

# Farewell "Oh Danny Boy"

## William (Bill) Tito

The Taupo Golf Club lost one of its real characters and greatest supporters when William (Bill) Tito died on 19 May 2007. A very large crowd of family and friends of all ages turned out to farewell Bill at the Founders Chapel. There was standing room only at the service, and this reflected the huge esteem in which Bill was held by all with whom he came into contact. The service was followed by a gathering of many of Bills good mates at the Golf Club, and he was bid farewell in a way that he would have wished.

Bill was one of life's characters. He loved life himself, and ensured through his sense of fun and humour that everyone around him enjoyed life as well. An avid and highly accomplished sportsman across a number of codes, it was golf that really took Bills interest in later life.

He joined the Taupo Golf club in 1961 and was a regular and enthusiastic player until his recent illness put an end to his playing days. He secured many triumphs in club competitions and thoroughly enjoyed the Middlemore Mugs in particular. Bill initially played every year in this with his close friend Michael Orr. However he never won the event until later teaming up with Mike Alexander. Another popular event the Tappenden Trophy

was won by Bill and son Mark on two separate occasions. Bill won the Tauhara shootout some three years ago in a freezing, wet southerly

storm when a lot of younger players fell by the wayside. His stickability and sheer determination saw him come through as the oldest player in the field that day. In 2005, he won the inaugural competition for a new event the "Green Jersey" which is now played to coincide with the final day of the Masters tournament in the US. The trophy is a special green jersey presented to the winner in similar vein to the green jacket that is presented to the winner of the US Masters. Bills wish to be buried in this jersey was honoured by the family.

Bill loved playing in the Cavaliers, the Wednesday competition for men run by our golf professionals firstly John Sheargold and then James Morgan. He became the unofficial adjudicator of any disputes and was regularly asked for his opinion as to what should happen in terms of organisation of the event.

Each year Bill formed a team to play in the regular Friday night Twilight competition. Usually made up of family members Bill, Mark, Denis and Judy the team called themselves "Oh Danny Boy" after one of Bills favourite songs. They had more than their share of victories and more than their share of fun.

Apart from the playing side of golf, Bill was vitally involved in the administration of the Golf Club over many years. He spent 16 years in total on the Committee and was one of those visionary people along with Mike Orr and Laurie Cheal who established

our second golf course, Centennial, when the club decided to lease some land next door from Lands and Survey. In hindsight this has probably been the most significant decision taken during the lifetime of our Club, and sets the Taupo Club apart from all others. Bill was later elected President and held that office from 1979 to 1985.

Thereafter he was appointed Patron for a good number of years. He served as Pennant rep team selector and manager up until quite recent times. In 1997 the Club recognised the magnificent contribution that Bill had made to the success of the Taupo Golf Club and elected him a life member. He was very proud of that thoroughly deserved honour.

At all times Bill took a keen interest in the administration and management of the Club, and was never backward in coming forward with suggestions and ideas for improvement. His mana and statesmanlike standing in the Club was recognised in 2004 when he was asked to chair the organizing committee for the 75th Jubilee celebrations.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to all of Bills family and especially to wife Cecily, sons Mark (Taupo Club Captain) and Paul, daughters Denise and Vicci, and brother Denis.

As long as people are playing golf in Taupo, Bill Tito will continue to be a part of all of our lives. Haere ra Bill, travel well, rest in peace.

*Dennis Allan*

Winter is well and truly here, and with the cold weather comes higher scores.

The reasons are simple, your muscles, golf balls and club shafts are all colder and won't react the same as in warmer times. All this adds up to less distance with our shots, but because we as golfers only remember our good shots, we still try to hit the same club from the marker as in summer. Just remember to use a longer club, or even two in winter. Also, because we have on more clothing, it affects the way we swing.

Make sure you turn your sternum around your spine on your backswing, if you feel yourself swaying sideways let it happen. It is better to be too far behind the ball at the top of your backswing than trying to stay still. Just make sure you watch the ball being hit.

Some of you will have heard from James Funnell. He is enjoying himself in Ireland, working hard so that he can travel around on his days off to some of the beautiful Irish and British countryside. Although I think he is sick of all the rain!! At this stage he is still planning to come back to Taupo in late October, but who knows what is in store for him.

On the shop front, we have rearranged the shop so it is

now much easier to walk around, especially on those frosty mornings when the shop seems to be a very popular place to be!

Areas of interest with new stock just in are, bags, shoes, clothing, and winter wear, mitts, ear warmers etc.

Please feel free to wander around, please don't feel you have to buy something every time you come in, but we do have new stock arriving all the time so take a few minutes to peruse at your leisure.

Also Taylormade have reduced some of their drivers by up to \$400, so if you are thinking of buying a new driver now would be a great time to come and try them.

We have a limited amount of sale stock, so come and see us now to avoid disappointment.

Finally, we will be holding some putting clinics in July and August, which will be very informative, and hopefully benefit everyone. So if you are putting badly (and you can't blame the greens as they are great at the moment) keep your eyes open for a notice sometime in July.

Keep warm:

*James Morgan*  
Head Professional