

Summer 2109 Report

Relatively warm summer, and despite being dry in many parts of the country the Opotiki area had more than average rainfall. As a consequence, the golf course was greener than most in the Bay of Plenty region. More work of course for the roughs and fairways mowers. Greens were in generally good condition with occasional breakouts of dollar spot the biggest fungal concern. Dry spot was better managed by more regular wet agent applications compared to previous years. Greens renovation was undertaken in early March, with a full coring, re-seeding with a Colonial browntop from Wrightson's seeds, and sand application. Recovery was good. The Club has also purchased a ride on greens Turf Roller, and this is having a significant impact on ball speed and improved putting characteristics of the greens.

The annual Jan 2 summer holiday (Half a Beast at Least) competition again attracted a good field. Many thanks to Dion and Lisa Reeve for their kind donation of a full beast, which meant prizes to well over half the field. After a summer long qualification period (11 games) the full field of 19 men contested the 2019 Shootout final in early February with a good sideline of spectators. After a long and hot day only the wily veteran Robbie Petersen, and the slightly less wily Ray Shove survived to the 18th hole. Unfortunately, Robbie went into the infamous Donga, and Ray prevailed to be the Clubs 2019 Shoot-out champion. The women's shoot out winner from 11 starters went to Suzanne Nelson with runner up Polly White. Many thanks Ross White for making this event so successful. Club opening day was a pink ball competition, as for last years closing day. This is a popular, fun event (a variant of Ambrose) that kicked off the year's competition calendar. Currently the Captains match play on handicap is underway, with semi-finals and finals to be held in mid and late June.

The Friday night dinners provided by Soul Infusion continues to grow its reputation, and this summer special dinners were held for members and their guests for both St Patricks Day and for Halloween. The Clubhouse is also a popular and well used facility for a range of community functions.

The Clubrooms Kitchen renovation project has been fully scoped and grant applications submitted to help with the funding. Depending on finances it is hoped that work will begin by early-August. The project includes replacement of all the benches, new electrical appliances throughout and new flooring, as well as painting.

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. Our Ladies Club Captain, Polly White, has formed a garden work group and they have held several working bees, with results having a significant impact on how the course looks. Cleaning up the rhododendron bank on the Donga has been a big task.

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, Ocean Seafoods, Harcourts, Placemakers Whakatane and Codlins Electrical. 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.