EDITION 8
FEBRUARY 2025

AUVGC NEWSLETTER

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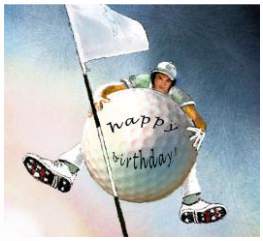


BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH
Многая Літа / Happy Birthday
Ray Galas
Mila Polatajko
Ray Popowycz
Areta Yaremenko

OUR CLUB DEMOGRAPHIC

Age Group	Members	
Under 20	3	5%
21 – 30	6	9%
31 – 40	6	9%
41 – 50	10	15%
51 – 60	7	11%
61 – 70	11	17%
71 – 80	22	34%
81 – 90	0	0%
Total	65	100%

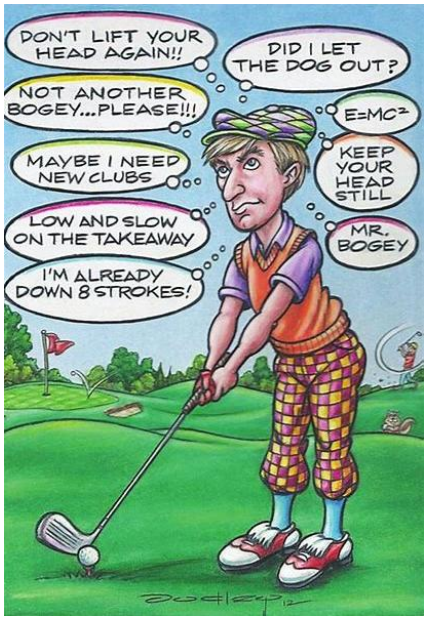
Editor's Corner

Pryvit vsim! / Greetings!

Now that the silly season is behind us, it's time to relax and eat less, curb the celebrating, and wait until Uncle Dan has your favourite vodka on sale again to plan for next December.

In this article, I've published the first of three interviews with the handicapper. Interesting reading.

If there are any articles / recipes that you'd like to share, then please email the editor…Peter Casey.



Growling Frog Golf Club Review

19th January, 2025: We had 23 players this game including our guest from Yarrambat Joe Ramondetta, and Ivan Semciw all the way from Sydney.

It was estimated to be a top of 33c, so it was good to tee-off early, started around 8am off the 10th tee. All in all, the course was in good (not great) condition. Unfortunately, several of the bunkers were G.U.R. and quite a few of the others were not fantastic, sand depth was shallow and underneath quite hard causing the blade to bounce and of course a thin shot. Difficult conditions which our group had plenty of experience in. Off the fairway the ground was hard and some areas quite a lot of cracking, if you hit straight and stayed on the fairways, no problems. A nice breeze at the start helped to keep the flies at bay.

First Group: Tom Bagala, Joe Ramondetta, Mick Gembarovski, Wally Orfini

Mick Gembo didn't embarrass himself with a solid drive down the centre of the fairway. Always intimidating going off first. The others all had reasonable drives. Others in the second and third groups hit theirs out of bounds into the practice fairway, and didn't hit a provisional…silly people, myself included.

Caution is required this time of year as the snakes are out and about. Nothing like looking for your ball, and leaping backwards. Plenty of players wandering through the grass looking for that wayward tee shot. One was sighted and the guys used their smarts and dropped well away. No need to get your ball and court disaster. Remember one of the great "Uki" rules, if you've lost your ball, go to the edge of the fairway and play from there, but you've still got a two-shot penalty.

Daniel Makohon, Adam Semciw, Myron Flunt, Tony Khoury

Daniel Makohon played his second round, and has now received his new club shirt, after the game 😊

Several birdies on the day. Mykhaylo Dyachkov had a birdie on the 1st, Alex Mazur on the 2nd. Steve Kohut Snr had a birdie on the hardest hole 18th. This was a fantastic result for Steve Snr., a birdie on the hardest rated hole. What an effort, would've loved to see it. Steve Kohut Jnr had a great day with

two birdies (1st and 12th), which included the nearest the pin on the 12th, the drive and chip plus the longest drive, and to top it off, another ball in the ball competition.
The winners on the day were Tony Kastropil with 36 points off a handicap of 20, a great solid game with no wipes. John Semaniuk, a great 33 even with a wipe, off a handicap of 24. Great results guys.

This is the first round where we introduced a $20 runner-up prize, and the inaugural winners were, yes you guessed it, Steve Kohut Jnr and Myron Flunt. Congratulation guys.

All the results

GROWLING FROG GOLF CLUB
19-January-2025

DIVISION 1

		(0 - 23) Daily Handicap	S'ford Score
1	KASTROPIL Tony	20	36
2	KOHUT Steve Jnr	6	35
3	SEMCIW Adam	23	35
4	MAZUR Alex	12	33
5	CHARENKO Mykola	22	32
6	RUDEWYCH Nicholas	23	32
7	KHOURY Tony	19	31
8	KOHUT Steven Snr	22	29
9	GEMBAROVSKI Mick	18	28
10	MAKOHON George	16	24
11	CASEY Peter	23	22
12	KOHUT Daniel	23	21

GROWLING FROG GOLF CLUB
19-January-2025

DIVISION 2

			(24 - 36) Daily Handicap	S'ford Score
1	SEMANIUK John		24	33
2	FLUNT Myron		27	32
3	DYACHKOV Michael		30	29
4	BAGALA Tom		27	28
5	HLUCHANIC Andrij		30	27
6	NOWAK Marek		27	26
7	ORFINI Wally		32	23
8	WARD Michael		32	19
9	MAKOHON Daniel			129
	Visitors			
1	SEMCIW Ivan	(SEMCIW Adam)		29
2	RAMONDETTA Joseph	(BAGALA Tom)		114

Stars of the day

Division 1	***Winner***	***Tony Kastropil***
	Runner-Up	Steve Kohut Jnr
Division 2	***Winner***	***SEMANIUK John***
	Runner-Up	Myron Flunt

Feature Holes

Drive 'n Chip	17th	Steve Kohut Jnr
Longest Drive	11th	Steve Kohut Jnr
Nearest The Pin	2nd	Alex Mazur
Nearest The Pin	5th	Tom Bagala
Nearest The Pin	12th	Steve Kohut Jnr
Nearest The Pin	16th	Mick Gembarovski

Ball Competition

Cutoff	**29**
KOHUT Steve Jnr	35
SEMCIW Adam	35
MAZUR Alex	33
CHARENKO Mykola	32
RUDEWYCH Nicholas	32
FLUNT Myron	32
KHOURY Tony	31
KOHUT Steven Snr	29
DYACHKOV Michael	29

Golf Rules

There have been many questions asked recently regarding golf rulings, and we'll cover a few rules each newsletter.

Lost Ball

A "Uki" rule: If you've lost your ball, go to the edge of the fairway, and play from there. A two-shot penalty applies.

What Are the Standards for Declaring a Ball Unplayable?

The Unplayable Lie Rule in Golf

Here's a question golfers ask, or wonder about, from time to time regarding the unplayable lie rule:

"Following my first putt on the green, my ball rolled into a greenside bunker. Can I declare my ball 'unplayable,' and go back to the last spot where I last hit it to replay the shot?"
The short answer: Yes.

It's counterintuitive because declaring a ball unplayable when, in fact, the ball is eminently playable seems counter to the basic golf principle of "play it as it lies."

In the scenario described above, the golfer would remove the ball from the bunker, assess himself a one-stroke penalty, place the ball at the spot of the original putt and try again. You never, ever see pros doing something like this because pros are unwilling to take the penalty. A golfer who is terrified of sand (pros consider sand shots among the easier shots in golf) might, however, think that one-stroke penalty is worth it to get out of the sand.

Whether a Ball Is 'Unplayable' Is Solely Up to Golfer to Decide

Fact is, a golfer can declare any ball unplayable, at any time, for any reason, and anywhere on the course other than in a penalty area (a water hazard or any other area marked with red stakes or yellow stakes). The penalty is one stroke.

In the rulebook in effect through the end of 2018, unplayable lies are covered under Rule 28, Ball Unplayable:

"The player may declare his ball unplayable at any place on the course except when the ball is in a water hazard. The player is the sole judge as to whether his ball is unplayable."
In the rulebook in effect from Jan. 1, 2019, going forward, unplayable lies are covered under Rule 19, Unplayable Ball. Under the heading "You May Decide to Take Unplayable Ball Relief Anywhere Except Penalty Area," the rule states this:

"You are the only person who may decide to treat your ball as unplayable. Unplayable ball relief is allowed anywhere on the course, except in a penalty area."
So, the question of who gets to decide whether a golf ball is unplayable, and for what reason, is very straightforward: You, the golfer, and nobody else, makes that determination.

Proceeding After Ball Declared Unplayable

There are multiple ways for the golfer to proceed once he or she has declared the ball unplayable. Just be sure you understand that doing so always means incurring at least a one-stroke penalty. If you declare the ball unplayable, you do so at the loss of at least one stroke.

The most common options for proceeding after taking the unplayable lie penalty are to return to the spot of the previous stroke and play again (stroke-and-distance relief); or drop within two club-lengths, not nearer the hole, of the unplayable lie; or drop behind the unplayable lie spot, going back as far as you want, keeping the original spot between the hole and the new place where you drop (back-on-the-line relief).

Declaring a ball that is in a bunker unplayable comes with four options, one of which results in a two-stroke, rather than one-stroke, penalty. Those options are stroke-and-distance relief; back-on-the-line relief inside the bunker (your ball remains in bunker); or lateral relief inside the bunker. Or, for a two-stroke penalty, back-on-the-line relief outside the bunker.

See Rule 19 in the new rulebook for complete details as well as illustrations of the different scenarios.

Handicapper Interview 1 of 3

There have been many having a dig at the handicapper, who's just trying to do a good job and does not deserve the criticism. So, I've sat down with the handicapper and discussed what he does, and why.

Editor: What is a handicap?

Handicapper:
It is a systematic numerical measure of a golfer's ability, or more importantly, potential ability. This allows players of different abilities to compete against each other. i.e. creates a level playing field for all golfers.

Editor: Have there been many handicap systems in the past?

Handicapper:
Yes. One of the early and long running systems ('early' meaning 1960s onwards) was quite brutal. Maximum handicap was 27. If in A Grade, you lost 0.2 of a shot for every shot that you scored above your playing handicap, B Grade deduction was 0.3 and C Grade was 0.5. However, the kicker was that you only went out 0.1 of a shot for each bad game that you played.

The Bystander, November 13, 1912 357

His Handicap at Golf

"Now then, boy, just hold the mirror where I can see the ball"

BY CHAS. CROMBIE

Is the artist related to Josh Crombie????

For example: -- If a player in C Grade on a handicap of 21 had 42 points he would automatically have 3 shots deducted from his handicap (6 shots better than his handicap multiplied by 0.5) and it would take 30 bad rounds for his handicap to go out to the original handicap of 21.

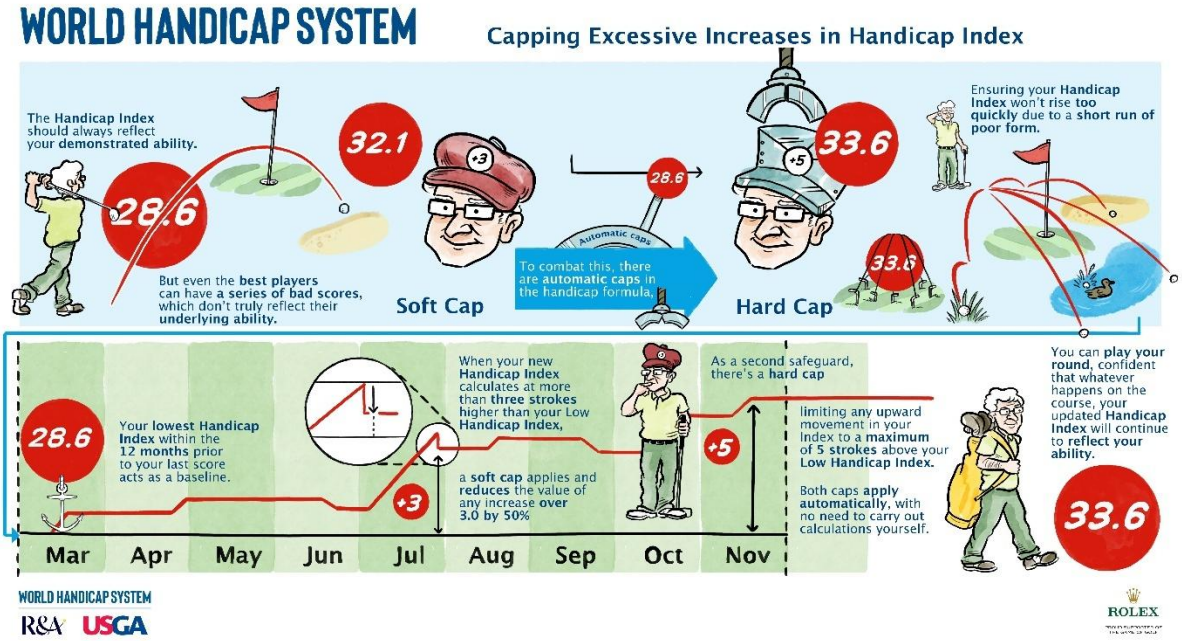
Even within the UKI Club we had handicap system changes. At one stage, for a couple of years, we had players who had 2 handicaps: -- a Melbourne Uki handicap plus a Golf Link handicap from their private club. In many cases the two handicaps were quite different. In the end, common sense prevailed – a golfers' ability can be measured by only one numerical figure.

Internationally, there were 6 different handicapping systems -- basically, a different one for each continent. That made it very difficult to create a level playing field for golfers when they were competing against international players. However, the World Handicapping System

(WHS) has merged most of the various international handicapping systems into one single system, thus creating a level playing field for all golfers around the world.

Editor: When was the WHS introduced?

Handicapper:
WHS was introduced in Australia in January 2020. It was mainly devised by the US Golfing Association (USGA) and the Royal &Ancient Club of St Andrews (R & A). However, the forerunner to WHS was introduced in Australia in 2010 and was known as the Golf Australia handicapping system. It was basically an adoption of the US system. Major changes occurred in 2014 when the concept of slope ratings was introduced into the handicapping system.



Editor: Enough of the historical aspects, and now onto the technical aspects of WHS and the calculation of handicaps.

Stay tuned, same bat time, same bat channel…err, check out the next issue 😊

Next Game – Mt. Derrimut GC

Date	Sunday 23rd February 2025
Venue	475 MT DERRIMUT ROAD, DERRIMUT Victoria 3030 (03) 8737 9011
Meeting Time	7:30am
Tee Time	8:00am
Game Format	Stableford **MATCHPLAY QUALIFIER**
Cost	$60, Visitors $65 (Includes competition fee)

Players requiring carts will need to make a booking with the pro shop and advise George if they wish to share.

Players must provide proof of membership of a reciprocal rights golf club, then a credit will be raised for the discount.

Remember to book via the website as early as possible, whether you are playing OR unable to play. This helps George immensely. ***Remember to pay early***.

New Members

Welcome Joshua (Josh) Pilling, Tim Kril's nephew, plus Joe Ramondetta, Mila Polatajko and Ivan Polatajko.

We need more women members, does anyone know who might be interested in joining?

Marijka Kohut once wrote:

Adult membership:

- $100 (first year – includes club shirt when available)
- $50 every other year

Junior membership is free, just need a club shirt.

Golf Digest

Golf tip: Three Quarter Swing

When you get closer to the green, do you spray your irons?

When you watch professional golf events, you will often notice the pros utilizing a three-quarter golf shot.

This is when they swing about ¾ of the way on their back swing and ¾ of the way on their follow-through. You'll mainly see this when they hit second or third shots onto the green. The main reason for the abbreviated swing is distance control when they find they are “between clubs” if they were to take a full swing. The more control you have over your shot distance, the better your game will be.

Helpful hints for successfully utilizing this handy golf shot:

1. If you find yourself between clubs for the yardage needed, you should consider hitting a three-quarter shot. For example, if a full swing with the 9 Iron won't get you there, use a three-quarter swing with the lower-lofted 8 Iron.

2. Place the ball closer to the centre of your stance. This will help in contacting the ball at the bottom of your swing arc, creating the optimal strike.

3. Remember, you are only going to take your hands back to about shoulder height. A good key is to find the shaft pointing vertically to the sky at the top of your swing, then again, after the follow through.

4. You will want to feel as though you are hitting the golf ball with your upper body/chest. This will help eliminate any “flipping” motion of the wrist through impact, which is often a cause of inconsistent golf shots.

5. On the follow-through, make sure you extend through the ball and finish with your belt-buckle facing the target and the shaft pointing to the sky.

* Mastering the three-quarter golf shot can be very beneficial, but keep in mind it is also more difficult than the regular feeling of a full swing, so it will require practice.

Golf Fixture

March 22nd – 23rd 2025 Cobram Barooga GC Meeting time: Sat. 11:30am Sun. 8:30am Stableford **Club Championship**	***April 27th 2025*** Werribee GC Meeting time: 8:00am Stableford **MP Round 1**	***May 25th 2025*** Melton GC Meeting time: 7:30am Stableford **MP Round 2**
June 29th 2025 Goonawarra GC Meeting time: 7:50am ***Stroke and Putting Comp.*** **MP Final**	**July 26th – 27th *2025*** Mooroopna/Shepparton GC Meeting time: Sat. 8:00am Sun. 8:30am Stableford **Winter Cup**	***August 31st 2025*** Curlewis GC Meeting time: 9:30am Stableford
September 21st 2025 Melbourne Airport GC Meeting time: 8:00am ***Foresomes*** **AGM**	***October 26th 2025*** Gisborne GC Meeting time: 8:00am Stableford	***November 30th 2025*** Werribee GC Meeting time: **TBC** Stableford
December 14th 2025 Ringwood GC/Yarrambat GC **TBC** ***Ambrose***		

Handicaps

Inclusive of January 2025 game at Growling Frog:

* Indicates Formal Handicapper Discretion
\# Indicates Informal Handicapper Discretion

Note: Sometimes we don't receive the "full" handicap list, and just the daily handicaps. Therefore, the number of games played and the GA/AUVGC handicaps may not be accurate.

ID	MEMBER	GAMES	GA HCP	AUVGC HCP	DAILY HCP
1.	AITKIN Lee	50		19.4	
2.	ANOLAK Greg	264	15.7		
3.	BAGALA Tom	20		27.3	27
4.	BERNYK Andrew	2		2nd Card	
5.	CASEY Peter	63	23.1		23
6.	CHARENKO Mykola	323	22.5		22
7.	CHARUCKYJ Leon	237	22.6		
8.	CROMBIE Josh	16	28.6		
9.	CROMBIE Lydia	52	14.8		
10.	CYMBALAK Jerry	364	29.9		
11.	DYACHKOV Michael	32	29.9		30
12.	FELNIAK Steve	148		21.5	*(-2)
13.	FLUNT Myron	77		27.0	27
14.	GALAS Ray	288		19.9	
15.	GALAS Steve	343	26.6		
16.	GEMBAROVSKI Mathew	19		26.8	
17.	GEMBAROVSKI Mick	254		18.6	18
18.	HERCZANIWSKI Paul	12		40.1	
19.	HLUCHANIC Andrij	343		30.3	30
20.	HORBAN Richard	193		28.3	
21.	HUBIK Steve	77		28.4	
22.	JUDD Jason	7		34.3	
23.	KARBANENKO Yuri	5		21.2	
24.	KASTROPIL Tony	386	20.3		20
25.	KHOURY Tony	64		19.4	19
26.	KOHUT Daniel	5		24.9	23*(-2)
27.	KOHUT Marijka	196	22.1		
28.	KOHUT Slawko	212	20.1		
29.	KOHUT Steve Jnr	132	7.7		6
30.	KOHUT Steven Snr	207	22.6		22
31.	KRIL Tim	9		45	
32.	KWAS Michael	291		28.5	
33.	LESIW Michael	82	26.3		
34.	MAKOHON Daniel	2		2nd Card	

ID	MEMBER	GAMES	GA HCP	AUVGC HCP	DAILY HCP
35.	MAKOHON George	455	16.7		16
36.	MANDYCZEWSKY Roman	1		1st Card	
37.	MASENDYCZ Adam	2		2nd Card	
38.	MASENDYCZ Mike	220	21.9		
39.	MATKOWSKY John	14		29.7	
40.	MAZUR Alex	191	13.3		12
41.	MELNYCHUK Alex	12		33.7	
42.	MOSKALJUK Stefan	10		29.3	
43.	NIEMCZYK Stan	141	33.8		
44.	NOWAK Marek	87	27.5		27
45.	ORFINI Wally	338	31.7		32
46.	OSIDACZ Ross	3			
47.	PILLING Josh	1		1st Card	
48.	PODOLCZAK Steve	310		31.7	
49.	POLATAJKO Jarema				
50.	POLATAJKO Stephen	25		39.3	
51.	POPOWYCZ Roman	178		25.1	
52.	ROBERTSON, Adrian	23		24.9	
53.	ROMANYK Gerry	312	33.9		
54.	RUDEWYCH Nicholas	10		25.5	23*(-2)
55.	RUDEWYCH Victor	113			
56.	SELEMBA Taras	10		45.0	
57.	SEMANIUK John	376	24.3		24
58.	SEMCIW Adam	30		23.6	23
59.	WARD Michael	17		31.5	32
60.	WASYL Anthony	10		40.7	
61.	WASYL Nicholas	11		37.4	
62.	YAREMENKO Areta	3			
63.	ZACHARIAK Roman	140			

Membership Form

Do you know someone who is interested in joining, get them to fill out this form and send it to the Club President, Wally worfini@bigpond.com. It will then be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

Association of Ukrainians in Victoria – Golf Club

3 – 11 Russell Street, Essendon Victoria 3040 Australia

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Version – 17 January 2022

Surname: _____ **First Name**: _____

Wife / Partner's First Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ **Post Code**: _____

Telephone: (Home) _____ **(Work)** _____

Mobile: _____

Date of birth: _____/ _____/_____

Are you a member of the AUV or one of its affiliates (Y / N): ____

Which AUV Affiliate: _____

Ukrainian Heritage: Are you or your partner of Ukrainian Heritage (Y / N): ____

Membership category: **Full / Junior** *(please circle)*

Official GA Handicap (*if any*): _____ **GA Number**: _____

Membership of any Golf Club: _____

Email: _____

Declaration: I hereby wish to apply for membership of the AUV Golf Club. I undertake to abide by all the rules and regulations of the Club, and any future amendments. I further agree to pay all fees and costs relating to my membership of the Golf Club.

_____ **Dated**:____ / ___ / _____

(Junior membership – Signature of either parent is required)

CONFIRMATION BY THE AUVGC COMMITTEE

The AUVGC Committee resolved that the above member be accepted as a member of the AUVGC Golf Club.

Membership: Full / Associate No. allocated _____ **Dated:**____ / ___ / _____

Signatures: _____ _____

(President) *(Secretary)*

Committee

President	Wally Orfini	worfini@bigpond.com	+61 418 587 874
Treasurer	Peter Casey	petercasey_59@hotmail.com	+61 421 697 658
Handicapper	Michael Masendycz	michael.masendycz@gmail.com	
Club Captain	Michael Gembarovski	mcgm@optusnet.com.au	
Booking Officer.....	George Makohon	glm369@bigpond.com	+61 418 553 226
Website Managers	Anthony Wasyl	anthonywasyl@hotmail.com	
	Peter Casey	petercasey_59@hotmail.com	
Match Committee	Slawko Kohut	mnkohut@gmail.com	
	Adam Semciw	adam_2326@msn.com	
	Marijka Kohut	mkohut3222@gmail.com	
Secretary	Areta Yaremenko	aretayaremenko@gmail.com	

Do you want to join this committee?
Send in an application form to the Secretary, and at the AGM it'll be discussed.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
21st September 2025

NOMINATION FORM

NOMINATIONS ARE SOUGHT FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS, WHICH ARE ALL VACANT AT THE TIME OF THE AGM:

1 President
2 Secretary
2 Treasurer
3 Club Captain
4 Handicapper
5 Bookings Officer
6 Website Manager
7 Match Committee Officers (x3)

I .....

Nominate:

(Myself) or .....

For the position of:

.....

I confirm that I am a financial member of the AUVGC.

Signature: ..... Date: .....

I confirm that I am a financial member of the AUVGC.

Witness: ..... Date: .....