



Waipu
GOLF CLUB

TEE TIMES

Official Newsletter of the Waipu Golf Club Inc

Issue 37, April 2020

FROM THE BOARD

Some good news: On Friday the 20th March last our insurers, Dave Wech of Adams Trimmer Insurance Brokers & consultants – also one of our sponsors, advised that our claim for the damage occurred by the lightning strike on 6th December 2019 had been approved. We will receive the full amount claimed of \$31,349.71 less the excess of \$500.00. We had paid the accounts for the repairs so the receipt of the insurance money will be a welcome boost to our bank balance.

On Sunday afternoon the 22nd March I was in the Clubhouse when a lady entered the deck area, therefore not registering with either the Office or the Cafe. We soon found that she was connected and had been in contact with a person who had returned from overseas and was in isolation. We were not sure whether the person was tested. I conferred with some of the Board as the easy access of person to the Cafe of which we had no knowledge of their circumstances and I closed the Office, Bar and Brett agreed to close the Cafe first thing on Monday morning. We also closed the course to visitors, as a Board we could not guarantee the safety of our staff and members.

While we are in lockdown our priorities are to look after our staff financially the best we are able, and preserving our asset. Our staff are very important to us and we will do everything possible to help them financially. We are waiting to receive the Govt. wage subsidy that Bob refers to in his report. Greg is keeping contact with the Grounds staff and I with the Clubhouse ones. It is a very worrying time for all employees in NZ, those that are still fully employed face the dangers of the virus and those that can't work the stress and worry of how to live and pay the bills. As a Board we need to ensure our staff are supported and stress free as possible for when they return to work when the course opens again.

Greg and Colin and their team face some major problems in the future by not being allowed to do any maintenance to the course particularly the greens. Golf course management is not deemed an essential service and therefore any work is banned and this applies to all golf courses in NZ.

NZ Golf expressed the view that there will be many golf clubs will not have the capacity to recover from this restriction and have made submissions to allow one person per day to work on courses and particularly for greens maintenance. Dispensation has not been granted. I had a call from Vaughan Witten of Northgolf asking how we were getting on. He has arranged a video conference call for next Tuesday with representatives of all the Northern Clubs and to meet the new CEO. If the Board allowed or even directed any of our staff to work, this would put everyone at risk, not only from COVID-19 exposure but from possible Health & Safety legal action should there be an accident or incident.

Jason our tenant advised that the Police had been in a couple of times to see if the security was OK and whether any one was playing golf! Therefore, despite what others might be doing the Board will abide by the Govt. directions as being in the best interests of our golfing family.

It is very hard for all of us not being able to play golf during this extraordinary run of lovely weather we are having at present-but we are playing our small part in a very big picture of getting this 100-year event (the last was the 1918 flu epidemic) under control quickly. Thanks to you all. We must plan how we are going to get back to playing but unfortunately when we do get the green light the course may not be! However, that should not prevent us planning for our usual tournaments and particularly keeping our sponsors involved. The Board wishes you all well and will keep you informed of any material developments by email.

Best Wishes, Gary



Ian & Cheryl Kitchen

Licensed Salespeople REAA 2008

M 021 519 557 M 021 736 658

P 09 430 1000

ian.kitchen@harcourts.co.nz

cheryl.kitchen@harcourts.co.nz

www.harcourts.co.nz

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FROM THE MEN

To all players that had put their name down for Kauri Cliffs - I have been advised today, that they are going to be closed until September 20th.

I am going to ring them to see if we can reschedule the date in September after I have checked with club captains and on dates with our club competitions around that time.

Cheers Laurie

FROM THE GROUNDS COMMITTEE

March saw us finally get a sprinkle from above which saw a bit of life return to our fairways.

Greens received their monthly verticut and we have received our fairway fertiliser delivery which is currently being stowed at Dick Pivac's (thanks Dick) until we can get it spread onto the course.

The warm and humid weather saw some disease and our annual appearance of black beetle on the greens both of which were attended to with the relevant treatments. The main damage is being caused at the moment by birds getting a good feed of the beetles.

And then that C bug arrived. We moved quickly to ensure our greens treatments were up to date and the greens well prepared for the lockdown. The course was shut down and flagsticks, bunker rakes, ball washer, practice balls were all removed from the course.

To preserve cash flow, we have cancelled the use of a long reach excavator to remove Raupo from our ponds. A flat deck ute we have been eyeing up to transport 2 people on the course with equipment (saves using two vehicles) has also been put on hold. All non-essential spend has been deferred.

We can advise members that at this point in time our course remains in good condition.

Greg

VIRUS GOLFING

One of our elderly long time member is approaching no golf cabin fever and isolation with ingenuity. He has erected a driving range A frame with a net. He puts his gear on , gets the cart out and travels 25meters to start playing. His wife asked why he takes the cart and all his golf clubs. The quick reply was "I do not know what club I will need!". On Wednesday mornings he still gets up at the usual time , has the usual breakfast goes and checks the cart and clubs and then goes back in side and reads a book. He will be ready to go.

FROM THE FINANCE DIRECTOR

February results with a \$29k profit and YTD the results are very similar to last year. Subscriptions for February brought the YTD (5 months) total to \$175k which is 1.3% ahead of last year.

Given average subs price increase for this year this suggests paid up members YTD are slightly less than last year. Green fees for February were ahead of last year but much less than previous months but cart rentals continued to be strong over last year (12% ahead YTD) with the increased number of carts.

February saw bar revenues improve against last year. Overhead costs appear well under control. Maintenance costs were higher but this appears somewhat a timing thing as YTD maintenance costs are well below last year.

With the COVID19 lockdown restrictions on businesses and clubs in general, green fees and cart hire fees income and bar income reduces to zero over coming weeks and possibly months, although hopefully the inconveniences and restrictions are not for an extended period. We are continuing to assess the financial impact. It is difficult to accurately estimate the financial impact on the club. We have applied for the wage subsidy and should this be successful this will cover virtually all our staffing costs for the next 3 months. For the 4 weeks of the current lockdown, the loss of expected revenue net of cost savings will likely cost the club ~\$15k at the net income level. Obviously if the lockdown is extended these losses will continue but if the lockdown is limited then the club should be able recover some of these losses if golf patronage returns to similar levels to last year for comparative months. This assumes that we don't have additional expenditure to rehabilitate the course and particularly the greens. We are also looking to defer some CAPEX which will aid cash resources. We are fortunate annual subs for the year have been collected so the club is currently in a good financial position. But circumstances may well become clearer over the next month so there is continuing uncertainty on the likely total impact for the club.

Bob Glen



SPONSORSHIP

Hi, to all golfers suffering withdrawal pains.

Aaron, my very able right hand, and I have almost finished rationalising the Sponsorship contracts and most of the invoices sent out. 95% there. Thank goodness.

Kennedy Garland (Pharma Health) has very generously agreed to sponsor the 9 Hole Women's Tournament 23rd July. We will have to wait and see but we don't know if it is going ahead. Great to know Kennedy has come to the fore again.

Mike Whittaker of Mike Whittaker Mortgages who sponsored one of the outdoor composting toilets will arrange signage on the loo by the 14th tee. The toilets are a real asset to the course so thank-you Mike.

Don Mann has organised wrap around signage for PaknSave so expect to see a bright yellow cart when we get back. Thanks to Don and PaknSave

The Sponsorship night was such fun. The Ukulele Ladies were really good and very much appreciated. The mix and mingle with the Board, Patron, members and sponsorship guests went well but next year we will have to make sure it doesn't clash with the Pines Golf Club building industry tournament.

The Ambrose golf was enjoyed, facilitating the potential for new memberships. The buffet meal was superb with plenty for all. Many thanks to those who assisted. I received some very positive feedback from my speech which touched on the value of sponsorship, our thanks and a couple of areas we could use further sponsorship. The outcome of this was a couple of serious enquiries regarding new sponsorship. We will have to wait until we are through COVID 19 to revisit these offers.

The Tee sign draw went well. Thankyou for our Tee Sponsor's support.. The Sponsor's Board in the clubhouse was updated before sponsor's night and highlights how lucky we are to have such great sponsors.

While I'm on this, please use our sponsors. Many of them advertise in the fixture book as well, so please be aware of them when looking for a tradesman or various products.

Keep well, Frances Warren

FROM THE WOMEN

So much has happened in the last few days; I had difficulty remembering what happened before Covid19! However, it felt good to reflect on the days at the beginning of the month when my only worries were if it would be too hot by the time we finished golf, and why I couldn't putt. What a good summer we did have, despite the drought. If everyone does as they are told to stay safe we will get back to our golf sooner, and be able to hug our friends.

A very positive evening was the Bream Bay sports awards held at the Celtic Barn in Waipu. Kylie Jacoby won the Masters Sportswoman of the year. A well-deserved reward, especially for the help and encouragement Kylie gives our juniors. Our women's Rose Bowl team of Kylie, Julie Gordon and Lynne Causer were also highly commended.

I would like to thank all our golf club staff for their dedication to our club. Dealing

with ever changing circumstances, finally closing down the café, shop and bar knowing it is the end of work for an unknown period. You are amazing.

Our annual visit to The Pines resulted in the 18 Hole players losing the esteemed salver. However, the 9 Hole players upheld our club's reputation and won on the day. There have been some excellent scores on club days with Bronwyn Reynolds notching up 41 stableford on 10 March. National Teams Day held on 17 March was to be our last day of golf for a while. Catherine Jenkins had a 72 nett followed by Paea Paki 73 and Chris Wooding 74. In the meantime practice your short game on the lawn and try putting on the carpet. Keep those skills up.

He aha te mea nui o te ao? He tangata, he tangata, he tangata.

What is the most important thing in the world? It is people, it is people, it is people. So stay strong, stay steadfast, stay patient – and stay away!

Helen and Robyn

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to our new members.

Joanne Batchelor

Joe Leggat

Rodney Humpage

We hope you enjoy playing golf at Waipu.

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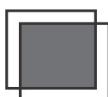
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