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# Taupo Golf Club NEWSLETTER



ISSUE No. 21: August 2008

From The CHAIRMAN

While we are now deep into winters grip, over the past few months you will have seen the results of the ongoing restoration work that has been undertaken thus far on Centennial and I am sure that you will agree, that when complete, the course will return to something that we can all be proud of and a pleasure to play. It was interesting to see that following the severe winds that we had over the past weekend, that while there was some damage to trees etc, generally the courses remained very well presented. On this note the Club remains indebted to Peter and Christine Wilson for the use of their machines and the work undertaken by Don Newman - your continued support is truly appreciated.

On a slightly different note, on the 29th of June the Men's Championship Team, played a Promotion Relegation match with Omanu from Tauranga, and it was very pleasing indeed to see the Taupo Team record, what I believe was a most important win on the day and is a credit to Jason McIntosh and his team. To remain in the Championship group was something not just important from a playing perspective, but in a commercial sense also, through player retention and profile of the Taupo Golf Club.

We are now of course well into our current financial year, and from an Income and Expenditure perspective, the Club is doing okay, however at this point we are not making any meaningful inroad into our debt levels, and is something that continues to provide the Board and the Management Team with some real challenges. With this in mind during the budget process for the forthcoming year we will be making some decisions that will maybe put a greater emphasis on expenditure control and looking at ways for greater income generation. Some

of the work will involve perhaps doing things a little smarter, or maybe differently. We haven't of course been helped by the high interest rate regime that the country is currently experiencing, and as an example of doing things a little differently, the Management Team have come up with an incentive plan to encourage both the earlier payment of subscriptions when they fall due as of 1 September and put in place formal arrangements with the "office" where members wish to pay these off, over the year. This incentive plan is covered further in this newsletter.

Also included, is a snapshot of our Income and Expenditure for the year to 31 May 2008 which is self-explanatory and when you take into account the size of our operation, is a credit to those involved. Membership wise as of 23 June, our total membership stood at 1,248 as against 1,243 as at 31 August 2007 and again this is a credit to the Management Team & members generally, as from what we hear across the country numbers have been falling. Over the next few weeks, we will be hearing from NZ Golf about their "Golf Nation" proposal which will require analysis from Taupo Golf Club perspective to test the impact on how and when this could be implemented into our operation. It is fair to say that if we were able to increase our full playing membership by say 50 members, this would make a huge difference to our financial results and I guess the piece that all members can contribute to, is to encourage friends, new arrivals in town etc, to become a member of our Club.

**Ernie Oxnam**  
Board Chairman

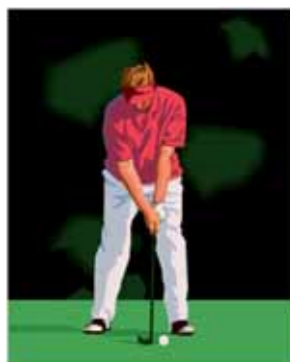
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Mark's "Sense"



With half the season gone and the majority of our men's competitions well into their Quarter and Semi finals, the cream of the crop have played their way through. Both the Tauhara and Centennial Shoot out lists have some very impressive scores, come out and support your

favourite player on the Sept 21 or Oct 12.

Our Championship Pennant Team were involved in a relegation match (June 29) after coming last in their division.

The morning foursomes round saw them 3/1 down heading into the single matches. The team had to dig deep running out eventual winners 7/5, and remain once again in the Championship division. A huge congratulations to all players concerned and the club members who braved the cold to support them.

I appreciate all those who put their names forward for Pennant selection at all levels this year, also a special thanks to all the manager/selectors who gave up their time voluntarily. Jason McIntosh who managed and selected the Championship Team would probably be the youngest selector for a number of years, if not ever, well done Mate, you showed great maturity in leading the troops.

Installing pride back into players who represent the Taupo Golf Club when wearing of the Pennant Shirt, will be a goal of the Committee. Next year the right to represent the Club will be earned.

George Lasker continues to work with a number of our teenage golfers, teaching them some of the finer points of the game – good stuff George.

The 2008 Stroke Play competition is over with Jason

McIntosh (Senior) taking out his 4th title. New players to grace the championship board this year are Charlie Beagle (Intermediate) and Daryl (Bunter) Morris (Junior) – well done

Ron Daly pass away July 3, life members Ron and his wife Mufti (deceased) played a huge part in shaping the club to what it is today – Haere ra Ron haere Haere haere ki to Kaihanga e tatari ana mou

**Mark T ito**  
Men's Captain



*Mens Foursomes winners  
Warren Cholmondeley-Smith  
and Dennis Allan.*

It's about this time of every year when I really start questioning my sanity – playing golf in the middle of winter – frosty, cold, wet days of trudging around playing bad golf and hanging out for warmer days and lovely sunny evenings when you can get 9 holes in after work. The only thing that makes it worthwhile is the fact that we have 2 such great courses to play and that they are in such fantastic shape for this time of year.

We had a visit recently from Bill McGowan, CEO New Zealand Golf along with other representatives from his office to talk about the state of Club Memberships around the country and present a proposal for our Club to consider. Titled "Golf Nation" the thrust of the proposal is to widen the benefits of joining a Golf Club in order to attract new members and assist in retaining existing members. The Board will consider the proposal and as much as possible get input from our own members before making any decision. However falling membership is becoming a major concern for most clubs throughout the country and we need to make sure our Club does not get complacent about our ability to attract new and retain our existing members.

Some interesting statistics for you:

- Club Membership is declining at the rate of 2.5%pa and over the last 5 years approx 10000 members have left the game.
- 75% Of Golf Club Members are male, 25% are female
- 60% of members are over the age of 55

The subject of how to best cater for our members is on every

Board Meeting agenda and I would like to reassure you that we are taking the issue very seriously.

We need your help.

Please get a copy of the Brochure "New Zealand Golf Nation" from our GM Bruce and have a read. What do you think of the ideas put forward from NZ Golf and are there other ways we as a club can attract and retain members??

If you have some ideas please talk to any Board Representative or Bruce or your Players Captains and have an input into the future of our Club.

One thing is for sure. The cost of maintaining our Club is only going to increase and we can only mitigate rises in the cost of membership by broadening our base and looking for new ways to increase our income.

Finally I would like to record my sympathies to the family of Ron Daly, longtime member and supporter of the Taupo Golf Club who passed away recently after a short illness. Always colourful and cheerful Ron will be missed by all of us who came into contact with him and enjoyed his friendship.

I would also like to wish club stalwart Tony Kunac a speedy recovery from his brush with death on the course a couple of weeks ago. I am sure Tony would like me to publicly acknowledge all those who rushed to his aid and probably saved his life with their prompt actions. Well done guys you did great.

### Ron Edwards

President

More than six months gone into the new year, how time flies. We have settled into another round of games with a similar programme to last years events as listed in my last report and with the fantastic weather we had in the summer we are having a ball.

Another successful Five day Tournament was held in November 07. with great feedback from participants, and promises of returning to play again this year. I do believe we have one of the best tournaments on the circuit, however this does not mean we can sit back as times are 'a' changing, less participants, due to cost of travel, cost of accommodation etc. etc.

Some clubs have had to cancel tournaments due to lack of numbers, we hope not to get to that stage. However it is hard to get the numbers we used to have 4 or 5 years ago. So what does all this mean, It means we are already planning for this year, and looking to change things around, to attract more players, we are including a section for Ladies Vets, possibly up to 32 players. They will play a 4x day event separate from

the men's 5x day programme.

### Congratulations to our Competition Winners for 2007:

Barry Nicholl Cup	Blair Major
Roy Mexted Trophy	Gordon Scott / Phil Mansfield
Len Murphy Salver	Robin Boocock
Barney Peacock Trophy	Ken Conway

I would like to say a special thank you to the Veterans Committee, including the one's who have recently left, all of who are a hard working team and do an excellent job, also to thank the new committee members who have just joined us.

*"When you're having trouble and topping the ball, it means the ground is moving on you."*

Chi Chi Rodriguez

### Bob Cope

### Are Storm Clouds Looming?

When talking about what to expect next year in regards costs for all commodities such as petrol, food etc everyone is so unsure of how this will affect our discretionary dollar spend.

With this current economic climate the Taupo Golf Club recognise that times are getting tougher for our members and we will need to have a schedule of payment options to suit everyone. Come and see us at the office for an option that could suit you.

With this in mind the Club has put in place some incentives to get your 2009 subscription paid up or an automatic payment in place for regular subs payments.

This year we will be having a draw for you to win your subscription payment back, if you have paid in full by 30th September. Also there will be another prize of a weeks' accommodation at Bill Linn's Caboolture Motel on the Sunshine Coast for subs fully paid or auto payment options actually in place by 20th October. So be in to win.

On a somewhat positive note we had an incident recently where a member suffered a heart attack on the Centennial course. That he survived is attributed to the efforts of his

playing partners and the use of the Club's defibrillator.

Unfortunately all of those in the area did not have cell phones with them, a rarity for most of them in this day and age, but with some performing CPR and one driving back to the office to ring 111 and retrieve our defibrillator valuable time was lost for his positive recovery.

I am currently applying for a gaming grant for a dedicated first aid cart to cover our 365 acre complex and maximise response time that will hopefully save lives that may be at risk with time delays.

A reminder that by November 3rd we will be asking for nominations for 2 Board Members, and later, Playing Committees and Captains.

If you have someone identified that has the necessary skills to fulfil these roles please put their names forward before nominations close later in November.

The newsletter is available on the Club's website along with other material including information about our club play and sponsors. Go to [www.taupogolf.co.nz](http://www.taupogolf.co.nz).

### Bruce Klue

We are halfway through our golfing season and on the whole the weather has been reasonable good for us apart from 2 or 3 rainy days, which saw us sending off a few of the more hardier brave souls, we have not had to abandon any club day. Lets face it we have needed the rain both for our courses and our beautiful Lake.

Most of our cup and trophy match are nearing their end and it's nice to see people arranging and playing there match at the beginning of the time allotted. I know this is not easy with people coming and going for holidays, work and generally busy lives so well done.

The Woman's Association Pennants went very well, all players did their best on the day and finished playing in the finals in which we came 5th so I feel a big pat on the back is deserved for all players involved. Next year we are looking to up the anti on this placing and hopefully finish as the winners.

The Wrathall Shield Teams are doing very well, with Tauhara and Centennial vying for the top placings at this stage, They are playing their 4th match on July 14th at Springfield in Rotorua. If anyone wishes to go and support them that would be really great, also if you wish to offer your services as a caddy please contact Mary Plummer.

We have a mid-year dinner and dance coming up on the 19th July and your support for this would be really appreciated. You can book a table for 10 or come as a couple we can cater for all, you may also like to invite your friends that are not golfers but maybe like what they see and become members in some form or another. There will be a live band and Daryl and Karen always put on a very good meal for all to enjoy.

We have the 27 hole Foursome Tournament on the 7th August and there have been numerous bookings from other clubs as we want our club to be well represented you need to book your place from the office a.s.a.p. you snooze you lose.

I am off again on the 15th July to participate in the Denarau Ladies Golf Tournament in Fiji, which is always great, then to Brisbane to meet my husband for his holiday. I will be back on 9th August so if you have any praise, problems or general business please contact Mary Plummer or any of your committee. They are more than happy to assist you.

Here's hoping we have good golfing weather for the rest of the year.

### Viv Nyssen

Club Captain

### A "Snap Shot" of the Club's Financial Performance for the 9 months to 31 May 2008

	Budget (9 mths)	Actual (9 mths)	Variance
<b>Income</b>			
Commercial	98934	85899	-13035
Gaming Machines	2882	3435	553
Green Fees	327465	330911	3446
Sponsorship	47000	61554	14554
Subscriptions	564898	541023	-23875
Total Revenue	1041179	1022822	-18357
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Administration	192587	196019	3432
Course	386490	401797	15307
Interest Paid	113724	102082	-11642
Operating	130743	134587	3844
Total Expenses	823544	834485	10941
<b>Surplus</b>	217635	188337	-29298

Notes:  
- covers nine months to 31/05/2008  
- information sourced from unaudited monthly financial reports

