



Presidents Report 2017-18

Centenary year! Our big weekend was the centre piece for the year and wrapped up a sustained period of work by the whole Club getting ready for it. A huge success, despite mother nature doing her best to intervene, an enjoyable weekend was had by all. The weekend was tremendous reward for all the planning and hard work put in by Club members. My thanks to all those that contributed, and especially to all our sponsors. For those that would like to know about the Clubs history, its development and significant events, a published centenary book is available from the Club.

The end of the Clubs recent 4-year plan, and most targets were achieved. The upgrade to the kitchen and perhaps a new balcony awaits planning and decision from the in-coming committee. My fourth year as President, and although still plenty of challenges, I believe we are making sound progress as a sustainable, cohesive, and functional Club. A committed volunteer group meets the challenge of maintaining and enhancing the Course and Clubhouse. I hope club members continue to see progress from the collective efforts of not just the committee, but also from other club members. As always, the proof is in the pudding, but we have had good feedback from both members and visitors on how the course looks and plays.

Sustaining and growing membership and generating the required revenue to run the Club will require continuing effort. As mentioned, many times over the year, the Club is in excellent financial shape, but we still fall short in being able to employ or contract either greens or Clubhouse management, and that may continue with the desire to keep subscriptions attractive to everyone, and membership is modest. Good progress is being made in positioning the Club, not just as a place to play golf but in developing a facility to meet wider community needs, with the latter activity growing. Soul Infusion, our catering enterprise is steadily building an excellent reputation, and with the need to meet Food and Alcohol regulations is a critical service.

Overall membership (165) was up slightly from the previous year, but women's membership was down. Great to see 22 juniors. Several successful competitions were held. A record field for the Waitotahi Hams (195), and good turn outs for the Jan 2 "Half a Beast at Least", Pa Wars, Jack Howe and Tim Hickey memorials, and as mentioned the *pièce de résistance*, the centenary weekend games and functions. Additionally, a good start to a new competition sponsored by Codlin Electrical. As always, the Pennants teams (Women and Men) competed well (success for the Women's), and there were good battles for the various Women's and Men's club champions, all keenly contested. The Club Champs match play was well supported by members on the day, but there is room to improve on making this day even more of a Club feature (Ideas?). Congratulations to all the comp winners and runners up, and to those that did not quite make it...there is always next year! All in all, a good showing by the Club. Just one person I would like to specially mention – Jock Butler, taking out the Shoot Out, and running Ross White oh so close in the Intermediates final. Jock for me was the stand out player for the year and top Club member. Go to www.opotikigolf.co.nz to review all Club results for the year. An interesting statistic as per cards printed for 2018: Club is up 8%, BoP 3.6% and all NZ down 1.2 percent on previous year.

Top four Club projects for year were: centenary function, concrete paths, sand storage bunker, modifications to cart shed. I would like to think we are winning (slowly) our battle to tidy up the trees on the course and plant new ones, continual improvement of our greens, and gaining consistency in course maintenance. This year we cored in autumn only and vertidraind in the spring, with monthly verticutting and light sand application to reduce thatch build up. The Gang mower was renovated, and we had a major overhaul of all the mower cutting reels. Building compliance and maintenance (e.g a new bar dishwasher and chiller) is on-going.

The club balance sheet is in good shape. We continue to build equity, and this year the Club again returned a modest cash flow surplus.

There are many people to thank, the committee of course who have supported me, completed the many tasks planned at the beginning of the year, and coped with the various unforeseen issues. Thanks to those who live nearby (Robbie, Ray, Lew, Shelly, Sonia, and recently Milton) for continuing to open, lock up and generally keep an eye on the Club. Without an Office Manager, this is a huge help. The bar has done well again this year, and a huge thank you to Lew, Butch, Shelly and others for managing this Club function.

Outside the committee, many others have given their support to Bain and myself on course work, and in supporting various working bees, such as at coring time, and those trees! Len has again done a fantastic job with firewood. Thanks to the greens Saturday roster group (Ross, David, John, Ray and Hori); Wayne for bunkers and putting in place a great weed spraying programme and hazard markings; Peter for fairways; and the 'roughs' team led by Terry Mulhern for much mowing particular during a rampant spring; Micky and Ross for weekly hole cutting. To Bruce and Trevor for many hours during the week on greens and tees work, and other assorted tasks. Bruce and Peter have continued to be excellent in equipment maintenance. The wider Greens Group has put in a huge effort as a team, my thanks to Bain for coordinating this important Club function and being the course 'Quartermaster'. My apologies to others who have given their help and not mentioned here.

Thanks also to Charlie Hayes and Eric Codlin for many engineering and electrical tasks. The Club also greatly appreciates the time Robbie has spent resolving the many, often niggly issues associated with building and course arising during the year.

My thanks to Lyndsay for dealing with the secretarial and financial load that only seems to grow, and to our Club Captains, Hamish and Kala for competition organisation. These positions are key cogs that help keep the club running. And to all members for their continued support to the Club. For those whose efforts, I have bound to have overlooked, my sincere apologies. Overall the whole club really contributes in one way or another to keeping us going - so a big thanks to everyone.

To our sponsors a big thank you, the club appreciates your support both in prizes, funds, materials, time, and loan of equipment. Especially to our major sponsors: Waiotahi Contractors, New World, Opotiki Drainlayers, Hickey Sports, Ocean Seafoods, Harcourts, Placemakers Whakatane, and several new ones including Codlin Electrical, Mitre 10 and those that supported the Club Centenary. To the Lion Foundation and Southern Trust, for enabling the purchase of vital course equipment. This support is crucial for the club's survival.

Hopefully this committee has again left the Club in a good space, and my best wishes to the incoming committee. There are new roles which I would like to see in that committee, new approaches need thinking about, and ideas and planning for the next 4-5 years put in place.

Julian Lee



Club President
November 2018