

PUKEKO PAGES – FEBRUARY 2016

The official Newsletter of the Waikanae Golf Club Inc.

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FROM THE CHAIR

STRATEGIC PLANNING: A review of the Club's strategic situation has been conducted by the Board and put out by email and on the Club's website for member perusal and comment. The Club is not in crisis, but the Board believes that it is at a crossroad. The direction it takes over the next three years will be critical to the Club's long-term future.

A meeting to explain the thinking and to receive comment will be held in the clubrooms at 7.00 pm on Wednesday, 16 March 2016. Please attend if you are keen for the Club to continue to succeed as an entity that meets the ever-evolving expectations of members. And please, before attending, pre-read the promulgated plan so that you have a basis for understanding the oral briefing.

The review has not been an idle, form-filling exercise that resulted in some fancy managerial slogans. Instead, it has been a good hard look at how the club currently functions, how the environment is changing, and thinking about how the Club can continue to meet changing customer expectations into the future. From daily experience, the Board members are keenly aware of the multiplicity of issues facing the Club and are constantly looking for affordable solutions. However, this very familiarity presents a danger of Board members getting too close to the problems to retain their objectivity. Furthermore, a group of six is unlikely to have as many insights and perspectives to offer as a membership of some 600. That is why we seek any and all contributions to the process – and why we wish to air the strategic options, as we see them, for your scrutiny. At the end of the day, the direction taken will require 'buy-in' from a majority of the members.

Ed Isaac, Chairman

CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT

After two days of the heaviest rain since Christmas it was a wake up call that the wonderful weather we have been experiencing can have a sting in its tail. That being said it came as a welcome relief for some of the areas of the course that come into play but are not necessarily covered by the irrigation system. The course continues to be in excellent condition but could I take a moment to remind members that divots on the course and pitch marks need repairing. The old rule of when on the green repair your own pitch mark and one other is also a good habit to get into.

The Interclub season is now in full swing with Waikanae hosting all 8 teams in the Championship section. Our team did very well beating Titahi Bay 10.5 – 4.5. The other teams are also posting very positive results. Congratulations to Simi Singh and John Murphy for taking out the Combined Nett Stroke Cup recently.

Over the last few months the Board have been compiling the Strategic Plan for the next five years. We are in an excellent position to take advantage of the soon to be opened Expressway and other factors. This in its turn could create some never to be repeated opportunities for us all. The Board with Chairman Ed at its helm (he likes naval expressions!) are going to present their ideas for the way forward on **Wednesday 16th March** at 7pm. Any member who has any interest in the club's future should really do their best to be there and hear, see what is proposed. This could be such an important time for Waikanae Golf Club. Some members of the Club have already made contact and given their opinions but everybody else should at least have the opportunity. To fully engage with this Plan will have significant financial implications for the long term so it is imperative that every member has his or her say, if they wish. **The Board believes this is such an important meeting that they have agreed to a Happy Hour being in operation for the duration.**

I'm sure it will be mentioned elsewhere in P.P. but there will be Defibrillator Training on Thursday 10th March at the club. I urge as many as possible of you to attend. Not wishing to be a scaremonger but just consider the scenario of someone you hold dear (someone like me, say) having a heart attack alongside the AED machine and you haven't a clue how to work the thing.

GREEN'S COMMITTEE REPORT

At the time of writing, our \$30,000 aerator still hasn't arrived, much to the frustrations of the green staff. There is just a possibility that it won't be here by next Monday 29th Feb when coring is due. We may need to rethink things so I'll keep all informed of what's what.

The stand of old willows beside the 10th green, where we leave our trundlers to tee off on 11, are mostly dead or dying, have been looked at by Treescape and are 'on borrowed time and could fall or split in any weather conditions'. I will be approaching the Board to provide funds for their removal.

At the same time, to maintain momentum with the Course Development Plan, I will be asking for Treescape to fell the Norfolk alongside the 10th white/yellow tee and the external willow in the crocodile pond on 18.

That's all for now, folks....**Cliff Martin, Club Captain**

Late News: Congratulations to Kevin Smith who managed his first hole-in-one on 26th February - Well done Kevin.

MID WEEK MEN

A successful start to the season for the Evergreens Team – well done. They defeated Ohariu Valley at Wainuiomata by 11 games to 4 and are on the top of the ladder, a very different start to last year, where we languished in last place before striking some form near the end of the season. Oliver Son was the player of the day with 45 stableford points. Others to score well were Kevin Win (40), Allan Chisholm (38) and Wayne Patrick (36). This must have something to do with a new captain, Bernie Shiell, although he and his partner, Graeme Wallis, were the only team not to win their pairs game! Onwards and upwards!!

The qualifying round for the Championship Pairs was held on 9 February. All members played 4Ball Best Ball Net with those entered into the Championship Pairs receiving their seeding positions based on the scores. The best net score of 57 was posted by Alan Gold and John Scrimshaw. Kaye Mitchell and Dave Edwards, Darrel Yates and John McKechnie and Geoff Strand and Peter Knight all finished on 62. For the second week in a row Roy South was the only two in the Shop 2's and collected 16 golf balls to go along with the 18 from the previous week. A great effort!

On Thursday 11 February a group from Te Marua visited. A very warm day! Rod Smith from Te Marua cleaned up the stableford competition with 48 points! Kevin Woodley and Michael Hewlett followed with 41 points. The Te Marua guys were very impressed with the course, particularly the watered fairways - something they do not have.

The first rain for about 3 weeks fell just as the Pairs Championship second round got underway. Those not in the Pairs played a par competition. With the uncertainty about the weather (which became very warm a little later in the day) only 40 MWM members turned up to play. The par competition was won, on countback, by Bryan Futter on +2. The other players on +2 were Peter Knight, Don Vautier and Gordon Hall. The Pairs Championship progressed and the last 8 pairs will continue next week.

On 22 February, Kapiti vets visited Waikanae. A field of 60 played a stableford competition. Aubrey Mulligan came out on top with 44 points followed by Bruce Crouch from Judgeford with 40 points and John Gillespie of Otaki with 39. A very warm day with the course playing very well. The visitors appreciated it.

On 23 February a stableford competition was played with a field of 77. The numbers were inflated because 20 or so players from Otaki joined us. Their course was closed due to Transpower doing some work on the overhead power lines. Kevin Lyes was the winner with 44 points followed by Don Vautier on 43. The hit of the day was a hole in one by Peter Cresswell on the 8th. Well done, Peter! It has only taken 47 years to achieve this!

The Evergreens Team continues to impress with a 10-5 win over Trentham at Te Marua on Thursday 25 February. Singles winners on the day were Bernie Shiell, Graeme Wallis, Wayne Patrick, Roy Leitch, Kevin Win, Kevin Woodley and Peter Cresswell. Waikanae now lead the competition with 21 points with the second team on 13.5. Must be something to do with the ruthless Australian captain!!....**Kevin Woodley**

WOMEN'S GOLF

The Women's season is now well underway and we have enjoyed wonderful weather and course conditions to date. The fairways are in great condition with a lovely covering of grass still evident, which has prevented the extremely high scoring we have experienced over the past few summers.

Our Midweek Ladies results are on the website but the winners of the four events played in February were Barbara Ratcliffe, Marcia Thipthorpe, Angla Lee and Steph Drinnan. Our first matchplay event of the season, The Waimeha Trophy, is underway with the draw posted in the Ladies locker room. First round matches are to be completed by March 18.

Last week we hosted the Amorangi Cup, an interclub stableford competition involving Otaki, Judgeford, Paraparaumu, Kapiti and Waikanae. It was a very successful day, apart from the fact that Waikanae only came second! The event was won by Otaki on 187 points followed by our team on 182. We received many compliments about the condition of the course and especially the greens, but everyone also commented on the wonderful food that was available from the cafe.

Our two pennant teams have commenced their competitions and to date have not enjoyed the same good start to the season they had last year. Our Midweek Division 2 team is currently lying 5th out of 7 teams, having lost to Karori 3.5 to 2.5 in their first match and to Paraparaumu 4 to 2 in their second. The Tuakana team, who suffered a heavy defeat in their first match, played Manor Park last weekend and bounced back with a convincing 10 – 2 victory.

Upcoming events of note include our Mystery trip on March 2 when our course is being cored and our only foursomes event of the season, the 36 hole WGI Nancy McCormack event which is being played on Wednesday March 16 and Sunday March 20. I would encourage members to enter the foursomes event on either day....**Rae Henderson, Ladies Captain**

9 HOLE WOMEN'S - Golf Day checklist for February 2016

1. FULL WATER BOTTLE

2. Shade umbrella

And down the listthe rest....clubs, shoes, balls, tees etc.

Yes, it has been great, and though it rained all night before we hosted Interclub, it magically stopped as we walked out to tee off. We ended up with a win, a loss and 2 halves, our one winner being Heather Peters who triumphed against the tough odds of having to give 5 shots over 9 holes. Congratulations, Heather. We will try to be inspired by her for our next game in Masterton this week.

It is such a pleasure to walk in to the bright, fresh, inviting cafeteria these days. The Interclub players from the other clubs all commented on the improvement, and many thanks to Jeanine and her friendly team for creating this enjoyable change.

We have had a lot of interest in the session offered to us all to learn to operate the defibrillator. The more people who are competent with it, the more useful the equipment will be.

Next month will be another opportunity to show off our lovely course and catering as we have our Open Day on March 14th. Our great team of helpers is putting the show together as we speak and entries from other clubs are arriving. A day of perfect weather has of course been booked. Don't miss the next instalment!**Judy Stevenson**

WAITANGI DAY TOURNAMENT

A big thank you to our members who supported the Waitangi Day Tournament and resulted in a full field of 95 participants. The 6-6-6 format of Ambrose, Canadian foursomes and 4BBB was a lot of fun and from the feedback we have had was very well received. The weather was perfect, in fact our hottest day this summer!! This year we did not have a financial sponsor and all entry fees were returned in prizes. We raised \$308 from the raffle for the club.

Winners were -

Mixed pairs – 1st Simon & Lesley Amos 49 pts, 2nd Miles Davidson & Sue Hiles 46 pts, 3rd Richard and Marg Cooke 44 pts on countback, 4th Bill & Lynne Bruce 44 pts.

Men's pairs – 1st David Mellor & Rama Chapman 50 pts, 2nd Graeme Ludeman & George Forbes 48 pts, 3rd Rod George & AJ Butler 47 pts, 4th Rod Cooper & Phil Hassall 46 pts on countback.

Women's pairs – 1st Jill Bolland & Ilene Wilson 45 pts, 2nd Julie Lines and Caryll Hewson 40 pts.

We are keen to find a sponsor for this tournament for 2017 and if you have any ideas please contact one of the organising committee - Rae Henderson, Jenny Shirley, Ann Hanlon**Ann Hanlon.**

JUNIOR GOLF

The New Year has given us 23 juniors to coach, with 5 new boys. We have 1 girl Lilly returning and she would love to have others to encourage her. Another of our regular boys came to see the others being coached from his wheel chair. Ollie Ward suffered a broken leg and will be in a cast for some weeks. We wish him a full recovery.

As player of the month Harry Ward has shone, representing Waikanae Golf Club, and his Senior Interclub Captain, John Murphy, wrote the following words.

"Everyone who has met Harry and played as a team member has remarked on what a good player but even better role model he is with his temperament and demeanor on the course.

Hats off to Harry when he shows his braces to the opposition - they look worried and so they should.

We are thinking of getting Harry to run a "keeping your cool on course" seminar for some of the other members of the team, especially myself.

He is a credit to his natural talent, the coaching provided and most importantly to the way he has been raised - keep it up Harry"**Ken Kissling for Junior Golf**

HEALTH & SAFETY - Defibrillator Training Session.

Location - Members Lounge

Date – 1.00 p.m. Thursday 10 March

Cost - A Gold coin donation

Duration - 90 Minutes

The training is aimed at saving the life of a fellow player through the use of the Club's own Defibrillator Unit, which was donated by Alan Power in 2013, and will be carried out by Wellington Free Ambulance Service.

This is an important opportunity for all members to be involved in what could be a lifesaving situation.

Advise your group leader that you will be coming or email me: tony.parrett1@gmail.com

COACHING CORNER: Putting - Leave it Below the Hole

Introduction

Not only does golf require a large number of shot making skill sets, but also the skill set of '*thinking before pulling the trigger*' and not just playing your shot blind.

One example of this is playing to a green with a reasonable amount of slope.

What I mean by this is that whilst the closer you are to the hole, the greater the chance you will have of holing your putt. However, you will also increase your opportunities to take fewer putts by leaving yourself a more makeable *uphill* putt.



Pic. 1



Pic. 2

Pic's 1 & 2: A Slippery Downhill Putt.

Leaving a slippery downhill putt can often lead to the player either, not realising the severity of the slope and putting it well past the hole as pictured.

Or, standing over the putt thinking 'don't hit it too hard!' leading to being too tentative or negative. Also when facing a downhill putt you really need to get your speed perfect, to enable it to fall in the hole if it catches the lip.

However, when we give it even slightly too much speed and it catches the edge of the hole it will most probably lip out and continue on its way down the slope.



Pic. 3



Pic. 4

Pic's 3 & 4: Uphill Putts - Gravity is Your Friend.

Facing a putt from below the hole, the ball will have a much greater chance of dropping in even if it's a wee bit too hard and slightly off line to due to gravity now working in your favour. Thus making the hole play slightly larger than it is when putting downhill.

So before....pulling the trigger on your approach shot....take an extra second to think about where you want to leave your ball, i.e. if not in the hole...then close to it and definitely on the *low side*.

Enjoy playing smarter golf....**Kevin Smith, Professional Coach**

SPECIAL FEATURE : THAILAND GOLFING HOLIDAY

The advert below is from Kevin Smith, who is offering a 10 Day Golfing Holiday in Thailand for a great price of NZ\$3,650, and as I have personal experience of having played these courses for 8 years in a row, for a week at a time, I can vouch for their quality, their location, the very friendly people and their most interesting culture.

The courses are excellent, and while they are demanding, golf carts are provided, and so are caddies who are very experienced and speak good English to help you play your best shots. There are refreshment stops along the way that offer fresh open style sandwiches as well as cool drinks, and make the golf seem like a stroll in the park.

Huahin, pronounced Waahin, is the home of the King of Thailand, who is a very popular monarch due to his affinity with farming, and because Huahin is a farming town, the people are very proud of their royal resident.

The town is clean - no shanties, and the hotels and white sandy beaches are well looked after due to the popularity of the area with tourists (and of course the King). The food too is of a high standard, with many restaurants offering a variety of international cuisine and of course Thai cuisine that must be tried, especially the freshly cooked seafood in the open-aired Pier Restaurants above the waves.

The shopping is excellent in the markets and malls, and just north of Huahin is Cha-am, where you can buy factory priced clothing and footwear, especially golf clothing. The night-life too is fun, with night markets to barter with the stall owners and many bars where you can enjoy a cool drink in the warm evening air.

BANGKOK

I have also spent a lot of time in Bangkok, for business reasons more than pleasure, and while the golf courses here are also in excellent condition the pace of life is different to that of Huahin. This is mainly due to the difference in population, Bangkok 6.3M compared to Huahin's 85K but also the sheer size of Bangkok - 5 times the population of Auckland and 50% bigger – it is incredible.

Like most of South East Asian cities, Bangkok is a river port, and supports an incredibly diverse range of cultures with many features to attract the tourist, and frankly there are far too many for me to mention here.

Regardless, the trip is about golf but you will get some time to look around, and don't be put off by the traffic or crowds as I am sure you will come away wanting to go back for more!

I have done a review of the NZ\$3,650 on the internet the following charges give excellent value.

- Flights Wellington to Bangkok return @ \$1850
- Includes travel to and from Huahin and to golf all courses.
- 4 Star accommodation for 10 nights @ \$1500
- Golf – 5 courses @ \$300
- Total \$3,650

Having visited Thailand so many times I believe that Kevin's Thai Golfing holiday is good value, and I recommend that you give it serious consideration. **NOTE:** It also allows you to get away from the cold wintery conditions here on the Kapiti Coast....**Editor.**

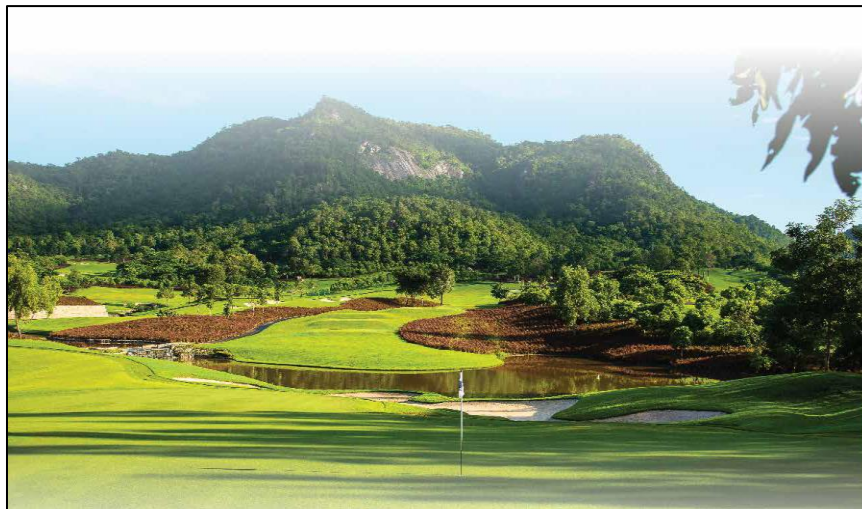
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Contact: **Kevin Smith - For fact sheet and Itinerary**
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