



## MAN STANDS FOR WOMEN'S CAPTAIN ROLE

We certainly live in strange times. Maybe it all started – or certainly gained real momentum – when that bearded lady won the Eurovision Song Quest or some such event a few years back. Now we've got Santa being played by a woman, although why you'd want to dress up in a neck-to-knee outfit with heavy boots and a kinky dinky pompom hat in the middle of Summer to be swarmed around by a zillion anklebiters is beyond us. But now we're told by Someone Who Knows Better Than Us that it's "The Law" and we need to face up to further blurring of the gender lines. So how do we react when one of our male members (yes, we still differentiate between Men and Women memberships but that might now have to change) declares himself as a candidate for the role of Women's Captain? Or vice versa?

*(We know of one member who still harbours a grudge that he wasn't allowed to play the Virgin Mary role in his school Christmas play many decades ago – after all, he had half the requirement covered - where were the protests then, we ask?)*

In a world awash with double standards do we allow a Law that is, in many ways, as unenforceable as it is ridiculous to tell us that this Law is above the laws of Nature? Or common sense? Or do we resist the herd instinct and celebrate our differences rather than trying to homogenise us all into beings that all look sound and feel the same? *(So many questions, we wonder whether you're as confused as we are? But that's yet another question? Isn't it?)*

Different genders have different lumps and bumps in different places – and few of us are indifferent to responding to these identifying icons when the need arises. Some of these lumps and bumps we are born with – or are born to grow at some stage of life – and some we grow for ourselves through excessive eating and drinking and generally being slothful. That's a fundamental and functional law of Nature that's been with us since whatever deity or Big Bang brought us into being. And even the agnostics and atheists thank God/Goddess for that

We probably should worry about more significant things. But we're still troubled by thoughts of mixed gender changing rooms; our cherished women members no longer getting extra stroke allowances in mixed events; the doing away with of our successful Ladies Teams Day and other such events. Where is it all leading us? And why are we allowing ourselves to be led? And does it really matter? For answers, ask your mother or father – if you can work out which one is which.

*(To end this what may be perceived as a somewhat misogynistic rant, did you know that in the Northern Hemisphere all the reindeers who pull Santa's sleigh are female. That is so because, apparently, male reindeer shed their antlers in Autumn – which is before a northern Christmas - while female reindeer retain theirs until Spring. In the southern hemisphere we get either boys or a mix of boys and girls. Now you know. And what that has to do with golf, we really have no idea.*

## ACE ADKINS



**Well-known club personality and generous donor of our new tee markers Peter Adkins scored his first ever hole in one last Saturday, on the 17<sup>th</sup> hole.**

We don't have too many details of the shot (grip employed, swing speed, point of contact, trajectory, prevailing wind et al) but believe he skilfully exploited the slope to the left of the green and cleverly curled the ball into the hole.

Congratulations Peter. This now gives you familial bragging rights as Cherie, accomplished golfer that she is, has been able to get only so near yet so far when playing this hole.



## SPEAKING OF OUR NEW TEE MARKERS ....

All going well with weather and various outside influences our new tee block markers will be in place early this week. Peter and the Adkins family have very generously had these manufactured for us and we believe that add a degree of class – and specific Mangawhai identity – to our tee blocks. Please note that they're quite heavy and should not be used as attacking weapons when disputing a rules point. They will be placed by our greenkeepers and should not be moved by anyone else.

They will appear on all tee blocks – Red, White and Blue – replacing the ti-tree pieces that have been here for a long time. Peter has cleverly designed them to be simple and quick for greenstaff to remove and reposition when they're mowing tee blocks.

***Peter and Cherie and their extended family are outstanding supporters of our club and we thank them for their contribution to further enhancing the look of our course.***

## MEN'S CHAMP OF CHAMPS

The weather did its best to create an added challenge for all as our club's representatives teed it up at Hikurangi yesterday. Fortunately, there were enough breaks from the rain to allow the event to be completed. Our best performers were Scott Wightman (*Runner up in the Senior division*) and Julian Rous (*3<sup>rd</sup> equal in the Juniors*) – very strong efforts against champions from all Northland clubs. Geoff Finlay (Intermediate) and Ngaro Ragaraha (D Grade) also played and performed with their usual distinction.

Friday

9

Twilight

SPONSORED THIS MONTH BY



Tee Times Midday – 4.30pm

Members' Clubhouse Draw

**\$600 this week**  
*Come and be a Winner!*

## AGM ON THE AGENDA

Our Annual General Meeting will be held in the clubhouse at 10.30am on Sunday 9 December. This will entail the usual reading of minutes and reports, analysis of balance sheets, projections for future years and so forth.

Just as you are lapsing into a deep sleep you will be jerked awake by the matter of electing representatives to our various committees and the Board. Maybe you'll even hear your own name put forward as a candidate for office! Because, before the meeting proceeds to General Business, the most generally important business is the election of officers. Nominations are now open and you're invited to consider the contribution you or someone you know could make to the club by standing to fill one of the vacancies. See the noticeboard in the foyer for updated details of vacancies and candidates.

If you have any questions about any of the various roles, have a chat to Brad.

**At the very least, come along to the AGM because it is a wonderful opportunity to have your say on the many aspects and tasks that are vital to the ongoing success of our unbeatable club.**

## BE PREPARED FOR SATURDAY NIGHT

This week we are hosting a number of groups and events in our clubhouse. On Saturday, the NZ Scouts are having a meeting and dinner in the clubhouse from 6.30pm. This means that our Bar will be closed from 6.00pm (by which time you should have home with your loved ones anyway).

Thank you.

## GETTING TO GRIPS WITH THE RULES



In recent days we've sent out messages suggesting you take a moment or two to view some R&A videos that explain some of the new Rules changes. These are well worth looking at – they're short, they're easy to understand and they pretty much de-bunk some of the fears you might have about the whole game being reinvented. For those who haven't seen them, go to our website [www.mangawhaigolf.co.nz](http://www.mangawhaigolf.co.nz) and click on the link you'll see on the Home page. We've also posted them on our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/mangawhaigolf](http://www.facebook.com/mangawhaigolf). Copies of the new Players Edition of the Rules of Golf are in the clubhouse and the Golf Shop – pick up a copy and see how this particular publication clearly and simply explains everything.

**As a further service to members we've arranged for Len Bilton and Ernest Hurley (one or the other or both) to hold a Rules evening in the clubhouse on Tuesday 4 December, starting at 5.30pm. All are welcome to attend what we think will probably be a 1-hour session. There'll be a sheet upstairs in the foyer for you to register your intended attendance – please put your name down if you're intending to come – unless we get a worthwhile degree of interest the evening may not proceed.**



**XMAS CHEER**

MIXED OPEN

**SUNDAY 16<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**

**SHOTGUN @ 9.30AM**  
(Limited to first 120 entries)



**MEMBERS \$20**  
**VISITORS \$35**

Stableford & Twos

Men in 2 Divisions

Women 1 Division

(Open only to NZ-affiliated golfers with a current handicap)



**MANGAWHAI**  
**GOLF CLUB**

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## ARE YOU UP FOR BUSINESS HOUSE GOLF?

We are planning a Business House Golf Series through a 6-week series beginning late January/early February. This is modelled on a format successfully used by a number of clubs and will comprise a weekly 4-person Ambrose event over 9 holes starting at 5.15pm on Thursdays. There'll also be a series winner prize, but the emphasis is on participation and enjoyment, rather than major prizes.

We have been fortunate enough to secure a series sponsor with Rob Cook and ITM Mangawhai making a valuable and much-appreciated contribution. We will be inviting team entries very soon and will advise teams of playing conditions and other conditions that relate to the event.

Please – and here we sound all prudish – note that this is not a drinkathon and no BYO alcohol will be permitted.

Depending on the success of their initial series (and indications so far are that it will be very popular) we will look to grow it further the following Summer.

Thanks to Rob for his enthusiastic support of the concept.

***Just to settle the issue once and for all: no woman is going to want to be Santa simply because no women would ever be seen wearing the same outfit year after year.***

*Maureen was shopping for a Xmas turkey. Standing by the freezer she asked a shop assistant "Do these turkeys get any bigger?" "No ma'am," he replied. "They're all dead."*