



Presidents Report 2018-19

With centenary year over, the year past was a chance to sit back a bit. Alas – another busy year on and off course. Long in the planning, the major project, the Kitchen rebuild and refit with all new appliances, was successfully completed in September. Achieved in good time largely thanks to great project management and effort by Shelly. Many thanks for the massive contributions from members and local contractors. The project was funded by Eastern Bay Energy Trust, Southern Trust and from Club reserves. A well-equipped, functional kitchen is pivotal to positioning the Clubhouse as a community facility and will aid Soul Infusion in continuing to build its business and reputation.

My fifth year as President, the challenges remain, but overall, I believe the collective efforts of committee and members continue to progress the Clubs stature. A consistent message from members and visitors this year was the positive feedback as to how well the course presented itself and played, reflecting the commitment of our volunteers providing upkeep of the Course and Clubhouse.

The Clubs balance sheet is sound. We have a reserve to buffer contingencies, provide capital contributions to important machinery and equipment, and a cash flow to maintain good operating protocols. Nevertheless, sustaining and growing membership and generating the required revenue to run the Club requires continual effort. But as we all know the Club still falls short in being able to employ or contract either Course or Clubhouse personnel. That may remain the case for the foreseeable future – regardless of the Clubs desire to keep subscriptions attractive to everyone.

Current membership (163) is on a par with last year, with 29 of these being juniors. A good omen for the future. An interesting statistic as per cards printed (Jan-Oct) the Club is up 15% on rounds played compared with the same period in 2018 (cf BOP 3%). Also heartening to see was the number of visitor rounds played (up 34%). Not counting players using the Opotiki Harcourts pre-printed cards. These figures on paper appear good, but the core health of the Club depends on our regular members turning up for regular Saturday golf and participation in the various competitions. The average across the year desirably needs to improve.

The Waiotahi Contractors Hams, continues to attract a full field and only grows its reputation as the premier Xmas Hams competition in the BoP. The Jan 2 “Half a Beast at Least”, Pa Wars, Jack Howe and Tim Hickey memorials, are all well attended. But we need to do more to boost numbers to the Codlin Electrical/Opotiki Drainlayers and New World Tournaments. Both have a very attractive prize table and perhaps change of dates should be considered. Not such a good year for our pennant’s teams, maybe next year will be brighter, and the Club is looking to put forward a junior team. Another great field for the Shootout finals (Men’s and Ladies) and thanks to Ross the event over the last two years has proven very popular. The Club Champs match play was well supported by members on the day, but there is still room to improve on making this day even more of a Club feature. 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. A highlight for me was the gigantic battle for the Juniors title between the old (Bruce) and the young (Loki), won on the 36th by Bruce. We will see more of Loki! Go to www.opotikigolf.co.nz to review all Club results for the year.

Twice yearly coring (autumn and spring) with regular verticutting and light sand application to reduce thatch build up is producing dividends with the greens improving yearly. Managing dollar spot was the main challenge on the greens. There were two pieces of equipment purchased (a ride on greens roller, and a Toro side by side run-around). While second hand, both have proven their worth. Improvements in manging the older trees on the course is on-going, with plenty of material to support firewood sales.

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. My thanks to Lyndsay for dealing with the secretarial and financial load that only seems to grow, and to our Club Captains, Hamish and Polly for competition organisation. Lew, our House Manger as always has had his hands full maintaining and running the bar and other Clubhouse activities. The house has done well again this year. Thanks to those who live nearby (Robbie, Ray, Lew, Shelly, Milton, Val) for continuing to open, lock up and generally keep an eye on the Club. Without an Office Manager, this is a huge help.

Outside the committee, many others have given their support to Bain and me on course work, and in supporting various working bees, such as at coring time. Len and Tom have again done a fantastic job with firewood. Thanks to the greens Saturday roster group (organised by Ross); Peter for fairways; and the 'roughs' team led by Terry Mulhern for much mowing particular during a rampant spring; Ross and Polly for weekly hole cutting. To Bruce, Trevor and Denis for many hours during the week on collars and tees work, and other assorted tasks. We also welcomed Kieran, Tim and Garth to the course team, with Garth and Kieran undertaking rolling of greens, and Kieran has done much of the tree trimming. The wider Greens Group has put in a huge effort as a team, my thanks to Bain for coordinating this important Club function. Many thanks also to the sponsors of several new seats around the course, and for their construction by Kieran. My apologies to others who have given their help and not mentioned here.

Thanks to Charlie Hayes, Eric Codlin for many engineering and electrical tasks, and to Glenn for the huge effort painting the Clubhouse interior. 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.

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 main sponsors, Waiotahi Contractors, Codlin Electrical, New World, Hayes Engineering, Opotiki Drainlayers, Ocean Seafoods, Harcourts a big thank you, the club appreciates your support both in prizes, funds, materials, time, and loan of equipment, and to the Lion Foundation for granting funds for key Club running costs. Thanks also to Dion and Lisa for providing the prize table for the Jan 2 holiday competition. All this support is crucial for the club's survival.

As signalled last year there are new roles which I would like to see members put up there hand for, new approaches need thinking about, and ideas and planning for the next 4-5 years put in place. This year the committee set up two sub-committees (Sponsorship and Audit). Extra help is also needed for H&S and the many areas for compliance. Hopefully the 2018/19 committee has left the Club in a good space, and my best wishes to the incoming committee continuing the good work.

Julian Lee



Club President
November 2019