



Taupo Golf Club inc 32 Centennial Drive P.O. Box 07 378 69 33 Facsimile 07 378 6932
Email: info@taupogolf.co.nz Web: www.taupogolf.co.nz

Profile: Eddie Hawke
Position: Board member, volunteer greenkeeper & convenor of Friends of the Course

I don't think I have seen a "retired" golf club member work so hard! Some time ago Eddie asked if "we minded if he did a bit of tidying up around the place" or words to the affect, we of course said OK! Since then he has shown an admirable dedication and I would not be surprised he now has his own chair and coffee mug at the greenkeepers shed! He has done a fantastic job of leading the volunteers with the coring, spent hours removing broom and tidying paths, and found some time to act as a board member.



So who is this man? He entered this world in Carterton in May 1938 and completed secondary education was at Wesley College in Auckland as a boarder. After serving an apprenticeship as a carpenter he was a self-employed building contractor in partnership in Feilding, and then on his own account in Taupo. He eventually retired after 50 years of building and now shares his life with Alison, one daughter, two sons, and eight grandchildren.

While he enjoys travel and follows most sports from his armchair, he first joined a golf club in 1965 in Feilding and has been a member of the Taupo Golf Club for 30 years.

Highlights in his golfing career to date have been two Holes in 1, both on the 16th hole on Tauhara, and also winning the Junior stroke play championship twice at Wairakei and twice at Taupo. He also played at Millbrook in the BMW World Cup of Golf.

What gives you a buzz in your role?

Talking to club members and getting support for what is being done at Board and management levels, also from seeing the improvements on the courses. It's good to feel a more positive atmosphere about the club and see so many volunteers participating.

What do you think are the Club's strengths and weaknesses?

Main strength of the club at the moment is the commitment of the Board, management and staff to see the club through its present difficulties and on to a bright future. The major difficulty the club currently has is being able to attract new members

in the present economic climate, and being able to maintain the membership of the juniors as they move away for education and jobs.

What is your vision for the Club?

My vision for the club would be to see it become a preferred venue and destination for visitors and green fee players by continuing to improve the environment.

Thank you Eddie for your contribution to the Club to date and for providing this insight!

Grant Hill.

Men's Veterans Report

Another Veterans golf year is coming to an end, although the weather has not been the best we have survived without to much disruption. We have just completed our 53rd annual 5 day event, which was again a great success helped by a week without rain and plenty of sun.

Our intervets clubs - Turangi, Tauramanui, Mangakino, and of course Taupo will be joined by Tokoroa in the new year, which gives us a new venue to visit. The bike shed for parking the vets transport has had a internal face lift, namely a new floor fitted, which was orchestrated by Doug Cullen and assisted by numerous volunteers, and a first class job was achieved, well done to Doug and your helpers.

A couple of interclub games plus our Christmas hamper day to look forward to followed by a well earned rest over Christmas before we start again next year.

Golf is game in which the slowest people in the world are those in front of you, and the fastest are those behind.

Bob Cope



Newsletter

November 2009

PRESIDENTS PIECE

Looking back over the past year, I believe that 2009 will prove to be somewhat of a "water shed" year for the Club, in that the year has been not only a busy one from a golfing perspective, but of equally or even more importance, a year during which some "hard" decisions have been taken within the Club, which will go a long way towards restoring our overall financial viability and future direction.

The need for these changes were identified in the lead up to and during our 2008 Annual General Meeting and you will be well aware hat since that meeting, we have held three Special General Meetings, worked through the issue of imposing a "one-off" levy upon members, initiated a Debenture Scheme and undertaken a restructure of the Club's management.

As you will appreciate these have been challenging times for each and every one of us and I extend my thanks to all members for their positive acceptance of the one off levy and to those who have purchased debentures. Over \$170,000 has been raised from the sale of debentures to date. Debentures remain available for purchase.

It is a credit to Board Chairman Stuart McKinlay and the Board as to how they handled the implementation of these strategies, which while on the face of it may simple to implement, but the reality is that a lot of hard work and sound business sense needs to be brought to bear, to ensure their smooth implementation is achieved and as such I commend Stuart and his Board for the direction that they have provided.

As you will by now be aware, Board Member Bill Nickelsen has chosen not to seek re-election this year and my thanks goes to Bill for his work and contribution over the past four years.

It is also with some sadness that over the past year we have lost husbands, wives, partners and "golfing friends" and if you were close to someone that fits this category, you can rest assured that while they are now longer with us, they certainly feature in our memories.

For those of you who have played either of the courses over recent weeks, you will have noticed that we have now completed quite a major renovation program, which has included coring of both sets of greens, the coring/aeration of both sets of fairways and tree maintenance, the results of which are now starting to flow through in the general overall presentation of both courses.

Some of this work was the result of initiatives undertaken by Board Member Eddie Hawke, through working bees etc and my personal thanks goes to each and every member who has contributed in some way towards getting this essential work completed at what will amount to little cost to the Club.

Additionally I congratulate and thank everyone who has given their time to represent the club in any form; committee member, volunteers, tournament organisers, representative players and managers – your support and commitment is appreciated.

I firmly believe that the Club has come a long way in the past year and with your continued support, poised to build further on this in 2010.

As this will be our last written communication this year, Chris and I take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and relaxing Christmas and good luck for 2010.

Ernie Oxnam
President



Spotted on the course recently was Club Patron BD (Brian Upston) after a 4 year absence from the fairways. Jim Clelland joined him for "a few holes" which turned into 7 holes and the word is the scoring was very respectable! Great to see you back out there BD and all the best with your comeback!



Proud to deliver this newsletter.

If you are considering a move, we encourage you to give Harveys the opportunity to help with your real estate needs.

Contact Harveys today - 07 378 1112 - www.harveystaupo.co.nz

Women's Veterans Report

The Veteran Women Golfers have continued to have good numbers of players turning up each Thursday, There have been a couple of cancellations due to poor weather but generally, members turned up ready to give it a go! All are now looking forward to the warmer weather.

All tournaments are now finished – results for our three aggregate tournaments are as follows –

Winner of the Margaret Bolton-Riley stableford was Dorothy Stone;
Sheila Sherriff Putting winner was Lyn Edwards
Edyth Collins nett winner was Denise White.
Bev McCauley won the Dorothy Taylor Gran's Day stableford trophy
Gloria Stephens won the Veteran Championship tournament.

The date of our final day, prizegiving and the A.G.M. has changed and will now be on 26th November. The format before lunch will be an American Foursomes game.

A list is now on the Vets noticeboard calling for nominations for the new committee – Bev Cook and Audrey Swann are retiring this year so we are seeking new committee members. Our sincere thanks go to Bev and Audrey for all their hard work and willing help.

Through the summer break there are usually about a dozen members who turn up on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 8.30 and 9am. We make up random groups and go out for a game. Do come along, particularly our newer members who may think there's nothing doing now till next February.

Have a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Liz Ranson

Men's Nine Hole Report

The Wednesday afternoon men's Nine Hole Golf Group is continuing to flourish as the number of players taking part continues to increase. The group started over a year ago with about 6 keen golfers playing together on Wednesdays and occasionally on Fridays. Numbers are now up to about 14 regulars as well as the odd visitor from time to time. The players taking part have handicaps from 7 through to 18.

With the new season fast approaching and the groups programme to be included in the latest Club book, things are on the up and up. The variety of competitions proposed for the coming season should make life very interesting out on the course. Thanks Grant for putting this programme together for us. Now is an appropriate time for anyone considering joining this group to do so. They will be on schedule to commence the new season along with the rest of this friendly group, with great competitions to follow.

Tee off times are 1pm on Wednesdays and 1 pm on Fridays for those who wish to play a friendly nine holes on that day. Turn up by 12.45 pm on these days should you want to join in. Having a 9 hole handicap is an advantage.

Stan Blair

Ladies Nine Hole Report

The nine hole Ladies have had a very successful year with members travelling to outside tournaments with a varying amount of success. We have had two tournaments so far this year both proving a great day – We still have our Christmas tournament on the 16th November. On the 1st of November we have a shootout and as this is a first time, it should be a great day of fun. Our Championship events have some interesting results and have been shared around the club.

Our girls played a day with the Tuesday Ladies and enjoyed the comradeship, like wise when they joined us for a day although the weather was far from enjoyable. We are having a day of clearing and painting the terracotta teas on the Tauhara course - A good muster of girls have indicated they are eager to help keep our course in top condition. Marie and Colin Buchanan have taken on a project of keeping one of the gardens in trim.

Our Gross Champion Lynne Bowden will travel to Te Puke to compete in the Championship for the Bay of Plenty and we wish her luck.

As the season draws to a close, we look forward to some lovely days playing for the Leisure Marine Summer Stableford Cup.

From the members of the Nine Hole Club, we wish all members a very Happy Christmas and safe New Year and look forward to the 2010 season.

Val Somers-Edgar

Friends of the Course News

Time again for an update on what has been happening around the courses on the practical side of things. As mentioned in the last newsletter, the small shed has been erected and the shade sail is back up. Thanks go to Warren Cholmondley-Smith and to Ron Forbes for their assistance with these. In recent weeks, we have cored the greens on both courses. Many thanks to all the volunteers for their co-operation and enthusiasm in the harvesting of the corings which have been put to good use in further grassing of pumice paths. Paths and pumice areas are of concern due to the high maintenance required; however it is hoped that we can reduce that need over time partly by laying more cobblestones in various areas. The first coring of the fairways for many years has just been completed and we look forward to the long term benefit.

Thanks to members for their patience and understanding while the work was being done. Also thanks to the volunteers who have tidied up Tauhara course prior to the Vets 5 Day Tournament. Gordon Ward, our Course Superintendent, has asked me to pass on his thanks also for the good job being done by our volunteer workers. Finally I wish to congratulate Gordon on what he has achieved over recent months. With the trimming of the trees, the reshaping of the bunkers and the overall course management, both Centennial and Tauhara are looking better than they have in some time.

Enjoy your golf and your surroundings.

Eddie Hawke

The Chairman's Perspective

As writing this letter coincides with the issue of a Club newsletter, a hard copy is being provided to all members on this occasion, instead of e-mail.

This, my second letter, follows the Board meeting held on Tuesday 27th October.

Firstly I must apologise for the confusion I created by saying in my last letter that the Club AGM would be held on Monday 8th December. What I intended to say was Tuesday 8th December. It would be great if once again we had a meeting attended by a large number of members, interested in the affairs of the Club.

Talking of interested members, I was surprised that there were no nominations from members for the two Board positions that will become vacant by rotation following the next AGM. Nominations for these two Board positions closed on 18 October. Bryant Gray has agreed to stand again but Bill Nickelsen has decided not to seek re-election. As it stands, Bryant will be automatically re-elected and there will be one vacancy. The Club rules allow the Board to appoint someone to fill the vacancy. I think the effectiveness of the Board would be further enhanced at this time, if we had a qualified accountant at the table. If there is a suitably qualified and interested Member out there of either gender, please give me a call. It is your ideas for further improvement of the management of the Club that we seek. It is not an onerous task. Board meetings are held monthly and run for less than 3 hours.

Income for the first month of the new year (September) at \$311,000 was \$15,000 below budget with lower than budgeted member subs accounting for this variance. Although green fees were down by about \$3,000 this was offset by above budget sponsorship income.

The number of 12 monthly members as at 30th September was down by 50 compared to 31 August. This higher than expected number of resignations, largely explains the reduced income. This is a concern. An increasing number of members electing to pay their subscription by automatic monthly payment, which we encourage, also has the effect of delaying the receipt of cash compared to budget as a consequence of spreading income over the full year and is a secondary contributor to the reduced income in September. This secondary contributor to the September result is however of no concern since the income plus an administrative fee will simply be received later in the year.

Both the number of resignations and the number of new members are higher than expected, but resignations are outnumbering new members at the moment.

It is not satisfactory that we have to wait until the end of October, two months into the new year before we know for certain how many existing members from the previous year renewed their membership subscription. To correct this situation, the Board will recommend to members at the next AGM a rule change that will require existing members to pay their Club subscription on or before 1 September

each year. The Board supports the principal that members should "PAY BEFORE THEY PLAY".

Although income was \$15,000 down on budget at the end of September, costs were down by \$10,000 resulting in an operating surplus of \$235,000, which was \$5,000 below budget. You may be surprised at the size of the operating surplus but that is expected at the beginning of the year when most of our subscription income is received, while costs tend to be spread fairly evenly over the full year.

Financially, not a bad start for the new year.

If you have played on our courses recently, you will have noticed that the fairways have been cored. This work was undertaken using the machine kindly loaned to us by the Waikanae Club. We hope to purchase our own tumble corer early December and in future two corings per year are planned. Savings in fertilizer and water should rapidly recover the cost to the Club for the purchase of the machine. I mentioned in my previous letter that we had been successful in securing a capital grant of \$5,000 from Youth town. A further \$5,000 grant has been applied for from Southern Trust. As the cost of the tumble coring machine is \$15,000 the cost to the Club will not be great.

After receiving further information from the Taupo District Council regarding their request for some-one to manage the Kinloch 10 hole public Course, it was agreed by Grant and the Board not to submit a management proposal but instead offer the Council advice (consulting services) as they may require from time to time.

Talking of golf course management the Board noted with sadness that our former Course Manager, Grant Wilson passed away recently.

It was also agreed at the 27 October Board meeting to continue with the offering of reduced green fees for Members' Guests.

I am very impressed by the way in which costs are being brought under tight control by the Club's management team while at the same time presenting both courses in the best condition they have been in for some considerable time. The Club is indeed fortunate to have motivated and competent staff.

Good golfing

Stuart McKinlay

Chairman of the Board



Some of our members working hard during our Tauhara coring working bee.

