



Monday 16.10.17

# Your "Wake Up!" Call



## STROKEPLAY CELEBRATIONS – LADIES FIRST

Last Saturday, 14 October, the final round of the Women's Strokeplay was held in misty but relatively calm conditions and we salute the following winners:

SILVER – Sue Cox (94,87,85=266). Runner-up Diane Taylor (92,89,95=276)

BRONZE I – Sheila Gough (96,91,92=279). Runner-up Rae McKinley (97,100,94=291).

BRONZE II – Cherie Adkins (101,98,98=297). Runner-up Nancy Teale (113,101,99=313).

9-HOLES: Division 1 – Diane Bridge (61,54,58=173). Runner-up Jenni Goodin (61,61,55=177)

Division 2 – Christine Lee (67,66,61=194), Runner-up Ann Howard (71,63,62=196).

Diane Taylor, Sheila Gough, Rae McKinley and Lesley Tolhopf will play in the Northland Champ of Champs at Sherwood Park on Saturday 28 October and we're confident they will represent our club with pride and passion.

*In the meantime, the Mens Strokeplay Round 3 took place and contestants now have a breather before the final and deciding round to be played on Saturday 28 October. The draw for this final round is seeded and can be seen on our online booking sheets. Please check your time and make sure you're here.*

## HOW TO DITCH YOUR TRUNDLER

Taffy and Toby were well into their usual inane prattle when playing partner Routers brought their attention to the appallingly slow pace of the group in front of them. "Lazy bounders!" expostulated Routers, turning to his playmate Donners, "4 of them in 2 carts and we're waiting on every hole!". Taffy proffered a muted "Mmmm" while Toby, placing his abacus to one side, ignored the frustrations of his mates as he parked his trundler beside the 8<sup>th</sup> green. "You're away, Routers," he murmured as he stayed within the zone. His group proceeded to putt out, Taffy taking his standard 4 putts, and began to move off the green. "I say! Look at them – still fiddling around on the tee!" exploded Routers. "What in golf's name are they doing?". "Looks to me as though they trying to pull something out of the drain behind the tee," Toby gently opined. "Yes, looks to me as though it's a trundler," cried an excited Taffy, "what kind of #\$\$\*\*!!#@ would lose a trundler in there?". "Hang about a bit," mused the thoughtful Donners, "seems to me there's four of them and they have two carts. A trundler, lads, would seem a bit superfluous.". The bemused quartet began to make their way across to the 9<sup>th</sup> tee to find out more about this strange circumstance. "Hold it, chaps!" cried Toby, "some swine nicked my trundler. I know I'm winning, but pinching my clubs is a bit low, you losers!". Looking about, the four stalwarts could see only 3 sets of golf gear where they had parked 4. Slowly it dawned on them that the activity they had been criticising was, in fact, a rescue exercise. Toby, in his zonal focus mode, had parked his electric trundler pointing toward the 9<sup>th</sup> tee – but had inadvertently nudged the "Go" button as he set off to putt out. Result: one electric trundler and clubs inverted in the drain beside the 9<sup>th</sup> tee, thoughtfully retrieved by the group in front – proving that even slow players have their uses. (Footnote: one thankfully dry cellphone, but one rather soggy sausage sandwich.) *True, every word, even though we unfortunately lack photographic evidence.*



## Mixed Open

**Sunday 22 October 2017**

Gross / Nett / Stableford

Men's & Women's Divisions

Nearest The Pin & Longest Drive in Divisions. Lucky Draw Travel Prize.

Morning Start times 7.28 - 8.16am

Afternoon Shotgun @ 1.00pm

Members: \$30 Visitors: \$45

\*ONLY NZ AFFILIATED GOLFERS WITH CURRENT HANDICAPS MAY ENTER NETT & STABLEFORD COMPETITIONS. HANDICAP INDEX MAXIMUMS APPLY: Men 36.4, Women 40.4



Please Pre-Pay to confirm your entry.

Book via Golf Shop

www.mangawhaigolf.co.nz

email: golfshop@mangawhaigolf.co.nz

Ph: 09 431 4807



The morning field is pretty well full, but spaces are available for the afternoon shotgun start at 1.00pm.

Booking sheet is in the Golf Shop - get your entry in soon! Great prizes across all divisions - plus a Lucky Draw!

## GREEN FACTS & FACTORS

*We know that a good number of members have been expressing their views on the state of our greens – past, present and future. Blessed, as we are, with more than 600 turfculture aficionados, obviously there is a wide band of opinion and options being expounded.*

*On the following page you will read the concerns expressed by one member who had the gumption to put his concerns in writing – and you will also see the response provided by our Match Committee.*

*Please, let's avoid personal attacks – however justified you may believe them to be – and let's try and remain objective.*

*And – while this may not change your viewpoint – be aware of the overwhelmingly positive comments from visitors (ranging from 4 handicapper up) to our course over the past few weeks. In one player's words: It's the first time in months I've been able to use a proper putting stroke!".*

**FROM A MEMBER** (dated early September, and edited minimally for reasons of space and anonymity):

I have to express my disappointment at the current state of our greens. Our greens have always been the envy of almost every club in the North Island but now, I would be too embarrassed to invite anyone to play our course at the moment! They are in a shocking state and the worst I have ever seen them. I was one of the many volunteers who helped the greenstaff when the greens were cored all those months ago. It was an absolute disaster with the "sander" for the greens being broken at the time and the coring machine booked for a national holiday! I could not understand at the time and afterwards, why our greenstaff had not checked the equipment they were going to need, well beforehand, knowing it would be needed for the major work ahead. Was there no other way of getting a replacement belt, other than waiting weeks for one to arrive from wherever it was ordered? As far as I am aware, no sand was then put on the greens for weeks. I could not believe how bad they still were after 15 weeks! In my opinion, they are just as bad, if not worse, just now. I know there has been a monumental amount of rain over the winter but that should not have been a problem had the greens been done properly and on time.

Other "rumours" circulating the club about what is going on certainly do not help and the members are rightly perplexed and worried about how our greens can be so bad. Not being "greens experts", we can only go on what we see and compare it to what we are used to and expect as our norm. So the current situation, with really little improvement seen, is creating a lot of unrest in the club. The greenkeeping staff must be held responsible and accountable for the state of the greens. I am sure that if they had asked for MORE help, at the time, to even sand the greens by hand, our magnificent volunteers would have been more than happy to do this, as we all care passionately about our wonderful course.

I can only hope that in the coming months the greens return to their former selves but based on what we have just now, forgive me if I remain less than confident.

### **IN REPLY, FROM OUR COURSE COMMITTEE**

On 9 March this year we received from Will Bowden, a Turf Consultancy specialist, a report that showed that the 4 greens that have been monitored since 2005, namely holes 1, 9, 10, and 12, had significant Organic Content (OC) and suggested that coring was required. The first available booking of the Corer, after the Pro-Am, was Monday 24 April to 26 April. Our greens had never been cored, in my experience, for at least 12 years and none of the greenstaff or Course Committee had been involved in the coring of greens before so the actual enormity of the task was sorely underestimated. Unfortunately, because of Anzac Day and the untimely breakdown of our Sander, only 10 of the 20 greens were completed and the Corer was rebooked for after the Bonnington Tournament (28/29 May). It took us nearly 3 days to complete the remaining greens because the Corer itself broke down on the first day. By the time we had completed coring it was June and the best growing and recovery season had passed and so it was going to take some time for our greens to recover. So what have we learned from bitter experience? That to core 20 greens will take at least 4 days and should only be undertaken prior to the Spring or Autumn growing flush, and at least 4-6 weeks allowed for recovery, depending on weather.

By 24 July we had received a full year's average rainfall in 7 months. We had flooding and ponding on holes that some of our older members had never seen before. The water table was so high that even 15-20mm of rain – which ordinarily would be shrugged off by the course – was refilling the ponding which we had endeavoured to reduce by pumping. (As an aside, Course are most grateful to Monday Men, Tuesday Ladies and Wednesday Mavericks who combined to fund the purchase of our pump.)

The course was closed 2, 3, and 4 June, 4, 9 and 20 July and 3 and 9 August. (Can anyone recall the course being closed that often?) In addition, conditions were so bad that no carts were permitted on the course for at least 18 days through the June-August period.

Your greenstaff and the Course Committee apologise for the rate of recovery by the beginning of September but anyone playing the course this Winter would understand the mitigating factors. Finally in early October we are experiencing warmer weather and kinder rainfall. In the last few days the greens are really beginning to show rapid improvement and we are confident that they will be back to their best by the end of this month, to complement the excellent condition of our fairways. (Has anyone noticed how good our fairways are at the moment?)

Our greenstaff and your Course Committee share our members' concern on the state of our greens through this miserable Winter and we are determined to try harder and learn from this experience. Should our greens testing in February 2018 show further need for coring we have provisionally booked the Corer for the week beginning 9 April, the week after the Pro-Am and Easter but 6 weeks before the Bonnington.



### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

We've already brought your attention to this weekend's Air Vanuatu – and we'll do so again, along with pre-warnings on future events.

**AIR VANUATU MIXED OPEN** – see poster on 1<sup>st</sup> page.

There are two start options – a morning field from 1<sup>st</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> tees with times available from approx 7.30 – 8.30am, and a shotgun start at 1.00pm for those who like to sleep in. This very popular event is on the Sunday of Labour Weekend and along with the usual outstanding prize table there'll be a Lucky Draw for two return tickets to Vanuatu flying Air Vanuatu. Accommodation is for you to organise and it might be worth talking to Jono Mabey about that.

**MELBOURNE CUP DAY** – Tuesday 1 November. Take a punt on this one – golf and a wee bit on the side – more details to come.

**SIGNATURE HOMES MIXED CANADIAN FOURSOMES** – now on Sunday 5 November. As the date indicates, this will be a cracker event and there'll soon be an entry sheet in the Golf Shop. Get yourself a partner of the opposite gender and enjoy this fun event with great cash prizes to be won.

**WINGER MIXED OPEN** – now on Sunday 19 November. We'll have a start sheet out soon and have a record of those who have previously paid their entries.

### **THINGS NOT TO FORGET FROM LAST WEEK'S ISSUE**

- The fundraising opportunity via Club Power and Community Power – we're close to getting full details on this.
  - The Experience Golf Vietnam package, hosted by Howdo in April next year – contact Jono Mabey for more details.
- Now go and play good golf with happy friends.**