

Report Jan-April 2018

The start of the Clubs Centenary year! With hot and humid conditions throughout the month and into February especially taxing on greens up keep, and lots of course mowing. Disease control on the greens particularly difficult. Nonetheless the course has been playing well with lots of good scores. Overall the course has been looking pretty good, and visitors have given positive feedback on how the course has been presented. Holiday guests were up this summer, although the weather did put a damper on many playing days.

The first tournament in our centenary year (**Half a Beast at Least Holiday tournament, on January 2nd**) proved a fantastic success, with good numbers in the field enjoying a magnificent day of golf. Thanks to David Read, Dion Reeve and Hori Lack for their sponsorship and organisation of this tournament. A good day with excellent meat prizes, an on-course BBQ, and refreshments provided by our sponsors.

Centennial shootout finals held in February were keenly contested. In the men a full field of 19 top qualifiers tee'd off on the No 1 hole in hot and humid conditions. Over 7 hours later one of our youngest golfers, Jock Butler, had conquered all, fittingly beating one of our more senior players, Charlie Hayes, on the 18th. Many thanks to Ross White for organising the event and keeping tabs on the all the qualifying rounds over the summer.



Overall one of the best and well contested shootout days for several years for both Ladies and the Men. A good way to kick off the Clubs centennial year.

The annual Marae Challenge (Pa Wars 2018) was also held in early February, with Kutarere marae taking home the spoils. And in late March the **Jack Howe Memorial** saw 80 golfers compete for the Jack Howe Memorial, although it was fine the changeable wind made the course challenging. John Kronast proved his form shooting a 64 Nett to take home the spoils holding out Skip Brown by count back.

Club competitions are well under way, with the Captains (match play on handicap), Vets, and four ball best Ball all getting to the nitty gritty quarter and semi-finals.

Big congratulations to the Opotiki Womens team on winning the 2018 BOP Womens Pennants final played at the Omanu Golf Club.

On the course, tree clean up and pruning continues with firewood collection underway for fundraising leading up to the 2018 winter. Coring was completed in early March with the weather gods providing a fine window. A good turnout of volunteers made the job much easier. The greens recovered well and while slow due to the higher mowing height are playing consistently. Concreting of several down-hill paths are underway, with the Ladies path from the number 6 tee completed, and work on the path from the Men's No 14 tee (The Wreaker) about to start. This will make cart and walking traffic much safer and comfortable. This work is being part funded through a grant from Southern Trust.

As mentioned the 2018 New Year heralded in our Centenary year, and planning for celebrating this milestone on the weekend of November 3rd is well underway. See the Centenary page on this website for information and regular updates. A pre-registration form is available on both this site and on the Clubs Facebook site (@optikigolf).

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.