



Monday 17.7.17

Your  
"Wake Up!"  
Call



## PRAISE THE LORD OF THE RAINS! HE'S TAKING A BREAK!

It's an uneasy feeling, waking to a pre-dawn morning and parting the curtains to reveal clear skies. No mass of threatening dark cloud, no pounding deluge on the windows ... and then arriving to see a course whereon the waters are quickly receding. Who cares where the rains gone ... let's bask in this (probably) brief respite from the pouring and the puddles, the sleet and the slop.

So we have carts back on the course – but still with the hope that cart users will avoid some of the misdemeanours of last week. The 11<sup>th</sup> remains our problem hole but there's a pathway roped off for cart users and some duckboards in place for walkers – please keep to these areas as much as possible. The recent coring programme – remember that? – has seen our greens draining superbly so our overall playability is way ahead of pretty well any course anywhere else in NZ. Certainly, the Great Northern Battle participants were very complimentary, many expressing delight in not having to paddle through mud to get from tee to green.

Over the past two weeks, various groups and individuals – along with our greenstaff - have spent a lot of time identifying problem areas and applying solutions as best they can. While we are blessed with a membership rich in drainage wisdom, we need to take a pragmatic view of what has happened, why it happened and ask when/if it will happen again. The one positive to emerge from this wet season is the realisation that our drainage system cannot be left to its own devices. While it has coped very well for many years, the possibility that this 1-in-100-years weather pattern may become an annual occurrence means that we have work to do. It's, obviously, too late to undertake any major drain repair/renovation this Winter but there is considerable planning under way to address the issue when we can bring machinery onto the course without having major impact on the playing surfaces.

## THE GREAT NORTHERN BATTLE GOES SOUTH



Yesterday's annual match between Northland and North Harbour saw our local province put up a strong fight before going down by 289 to 251. In the Mens category, Northland performed outstandingly to win by 111.5 to 104.5 which is a great result with the Toro Interprovincials not too far away. Lee Newman had a strong win, coming from behind at halfway to secure his match, while Scott Wightman stormed home with three birdies over the last 3 holes but couldn't quite make up the leeway. Jamie Thomas (who we lay claim to) also had a narrow loss, and Belinda May, playing at No.1 for Northland also played strongly before yielding to her North Harbour opponent.

This event is a wonderful opportunity for us to showcase our course and the players and accompanying officials were all very complimentary. The day was brilliantly clear and - for July – pleasantly warm and apart from the

occasional puddle the overall playability of the course was excellent.

Special mention must be made of the input of Len Bilton to the overall success of the day. While he doesn't hold any official role here at Mangawhai he pitches in willingly to lend his organisational and rules skills and enables everything to run smoothly. We're very fortunate to have a number of members – some old, some new – who so readily contribute to our events and we thank you all.

## TARRIN ON TOUR – THE PREVIEW



Exciting and challenging times lie ahead for Tarrin Rous as he prepares to undertake the biggest golfing challenge of his young life. On Monday 24 July, Tarrin flies out to the USA to take part in the US Kids Golf Teen World Championships to be played at Pinehurst, North Carolina. It's a pretty arduous itinerary – fly to LA, then another 5 hours or so to North Carolina, then straight into it. Tuesday is Practice Day, as is a more formalised Wednesday, then three days – Thursday, Friday, Saturday - on the magnificent Jack Nicklaus Signature course Pinehurst No.9. Sunday sees the Teen Van Horn Cup played between the best of the Americans and the best of the Rest of The World. Then it's pack the bags and start the long trip back home, losing a day on the way and getting back here on Thursday.

Tarrin will be playing in the 14 year old section and facing top talent from around the world so it promises to be a brilliant experience for him and all our members wish him well on his travels and on the course.

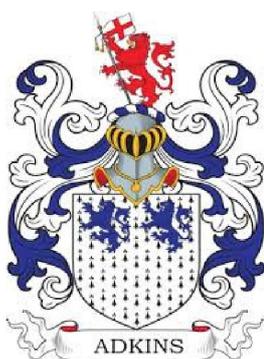
Not so brilliant is the news that he won't be travelling in the company of Di and Julian. As many of you know, they've had difficulty getting visas for the trip, discovering to their horror that they faced a wait of at least 4 months to have their applications approved. This created a timeline that just didn't work so they, with obvious reluctance, disappointment

and frustration, have passed their tickets (and Tarrin's guardianship) to Tarrin's brother Zane and his partner Kristin who both have current visas for travel to the States. This is an unbelievable shame for Di and Julian who have been looking forward so much to seeing Tarrin play in this prestigious tournament. While each nation has every right to stipulate their own terms on entry – and certainly the USA is right at the forefront of the closed borders campaign – it seems unfortunate that small issues can have such a major impact on people. As Greens leader Matiria Turei is discovering, seemingly small things in your past can suddenly loom large as obstructions and give you a decent kick in the vitals just when you're getting excited. Another downside is that some individuals - thankfully a very small number - can choose to leap onto the high moral ground and preach piety, to nobody's great benefit. Di and Julian are both significant, hard-working contributors to the club and the Mangawhai community and much as they love the area they'll be doing it hard being here while Tarrin is on the big stage. Let's leave the focus where it should be – on Tarrin as he carries the hopes and pride of our club onto the international stage.

## COURSE COMMITTEE CORNER #1

From time to time we will let members know what issues have been identified and how/when they are to be dealt with:

- 1. Soft patch in front of green No.1.** Although a drain coil has been laid in front of the green it remains soft and apparently will remain so until a leak in the sprinkler system is located and repaired. There is a soft patch at the very front of green on the right side and excessive water is located at that point. The Green Keeper will locate that leak when time and weather permit. Please keep carts and trundlers – and foot traffic – away from this area.
- 2. Path adjacent to green No.2.** It will have been noted that some metal has been laid at the commencement of that path and some also at the end towards the 3rd fairway. Although there is no metal in between at this stage (some will be laid later) it does mean the path has an artificial surface meaning members have the option of taking a drop off without penalty - to the nearest point of relief that is not closer to the pin.
- 3. Corings in front of bunkers adjacent to green No.14.** The Green Keeping staff will fill part of those bunkers with sand in the near future and use those corings to top off.
  - Although it appears the greens are slow to recover after coring the weather has not been a great help. Nevertheless it should be noted there has been much less flooding of the greens after excessive rainfall and what there has been has disappeared very quickly.
  - Course flooding is a major issue that is being looked at almost daily and with some care a plan is being formulated to deal with it. Be aware we cannot use any heavy machinery until the course dries out considerably. When that happens there will be action.

**Come and be an Honorary Adkins for just one day!**

**NOW SUNDAY 6 AUGUST**

The Adkins family welcomes all Mangawhai members to play in the annual Peter Adkins Memorial Tournament.  
(Entry is open only to Mangawhai members and the Adkins family.)

- **EXCEPTIONAL PRIZES**  
(Golf, Accommodation at Wairakei International, generously donated by the Adkins family. Separate Men's and Women's prizes.)
- **NO ENTRY FEE**  
(Optional \$5 Haggie & \$2 Twos)

**MUSTER @ 9.00AM FOR 9.30AM START**  
Enter your name on the start sheet in the Golf Shop

## THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

With a headline like that, this could be a never-ending list, but we'll stick to the really important things:

### MEN'S SATURDAY PLAYING CALENDAR

Hopefully by now you know that the Saturday calendar for the rest of the year has been revised. Details of this were emailed out last Friday, causing general confusion but probably getting the message out to most in some understandable manner. The revised programme will be on display in the clubhouse and you can always check on our website for upcoming events. It is important to note that no events have been cancelled or reduced in any way- and we hope the weather allows us to stick with things the way they are now.

### FLAVELL CUP QUALIFYING THIS SATURDAY

Please be aware of the playing requirements if you qualify for this - it's 4BBB Handicap Matchplay, partners drawn from 16 individual qualifiers, and 2 rounds are scheduled for Saturday 29 July (morning and afternoon), with the final played on Saturday 5 August. If you can't meet – or understand – these requirements please don't attempt to qualify.

**And a note for any Lefties playing John Barber's event this Saturday – you are eligible to enter the Flavell Cup qualifying.**

### THE COWBELL IS ABOUT TO RING

This year we're hosting the Cowbell, with Tabora and Paparao coming to enjoy our hospitality. TD, as always, has it all under control and an entry sheet is in the Golf Shop. Di Dunlop and her ladies (and possibly a token male) have already been raising funds to allow us to put on a great day so if you're interested get your entry in. It's time for us to put the bell in our belfry so let's make sure we get a strong Mangawhai turnout.

## TWILIGHT TITBITS

The draw was not struck last week - Mike Robinson was the name pulled out but he was not here – so this week it jackpots to \$1,000. Make sure you're here. Playing numbers are holding up well despite the wetness and it's admirable the way so many cart-only members have footed it around the 9 holes. We're retaining the last tee time at 3.00pm for a while yet – until the days get a bit longer and/or the pace of play picks up. (Which is most likely?) Also, please advise us if you've put your name on the start sheet but can't make it on the day. We're usually fairly full so it's disappointing to turn people away only to find out someone just doesn't turn up.

## ANOTHER MANGAWHAI JUNIOR FEATURES ON THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE

Currently in the USA, Robby Turnbull has been playing lead-up events to the Junior World Championships and has performed quite brilliantly. Last week, playing at the Carlton Oaks Country Club in San Diego Robby finished 10th (in a field of 130 from all over the world), shooting just over par. He's now heading for the big event – and it's worth noting that many of today's top pros have begun their pathway to success in this event. We'll keep you posted as Robby continues his exceptional form.