

PUKEKO PAGES – MARCH 2016

The official Newsletter of the Waikanae Golf Club Inc.

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FROM THE CHAIR

Health & Safety – New Act – Application to Members: Under the new Act which came into force on 4 April 2016, the entire WGC property is defined as a workplace. This places obligations on the Board, the staff and our contractors (all of which are being dealt with seriously, but separately). However, in accordance with S46 of the Act there are also obligations on members and visitors, paraphrased as follows:

Any Member/visitor must:

- take reasonable care for his or her own health and safety; and
- take reasonable care that his or her acts or omissions do not adversely affect the health and safety of other persons; and
- comply, as far as he or she is reasonably able, with any reasonable instruction that is given by the Board, staff or contractor to allow the Board to comply with this Act or regulations.

Strategic Planning: A meeting to explain the thinking and to receive comment about the Board's proposal to investigate the feasibility of completely upgrading the Club's facilities AND transforming the business model was held in the clubrooms at 7.00 pm on Wednesday, 16 March 2016. 88 members were in attendance and overwhelmingly indicated their support for the Board to proceed. The investigation will now be conducted, using 6 committees made up from 30-odd Club members, with a final report to members expected about October this year. During the meeting some interesting points were raised. These were recorded and will be followed up in due course.

Membership Recruitment Initiative: One suggestion arising from the above meeting was to address the self-evident view that the key to the Club's sustainability is to continually induct and retain new members with a new approach. As a pilot scheme, the Board has authorised that memberships be sought and sold by a representative on a commission-only basis, with a once-only renewal bonus to encourage sales follow-through. Advertising for the sales position is already under way. This exercise (which is at little risk to the

Club) is being managed by a volunteer who has experience with such matters. We sincerely hope that this initiative will bear fruit and we sincerely thank the member for the initiative.

Water Supply: Just to let you know where some of your subscriptions go, recently the Club's water meter showed we had a fast-flowing leak that, left unfixed, would cost plenty. Although isolated portions of the piping system were tested and found to be sound, the leak persisted and its location could not economically be found. So a by-pass has been installed at a cost of circa \$5,000.00.

Website: Our outstanding website has to date been developed to its existing high standard and been kept current through the drive and enthusiasm of Caren Martin, helped over the past couple of years by Ian Trim. After four years, Caren has advised that she wants a break and is standing down from her voluntary role. We thank Caren for her stellar contribution to the Club's electronic 'face' – it is an understatement to say she has left the role in a better state than she found it. It is in a far better state! Thank you.

The Club is fortunate to announce that Caren's web-editing protégé, Ian Trim, has agreed to fill this vital role until the Club can bring the function in-house as a part of the proposed new business regime. Ian is employed full-time and his commitment to this role cannot be taken lightly. Accordingly, planning for the transition to in-house management is currently in train.

Bridge Over the Black Stream: After much toing and froing, we are about to see construction of a replacement vehicle bridge from the 3rd to the 12th fairways. This has been made financially possible with a grant to cover roughly half its cost. We will be using some of the huge hardwood beams that have been stored for some years near the boundary of the 11th fairway. These were donated for such a purpose before my time at the Club – so it's good to see them finally being put to their intended purpose. You would think that such a simple matter would just require a decision supported by authorised finance – well dream on – the hoops that have had to be jumped through by Jim Lynch, Bryan Kilmister and Cliff Martin have made this an epic exercise. We thank them for their patience and perseverance and look forward to seeing the final result. Good golfing to all....**Ed Isaac, Chairman**

CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Slowly but surely summer is turning to autumn with shorter days and chilly mornings. Golf inevitably starts to change, gone is the extra run on the ball, morning dew helps you decide whether that leak in your golf shoe has healed over the summer and yes, the scores and handicaps are creeping out. This year though, you may notice that your handicap has gone out a little more than usual, due in no small part to the fact that our course is being re-rated by Wellington Golf, and was done on Monday, 4th April. Early measurements from the team indicate that the men's blue course is about half a shot easier than that shown on the scorecard and the ladies by a bit more than that when playing off the yellows. This is mainly due to the measurements done last time we were rated (7 years ago) done by GPS. This time they are using the latest laser technology. We are actually playing around a hundred metres shorter than we think. The yellow tee moving on 18 also has an effect.

Most of the Interclub teams are doing really well, the ladies after a slow start are now winning regularly and the men's teams are performing well, too. Unfortunately our top team had a bit of a reversal at the hands of Otaki recently, and this is surely just a blip.

While on the subject of Interclub matters, we have accepted a request from Wellington Golf to host a play-off round in the 36 Hole Grade on Saturday 21st May when four of the best 10 man teams in the region will slug it out on our course.

Those who play on Saturdays may wish to bear this in mind when making their bookings.

It was very encouraging to see so many of you at the presentation evening recently and the enthusiasm which was obvious for the exciting proposals the Board were asking your support for. The plans may be ambitious and costly but if and when completed, will produce a clubhouse with facilities that we will all be proud of and will produce a significant income stream. The Expressway may have its ecological detractors but now it is becoming a reality, I for one, feel that to pass up such an opportunity to smarten up our club would be letting the members down. Our location and facilities will surely be the envy of many local golf clubs.

The new aerator machine has been warmly welcomed by the greens staff. The impact of coring on the greens has been much reduced and it has been used on the surrounds of the greens and some of the fairways, too. It has already saved us \$6,000 in hiring a coring machine. We are going full steam ahead with getting the bridge beside the 3rd tee repaired/replaced and work should start shortly. See you all around the place....**Cliff Martin, Club Captain.**

MID WEEK MEN

Due to the coring of the greens the MWM competition was delayed until Thursday 3 March. A small field of 36 played an Ambrose round. Everybody enjoyed themselves in this light hearted version of team golf. The winning team was Kevin Lyes, Denys Wright, Joe Ratcliffe and Oliver Son with a net score of 58.65.

On Tuesday 8 March a field of 53 played in overcast conditions with occasional light showers. The finalists for the next week's Pairs Championship final were found. Geoff Strand and Peter Knight will play Kaye Mitchell and Dave Edwards. The rest of the field played a Canadian Foursomes competition. The winning team of Roy Leitch and Ed Isaac scored a net 67 followed by three teams on a net 69 - George McLellan and Peter Mason, Jim Lynch and Oliver Son and Peter Bell and Alan Hermans.

On Tuesday 15 March, the much awaited Championship Pairs final was postponed to the following week due to an injury to one of the participants. A field of 53 played a net competition. The winner on a net 64 was Richard Starke. This could be another Maria Sharapova drug scandal!!! We are awaiting Richard's "confession" on TV. WADA has just added low alcohol beer to the banned list!! Following closely were Geoff Strand on 65 and Steve Ricketts on 66.

The Championship Pairs final was played on 22 March. Kaye Mitchell and Dave Edwards prevailed in a tight contest, 2&1, over Peter Knight and Geoff Strand. Congratulations to Kaye and Dave and "well played" to Peter and Geoff. The remaining field of 48 played a par round. Terry Jones was the winner on +4 followed by Paul Ronberg on +3. Bob Barton, Bryan Kilmister and Hone Kaiwai finished next on +2. The scoring overall was very good with the cut off for prizes being -1. For the second week in a row, Gary Story, our convener, missed out by one shot. Just shows you how fair the competition is!!

On a very wet Thursday, 24 March, the Evergreens team played Wainuiomata at Kapiti. Fortunately the weather improved after playing the first 2-3 holes. The Waikanae team continued on their winning way

with a victory 9.5 - 5.5. Individual winners were Roy South, Wayne Patrick, John Plimmer, Oliver Son and Kevin Woodley. Pairs who won their matches were Wayne Patrick and John Plimmer, Denys Wright and Oliver Son and Roy Leitch and Kevin Woodley. Oliver Son also scored the highest stableford of 39 in the whole field. This is the second month in a row Oliver has achieved this. Well done! Waikanae are still leading the competition with 30.5 points. It will be interesting to see whether they can maintain this next month without their inspirational captain, Bernie Shiell, who will be visiting his homeland.

Tuesday 29 March saw 51 players attempt a Japanese Stableford team event. A disc draw mixed up high and low handicappers for a successful day. The winning team on 98 points was Graeme Wallis, Trevor Tildesley, Darrel Yates and Peter Cresswell. Bob Barton, John Peters, John Plimmer and Tony Parrett followed on 92 points. A bit of trepidation at the start mastering the team sheet, but all turned out well. **Kevin Woodley for Mid Week Men.**

WOMEN'S GOLF

March has been a busy month for the Waikanae women with Pennants in full swing, our Mystery Trip, the inaugural Interclub Fixture against Feilding and the Nancy McCormack Foursomes, as well as matches continuing in the Waimeha Trophy.

The Mystery trip was a highly successful event, extremely well organised by Chris Holland and Del Meade to whom we say a big 'thank you'. Their choice of mystery course, Wainuiomata, was a very interesting and challenging venue.

Both the team, and individual competitions were tightly contested, we had an amazing prize pool for which we thank many local businesses, the weather was wonderful and everyone had a great day. The results have been published on the website but the team winners were the Sport Achievers (Ilene Wilson, Ngaire Cheevers and Jo Brown) with 86 points while Janet Strand won the individual competition with 39 stableford points on a countback from Barbara Ratcliffe.

Feilding was the venue for our mystery trip last year and, following our visit, it was suggested that we play an annual interclub match on a home and away basis. Waikanae recently hosted the first competition, an aggregate stableford format involving 18 players from each club. Our visitors were extremely impressed with the quality of the Waikanae course, the matches were played in great spirit and both clubs are looking forward to a long association. As for the golf, Waikanae won the competition with 565 points to Feilding's 531, and the individual winners were Chris Holland (39 pts) and Dale Bain from Feilding (37pts).

Our pennant teams enjoyed excellent results last month with our Division 2 Midweek team now coming top of their division with two matches to play. They had a great 5-1 win over Paraparaumu at Kapiti and followed this with a close 3.5 - 2.5 victory against Otaki at Paraparaumu. Similarly our Saturday Tuakana team has shot into 2nd place with a close 6.5-5.5 defeat of Karori on their home course, which followed a drawn (6 all) away match against Miramar. Let's hope both teams can maintain their form over their last few matches and come out winners of their respective divisions.

The Nancy McCormack 36 Hole Foursomes event attracted only 6 pairs which, was rather disappointing as it is our only foursomes event of the season. Three pairs played in shocking conditions midweek and the others enjoyed a beautiful sunny Sunday. Congratulations to the winners, Carolyn Hawe and Ruth Scott

with a net 159, who were followed by two pairs on 164 (Fran Callis / Jenny Heggie and Lynne Bruce / Jill Bolland). Let's hope next year we can attract a larger entry.

The winners of our weekly competitions in March have been Jenny Shirley, Jill Lane and Olive Mitchell. All results are on the website.

April will be another busy month with the highlight being our Open Day on April 21. I hope as many members as possible enter this most enjoyable 666 format stableford event and encourage their friends from other clubs to do so as well..... **Rae Henderson, Women's Captain.**

9 HOLE WOMEN

The plant of the month is the shamrock, known to be a champion survivor, adapting to difficult situations with stubborn determination, a very fitting emblem for the contestants in our Matchplay competition which started this month and is now well into the 2nd round. Congratulations to the winners who are forging ahead towards the final in May, and commiserations to us faded shamrocks who nevertheless live on to fight another day!

March is the month for our Open Day, and this year proved to be even more successful than last, with 72 players from 10 different clubs from Te Marua to Levin taking part, and all of them complimentary about the course (thank you green staff), the prizes (thank you sponsors), the catering and bar service and the organisation (thank you all you wonderful helpers...committee, members and even past members).

Our latest foray into the Interclub battlefield, this time at Shandon, provided our interclub convenor, Margaret Walton, with reason to smile as we came away with 3 wins and a loss despite giving what seemed like endless numbers of shots to our opponents, Karori.

Make the most of this lingering summer, and enjoy the warmth now that there is the suggestion of an Autumn freshness in the air, and play with the shamrock's stubborn determination!.....**Judy Stevenson for 9 Hole Women.**

Golf Poem (Thanks to Brian Cardiff)

In My Hand I Hold A Ball,
White And Dimpled, And Rather Small.
Oh, How Bland It Does Appear,
This Harmless Looking Little Sphere.

By Its Size I Could Not Guess
The Awesome Strength It Does Possess.
But Since I Fell Beneath Its Spell,
I've Wandered Through The Fires Of Hell.

My Life Has Not Been Quite The Same
Since I Chose To Play This Stupid Game.
It Rules My Mind For Hours On End;
A Fortune It Has Made Me Spend.

It Has Made Me Curse And Made Me Cry,
And Hate Myself And Want To Die.
It Promises Me A Thing Called Par,
If I Hit It Straight And Far.

To Master Such A Tiny Ball,
Should Not Be Very Hard At All.
But My Desires The Ball Refuses,
And Does Exactly As It Chooses.

It Hooks And Slices, Dribbles And Dies,
And Disappears Before My Eyes.
Often It Will Have A Whim,
To Hit A Tree Or Take A Swim.

With Miles Of Grass On Which To Land,
It Finds A Tiny Patch Of Sand.
Then Has Me Offering Up My Soul,
If Only It Would Find The Hole.

It's Made Me Whimper Like A Pup,
And Swear That I Will Give It Up.
And Take To Drink To Ease My Sorrow,
But The Ball Knows ... I'll Be Back Tomorrow.

Stand proud you noble swingers of clubs and losers of balls!

A recent study found that the average golfer walks about 900 miles a year.

Another study found that golfers drink, on average, 22 gallons of alcohol a year.

This means that, on average, golfers get about 41 miles to the gallon!

Kind of makes you proud eh!

JUNIOR GOLF

The programme that Kevin Smith and the community coaches assist with is designed to teach the basics of the golf game. Each week the 5 groups progress through putting, chipping, pitching and the full swing. The aim is to make games that are fun and not keep at one routine for the entire time. Holding the club (not gripping) stance, posture, alignment and swing mechanics are included. The on-course work is usually done with groups playing Ambrose competition where the club selection for distance control and course management is taught. Also course etiquette is given with due emphasis. The most difficult part is to stop the chatter when someone else is playing their shot!

Over Easter our Monday numbers were down but 15 children enjoyed an extended time on the course, accompanied by some fathers. Parents are welcome, and we encourage them to bring their children out as often as possible, as once a week coaching for 1.25 hours is not enough to make great progress.

Also the coaches and the Junior committee are grateful for the Midweek Men's generosity in donating money (\$500.00) which has been spent on purchase of 5 sets of junior clubs and carry bags. These were supplied by a prominent sports retailer at a huge discount - approx 50% less than retail. This has meant we no longer have 6 to 11 year olds trying to use cut down clubs that are too stiff and heavy for the smaller children and many thanks to the MWM committee.

Coming up on Thursday 21st April at Kapiti Golf club is the first of the McDonald's Junior interclub events for 2016. Some details are still to be organised but watch for emails. Good golfing everyone.....**Ken Kissling for Junior Golf.**

COACHING CORNER: Handling those Down Hillers!

Introduction

Following on from last month's article, i.e. leaving the ball below the hole, and just in case you aren't able to leave the ball where you wanted, this month I'm going to give you a simple wee tip that can help you cope with those slippery downhill putts.



Pic 1



Pic 2

Pic's 1 and 2: Going, going, gone!

Pic's 1 and 2 probably looks familiar for a number of you? That is facing a slippery down hillier and seeing the ball race well past the hole, like a Melbourne Cup winner tearing past the finish line.



Pic 3



Pic 4

Pic's 3 to 4: Going from Zero to Hero

An image to help the golfer remain assertive, whilst facing those fast downhill putts, is to imagine a target or another hole short of the actual hole as shown in pic's 3 and 4. This point wants to be where you believe you need to roll the ball with letting the slope do the rest.

Along with this image, imagine the speed the ball should be rolling to where you believe it would almost come to rest on this imaginary target, before the remaining slope helps the ball continue its way into the hole.

All you need to do now is to pick it out!....**Kevin Smith, Professional Coach.**

From the Par Tee Café

This poem was written by a friend of Jeanine's on the opening of the Par Tee Cafe.

Jeanine's Cafe

*If you plan a round of golf to play,
you better visit Jeanine's cafe.*

*Even if your round was not that good,
it's worth you trying her drink and food.*

*The best thing to ease a tiring round,
is the coffee that's always freshly ground.*

*If the 18th hole doesn't end that well,
blame your nose for that coffee smell.*

*So come on in and enjoy the food,
I can vouch for the fact that it's really good.*

*The choice to eat there is really smart,
as everything is made with lots of heart.*

OTHER CLUB NEWS

The Whakatane Golf Club has rescinded **ALL** reciprocal playing rights with other clubs from 1 April 2016.

ADVERTISEMENTS

The following vacancy is advertised for any member with the appropriate skills who wishes to apply.

WAIKANAE GOLF CLUB – WEBSITE ASSISTANT

Use your tech skills to assist the Club moving forward.

We use WordPress for our website and maintain a Facebook page.

If you know and use these, or have managed web content - great!

However the most important thing is that you are very comfortable on a PC (e.g. file/image management, hyperlinking, email) and enjoy learning new skills.

It is envisioned that the role would take approx 5 hours per week.

Full training will be given.

For more information contact Ian Trim, Website Manager.

iw.trim@gmail.com



KEVIN SMITH GOLF

Junior Coaching Schools

NZPGA Teaching Professional

Waikanae Golf Club

❖ Group One - Half Day

❖ *Aimed at: Juniors with a 9 hole or no official golf handicap*

❖ *Date: Tuesday April 19th 2016*

❖ *Time: 12.30pm - 4.30pm*

❖ *Cost for each group: \$30 p/p*

❖ Group Two - Full Day

❖ *Aimed at: Juniors with an official 18 hole golf handicap*

❖ *Date: Wednesday April 20th 2016*

❖ *Time: 10am - 5pm*

❖ *Cost for each group: \$60 p/p*

Limited to only 10 in each group - Training long & short Game, along with a playing lesson

- Fun and informative to help you become a champion golfer!



Contact:

❖ **Kevin Smith**

❖ **Phone: 0274 399402 or 04 2933544 A/H**

❖ **Email: kevin-smith@golf@xtra.co.nz**



KEVIN SMITH GOLF

Fully Qualified
NZPGA TEACHING GOLF PROFESSIONAL

BEGINNERS GOLF PROGRAMME



I have been a Professional Coach for over 30 years coaching golfers of all abilities and running highly successful courses for new golfers

This course has been designed to help new golfers get started with a correct understanding of golf's key fundamentals, progressing from putting, chipping, pitching to the full swing.

This course also includes playing lessons to help discover the simple rules of golf as well as the correct etiquette

Key to this course is having fun with other keen like minded beginner golfers, whilst learning in a proven, progressive and simple manner

WHERE: Waikanae Golf Club

DATES: 8 Sessions starting from May14th 2016

TIMES: Saturdays 10.30am – 11.30am. Noting the playing lesson's are 2 hours long

WHAT TO BRING: What golf gear you have, golf shoes or sports shoes and a fun attitude to learning Please let me know if you require golf clubs?

FEE: \$300 for the 8 sessions

N.B: This is limited to the first 8 registrations.

CONTACT:

Kevin Smith Phone 0274-399402 or 04-2933544

Email; kevinsmithgolf@xtra.co.nz

2015 PORIRUA COACH OF THE YEAR
Coach of the
NZ GOLF'S NUMBER 1 RANKED AMATUER
WOMEN GOLFER
2015 WOMENS AND MENS AMATUER
CHAMPIONS
2015 WOMENS STROKEPLAY CHAMPION
2015 MENS AGE GROUP CHAMPION

I COACH PEOPLE - NOT SYSTEMS

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\$95 per Ute load (\$105 for non-members)

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