

Want a handicap?

Join the (Busranger) club...

By Matthew Pitt*

I reckon I'm not the only serious social golfer that fantasises about sharing a round with Tiger and a couple of mates at Augusta with Hootie Johnson driving the drinks cart. However, most hackers are a bit more realistic than me about their golfing goals. They simply want to improve their game and enjoy some friendly competition.

To do this, you need an official handicap to measure your progress and to enter official events. My problem was that as a (below?) average bloke in the city, I enjoy playing different courses and I couldn't afford the high cost of a private club membership. As it happens, I am one of the 800,000-odd Australian social golfers in the same boat.

Fortunately, since Golf Australia introduced the Golf Access Australia (GAA) handicap system, getting a handicap is now easier than ever before. Public access courses are able to affiliate with GAA and provide handicaps.

In addition, social clubs can now supply and administer handicaps to members.

As the proprietor of the Busranger Golf (BRG) social club, I realised that with the development of the GOLF Link national online handicapping system, the landscape had changed to allow for a much faster, more efficient and convenient process for maintaining handicaps. I decided to sit the test and qualify to dish out handicaps to our members.

Golf Australia supports us offering handicaps through our website as it helps promote GAA. We offer them at the annual GAA price of \$99 plus a small admin fee of \$6. A link to Busranger Golf was placed on Golf Australia's GAA webpage and we started getting members from all over the place applying for handicaps. Quite quickly, Busranger Golf became a national golf club for social golfers everywhere in Australia.

BRG is now Australia's fastest growing social golf club. It is like many hundreds of social clubs in Australia with two major differences: it is based online at the Busranger Golf website, and it is a national club administering handicaps to members across the country. By combining GAA handicaps with the power of the internet, BRG has become Australia's largest online golf club.

This means golfers anywhere in Australia can get an official handicap with us. If you aren't a member of a private club or a social club with a handicapper, or you don't live near a public course that is a GAA provider, you are welcome to get a handicap through BRG.

Others have attempted this concept of a national GAA club, but Busranger Golf has a major advantage: membership is free. Members can join through the website with a few clicks and then, once an official Busranger, they

The story below is the latest in our occasional Reader's Story series. This is the part of the paper where you can write in and tell us about your club. Whether you're looking for members, have a funny story or are just proud of your achievements jot down 500 words, plus a photo, and send it to us either by e-mail to ed@insidesocialgolf.com.au or normal post to PO BOX 1050, Cronulla NSW, 2230.



*Matthew Pitt is co-founder of Busranger Golf

A group of ferocious Busrangers enjoying themselves at The Dunes during the 2007 Busranger Cup.

can apply for a GAA handicap with the club.

The plan for BRG is to build market strength through numbers to create more benefits for members. The Golf Clearance Outlet has an online golf shop and has joined with us to offer members discounts on purchases and we are currently negotiating agreements with courses to access discount green fees for members.

We also run a range of events from weekend packages to monthly handicap events, and have recently expanded to managing corporate golf days.

If you have an adventurous streak and want an official Australian handicap, Busranger Golf is worth a look. Visit busrangergolf.com.au to get involved and join the ranks of this unique Australian golf club. Best regards!

Our hearty breakfast is just the first course



WIN

The Ultimate Golf Holiday
4 days 3 nights
for you and 3 friends
Enter online now
iseekgolf.com/radisson



STAY & PLAY from \$159*

Got an appetite for quality golf? Here is how to enjoy the best selection
Your package includes:

- Overnight accommodation in a Resort Room
- Full buffet breakfast at Chelos Restaurant
- 18 holes of golf (with cart hire and return transfers) or
- A 60-minute massage at Future Therapy Massage & Beauty Studio

Radisson
RADISSON RESORT GOLD COAST

Radisson Resort Gold Coast • Palm Meadows Drive Qld 4211 • Tel +61 7 5555 7700 • Fax +61 7 5555 7701 • www.radisson.com/goldcoastau
*Subject to availability. Rate is per person per night, twin share, for Lakelands Golf Course. Valid until 30th December 2007. Not valid with any other offer. Conditions apply for the competition.