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# Taupo Golf Club NEWSLETTER

ISSUE No. 18: JULY 2007



**GOLF MANAGER'S VIEW**

The most common "queries" I have received lately relate to Player handicaps and the additional handicap strokes provided to Women in some mixed competitions. I thought it would be appropriate to provide some insight.

**HANDICAPS**

A basic premise underlines the NZGA Handicap System, namely that every player will try to make the best score they can at each hole in every round they play, regardless of where the round is played, and that they will post every acceptable round for peer review.

The NZGA Handicap is used to indicate a measurement of a player's potential scoring ability. It is not designed to reflect the average scoring ability.

Handicaps are at the heart of healthy competitions, whether informal, haggie, or tournament based. Without accuracy and honesty in the handicaps no competition will be truly fair and equitable.

Players are reminded that it is expected cards from all games (more than 12 holes played) are to be submitted for handicapping and holes not completed, including all holes after a match is concluded (whether played or not), are to be scored as for 2 stableford points.

It is the Club's responsibility to the NZGA to make certain that handicaps reflect each player's potential scoring ability. The Club has the ability to adjust handicaps under NZ Golf regulation 8-4b.

We welcome identification by members of any golfers whose current handicap does not reflect their potential scoring ability.

**ADDITIONAL STROKES**

It is important to realise that additional strokes are

provided when players are competing against each other from different tee's to reflect the difference in the course rating or playing difficulty of the course from the respective tee's - it is certainly not a gender issue! If men are competing for the same prizes from say the Blue and White tee's there will also be a handicap allowance. This is why in most cases we run separate competitions when players are playing from different tees so no handicap adjustment is required. In some of our Sunday events, when teams can include men and women a handicap adjust is required.

Good golfing:

*Grant Hill*

**New golfers programme**

Grant Hill and James Morgan have developed some stepping stones for new players to provide some direction and opportunity for new players to progress towards playing club days.

The existing "Learn to Play" clinics have been extended to 5 lessons and discounted individual and group lessons are being offered by James Morgan.

A new introductory membership is being offered to enable new golfers to continue using the clubs practice facilities before becoming a member. This will cost \$25 which will be taken off the subscription when they join.

They have also created competency levels to provide players with targets which will enable them to comfortably participate in club days.

They will be seeking volunteers to become golf mentors for new players and give them some on course experience in due course.

**SOME FUTURE EVENTS TO NOTE:**

- Harvey's Open (Canadian Foursomes) - Sunday July 8
- Hawkes Bay trophy - Sunday July 31
- Mixed Foursomes Cup - 27 holes on Sunday August 5
- Chris Jolly Outdoors Open - Sunday August 19
- SPCA Ambrose - Friday September 21

**GREEN FEE SPECIALS**

We have some fantastic deals for visitors so spread the word as there are plenty of available tee times over the winter period:

- **Midday Madness** - Mondays & Tuesdays until end of Sept - play after midday for just \$20
- **Lazy Sunday** - 9 holes after 1pm on Tauhara Sunday's \$15
- **Twin Green Fee** - receive a \$20 discount off your second round when played within 3 days.

**FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

In our last Newsletter I went in to some depth regarding the proposed tree removal programme and for those of you who have had the opportunity to play the Centennial Course over recent weeks you will have noted that this work is now well underway. Currently the contractors have finished the areas to the left of the 14th, the left of the 8th and 11th, the right of the 10th fairway and behind the 5th tee and then continuing to move through the other blocks as shown on the map in the foyer. The gum removal lining the 7th and 9th fairways is now underway. Having viewed the work done to date, it is pleasing to note that the character of the holes involved (8th & 11th) has not changed significantly and that any damage to the playing areas and play generally, has been minimal.

As disclosed earlier, we are aiming for a net return to the club of approx. \$30,000, which is dependent upon both log volume and quality and the early indications that we have at this point, are that the volume and quality are both better than anticipated, so there is a cautious expectation that our target figure should be exceeded.

On a totally different tact, you will no doubt be aware that the construction of the Eastern Arterial Route and a new Power Station on Centennial Drive are proceeding, both of which will have some impact upon the Centennial Course, particularly bordering the 3rd, 4th, 13th and 14th Fairways. Your Board is keen to ensure that through open and effective consultation with the parties involved, the end result will be that there will be minimum impact to our course. We will keep

the membership advised of developments as necessary, as and when we have something concrete to report.

We are of course now halfway through the calendar year and while it is some six months before our next AGM, this time will pass quickly, the question of the make up of the Mens & Women's Playing Committees and of course the Board, needs to be addressed, so lets start thinking about what contribution we each want to make to our club over the next few years. From the Board perspective, it is normal for two positions to be contested for each year; this year there will be three positions affected brought about by changes to the Board during 2005. It is important for continuity purposes to get back to the two year cycle, and our elections this year presents us with the opportunity to correct the imbalance.

Within this Newsletter you will find a "financial snapshot" covering the nine months to 31 May 2007 against budget for the same period. This snapshot shows that Income wise we are very close to budget, notwithstanding that Greens Fees are lower than predicted, but are on target to reach approx. \$370,000, which will be up on last year. Expenditure for the year to date continues to track under budget by some \$11,000; ie we haven't spent as much as planned.

In closing, I wish to take the opportunity to acknowledge the recent passing of Bill Tito who over the years made a significant contribution to our Club, which resulted in him being made a life Member in 1992.

*Ernie Oxnam*

The tree removal program has started with the radiata having to be milled first because of the likelihood that prices will drop in July because of the US dollar value. The grounds staff will remedy the wear and tear where logging vehicles have travelled as they finish areas. Rotary hoeing and reseedling will proceed after each areas completion. The gum trees will now have been started to be milled. This is a bit later than we had planned but necessary for the best returns for the Club. As the felling of the gums is progressing the Centennial practice area will be closed because of the dangers of logging traffic. We are planning to put in some practice greens in this area and their will be no vehicular access and play will be from the clubhouse end only.

Eddie Hawke has now completed the pathway to the first

tee on Tauhara and the grounds staff will re grass and put in gardens to further enhance the entrance to the course. Again many thanks to the Veteran Golfers Society for their monetary donation and the immaculate workmanship of Eddie which will make the entry to Tauhara that much more of an eye pleaser. The next project is for Ron Duncan to re fence the 18th boundary and with this complete and the work of Lyn Edwards, Jackie Morgan and their helpers on the road way gardens the complex entranceway will be on the way to being more inviting as we drive in.

All in all it is a busy period of renovation for the Club. We apologise for any inconvenience but hope the end results will more than justify the present upset.

*Bruce Klue*

**G-M'S REPORT**

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Winter is now well and truly here and if you are like me you are already feeling the pinch - my ball doesn't go as far, my swing feels like it is in tatters and the reality of winter golf is starting to kick in as it gets colder and easier to make excuses not to get kitted out in all that wet weather gear and get out and play. For the life of me I cannot see any sane rationale for golf being a "Winter" game - it seems to me to be all the wrong way round - shouldn't we be playing all our Club Champs and Club events in summer with the sun on our backs and long summer evenings to relax in our fantastic Clubhouse. What do you think???

Anyway, winter is here and was ushered in by the passing of William Edward Tito, Club Stalwart of the first water, and great friend to many of our members. Bill had, had a long battle with cancer and will be a great loss to his family, his many mates and the Club. For those of us that had the opportunity to enjoy Bill's company both before and then during his illness there are many memories to enjoy and treasure. I have no doubt that over time many of these will be turned into legend so that he will always be part of the Taupo Golf Club - a Club which he served so well and which played such a major part in his life -

A "Snap Shot" of the Club's Financial Performance for the nine months to 31 May 2007.

	Budget (9 mths)	Actual (9 mths)
<b>INCOME</b>		
Commercial	98141	100792
Gaming Machines	12729	10162
Green Fees	350353	321600
Sponsorship	29000	44807
Subscriptions	374977	388048
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>865200</b>	<b>\$865,409</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Administration	193558	183438
Course	383286	376559
Interest Paid	95098	95444
Operating	125397	130607
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>797339</b>	<b>\$786,048</b>

Notes: Covers nine month period, ie 1/9/2006 to 31/05/2007. Subscriptions is an accrual figure, and information sourced from unaudited monthly financial reports.

rest in peace. I am sure that others will mention in their Newsletter contributions the tree felling project which is progressing so quickly on both our Courses. I for one am staggered at the speed with which the trees are being cleared, the light and views that are becoming available as they are coming down and the lack of disruption to our facilities. A great deal of planning went into making sure this was the outcome and I congratulate our GM Bruce Klue, and Grant Wilson, our Course Superintendent for taking care of the detail and ensuring a quality job is being achieved. I know that many of you have expressed an interest in giving a hand with course restoration and the Board is most grateful for your support - we will keep everyone in the loop. I know also that Dennis Allan's Bird Project Group are gearing up to start planting again - so please - talk to him and get involved with their work as well. So - all in all an exciting time for the Club at the moment - a lot of activity reinforcing our club culture of involvement, consultation and improvement to our facilities and maintaining our strategic promise of providing a premier golfing experience for everyone who come to our Club.

2007 has seen a great expansion in player numbers with sometimes over 50 in the field. Many of these players are new to golf and we thank James Morgan for his lessons which have been well attended.

There have been visits to Maraenui by 6 members, 5 being most successful, and to Tirau where 16 ladies had an enjoyable day and once again did very well.

Interclub has begun with rounds at Rotorua and Springfield and Taupo is at present a close second. The third round is at home on July 30th where we hope to take over top spot.

On Monday June 25 we enjoyed our popular annual early breakfast with mulled wine fortifying us for the frosty morning ahead.

Marian Lourie



9 HOLE LADIES

FINANCIALS

ON THE GREEN

As we move into the winter the grass growth has slowed and the trees have lost their leaves. Up until the middle of June the rainfall for this area is substantially lower than normal and we have not had any problems with wet areas around the greens.

Golfers may have noticed that the greens have sped up and are smoother over recent weeks. We were lucky enough to receive a grant for a new thatch-away groomer and verticutter system which allows us to provide a smoother, truer surface than we have in the past.

We have also trialled a new fertiliser on fairways 10, 16, 17 on Centennial. This material will provide long term beneficial results for the fairways that have consistently

struggled to provide a complete grass cover. Watch these fairways to see how they grow through the next few months.

We have been utilising a new nutrition programme for the greens over the past 2 years. This has meant substantially fewer problems with fungal issues through the winter months and we hope we can transfer these benefits into the summer and autumn months in the future.

The club now has 3 staff members completing the qualification programme for greenkeeping. This has obvious benefits for the club in future years. Good golfing through the winter months.

Grant Wilson  
Course Manager

VETERANS

Six months into the 2007 season has left me with mixed feelings. Firstly I'm encouraged by the amount of younger players stamping their mark on Club competitions, the number of men turning out on a regular basis to play Saturday golf and the state of our golf courses is excellent. Then on the other side I've lost my playing partner, my best mate, my Dad who will be well remembered by many in the Taupo Golf Club - Kakite ano (till we meet again).

- Some of the highlights so far this year:
- The win by the Championship Pennant Team over last years Champions Tauranga
  - The initiatives taken by committee members arranging tournaments for long weekends for all club members to enjoy
  - The start sheet is part of our golfing life now, the two tee start sheet trial proved very successful - watch this space
  - The big screen for sporting events has proved very popular
  - The amount of new members who have migrated well into our club scene

At right is a graph which shows the monthly average number of men playing on Saturdays, over the last two years. As you can see the numbers for this year are trending very well.

My Dad would ask "how is the path" well I can honestly say, the path looks fantastic - well done to Eddie Hawke.

We are well into the second half year of Club Golf and people are still returning good cards, this being mainly due to the excellent course conditions and the good non winter weather.

Recently we have had 3 holes in one, Jenny Cory, Bev McCauley and Joan Jalfon. Congratulations to these people.

Our Silver/Bronze Strokeplay saw Janine Carroll, Anna Reece and Liz Ranson take out the honours for this event. Matches are being played on time with some close games being fought out and the Player of the Year points keep changing regularly.

Our Tauhara Team leads in the Wrathall Shield with a bye and 1 game to play and the Centennial team, also with 1 game to play and a bye are running second so Taupo are performing well in silver pennants.

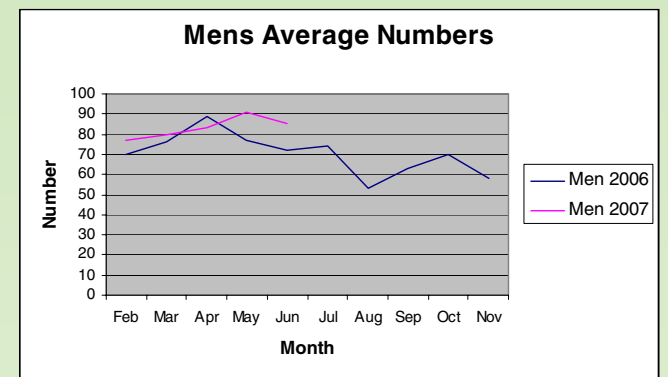
The BOP Silver Matchplay (off the stick) has ended and our thanks go to those people who have turned out on the weekends to travel and play. It has been good for our golf but a

Although slightly down on numbers, Veteran golfers continue to support the very full programme arranged for this year. For those who may be unaware this programme commences in early January and closes just prior to Christmas. Included are seven interclub events with Taumarunui, Mangakino and Turangi. Vets also play Rotorua vets three times every year and have regular annual matches with Mt Maunganui and Bay of Plenty vets.

As can be seen this is an extensive programme and is well supported by present members. For those who are over 55 and wish to participate please come along on Wednesday at 8.30 am and join in. I can promise you good companionship with some interesting characters.

The organisation of the Annual 5-Day vets Tournament at the beginning of November has commenced and this is open to any affiliated golfer over the age of 55. Again I urge any eligible player to consider playing in this well run and popular event.

The vets would also like to congratulate Eddie Hawke for the tremendous job he has done in constructing the new path to the first tee on the Tauhara Course. This work has most



One of our premier men's competitions the Stroke Play is due to start, I have a small wager with the GM, who will score the best over four rounds? I'd be interested in your thoughts?

On behalf of the Men's Players Committee, I would like to thank all men players for your support to us in helping make the Taupo Golf Club "A Place of Choice" locally, nationally and internationally.

May your ball fly straight and true:

Mark Tito  
Men's Players Captain

bit demoralising when competing against other teams who field all low single handicap players. Nevertheless we finished midway in the Thermal Zone.

Our next big event is the Mid Winter Christmas Women's Foursomes on Thursday August 2 so do get your entries in to the office as soon as possible for this very popular event.

We have arranged the annual get-together with Taumaranui and they will be joining us on Club Day September 4. First round of Shootout has been played but there is still time to sign up as 3 rounds of stableford count out of 5.

To those golfers who have been indisposed or fallen over we hope you are well on the mend now, so take care from now on as I am sure we are going to get some crummy weather before long and it will be the coughs and colds season.

Chris Player  
Womens Club Captain

definitely improved the approach to the course and is part of the ongoing improvements supported by the Veterans Society. Good golfing to all:

Doug Stirling

JUNIORS

Helen Clelland and her team do a wonderful job with our Junior learn to play programme and we are looking to capitalise on the good work done to date.

We are looking for willing volunteers to assist with advancing our Junior activities to the next level. We are looking for further Coaches for our Tuesday afternoon sessions who will receive training in the "Junior Plus" coaching system, and also people to assist with some Sunday competitions.

If you would like to give something back to the game and help our young people become future Full Playing members, talk to our Golf Manager, Grant Hill.

