**

This is a multiple choice question under which respondents were asked to tick as many as apply. The 1<sup>st</sup> table on next page summarises how many times an answer option was ticked.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> table groups responses for Q4 by playing frequency.

Response count – 105

Answer Options	Response Count	Response %
Wednesday Vets	72	30%
Host Day Vets	38	16%
Friday Chook Run/Coopers Challenge	32	13%
Saturday Men's Competition	51	22%
Social – once a week	34	14%
Social – twice a week	11	5%
Social – more than twice a week	1	0%

Playing Frequency	Response Count	Response %
Play once a week	24	23%
Play 2 times a week	35	33%
Play 3 times a week	35	33%
Play 4 times a week	10	10%
Play more than 4 times a week	1	1%

## SECTION 1 – Complete if you play in Saturday Men's Competition

**Q5. What is your MAIN MOTIVATION for playing in our Saturday Men's Competition.**

Response count - 61

Answer Options	Response Count	Response %
Competitive Challenge	18	29%
Maintain an official handicap	4	7%
Opportunity to play golf	25	41%
Prizes on offer	0	0%
Enjoy social interaction	10	16%
Exercise & outdoor environment	4	7%

## Q6. Rate ORGANISATION Factor

Response count - 61

Answer Options	Response Count	Response %
Eagle	10	15%
Birdie	20	33%
Par	26	46%
Bogey	2	1%
Double Bogey	3	5%

**Q7. Rate PRIZE LEVEL Factor**

Response count - 61

Answer Options	Response Count	Response %
Eagle	4	7%
Birdie	16	26%
Par	31	51%
Bogey	5	8%
Double Bogey	5	8%

**Q8. Rate COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT Factor**

Response count - 61

Answer Options	Response Count	Response %
Eagle	9	15%
Birdie	18	30%
Par	21	34%
Bogey	6	10%
Double Bogey	7	11%

**Q9. Rate GAME FORMAT VARIETY Factor**

Response count - 61

Answer Options	Response Count	Response %
Eagle	5	8%
Birdie	17	28%
Par	26	43%
Bogey	8	13%
Double Bogey	5	8%

**Q10. Rate ATMOSPHERE/SOCIAL SIDE Factor**

Response count - 61

Answer Options	Response Count	Response %
Eagle	11	18%
Birdie	18	29%
Par	17	28%
Bogey	9	15%
Double Bogey	6	10%

**Q11. Thoughts for CHANGE/IMPROVEMENT to our Saturday Men's Competition.**A summary of response comments under this question are included as **Appendix C**.

**SECTION 2 – Complete if you don't play in Saturday Men's Competition****Q12. What is the MAIN REASON you don't play in Saturday Men's Competition.**

Response count - 54

Answer Options	Response Count	Response %
Limited time to commit to golf *	15	28%
Family commitments *	6	11%
Prefer to play during the week *	20	37%
Economics of playing - cost involved	2	3%
Level of Prizes	0	0%
Prefer social round with friends *	3	6%
Apprehension around not being good enough	3	6%
Unsatisfactory past experience	5	9%
Lack of game format variety	0	0%

**Observation:** The responses identify a category of member (\*) that is *unlikely to play* on Saturday even if changes are made because of their playing preferences and commitments outside golf. **82%** or 44 respondents to Q12 fall into this category.

Responses also identified a number of members who don't currently play but are open to playing on Saturday.

**Q13. What changes might entice you to play in our Saturday Men's Competition.**

A summary of response comments under this question are included as **Appendix D**

## Appendix A - Cooroy Golf Club – Saturday Men's Golf Survey Form

Thank you for taking the time to participate in our **Saturday Men's Golf Survey**. Your feedback will help us better understand member expectations for this competition and gather insights and suggestions for improvement or change.

The Survey is designed to be completed by male members of *Cooroy Golf Club* irrespective of whether they play in our Saturday competition or not. The Survey will take less than 5 *minutes* to complete.

### Please read the following Notes before you take the Survey.

- We ask your name and email address so we can contact you to clarify any aspects of your response if need be or if we identify an opportunity in your response to make a change to our Saturday competition before the review is completed. Member names WILL NOT be revealed or associated with individual responses in the final Survey Results Report.
- Questions **Q1 to Q4** are designed to gather some demographic information. In **Q4** we ask you to tell us what your *'typical golf week'* looks like – tick as many as apply.
- Complete **SECTION 1** if you play in our Saturday Men's Competition.
- Complete **SECTION 2** if you do not play in our Saturday Men's Competition.
- If you have played on Saturday in the past but have since stopped playing this competition you have the option to complete both **SECTION 1 and SECTION 2**.
- An \* denotes a mandatory Question requiring an answer.

Where we ask you to provide a **RATING** we use a scale balanced on both sides of neutral (*Par*) expressed in golf terms e.g. *Eagle (Excellent, exceeded expectations) <— Par —> Double Bogey (Very Unsatisfactory, did not meet expectations)*.

You are good to start the Survey.

Thank you again for participating.

Wayne Patston – General Manager  
Cooroy Golf Club



## Saturday Men's Golf Survey Form

First Name\*

Surname\*

Email Address

Confirm Email Address

### Q1. HOW LONG have you been a member of Cooroy Golf Club\*

*Tick one only*

- Less than 2 years
- 2 - 10 years
- More than 10 years

### Q2. Your AGE GROUP \*

*Tick one only*

- Under 18
- 18 - 22
- 23 - 54
- 55 +

### Q3. Your HANDICAP GROUP\*

*Tick one only.*

- 0 - 12
- 13 - 18
- 19- 26
- 27 - 36

### Q4. Tell us about your TYPICAL GOLF WEEK\*

*Tick as many as apply*

- Wednesday Vets
- Host Day Vets
- Friday Chook Run/Coopers Challenge
- Saturday Men's Competition
- Social - once a week
- Social - twice a week
- Social - more than twice a week

**SECTION 1 - Complete if you play or have played on Saturday**

**Q5. What is your MAIN MOTIVATION for playing in our Saturday Men's Competition?**  
*Tick one only*

- Competitive challenge
- Maintain an official handicap
- Opportunity to play golf
- Prizes on offer
- Enjoy social interaction
- Exercise & outdoor environment
- Other (specify)\_\_\_\_\_

**Rate each of the following FACTORS for Saturday Men's Competition**  
*Select 1 RATING only for each Factor*

FACTORS	Eagle	Birdie	Par	Bogey	Double Bogey
Q6. Organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q7. Prize Levels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q8. Communication & Engagement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q9. Game Format Variety	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q10. Atmosphere/Social Side	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Q11. Tell us your thoughts for CHANGE/IMPROVEMENT to our Saturday Men's Competition.**

**Q12. What is the MAIN REASON you don't play on Saturday**

*Tick one only*

- Limited time to commit to golf.
- Family commitments.
- Play during week.
- Economics of playing – cost involved (*I play during week*)
- Level of prizes.
- Prefer social round with friends.
- Apprehension around not being good enough.
- Unsatisfactory past experience playing Saturday Men's Competition.
- Lack of game format variety.
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**Q13. What changes might entice you to play in our Saturday Men's Competition**

*Write in text box*

**Thank you for participating**

## Appendix B – Initial email Communication

Display problems? [View this newsletter in your browser.](#)



### Saturday Men's Golf - SURVEY

Hi Rod,

We have previously highlighted concern that fields for our *Saturday Men's Golf Competition* are down and have been for some time.

As a successful *Saturday Men's Competition* is important to the ongoing success of *Cooroy Golf Club* we are undertaking a wide ranging review of this competition.

A crucial input to this review is a better understanding of member expectations for a *Saturday Men's Competition* together with any suggestions for improvement or change.

We want to hear first hand the views of our male members irrespective of whether you are a Saturday player or not.

To this end we are seeking your assistance by completing a 5 minute Survey. [click to take the Survey](#)

I'd encourage **ALL male members** to actively participate in the Survey as this will provide a broad range of views and insights and ensure the best possible outcome.

The Survey will **close on 31st January 2016.**

Once we have gathered member feedback we will be well positioned to consider the best way forward.

Cheers

*Wayne Patston - General Manager*

## Appendix C - Q11 Summary of comments on suggested Change/Improvement to Saturday Men's Golf Competition

Each *comment* is numbered for ease of reference.

1	<p>I play in the comps to try and improve my handicap, so less 4 balls and Ambrose etc, or when there is a 4 ball or something similar, have a block of tee times available for the people who aren't interested in the these events, it could be a bit cheaper so there doesn't have to be prizes, I either don't play when these comps are on or I go and play somewhere else.</p> <p>More stroke events. A drinks cart. Vending machine up at the hut. A birdie box or eagles nest. Like the pro pin You could put in an extra dollar and best score on the day wins free cart hire for the next Saturday</p>	2	<p>Thank you for all you do to organise the Club. I enjoy my golf at Cooroy, I enjoy the fresh air, the exercise, the company, the course and as a 36 handicap player an occasional good round. I will play with anyone and fit in, choosing not to play in a regular four ball but because members do not state their handicap on the form, I can end up in a group of low handicap players. No one comments or complains, but would prefer to avoid.</p> <p>If there is a shot gun start, please try to allocate Tees close to the club house for those players who walk as do the Vets. I am aware of two members allocated the 13 Tees who indicated they would not play in a shot gun start again.</p>
3	<p>Course presentation for Saturday Competitions needs improvement. Tees and green surrounds need to be mowed for all comps not just the Vets.</p> <p>Course presentation in general .....to be improved.....increased whipper snipping/mowing of all areas not just Fairways and Greens to maintain the aesthetic appearance of our course to entice our many visitors to return and or recommend our course to their friends..... which will hopefully bolster the clubs income from social play.</p>	4	<p>Bring back the BBQ, Drink cart, bigger prizes.</p>
5	<p>Significantly improve communication and engagement which might then engender a better atmosphere before and after game. Ensure Saturday course and rules are set up to allow all levels of golfer to enjoy their game not just a few 'low handicappers'.</p> <p>Make more of an effort to help new players feel comfortable and ease their way into Saturday competition.</p>	6	<p>We might attract more Vets on a Saturday if there were no preferred lies on a Wednesday, therefore no reason to favour one over the other.</p>
7	<p>Last year it was sometimes hard to find the Saturday results but this seems to have changed this year.</p>	8	<p>Go out to local schools and offer discounted participation rates for under 18. Maybe try running comp over Sat and Sunday as a lot of people may have Sat commitments.</p>
9	<p>More stroke play, more Staple fords. Everyone loves Ambrose. Shot gun start at least once a month if not more, as it makes the game a lot more sociable.</p>		

<p>10</p>	<p>With timed draws going from a.m. to p.m. it is difficult to get people to stay on after the game. Shotgun starts achieve this but would be impractical with morning &amp; afternoon hit-offs. As a result there appears to be very little social interaction after the game.</p> <p>On the 4 Saturdays I've played we've finished around 3.30 p.m. and our four stayed on for a couple of drinks. For most of that time we were the only people in the clubhouse, apart from staff. I have not stayed on until presentation so can't comment on numbers then present, but am informed there are few.</p> <p>Are morning and afternoon hit-offs still viable - or should there be just morning OR afternoon hit-offs to compress the field? Even hit-offs only from say, 11.00 a.m. until 1.30 p.m. that bridge both morning and afternoon. That way some post-game social atmosphere may develop.</p> <p>Growing member numbers is a problem facing most golf clubs. Attracting younger people to join the Club is the most desirable way of growing the membership base and obtaining long-term members. Most clubs now offer very attractive fee structures for new members under 35 - with no joining fee and reduced fees for their first 3 years or so.</p> <p>Like any other business, there is a need to advertise and actively promote membership to the Club's potential market and adequate budget allocation for that process would be a good investment in the future.</p>		
<p>11</p>	<p>Communication non-existent no engagement too many board events no opportunity for camaraderie run by elitist group of low handicappers yearly events booklet and registration sheet only information.</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>Early starts allow for more social players on course. Shotgun starts should be limited to absolute necessity. There should be no more than 3 roughly equal groups in monthly medals. Two groups in regular competitions are suitable.</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>You need to get sponsors for more comps. A lot of members don't like the idea of money behind the bar for events having to be spent on booze etc. why can't they spend it other things e.g. Fees. We may need more shotgun starts to get the players to stay around even though I'm not a great fan of having too many. May need a better run down system it should be 60/40 that's not happening. Shot gun starts should start around 10am.</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>Five years ago or so, the atmosphere in the Clubhouse rocked.</p> <p>We all had fun. Now it is non-existent.</p>
<p>15</p>	<p>It annoys me that I spent years fostering and maintaining sponsorship for the Sat Men's comp only to watch it slowly fade away through apathy of the recent Match Committees. This area shouldn't fall at the feet of the General Manager. The Men's Golf director and team should be liaising with these local businesses at the commencement of the golfing year, locking in sponsorship and generally rewarding players with better prizes and in turn supporting our community businesses.</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>More variety in what games are played.</p> <p>More mixed games.</p> <p>Play more games off the back markers.</p> <p>Club to move with the times and put a computer booking system in place.</p>
<p>17</p>	<p>Eliminate wives, kids, weekend employment, house ownership, beaches, sports, and any other activities that interfere with golf.</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>Halfway house refreshments - sandwiches drinks</p>
<p>19</p>	<p>I know this is impractical but I would like to see a presentation at the end of the days round. The getting together of the days players is great way</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>When a person puts his name on the sheet make sure it stays there and not get moved as has happened to me on several occasions in the</p>

	to promote social interaction and build on the camaraderie within the club.		past
21	<p>Well done for volunteering for the job.</p> <p>Golf Director/Match Committee needs to communicate more with local businesses for trophies –i.e. - the voucher system works well. The Vets are doing this well now.</p> <p>Suggest shotgun starts are used either monthly or 6wks to bring members together/socialise/support club more.</p> <p>Green pins are in a pattern but tees should be placed accordingly.</p>	22	Charge other club members only \$10 green fees spread the word around.
23	No real gripes or opinion as I am just getting back into playing a bit. Possibly attract more players by having a 'bring a friend type day' where you could bring a non-handicapped golfer along to get them interested. The hardest part of getting into golf I found was the first 'jump' into competitions??	24	Maybe lower green fees for visiting players as most have to travel a long distance
25	Try running two distinct morning and afternoon comps with presentations at the designated end of each comp in an attempt to entice members to stay around. Try running 12 or 15 hole events to attract players who are stretched for time and can't afford 4 hrs out of their busy sat schedule. Offer big ticket prizes for sat players but they have to be present to claim the prize. Jazz up the clubhouse needs a facelift uninviting and drab become the place to be seen amongst the young and up and coming of Cooroy and district. Commence an inter school comp for primary and secondary school kids won't help immediately to improve sat attendance but will in the future.	26	I have no issues with the Saturday's competition and I intend to play more in the future. They start early and commence into early afternoon to capture those with work commitments. There is a diminishing market out there and not having a driving range as such makes it hard to attract young members, the future of the club. The recent move to a reduced fee for 18 to 22 year olds is very good and overdue, but suggest go further and have a Junior 12-18 year old group @\$200 per year membership. Subsidised juniors and cadets must have an adult member in their group.
27	Club NEEDS online booking like every other club on the coast. That way people don't drive 20+km to find out that you don't have a partner in a 4bbb event	28	More stroke events less Stableford would be my preference. Personally golf is about going around in the least number of strokes possible and beating my previous best score. After holiday in Northern NSW and playing at a club that had made the change to an automated card and scoring system I think it would be good for Cooroy.
29	I have a very limited time available to commit to golf. So at this stage I am only able to play early on Saturday because of my family and local charity community activities. However it would possibly be a good idea to organise one hourly slots on a monthly basis, e.g. 6.45am - 7.45am, where all players in that time bracket were drawn to see who they were playing with. Many will grumble, but it just might improve	30	This has been a complaint for years. The spread of grades is too wide. The majority of players are in C grade, which would be better to start at a higher handicap.

	<p>some social interaction.</p> <p>Also perhaps every six weeks a "lightning round" of ,say, 13 holes could be played where players could enter twice if they wished to have two chances; i.e. Play two 13 hole rounds if some wished.</p>		
31	<p>Don't know how it would work at Cooroy, but most other clubs I have been associated with Saturday afternoon comps are huge many people work in the morning play golf and have a few beers at the club after golf, if people are used to playing in the morning it may be hard to change the culture also Thursday ladies may be encouraged to play more Saturdays.</p>	32	<p>More teams events. They are more enjoyable and those with higher handicaps can benefit by playing with a grade players who can give them advice. Maybe some free coaching before comp or at 12 from some off the lower handicappers as we don't have a pro. Mystery score prize so that even if you are a poor player everyone still had a chance to win something. A random draw for some balls etc (lucky card draw).....</p> <p>Up north we had bring a beginner days every couple of months. We got a lot of new members join, great fun and brought a lot of money over the bar and into the club.</p>
33	<p>Overall very happy although I would like to see more Ambrose/ foursomes events and shot gun starts, Im here for the fun of the game just as much as I am for the competitive side. I don't like the those par events and will play elsewhere on those days. Anything to entice a greater club atmosphere would be welcomed. not happy at all on the announcement of the club champs being run over 3 rounds have the last round on a Sunday where at least if your in contention these people will play.</p>		
34	<p>At the risk of being candid and branded a whinger these are my thoughts:- The Captains job is a poison chalice, there should be a leadership group so responsibility can be shared thus reducing the burden on one unfortunate individual. I will long remember the vitriol shown Jim Penman during his time at the helm. In a word disgraceful. Cooroy is a nice country styled course and club. However, there are some 'purists' running competition rounds and determining playing conditions who impose 'play as it lies' even when the course is denuded of grass cover and in need of a drenching. There are others that champion the theory that we should play at a 'Royal Queensland' standard track and want a sea of bunkers, heavy greenside rough, difficult little swales and perhaps land mines just to satisfy their lust for making the task as hard as possible. To them I say that such an attitude is arrogant, self-serving and downright stupid. It is a well known fact that Golf Clubs that prosper do so because they cater for the average Golfer, i.e. the great bulk of enthusiasts. We pay the bills, patronise the 19th, invite our friends and keep the show running.</p> <p>Professional and top amateur players are to be admired as role models but the rest of us duffers pay the rent. So to the ruling minority with grandiose vision, I say please do not impose your high handed ideals on the rest of us. If you want an ultimate Golf test join a championship course and pay the enormous fees to satisfy your needs. Peter Thompson said 20 odd years ago, "that if clubs continue to 'gold plate' course layouts, palatial clubhouses and other excesses then many will fail and the great game will suffer".</p> <p>If you truly believe that Cooroy is too easy then go and play somewhere else with elite players and we will cheer you on. And furthermore if you want to put the blue markers back another 50 metres do it and the great bulk of the membership will go elsewhere or stick our clubs on EBay. I enjoy my recreation time at the Cooroy Club for a number of reasons and it annoys me that a small minority of members want to impose their own personal signature on the course and 'bugger the rest of us'. And furthermore the recent practice of posting observers around the course to monitor the movements of members on carts is a petty, small minded measure and highly offensive in all respects. And finally, I believe that all members should be encouraged (even cajoled) into serving sometime in the starter's box thus reducing the endless demands upon the long suffering committee members and a handful of volunteers.</p>		



35	<p>Older established members standoffish towards newer members..... Early group, huge pause then later group, no interaction between groups....poor social ending, or presentation pathetic due to lack of attendees.</p> <p>Break up cliques mix in newer players, is an answer to the final question which may encourage younger players!</p>	36	<p>Would really enjoy the course set up as good as it is for a Wednesday social club</p>
37	<p>I think we should have more shotgun starts so that there can be a proper presentation at the end of the game. I believe by having SG starts we can foster a greater comradeship in the Club. Nothing worse than having a presentation and the winners have gone home. I know it's a fine line between SG starts and random starts, but something has to be done.</p>	38	<p>There is no sense of inclusion in the Club by Saturday players; the communication from the club (website &amp; newsletter) is dominated by Vets Club.</p> <p>It is very difficult to find the results of Saturday events.</p> <p>Basic maintenance of course; greens, tees &amp; fairways; requires improvement - losing players to other clubs.</p> <p>Initial contact by potential players is the website; it is not helpful, it looks very insular and uninviting.</p>
39	<p>More mixed events required such as mixed 4 ball.</p>	40	<p>I wonder if a Saturday only membership would work.</p> <p>A fee of half ordinary membership could apply !!!!!</p>
41	<p>Electronic scoring and on-line completion for competitions</p>		
42	<p>Overall I don't think much can be on the organisation side to improve, its well run.</p> <p>I do think that certain things can be done on the course to improve the enjoyment of playing for the higher handicap players, for example you can play your tee shot on the 3rd to the centre of the fairway &amp; only be able to play your 2nd to the only part of the green you can see on the extreme right because of the trees overhanging on the left, great challenge if you play off single figures but out of those that play on a Saturday how many are? There are more examples around the course e.g. the tightly packed trees between the 8th &amp; 9th I understand why they're there but they should be thinned out so that you at least have half a chance of making some sort of forward motion with the ball.</p> <p>Again on the 9th if you don't hit your drive into about a 10 metre slither of fairway on the right you can't even see the green because of high pine trees on the right. These are just a couple of things I think can be done to make things fairer, not easier for the majority of players, this may slowly encourage more people to play on Saturdays. There are more examples but I don't wish to harp on I make these comments only as perhaps a way of improvement I am not complaining about the course, overall I think it's a great course &amp; club, it's not an easy course as many who don't play it think, it's tricky enough without some of obstacles put in our path. I hope these comments can be seen as constructive.</p>		

## Appendix D – Q13 Summary of comments on Change that might entice members to play in Saturday Men's Golf Competition

Each *comment* is numbered for ease of reference.

<b>1</b>	Subjective personal view?...there is some intangible positive feel to playing the vets that does not seem to be present on Saturday's. Been a while, but probably see what follows from this very good survey idea (variety, innovation?) and give it another go.	<b>2</b>	I will play in the Saturday comp in the future. I am most happy with Stableford and Stroke formats. Would just want a well organised comp. Don't care about prize levels.
<b>3</b>	As I prefer to play during week it is unlikely any change will entice me to play on Saturday.  I have played previously but did not enjoy the experience - lack of atmosphere before and after game. There seemed to be a lack of interest in communication and real engagement of players, particularly new players.	<b>4</b>	Play off white markers- no nearest pin circles
<b>5</b>	1. An improved social atmosphere.  2. Better Club communication and promotion of Saturday golf - what's coming up, results, news, photos etc. The internet is the perfect platform for active and regular contact with members (the Vets do this very effectively).	<b>6</b>	Email communication every week as to what games are coming and if necessary background.  Engaging conversation with members via results and personalities.  Opportunity to meet other club members.
<b>7</b>	Would like to see more variety.	<b>8</b>	Mixed Competition. The Club appears to promote Men's Golf more than the Ladies.  I have yet to understand why a few of the male Members do not wish to have a mixed Competition and it is only a few.
<b>9</b>	More shotgun starts to allow all members to socialise.	<b>10</b>	Shotgun starts to encourage social interaction post game. Less emphasis on winning, more on enjoying time at the Club.  Other suggestion regarding attracting junior Members in general. Headlands introduced a program whereby full Members were able to sponsor a child/grandchild to join. Membership fees were waived for the first 12 months and I believe a reduction in fee should the child continue after 12 months. Maybe look at 10 to 21 age range. This may encourage Members to play on Saturdays to support their child/grandchild in learning the game, or having them return to the game.
<b>11</b>	Give women their own time slots, so men don't get caught having to play with them.	<b>12</b>	Saturdays would have an attraction with more player's hence improved social interaction. Teeing off mid mornings can be pretty quite. The vets on the one hand have excellent social interaction and management; however the preferred lie option tends to favour high

			markers. e.g. recent 4BBB scores were ridiculous. Low daily course ratings result, making it more difficult to improve handicap. Consideration could be given to no preferred lies when course is in good condition, except in marked areas. Saturdays should be set up harder for the competitive challenge as is now.
<b>13</b>	Better car parking, restricted field size to avoid slow play/crowding.....same reasons that made me resign from Noosa Tewantin G.C.	<b>14</b>	Current more time available and prefer competitive play so would seriously consider playing Saturdays.
<b>15</b>	I would consider to play Saturday during winter months----not during peak summer.  As I have retired I have not played on Saturdays to leave it for the people who work during the week--I'm sure if you asked the vets on a Wednesday they would tell you the same thing. There is nothing wrong with the club re Saturdays play ---the club is full of vets and that your Saturday market.	<b>16</b>	More promotion and more atmosphere after golf.
<b>17</b>	Only a relatively new member and various constraints mean only playing Weds but I intend playing Saturdays reasonably regularly.	<b>18</b>	My main motivation for golf is enjoyment. I have found that Saturday at Cooroy is not that enjoyable.  Unfortunately I think there is a small percentage of Saturday players that are up themselves & perhaps they need to climb down off the pedestal that they have built for themselves.  If I have felt this on Saturday's. I imagine that others have done so as well.

Appendix E – Magazine Article ‘Offensive defense’

starters box

# Offensive defense



**Richard Fellner**  
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HERE'S an interesting trend quietly occurring in Australian golf at the moment. It seems that more and more courses are beginning to (finally) tune-in to the fact that the majority of golfers out there (i.e. the middle-to-high-handicap club golfers, who are the bread and butter of the industry) are no longer actively seeking out the most punishing, difficult or feet-numbingly-long golf courses.

The trend—which I'm noticing increasingly in editorial and advertisements across a variety of media—sees many clubs steering clear of the once-touted highlights like high Slope/Course Ratings or extreme length from the "Tiger Tees". Instead, we are now seeing more phrases like "member-friendly layout" and "a very playable course" and "enjoyable for golfers of all levels."

This is a quantum shift from only a few decades ago, when a tough course was seemingly the Holy Grail. Back then, landowners approached golf course architects and asked for a course that was, for example "as challenging as a US Open venue". They wanted their new course to be full of hazards, booby traps and pitfalls to bring players to their knees. They asked for their own versions of the "Snake Pit", or the "Bear Trap" or other fear-inducing monikers to label their course as a brutal monster. These owners may have had visions of hosting national championships, and seeing their club's name atop the list of "Most difficult/challenging" layouts.

Smaller or already-established clubs (and committees) wanted in on the action, with some embarking on a mission to litter their own courses with extra bunkers, water hazards, foliage, forced carries, Tiger Tees, ultra-slick greens, wrist-straining

rough and the like.

The problem with this approach, we have found over the years, is that the majority of golfers will play these types of courses once or twice. But after that, they (generally) return to a course or club that is more manageable for their game. And as we all know, it's very difficult in this day and age for the average golf course to survive without a constant stream of repeat players or members.

*...You don't need a brand-new course to make your club more attractive to the golfing masses. In fact, there are a few very simple things you can do to capitalise on this trend towards playability...*

These days—as we are seeing with forward-thinking courses/developments like Melbourne's new Eastern Golf Club and Gardiners Run—clubs are asking for more "member-friendly" layouts. This doesn't necessarily translate to an "easy" course, but rather aims for a layout that remains playable by a large number of golfers, every day. This can include large bail-out areas, very few (if any) forced carries, and a variety of teeboxes to allow all golfers to play a course that is comfortable to them and their game.

But you don't need a brand-new course to make your club more attractive to the golfing masses. In fact, there are a few very simple things you can do to capitalise on

this trend towards playability, and make your club as appealing to as many people as possible. Some clubs (see this month's Club of the Month feature, for example) have introduced "forward tees" for juniors, beginners, seniors or other distance-challenged players. These teeboxes, usually positioned well past a major hazard or forced carry, greatly reduce the length of the hole, and thus help the shorter hitters to play closer to their handicap, or simply enjoy the game more.

Other clubs are beginning to create more bail-out areas off the tee. This is done by either expanding a fairway, or even eliminating tee-shot-grabbing fairway bunkers. And some clubs are heavily reducing thick rough, making pin placements more reasonable on a regular basis or even adjusting/reducing green speeds to limit the number of three-putts, etc.

Of course, these clubs can (and will) trick-up the course all they like for annual Club Championships, Monthly Medals or major events. But for the other 50 weeks of the year, these "member-friendly" clubs will have a course that creates more joy than misery. And I'm all in favour of that. Golf itself is difficult enough without having to contend with additional traps, pits, monsters and other hazards.

I'm not advocating that we make all golf courses ultra-easy. On the contrary, I love a good challenge (every now and then) and each course certainly needs their own "defense"; whether it's fast greens or narrow fairways. But keep in mind that a course's defense is there to protect par. Not to develop double-bogeys.

See you on the fairways,

Richard Fellner—Group Editor



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