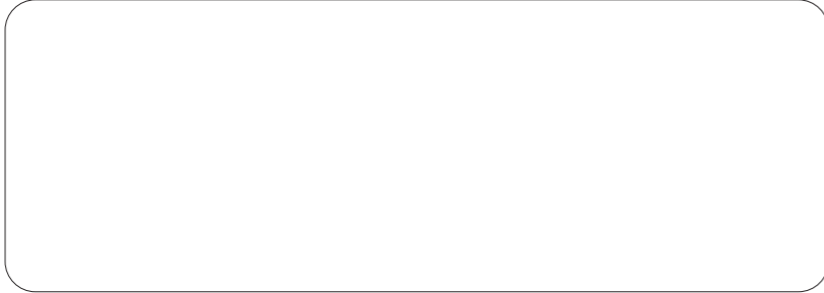




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Taupo Golf Club NEWSLETTER

ISSUE No. 19: November 2007

GOLF MANAGER'S Mew

Tauhara course changes:

If you have not played Tauhara lately you will be in for a surprise, and if you have you may be wondering why the changes have been made to layout. The 8th & 9th holes have been swapped with the 11th & 12th for several reasons:

- To move the 9th green (a common finishing hole) closer to clubhouse and avoid players walking past other greens & tees
- To even up the Par 5's to two on each nine
- Overcome the issue with players needing to wait on 8th tee for 10th green to clear

Also of note is the existing 7th tee is on the work plan for reconstruction and a new forward tee will be built for ladies, enabling the hole to become a par 4 for ladies. This will overcome current issues when playing mixed matches (par 4 men, par 5 ladies), reduce course to par 72, and provide two par 5's on each nine.

Police Golf Day:

The Taupo Police recently held their annual charity golf tournament on the Centennial Course. Each year they make a donation to an organisation from the proceeds of entry fees and this year they were kind enough with the assistance of Youthtown, to nominate the Taupo Golf Club as recipient. Specifically they donated a defibrillator along with suitable training for our staff. We hope that we don't have to use this, but it is certainly going to provide golfers with the best possible chance of "getting jump started" if required!

SPCA Ambrose:

The Club "went to the dogs" in September, but it was all for a good cause! The annual Harvey's SPCA Ambrose event attracted the largest field in the events four year history. Thirty seven team's competed for the Harvey's trophy on Taupo Golf Clubs Tauhara Course, where the animals were adored but the golf course suffered some cruelty! There was a good mix of "serious" golfing teams along with "social teams" out for an afternoon of fun with the Ambrose golfing format providing a chance for players of all levels to play. Prizes for the best dressed and best team name provided some hilarity, Daryl Morris' team "Old dogs and young pussy" took out best name, while "Strettons Stokers" won best dressed with their feline costume. Performances of note were Neil Hickman's "Lame Ducks" team actually being quite good to take third place, defending champions "Desperate Dogs" from Turangi may have been distracted by "ANZ on heat", and "The Underdogs" were true to their name. For the record, there was also some excellent golf played, the best performed team being "3 chips and a pie" (Brendon

Weston, Daniel Weston, Rick Galbraith, and Steve Prater) to become "top dog" after they shot 61 for a nett 51.75 to beat Mongrels (Kent Skellern, Roy Middleton, Colin Ridge and Brian Mason) by a whisker. The SPCA raised \$9,000 which will go towards the cost of building a new animal shelter.

Club Champs:

Congratulations to our Club Champions for 2007: Shaun Ashford (Senior), Janine Carroll (Silver), Richard Huntley (Intermediate), Anna Reece (Bronze I), Bazz Thatcher (Junior), Maggie McCaughan (Bronze II). Thank you to all players who entered this years event and also well done to the plate winners.

Liquor King Mixed Foursomes:

Played over the weekend of October 6th & 7th was the annual Liquor King Mixed Foursomes matchplay tournament. A field of 190 players from 57 North Island Clubs came to enjoy a great weekend of golf played on both the Tauhara and Centennial courses. On Saturday, players awoke to a chilly start with Taupo producing a testing wind. Players who had not played the courses recently were also tested as they came to terms with the new look following the harvesting of over 1000 trees! In the Championship Group, defending champions were BOP representative Jason McIntosh and Wairakei's Joan Frost, but they were beaten in the semi-final by 2005 champions Bruce Klue and Janine Carroll. The other semi final was between 2002 champions Sheridan and Sarah Vining, who overcame the challenge of Wellington's Fraser and Jacqui Gardiner. In the final, the Vining's were 1 up after the front 9 over Klue and Carroll, and never relinquished the advantage securing victory with a birdie on the 16th to win the Torrance Irvine & Noelle Irvine Memorial Cup's and their second title. Winners in the other groups: GROUP 7 (Tauhara): Duncan & Helen Parker (Stewart Alexander); GROUP 6 (Tauhara): Alan Gillett & Val Stone (Taupo); GROUP 5 (Tauhara): John Yates & Karen Morris (Taupo); GROUP 4 (Centennial): Dennis Allan & Belinda Hewitt (Taupo); GROUP 3 (Centennial): Peter Wilson & Christine Tylden (Taupo); GROUP 2 (Centennial): Jonathon Huntley (Lochiel) & Anne Kemen (Te Puke).

Future events:

Need a beautiful ham or turkey for xmas? Why not enter the Club Ham & Turkey day on Saturday November 3rd or the Cossie Club Xmas Hamper on Sunday November 25th. Players also note that the DPA & Associates open tournament cancelled earlier in the year is scheduled for Sunday November 11th on the Centennial course.

From The CHAIRMAN

Included in this Newsletter is a "Snap Shot" of the Club's Financial Performance for the twelve months to 31 August 2007. This information will also be included in the Club's 2007 Annual Report, but I thought it appropriate to comment on our result through this publication.

From the "Snap Shot" you will note that Total Income was budgeted at \$976,273 with Actual achieved of \$974,853 - Variance (\$1,420), while on the Expenditure side Total Expenditure was budgeted at \$1,062,817, with Actual achieved of \$1,069,485 - Variance (\$6,668).

Income was slightly under for the year - \$1,420 - which from a budgetary perspective is a very good result; with the only area that we were well off the mark in, was Green Fees - down \$48,066 against Budget. You will recall that we raised Green Fees last year, but due to the poor condition of the Greens at that time, we did not implement the increased fees until early December - Total Green Fees of \$364,827 is however a Club record. The income received from the tree removal programme of some \$45,000, net \$23,300 after course re-instatement costs were deducted, went some way to off-setting these amounts.

Total expenditure was up slightly on budget by \$6,668 (0.6%) and in the main attributable to increased Interest Costs - again a satisfactory result given the size of the Club's operation. Clearly with recent events in the Financial Markets where interest rates have continued to escalate, a key focus over the next few years will be how we manage our debt with a view to reducing this ongoing cost.

Another result that as a Board we were particularly pleased with, was the fact that over the year we have grown our membership from a total of 1,197 as at 31/08/2006 to 1,243 as at 31/08/2007, an overall increase of 46 which is spread across all categories. Membership growth and retention are of course keys to the ongoing success of our Club and is something that we all, as members of the Taupo Golf Club need to bear in mind.

It is also important to acknowledge Peter Wilson for his support through the provision of the digger which greatly assisted in the course re-instatement work completed to date; the volunteers who willingly attended the working bees, and lastly Eddie Hawke for the tremendous job he did in completing the walkway out to the 1st Tee on Tauhara - your individual contributions are appreciated by the Club.

Gaming Machines

From a totally different perspective, over the past 18 months or so, your Board has been reviewing the effectiveness of the Gaming Machines and balancing this against our statutory obligations under the Gaming Act 2003, Department of Internal Affairs requirements to enable them to approve renewal of our Gaming Licence, their increased monitoring costs imposed as the total number of machines throughout the country diminishes, future costs in up-grading the machines due in 2009 and likely sale proceeds, if machines were disposed of now.

In a nutshell, the Club must be able to show the DIA that its Gaming operation is viable in that it must be able to reward winners, pay all levies, taxes and costs associated with running the gambling operation, including depreciation on the machines, and apply an amount of net proceeds greater than 37% of gross proceeds to authorised purposes and clearly from the returns provided to DIA over recent years we have been unable to demonstrate this.

As a result of this review, the Board has made the decision to dispose of the five machines at a sale price of \$4,000 each plus GST, which will take effect from the end of October. This decision was not taken lightly and made now to ensure that we get the best return for the Club.

Ernie Oxnam

Board Chairman

A "Snap Shot" of the Club's Financial Performance for the 12 months to 31 August 2007

	Budget (12 mths)	Actual (12 mths)	Variance
Income			
Commercial	121,805	151,107	29302
Gaming Machines	15,000	13,367	-1633
Green Fees	412,893	364,827	-48066
Sponsorship	40,000	49,840	9840
Subscriptions	386,575	395,712	9137
Total Revenue	976,273	974,853	-1420
Expenditure			
Administration	247,757	239,667	-8090
Course	491,631	493,221	1590
Interest Paid	125,983	133,138	7155
Operating	197,446	203,459	6013
Total Expenses	1,062,817	1,069,485	6668
Surplus	-86,544	-94,632	-8088

Notes: - covers twelve months to 31/08/2007
- information sourced from unaudited monthly financial reports

FINANCIALS

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PRESIDENT'S Piece

Well another 3 months passed and as the Clubs Official programme draws to a close time to start thinking about what role you can play in Club affairs for the next year. Whether it be on the Playing Committees – the engine room of Club activities, or as a Project Birdlife helper, a Junior Golf Coach, one of the group always prepared to put your hand up to assist at Club working bees, or maybe as a member supporting Club events. It doesn't matter whether you are old or young, man or woman, YOU have a role to play in Club Affairs. You may consider that you have skills that would equip you to stand for election as a Men's or Women's Player Captain, Board Representative, or as Club President – everyone needs to consider what role they can play. Please take whatever role you will play seriously – think about what you can contribute, talk to those already involved and be prepared to help out in YOUR Club. We need you to take it seriously to ensure that the Club stays strong and vibrant and ahead of all the Strategic objectives that have been set.

Congratulations to those already heaped on our Club Champions, both Stroke and Match play, all our Club competition winners and our members who have played at Provincial level over the season. Unfortunately, because of business commitments, I have not been able to participate as much as I would have liked this year, however I am hopeful

of being able to rectify this in 2008. With the long summer evenings and a bit of sun on our backs I can see plenty of 9 holes after work coming up – along with Twilight golf, of course, which also is not far away from starting up again.

I would like to add my personal condolences to the families of Laurie Stevens, Robbie Wade and Allen Shaw, who have passed away recently. It seems that each edition of our Newsletter is marked by the loss of notable members of our Club – a sad reminder of the frailty of our lives and the need for all of us to enjoy to the max every round we play – good, bad or indifferent. I know all these guys will be sadly missed by their many mates and that we are all the better for having them as fellow members of the Club.

Finally, congratulations to all those involved with the restoration work on our 2 courses following the removal of the trees. It certainly is a pleasure to play the 9th hole without gum tree debris all over the fairway and to be able to enjoy some of the magnificent views we have from some of our tees and greens. It is already hard to remember the impact the trees had on our game and I for one am looking forward to the time when the courses are completely restored and we are able to enjoy the "Inland Links" experience we have set out to create.

VETERANS

Veterans golfers have a new President in Bob Cope, due to past President Doug Stirling resigning and moving with his wife Shirley to the Bay of Plenty.

They were sent off with farewell speeches, an inscribed tankard, a basket of goodies, and all our best wishes.

Our winter has been mixed, with numbers varying on Vets day depending on the weather, which itself has been up and down, although I cannot recall having to cancel a game. Our programme with the intervents which consists of Turangi, Taumaranui, Mangakino and ourselves has progressed according to plan, which is we visit each club twice a year and play for various trophies, with the added interest of the possibility of Tokoroa joining us in the near future.

Five games of mixed Vets with our Ladies are on our calendar each year which are always well contested and are very pleasant days of golf.

We also enjoy the company of games against Rotorua (a mixture of Rotorua, Lakeview, and Springfield clubs) rotated on different courses, and not to forget an annual event

against Mt.Maunganui again a rotated venue. There are our own regular competitions throughout the year which are again vigorously contested.

Now you guys who are in the 55+ age bracket, and are finding it hard to keep up with younger golfers and wish to find a more comfortable and varied programme with a variety of courses, would be welcomed into the Veterans ranks.

We are looking forward to our 51st Annual 5 day tournament at the end of this month which is promising to be another successful event.

What a shame to waste those great shots on the practice tee.----Walter Hagen.

Bob Cope.

Another year's golf is fast drawing to an end and this will culminate with our AGM/Awards/Dinner and Entertainment on Tuesday 20th November. We would like to see as many ladies there as can make it to collect their prizes and welcome in a new Club Captain and Committee for 2008. Nominations open soon.

Tauhara Silver Pennant team won the Southern Zone Wrathall Shield for the 2nd year in a row. It must have been the new shirts we wore! Members have also participated in Zone and Interclub events and we enjoyed hosting a team from Taumaranui for our annual get together. Coming up is a Zone 2 trip to Poverty Bay and everyone is looking forward to this two day get together in Gisborne. Shortly we will be hosting Tokoroa, and Rotorua for our annual 3 way challenge. Once again our Mid Winter Xmas Womens Foursomes held on 2nd August proved a very popular fun event.

Our own 2007 shootout was another exciting event with it all being decided by a downhill shootout putt on the 18th. Congratulations to Joan Jalfon the winner from a jovial Jackie Morgan who left her putt well short. Thank you to Dorothy Stone and her helpers for organizing this event.

Our championship silver winner was for the 13th time Jannine Carroll with Anna Reece taking out the Bronze and Maggie McCaughan winning the Bronze II event. At the time of this newsletter matches are still to be decided for the Bronze Cup and Player of the Year points are still ongoing.

In lieu of our usual bus trip for Melbourne Cup Day we are holding an "Op Shop Glam Day" on November 6th on our own Tauhara. 9 holers have been invited to join with us for a champagne breakfast, followed by 18 holes of golf, then the Melbourne Cup and sweepstakes later in the afternoon. Mark this day in your calendar – it will be fun!

Your committee have worked hard to ensure the smooth running of Tuesday golf and a

special thanks to those who have provided raffles. Without a sponsor, we dreamed up this method of having a raffle and it seems to have gained in popularity. Our raffle money goes downstairs to the office but with generous vouchers on Club Days and hidden expenses from time to time, this arrangement seems to be amicable. The borrowing of paperbacks has also proved another popular innovation instigated by your Committee.

The Saturday girls continue to enjoy their Club Days with player numbers rising. They have adapted well to tee off times. 9 holers are fast becoming a force to be reckoned with and their numbers are increasing all the time. Both groups manage their own affairs and do it well.

Wishing you a happy festive season and best wishes for 2008

Chris Player
Womens Club Captain



Winners with golf manager - Grant Hill with championship winners Sarah and Sheridan Vining



2007 winners - SPCA Ambrose winners "3 chips and a pie" with Tony & Rosie from Harvey's and Faye Johnson from SPCA

With the restoration of the milled areas progressing and other cleaning up happening the two courses are looking in great shape.

Spring renovations on both courses have now been completed and they should be in great nick for the ensuing summer period.

We also are in the process of upgrading the course tee signs, with plaques on rocks on the Centennial course and a general upgrade of the Tauhara signs.

It was good to see that a couple of our younger players, Brett Taylor and Blake Prior, were selected for the BOP Junior Tower team and played with distinction for the team that finished second to Auckland in the tournament. Other younger players who are performing great deeds in general are Troy Taylor, who won the Western BOP Lefthanders tournament and the King Country Lefthanders tournament from a field of 105 players, shooting a 69 at Taumaranui in the first round. Troy also managed to pip me at

the post in the Tauhara Shootout (which really wasn't that hard to do).

Also Cherie Sinclair has been chosen to play for BOP Booth Shield team.

The Board nominations have now closed with an election necessary as we have 5 contenders for 3 positions. Neil Hickman and John Davis have put their names forward along with current Board Chairman, Ernie Oxnam and fellow members Bryant Gray and Bill Nickelsen.

With the end of the year nearing, we also have to consider nominations for players Captains and Committees and also for President.

Best wishes for the upcoming festive season.

Bruce Klue

GM'S Report

9 Hole Ladies

The winter Monday competitions have been enjoyed by 25-30 ladies on good days with our membership having increased again this year.

We were all saddened by the loss of Margaret Livingston in June. Margaret gave new players great encouragement with her fine skills on the golf course.

The open day in September was a big success with 102 players from 10 clubs competing. Taupo members were placed in 12 of the top spots.

Members played at Cambridge, Tirau, Springfield and Rotorua with considerable success during the season.

Taupo won the three way inter club with the two Rotorua Clubs this year – amid great jubilation.

As the 2007 year comes to an end the committee would like to wish the 2008 members a successful year.

Marian Lourie

WOMENS' Golf

