

Club Report for January – February 2017

The year got off to a good start with a well-attended summer holiday tournament on January 2nd. The Half-a-Beast at Least tourney proved popular with visitors and members alike, excellent scoring and more than half the field collected very generous meat pack prizes, very timely for holiday barbeques. Many thanks to Opotiki Drain Layers for supporting the half way on course BBQ. The holiday period also saw an increase in green fees players visiting the course over the same period last year. Weather was good through January although periods of warm sunny days were punctuated with days of rain. February though saw the course starting to dry up, but a welcome reprieve of some 70 mm in later in the month freshened the course up.

Numbers of games played on the course, by visitors and members, continues to increase over the same period the previous year, and there has been a modest increase in membership.

The 10th Marae challenge golf tournament was held on February 11th. Seven Marae participated and people travelled from all around the Bay of Plenty, Hamilton, Christchurch and Auckland. There were 75 players in the field with the best six scores in each team going towards the Marae challenge trophy. One of the day's highlights was Micky Huriwaka breaking the course record with a 63 a just reward for a well-liked club member who puts in a lot of practice and time promoting junior members. A great achievement overtaking Alex McDonald's 64 which he shot in 1999, although equalled several times since then.

For the first time in its history the Opotiki Club has a team in the BoP Men's Championship pennants, and the Opotiki course hosted the first round on February the 12th, with the home team having the bye. The Club appreciated the positive feed-back on the course and the Clubs organisation for the day, as the greens group volunteers put in a lot of work to present the course as best as possible. February saw the men's seniors, intermediates and women's pennants also getting under way at various course around the Bay.

Two Club competitions were also completed over the summer period, The Summer Cup (won by Trevor Harris) and the hard-fought shootout final concluded on February 18th, the last man standing being Milton Kiri. Congratulations to both players.

Opening day for the Club's competitive season was held on February the 25th with an Ambrose event. Teams of 4 enjoyed hot, sunny conditions, with several teams posting nett scores under 55 (the winner a nett 52).

Projects scheduled over the coming months include: planning for expansion to the Clubhouse with the addition of a balcony, the scoping of a bunker to hold dry sand for use on the greens, and the erection of a new on-course ablution block by the 11th Tee. The next coring of the greens will take place on the weekend of the 3 March, preceded by vertidrainning. To 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.