

AGM - Annual Course Report 2023.

The 2023 Rottneest Island golf calendar year has come to a close.

Although most of our events are held in the rainfall window of the year we were very fortunate to have only received the odd shower here and there during the playing of our events.

This was great for us but not so good for the thirsty ground in which our course is situated.

More divots and greater degradation of the dirt pathways is an indication that more people are out playing the course which is a great thing for the islands business holders. It has always been the intention to get more people on the course so that works like the maintenance costs and the fence costs are justifiable.

In trying to see the brighter side of what we all get to experience, the island course is as it is for a number of reasons. The ground as I said before is dry and thirsty in that there is very little water retaining structure and particles in the soil to retain much moisture. This with the heavily regulated amount of water and nutrients that can be applied means a domino effect as when you don't have good growth on turf you leave the roots exposed to more damage which goes on in a circle. You also get a lack of absorption of what is applied so with the environmental monitoring that is in place on the course a fair bit of leaching to probe levels occurs and the surface turf receives very little benefit.

A number of these issues require addressing to produce a better condition course for all to enjoy. I would like to thank all the people involved with donating their time and experience to deal with these ongoing issues with the authority and other departments. It is a never ending project and without these dedicated people we would not have anything like what we do have today. (All those raise a hand if you remember sand greens and weeds as fairways.) To all those people a very big thankyou from all golfers who get to play the unique Island course.

A big thank you should also go to those in all positions on the committee's and in the event management who give up a lot of time to bring you the events for the year. Well done to all.

Finally, wishing all a very safe and Merry Christmas and look forward to meeting up next year on the rock.

Greg Whitmee. (C)