

## Pro Shop News

Summer is finally here and twilight golf is in full swing on Friday nights. Tee off between 4 and 5.30 for 9 holes of golf. Patrick has organized a fantastic prize table so come along and enter in the pro shop, then have an enjoyable evening afterwards with spot prizes and raffles upstairs with Darryl providing his superb catering. Golfers without a handicap are welcome.

We welcome James Funnell back from Ireland for another summer season, it is amazing that he has been gone 7 months. I must be getting old as it only seems a month or two!! Also Patrick has been accepted by the New Zealand PGA to do a traineeship starting in February. This is 3 years of studying and practical work which I am sure he will find stimulating and hopefully rewarding, leading him down the path of life as a professional golfer. It is not just hitting a ball!!! Biomechanics, accounting, retailing, plus many more

related topics are studied. We wish him all the best.

We have a Taylormade demo day on Tuesday 9th Dec. This is a great opportunity to try some of their latest products. All golf equipment is bought in US dollars so with the massive fall in the last few months, prices will rise on most products From Jan 1st. So if you are thinking of treating yourself to anything in the golfing market, I suggest you do so soon before the New Year.

Finally we wish you all a Happy Christmas and a wonderful golfing New Year

*James Morgan*

## Course Manager

As we move into the summer months the irrigation system has been activated and we have been irrigating both courses. The spring renovation has been completed and the greens have settled down following the recent sandings. We are hoping to be able to minimize the summer application of chemicals to control the fungal diseases, as these were a real problem through the previous summer.

Our goal with the greens has been to increase the browntop grasses and to provide conditions that stress the meadow grasses that have infested the greens over recent years. We are at the stage where we now have a population of over 50% browntop in most of the greens and up to 80% in a couple of greens. The browntop allows the grass to cope with dryer growing conditions, they require less fertilizer and provide a smoother putting surfaces. We hope to increase this population with the autumn

renovation and in turn provide a faster, smoother putting surface for the membership.

The programmed 'friends of the course' will get under way soon and my thanks to all those that will offer their help throughout the course. This will allow the greenkeeping staff time to concentrate on the presentation of the course for your enjoyment.

Finally to keep your lawn healthy through the summer make sure they are healthy going into the dry months, don't let them dry out and try to mow them slightly higher over the hot days.

Hope you all have a great Christmas period and all your putts are birdie putts.

*Grant Wilson*

## 9 Hole Ladies

The Taupo Ladies 9 Hole players have had a very successful and enjoyable 2008 year.

culminating in our annual Christmas Tournament held 17th November, in the rain. We had a field of 81, with a large number of players from other clubs.

We have about 90 financial members, with 30 to 40 playing on club day. Our inter-club competition with Springfield, Rotorua and ourselves was an exciting one with Taupo runners up with only one point in it.

During the year our members travelled to several tournaments and a high number of prizes came home with them. We had golf clinics with James Morgan and these proved to be very popular. Linda Arderne travelled to Kawerau to compete in the Champion of Champions Tournament and participated with distinction.

Grace McAuley, one of our longstanding members, shot a hole in one on the 16th on Tauhara, her second in her golfing career.

Our Annual Hospice Tournament was rained off and was re-scheduled 2 weeks later. It proved to be most successful, with us donating \$1800 to Hospice.

We continue to be a happy bunch of girls and look forward to next season. To bring our year to an end we are having a Fun Day and a barbeque lunch.

I would like to thank my committee, especially Marie Buchanan for all her help this year. It has helped me tremendously.

I would like to wish all golfers and administrators a happy and safe festive season.

*Val Somers-Edgar*

## *Ambrose coming soon*

The Thursday night 5 person Ambrose will again be held in February with 5.30pm shotgun starts. Start getting your teams together as this event is very popular and space is strictly limited.

## *Junior golf*

Thanks to Helen Clelland and her crew for their work with juniors on Saturdays and Tuesdays. The next Tuesday sessions commence in February so if you know any keen young golfers up to 12 years old get them registered at the office. We desperately need

further junior coaches so if you wish to give something back to the game please let us know. Its just an hours a week on Tuesday from 3.45pm and you never know, you may learn some new golfing tips!

## *Learn to play (adults)*

We are seeking expressions of interest from non-golfers wishing to try the game. Our plan is to establish a series of "give golf a go" days and those interested in progressing further may take up a learn to play programme. If you have any friends or family who have mentioned wanting to try golf one day, then let Grant Hill know so we can discuss options with them.

With the end of regular club days upon us, don't forget about the Summer Cup competitions, and Proshop competitions should you still have a hunger for some competition golf.

The NZ Under 23 teams event will again be hosted by the club in January. Tournament rounds are on Monday and Tuesday the 12th and 13th so put them in your diary to watch some excellent golf. Of course the Club requires the help of volunteers to manage the event including the possibility of billets. If you can help out please provide your details to the office.

Later in January the Harcourt's Classic tournament is again scheduled for Auckland Anniversary weekend, which is Jan 24th and 25th. Unfortunately the AIGP race is on the same weekend so there may be accommodation shortages, only time will tell. If you have any friends or family planning on coming to Taupo we

suggest they book early. Entry forms for this event are available at the club or on our website.

My thanks to the various club committees for your efforts throughout the year. Your work as volunteers can go unrecognised at times but is a very valuable part of our club operation and appreciated.

To all members, good golfing over the summer period and best wishes for the holiday season.

*Grant Hill*

## *Player of the year*

Congratulation to Chris Gillett and George Lasker who took out the titles this year. Just goes to show that low handicappers can win major titles! They have each won a play & stay package for four people, a well deserved prize.

## *Heineken Trophy*

The Jim McCartney Memorial trophy was played for over selected Sunday open tournaments over the year. Each players best three scores were added to their score in the Heineken Open tournament to find a winner for women and men. This year Penny Kereama and Russell Wineera will get to display this wonderful trophy on the mantle piece.

