

Opotiki Golf Club Newsletter September-December 2017

Spring has come and gone with the usual challenges of dry and wet periods keeping our course volunteers on their toes. Overall the course has been looking pretty good, and visitors have given positive feedback on how the course has been presented. Its playing well and club members have been posting lots of very good scores. In the men's divisions a stableford score more than 40 seems to be the norm to have a look in with competition prizes.

Club Championship Match play finals were held in early October, with titles going to: Mens Junior B winner Jock Butler; runner up Bob Charles Papuni: Junior winner Trevor Harris; runner up Peter Gleeson: Intermediate winner Milton Kiri; runner up Bain McKay: Senior winner Hayden White: runner up Charlie Hayes: Ladies Bronze 2 winner Sue Gleeson; runner up Vicky Morrow: Bronze winner Hayley Roache; runner up Jascoe Ngaia: Silver winner Tyla Kingi; runner up Tegan White . Hot off his great form at the AIMS Games Jock Butler won a well contested match to hold off Bob Charles Papuni to win his first club championship trophy. Trevor Harris has topped of a great season to win his first championship trophy after playing for many years. Milton Kiri took out both the stroke play and match play titles this season proving once again he is the man to beat in the Intermediate division. Hayden White winning his 3rd Senior Club Championship title in difficult conditions.

The Clubs three open tournaments, New World (late October), Waiotahi Hams (early December) and the Half -a Beast-at Least Holiday tournament (January 2nd) all attracted good fields.

Our signature event, the Waiotahi Contractors Hams Tournament had a record turn out with over 200 pre-registrations and a final field of about 195 vying for the sponsors 90 odd hams on offer. Great weather which produced some fantastic scores, with many players commenting that the course was in immaculate condition. Thanks to our volunteer greens committee for that. The tournament again attracted players from Tairāwhiti through to the wider BOP and beyond to the Manawatu. Although there were lots of great scores notable was Colin Kemeys who shot 10 under his handicap to run away with the 3rd division. Zane Rangihika had the first ace of his career with a hole in one on 18. Congratulations Zane. Howard Maxwell held off the field with a great 67 off the stick for the lowest round of the day. Kawerau icon Flash Gordon conquered the Opotiki course with 75 off the stick. Tyla Kingi was streaks ahead of the lady's field with a 2 under 69. Her grandmother Glenys took out the best net with a 66. The Opotiki Golf club thanks Robbie and Spike Petersen along with their company Waiotahi Contractors for supporting the club in hosting what is the number one ham tournament in the BOP.

On the course, tree clean up and pruning continues with firewood collection well underway for fundraising leading up to the 2018 winter. Some new tree planting has been undertaken. A

dedicated sand storage bunker has been built (assisted with a Lions Foundation grant) with the old area by the practise fairway filled in and grassed over. This will greatly improve the available practice space and offer a much-improved vista alongside the No. 5 green. The main aim however to provide storage for clean, dry washed sand for greens dusting and renovation.

The 2018 New Year heralded in our Centenary year, and planning for celebrating this milestone on the weekend of November 3rd well underway. See the Centenary page on this website for information and regular updates.

To our sponsors a big thank you, as always. 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 and Harcourts, and several new ones now on board. To the Lion Foundation and Southern Trust, for enabling the purchase of vital course equipment and materials. This support is crucial for the club's survival.