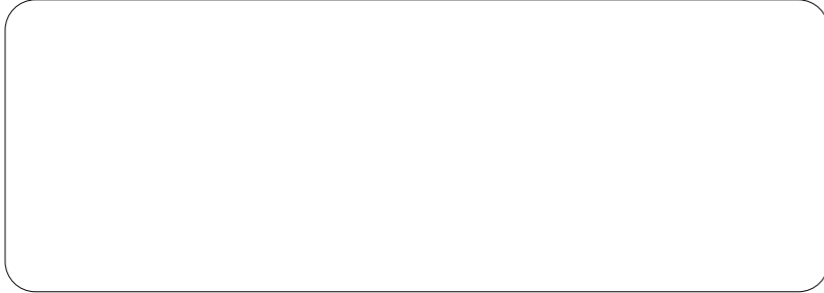




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**GOLF MANAGER'S VIEW**

A very busy summer of golf has concluded and I wish to thank the many sponsors of events held during this time. In particular 4 Seasons Home and Leisure and Deacons Retravision have provided excellent support of our Thursday Ambrose and Friday Twilight competitions and is much appreciated.

I would like to remind players that our starting tees 7 days a week for casual play are the 1st tees unless you have sought permission from either the Proshop or Office to start elsewhere. We are having far too many complaints regarding players starting elsewhere in front of players already on course and enjoying their game. Please put yourself in their shoes and appreciate what it feels like for others to push in front of you!

On a more positive note, we have been receiving excellent patronage of our Sunday open tournaments with plenty of visitors taking advantage of our \$30 entry fee which includes green fee. This year we have introduced the Heineken Trophy which is nine events over the year with your best three stableford scores being carried forward into the grand final in November. Member entry into these events is just \$5.

We have enjoyed some excellent early autumn golfing conditions but of course all good things must come

to an end and the necessary coring of greens is being completed in early April. I would like to thank the green keeping staff for doing an excellent job of presenting the courses in some very trying conditions in the last few months. If you had a chance to see some of the surrounding courses in the district it certainly puts our home club facilities in perspective!

**JUNIORS**

George Lasker has recently established a Junior Development squad which is aiming to provide guidance and assistance to our younger members showing potential to get them to the next level. Our Junior programme is going strong with around 60 kids enjoying the "Give golf a go" clinics on Tuesdays and my thanks to Helen Clelland and our excellent volunteer coaches who make this a success. We also have a "Junior Club" in the early stages of development which is providing a stepping stone to juniors by offering Saturday afternoon experience on the courses. If any members wish to give something back, then any of these initiatives would appreciate your time.

The John Taylor Jewellers Women's Twin Classic was held Feb 27-28 and again attracted strong entries with a full field of 132 ladies achieved 4 weeks prior to tournament! It was the team "Hogan's hero's" from Waiotapu lead by ex-Captain and now Omanu player Marie McCauley who took the title. Defending champions "Teeny Boppers" (Judy Godfrey, Mary Weston, Marg Simpson, Sue McCallum) again showed their teenage exuberance and were well rewarded with 2nd place. Pictured is the team stableford winners: Marie McCauley, Pam Symes, Margaret Clark, Elva Hicks



**Taupo Golf Club**  
**NEWSLETTER**

ISSUE No. 20: April 2008

**FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

Following on from a year when there was some major works undertaken on the courses – particularly Centennial with the tree removal programme, 2008 will be seen as one of continued consolidation, with a focus on completion of the "tree removal restoration programme" with a view to bringing these areas back up to a standard that we wish to provide for our members and visitors. This work will also include the mounding and grassing of the area to the left of No 2 & 3 greens on Centennial and up-grade of the roadside fence. Yes we would have preferred to have the piles of waste removed by now, however the very dry period that Taupo and other parts of the country, have or currently are experiencing, has meant that we have been unable to burn this material given the fire ban that is in place – rest assured that once the fire ban has been lifted and the appropriate permits obtained, will see completion of that task.

The dry period has of course has a significant effect on the playing conditions on both courses and it has been pleasing to note that there has been no significant impact on the greens, when you compare this to the problems that we experienced some three years ago. Clearly a structured and adhered to maintenance programme is the key to ensuring that the greens and surrounds are able to cope with the varying weather conditions that occur. On this note planning is well underway to core the greens on both courses soon after Easter and again this is evidence of our commitment to this maintenance programme and our desire for presentation of quality greens. Some other issues that the Board is working through at the present time include:

- impact of the Eastern Arterial route – for example how are we able to derive any benefits from the building of this by-pass
- deciding on how we utilise the surplus funds generated from the winding up of the gaming operation – there is some \$35,000 involved and in terms of the gaming rules, the funds must be used for an "authorised purpose" under those rules – the current thinking is that we purchase a second small tractor which would then allow two different tasks to be undertaken on the greens at the same time; ie one spraying and the second sanding, verti-draining etc.

- the completion of the Tee Signage and associated Sponsorship program
- membership growth

From the Membership information tabled at our most recent Board Meeting held, early February, as at 17 January 2008 total membership stood at 1189, down by 54 from 1243 as at 31 August 2007. This reduction is attributable to members who either chose not to renew their membership this year or where un-financial members have been removed from the membership lists. Current thinking would suggest that the figure of 1189 represents the annual "low point" and that over coming months we can expect some membership growth and get to, or ahead of our year end figure of 1243 achieved last year. Clearly membership growth is one factor that provides not only a positive contribution to the Club financially, but also assists our contractors, and it is through the actions that we take as members that will help the Club grow and continue to meet its financial obligations. Your Board will be working through this issue with a view to implementing strategies for continued membership growth

In closing it would be fair to say that the past few months have indeed been challenging ones, for the Management Team, the Club's contractors, the Board and membership generally. Challenging in the sense that we have come through a very busy time for the Club playing wise, which has flowed through for the Club financially. From the "financial snapshot" which covers the first five months of our financial year, included in this Newsletter, you will note that on the income side we are running some \$19,000 ahead of budget, Green Fees, Sponsorship and Subscriptions are up, while Commercial (includes Bar) is slightly down. On the expenditure side, at some \$7000 we are slightly over budget – course costs being the main contributor, but off set by our interest costs being less than predicted. Your board takes a strong interest in the monthly financial performance of the Club and we will be working to ensure that the above trends are maintained and where possible, improved upon.

**Ernie Oxnam**  
Board Chairman

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Welcome to the first Newsletter for 2008 – and a chance to review what has already been a busy year. Well, what a summer – the best I can recall for many years. Hasn't it been great to get up in the morning and count on it being beautiful day after day. This has probably been one of the hottest January's on record and has really put our Greens staff to the test in terms of keeping our great courses up to standard. They have done a wonderful job – I cannot recall seeing the courses look so good and we have received numerous comments from visitors about just how good they are. We have also had considerable feedback about the state of many other courses around the country and the problems this weather has brought for them. I think the installation of fairway watering has well and truly paid off and very proud of the presentation of our courses. I hope you are too. It has been a busy time of year for us with our courses being put under considerable pressure by both Tournaments and Green Fee visitors and I would like to thank members for their consideration and friendliness to everyone who comes to play. It is what sets us apart and makes playing at Taupo so popular. The first major event for the year was, of course the NZ Under 23 Teams Championship, and as we have come to expect Doug Scott and his organizing committee once again did a wonderful job. Thank you to everyone who assisted in whatever capacity and congratulations to Waikato for their second consecutive success in this event and to Individual Winner Danny Lee. Already the winter playing season is well under way and we are right into the Pennants season. Congratulations to

everybody who has made one of our representative teams. Grant Wakelin and the Harcourts Team have enabled us to run a very successful Harcourts Tournament once again. It was great to buck the national trend of falling numbers by boasting a significant increase in players taking part and really kick start our 2008 season. We have hosted the John Taylor Jewellers Ladies Twin Classic which drew a capacity field of 33 teams and is proving a ladies event not to be missed. Well done Viv Nyssen and your committee for your efforts in running this Tournament. We have also completed the 4 Seasons Summer Ambrose. This popular competition once again drew a full field including many participants who are not regular golfers. Hopefully a number of these players will get the bug and become full playing members. The Club is very grateful for the sponsorship provided to the Summer Ambrose by Bill and Caroline Nickelsen and also to John and Margie Deacon for the Deacon's Retravision Friday Night Twilight Competition. Both these couples have consistently been strong supporters of the Club. I would like to make special mention for the work done by Grant Hill, our Golf Manager for the effort he puts in, in support of all the above events. He receives fantastic help from Linda Cooper and we thank you both for the work you do. I know everyone appreciates the high standards you set in making sure everything runs smoothly. It remains only for me to wish everyone success in their Golf over our winter season and to look forward to playing a bit more golf this year myself.

**Ron Edwards**  
President.

At the writing of this report we are into the renovation of Tauhara greens with Centennial to follow next week. The programme this year is to core with 19mm holes at 100mm centres. To fill these holes on Tauhara is going to take approximately 80 cubic metres of sand and approx 100 cubic meters on Centennial. We have struggled through the summer and have used the capacity of our irrigation pond on a nightly basis on both courses. However I believe we have been able to keep the greens in respectable order through this time. It is obvious to everyone looking at the condition of the fairways that we need to embark on a compaction relief programme. This will allow irrigated water to move into the small mounds on the fairways and keep an even grass cover over the fairways. We are exploring the opportunities of instigating this programme in the near future. We are waiting for the weather to break so we can burn the piles of tree litter from the removal programme, and to start germination of the grass on the areas that are to be sown. Hopefully we are not going to go straight from summer into frosts and winter. Recovery from the coring should be quick and we hope to get the greens back in order as fast as possible.

*Good golfing for the autumn.*

A "Snap Shot" of the Club's Financial Performance for the 5 months to 31 January 2008

	Budget (5 mths)	Actual (5 mths)	Variance
<b>Income</b>			
Commercial	55,639	53,066	-2,573
Gaming Machines	2,882	3,435	553
Green Fees	184,595	193,116	8,521
Sponsorship	28,000	35,727	7,727
Subscriptions	535,778	541,169	5,391
Total Revenue	806,894	826,513	19,619
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Administration	110,073	115,240	5,167
Course	194,670	211,596	16,926
Interest Paid	68,684	52,376	-16,308
Operating	63,151	64,440	1,289
Total Expenses	436,578	443,652	7,074
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>370,316</b>	<b>382,861</b>	<b>12,545</b>

Notes:  
- covers five months to 31/01/2008  
- information sourced from unaudited monthly financial reports

FINANCIALS

We have come through a very dry summer period with the greens and fairways now in pretty good shape. The fairways may not have looked like they had a lot of water on them, and many members commented as to why we put an irrigation system in and then neglected to utilise it, but the irrigation bill for January and February was well over \$20,000. Just remember that without that water we would have been hitting off dry, bare ground as we did some 5 years ago. As always when the greens are in such nice condition it comes that time in the year when we have to core them, and as we go to print the courses would have undergone their maintenance programs. March has been a busy month for the Club with the start of our playing season and the increasing demand on our courses for corporate bookings and casual green fee players. These corporate bookings are an essential part of the

Club's wellbeing and for March equated to approximately \$15,000, and added to casual green fee revenue will total approx \$50,000. We try to minimise the effect these players have on our membership play and I hope that you are all understanding when it comes to the usual time you play, and the course is booked, as necessary for the Club's welfare. With the addition of the Kinloch Club in the area we are going to be involved in a "golfing hub" with Wairakei which will probably increase demand for our courses for casual play in the future. The Taupo Golf Club is fortunate that previous members had the foresight to build an additional course and we are able to accommodate as many people as we do barely interrupting the Club playing program.

**Bruce Klue**

In January we hosted the annual **Harcourt's Classic**, 36 hole strokeplay event on Auckland Anniversary weekend. A grand total of 290 golfers, the largest field since 2001, took on the Centennial and Tauhara courses in fine but windy and testing conditions.

Early leader in the men's championship was local Kent Skellern with 69 making the most of the early morning conditions to take a good three stroke lead over the rest of the field. The chasing pack included past winners Jason McIntosh (72) and Blair Murdoch (73), along with up and coming star Josh Merriman (72), and Hawkes Bay representative Pieter Zwart (72). Sunday provided similar conditions with the Centennial course winning the battle over the majority of the field. Blair Murdoch, along with locals Troy Taylor and Michael Sheargold, managed excellent even par rounds but overnight leader Kent Skellern lost his opportunity on the front nine turning at 4 over par and finished with 76 for third place. Round of the day however came from Pieter Zwart. His one under par round of 71 secured him the championship by two strokes and denied Murdoch a sixth title.

In the Women's championship, 15 year old sensation Chantelle Cassidy from Rotorua opened the tournament with a 78 providing a seven stroke buffer of 2005 champion Janine Carroll. Cassidy backed this up with another solid 79 on Sunday to provide a convincing win with Carroll taking the runner up place on 167 from Taupo's Chris Pritt (171) and Sarah Vining (172). Cassidy will certainly be a player to watch for the future with many more titles likely to go her way after showing maturity and experience beyond her years at Taupo.

The Nine Hole Ladies now have a strong membership of nearly 100 players, with a turn out every Monday morning of between 40 and 50. Starting times on Mondays shift to 9.30 when daylight saving finishes. Discs in by 9.15 for a prompt start at 9.30. The popular Hospice Tournament is coming up on the 5th May. There is limited space so keep this date free in your diary. Interclub days this season are: Rotorua 16th April, Springfield 10th June and our own Taupo event on 28th July. We aim to keep the trophy we won last year.

**Val Somers-Edgar**  
9 Hole Convener.

