

Spring 2018 Report

More rain, carrying on from a wet winter. However, a few fine days to carry out green's renovations in early September. Greens were verticut prior to vertdraining, sanding and application of gypsum and slow release fertiliser. Greens bounced back well with the Club match play rounds over the last three weeks of the month.

Despite the weather, games played on the course over the 2018 year were again up (+ 8%) on the previous year. Club match play finals were held in early October. An excellent turnout of club members saw keenly contested games over the 36-hole finals for men's and ladies' divisions. In the Junior b division young Morgan Vipond overwhelmed Lew Kerr in the final, and in Junior Men Trevor Harris won over John Kronast. The match of the day was between Ross White and Jock Butler. Ross held off the charging youngster, and on the 36th hole (Par 3) both players found the green with Ross 15 feet away and Jock 6 feet from the hole. The old head calmly slotted the 15-footer downhill put to take the win and deny Jock any chance. In the Intermediate women's division an excitingly even match between Haley Roache and Kris Shove showed 36 holes was not enough to separate them with Kris sinking a great putt to win on the 37th hole. Senior Men division was contested by Paul Brown and Charlie Hayes, with Paul winning on the 34th. This is a reverse of the result where they played each other 2 years ago.

The *piece de resistance* for the year was of course the Clubs **Centenary weekend**, held 2-4 November, 2018. The weekend was a huge success, despite mother nature doing her best to intervene, an enjoyable weekend was had by all. Congratulations to those that managed to snare a prize, but mostly well done to everyone for participating on this historic occasion. The weekend was tremendous reward for all the planning and hard work put in by Club members. Many thanks to all the members that contributed, and especially to all our sponsors. Also special thanks to visitors from out of town, some of whom had travelled a considerable distance. The Friday evening meet and greet, included a social 9-hole warm up game, was well attended and set the stage for the weekend. The Saturday 18-hole competition with a field of over 100 got underway with a shot gun start in rather gloomy weather, the first 9-holes a little wet and cold, but this did not seem to deter some good scoring. Prize giving followed prior to a more 'formal' dinner and entertainment evening. Members, past and current, and associates of the Club provided some hilarious reminiscences of past times over the Clubs colourful history, and these received much applaud. Attendees toasted the Club for its next hundred years. 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 annual Waiotahi Contractors Hams held on 1 December, was once again a great success with both the AM and PM starting times over-subscribed. Only the slightly inclement weather reduced some of the numbers, down from the nearly 200 the year before but still nearly 170 golfers competed on the day for a marvellous hams table. All kindly sponsored by Waiotahi Contractors and their suppliers, Castrol, McFall Fuel, and Opotiki Tyres. A big thank you from the club to those sponsors and to all those who competed. Over half the field got a ham, either through good play or a raffle.

The Friday night dinners provided by Soul Infusion continues to grow its reputation and the monthly quiz evening is a popular event.

The Clubs AGM was held in late November, with most of the years committee re-elected. Three new members come on board for the new year. The club continues to rely on volunteers for all the roles and tasks that need to be done both on course and those associated with running the Club house. For the third year running Club subscriptions have been held at their existing levels, with a considerably discounted first year full year membership to make it attractive for new and returning members. Junior golf is growing mainly through the effort and time put in by the Clubs top senior golfer and Junior convenor, Micky Huriwaka. Thanks Micky.

With no shortage of material from cleaning up old and falling trees, firewood sales continue to be an important source of income for the club.

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, Harcourts, and Placemakers. Further several new sponsors, including Mitre10 Opotiki, NZ Manuka NZ and Magnus Lennie Motors, along with our regular sponsors provided much needed sponsorship for the centenary weekend functions. Thanks also 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.