

the waitemata word



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from the top of the swing

LOUNGE REFURBISHMENT:

Just over a week to go before we have our new lounge, bar and furnishings. The tiles and vinyl have been laid and the bar top and cupboards installed. Paul Fleming has done a wonderful job painting the bar, stairwell and entrance and he has gifted us his time to redo all the doors. Many thanks, Paul.

Our thanks to the women members who held a working bee on Wednesday. They washed the walls in the lounge and helped to move all the extra items into storage in preparation for next week. The lounge and kitchen will be closed from Sunday 21st until Friday 26th while the dining floor and carpet are installed and the new chairs and tables arrive.

If you have bought any of the old furniture please remember to collect it on Sunday 21st September. Stan Harwood will be there to help.

Tickets to the dinner on Saturday 11th October are selling fast. Purchase your tickets from the office - \$20 per person. This includes a complimentary glass of bubbles.

As we are nearing the end of this project, the Board would like to thank all those members who have given of their time and expertise especially the sub-committee of Stan Harwood, Glennis Sligo and Judy James.

a slice from the driver

A last reminder that all notices of motion and nominations for officers and Board Members for the upcoming AGM must be lodged with the office by 4pm next Monday.

October 1st sees the introduction of the new ESC scoring.

There is information on display at the Club, simply it means that if you “blow out” or do not complete a hole, your assessment will be the minimum score for you on that hole, which will score zero stableford points.

I recently attended the 3rd Biennial NZ Golf General Managers conference. Highly qualified guest speakers imparted their knowledge on subjects ranging from future membership demographics to environmental and chemical impacts on courses.

The burgeoning compliance issues relating to Golf Club management, made these sessions extremely worthwhile, and I am sure will prove to be beneficial to Waitemata.

The NZGA have signed a small number of clubs up to their “Golf Nation” concept. Waitemata and the vast majority of Auckland, North Harbour and Northland clubs decided against joining for pretty much the same reasons.

These were predominantly that the obligations and commitments asked of the clubs, in our situation, outweighed the perceived benefits of the scheme.

The macrocarpa have finally been removed from the green keepers shed area of the club. This will soon make way for further storage areas.

A “heads up” that the course will be closed for coring on the 6th and 7th October, and during that time we will have a patch up and pot hole repair job done on the car park.

eagle eye

The Craig Dixon Golf Academy and Waitemata Golf Club juniors have a number of very talented golfers and this year a group of juniors will have the opportunity to compete in the 2008 PGA International Junior Tournament and coaching school to be held in Australia at the end of the year.

This tournament is not new to us as we sent a group of juniors last year who performed extremely well.

Tom Cardno won the tournament, which featured players from Australia and the Asia Pacific region, Andrew Priestley was runner-up in the 15-16 age group, Logan Irvine won the 13-14 group and Mauri Stokes won the longest drive. Most of these players have gone on to, and currently, represent North Harbour which is a huge achievement. A wonderful effort from the group!!

The costs involved in traveling to Australia are significant and while the juniors have been saving hard and looking at ways to generate the money they are short of the necessary funds to participate in this prestigious event.

The parents have formed a committee and are running a golf tournament on Thursday 2nd October so the juniors can make the most of this superb opportunity to team up with top Australian PGA professionals.

To make this a success we are looking for the support of the members of the Waitemata Golf Club and the local community. These juniors are the future of the club and are the current North Harbour champions.

You can support the juniors by:

1. Registering a team to play in the tournament,
2. Taking advantage of one of the sponsorship deals available,
3. Donating an item for our auction held at the conclusion of the tournament.

Every contribution will help make their dream a reality. Donations can vary from money, gift vouchers, meat trays, electrical goods, movie tickets to bizarre donations that can be used for novelty prizes.

Posters are displayed around the clubhouse so if you have any questions or would like to make a donation then phone Tracey on 021 940 969 or email trace@boticabrokers.co.nz for more details. Team entries can be sent directly to the golf club, c/- Ian in the management office.

The North Harbour Mixed Pennants qualifying matches over three rounds concluded last Sunday. Our team ventured to Warkworth to take on main rivals Omaha Beach, who, like us, had won both opening encounters. Success was ours with a 40-32 victory which was enough to pass Omaha Beach as take top spot in Division 3. The team finished with 117 points to Omaha's 113. It is also worth noting that our team was the only one of the sixteen teams in the competition to win all three matches. We now advance to play for the Championship, over three rounds, in late November / early December. We will be up against Division 1 winners Muriwai, Peninsula-1 (Division 2) and Gulf Harbour, who took out Division 4. Well done team, and all the best for the finals.

The Junior Stroke Play Championships were completed a couple of weeks ago. For the Kain Cup, it came down to a final round showdown between Kevin Budden and Mauri Stokes. Mauri shot a superb 3-under-par 67 in the 3rd round while Kevin was putting together a 74 which gave Mauri a four-stroke lead with one round to play. In the end though Mauri shot 78 to conclude the competition which opened the door for Kevin who responded with a final round of 72 to win the Championship by two strokes. Kevin finished on 294 (76, 72, 74, 72), Mauri had 73, 78, 67, 78 for 296, Andrew Priestley was 3rd on 302 (71, 77, 82, 72) and Tom Cardno took 4th place with 77, 74, 75, 78 for a total of 304. In the Nett Championship for the Dunnings Cup, Alex Ross made no race of it with four rounds totaling 280 after rounds of 72, 65, 75, 68. Matthew Hayward was 2nd on 291 (71, 70, 74, 76), Mauri Stokes finished 3rd on 292 (72, 77, 66, 77) and Nick Wood was 4th after rounds of 72, 72, 69, 79 to also score 292. The Match Play Championship tees off on Sunday.

The next mixed golf trophy event is the Dave Corbett Trophy which will be played on Sunday 5th October. Please note that after consultation with the Mixed Committee this event has been moved from 21st September because the clubhouse lounge will not be available. The Dave Corbett Trophy is a single Par and 4BBB Par competition with the trophy going to the best 4BBB Par score by a couple. The sign-up sheets are in the breezeway.

Our annual challenge match against Onewhero is coming up on Sunday 28th September. It is our turn to visit. Several members have signed up but we would certainly like to see more make the trip. The sign-up sheets for this are in the breezeway. Final details will be available closer to the date.

Two Saturday trophy competitions have been decided since the last "word". Congratulations to Tyrone Low who won the Ferry Cup with 69 nett and last weekend Lee Amodeo won the Patron's Trophy with 39 stableford points on a countback from Emrys Williams.

Our two Men's Senior Inter-Club teams had further success since the last "word". We hosted both of the Warkworth teams last week and Waitemata-1 beat the Warkworth Warriors 43-29 and Waitemata-2 got the better of the Warkworth Warhawks 40½-31½. After three rounds Waitemata-1 has 106 points to lie in 2nd place while Waitemata-2 leads Division 4 with 113 points. Both teams travel to Warkworth for the return matches next Thursday.

Because of the clubhouse refurbishment, the prize-giving for the men's Tuesday competition next week will be held at the Masonic Tavern, the local "watering hole". Mine host, Peter Thwaites, has been very generous to the club over the years including sponsoring pennant uniforms, the notice board in the breezeway and scorecards. We would like to see a good turnout in recognition of Peter's generosity.

out of the rough

We had a bit of a hiccup in the drying out process last week. After heavy rain on Wednesday and showers on Thursday and Friday the course became very soft in parts again and we were unable to mow large areas of it. Regrettably, it looked a bit untidy for the weekend. Fortunately, after a few more fine days we were able to rip into it and now everything has been mown. It has even reached the stage where areas on the 7th green have needed watering.

We are fast approaching the busiest time of the year, and at the moment costings are being sought for the work that is planned for this summer. Watch this space in coming editions for progress reports.

Don't forget, if you have any questions, send them to waitemata@golf.co.nz

the iron lady

Craig will be conducting a Performance Camp at Moonah Links which is the home of Australian Golf and the Australian Institute of Sport.

Performance Camp is a five-day comprehensive and holistic programme, where you will be given all the tools to take your game to a whole new level.

Those participating will stay at the Australian Institute of Sport / Moohah Links Academy, on Melbourne's Mornington Peninsula.

Your physical conditioning, nutrition, flexibility, posture and swing biomechanics will be broken down, assessed and improved using the expert guidance of some of the best professionals in the business.

These are a golf-specific physiotherapist, a strength and conditioning specialist and PGA professionals from New Zealand and Australia, who will devise a complete programme for six months further development to take away with you.

The price is \$5295 per person, all inclusive. This covers the programme as well as five nights accommodation, all flights, airport transfers in Melbourne, all meals and four rounds at Moonah Links of the Open or Legends courses, with carts.

Please contact Craig either at the golf shop or on 021 474-289. Registrations close on Friday 3rd October.

Winter Specials:

50% off Callaway and Adidas clothing. PGF cart bags \$99, were \$179. Titleist 735 irons men's regular flex now \$795, were \$995. Cleveland Hibore XL Drivers were \$699, now \$299. Ladies Taylormade irons were \$1299, now \$999. Ladies Cobra irons were \$1350, now \$799. Men's Callaway and Adidas knitwear were \$129, now \$69.

Get your clubs re-gripped and new spikes for your shoes. Re-gripping can be done in two days, so please come in and see us or give us a call.

sand wedge

Well, in general, hasn't the weather been what we really expect - roll on a long hot summer. The course is looking great and so are the new amenities in the clubhouse. Can't wait to move the bar back into its rightful position and have some semblance of order in the kitchen again. As you all know we are closed as from 8pm Saturday 20th Sept until am Saturday 27th, this means that no alcohol can be sold during this period throughout the club. Some members are holding their prize-givings at either the Masonic or delaying them until the clubhouse re-opens. We regret any inconvenience this may cause members but the upside will be a great new bar and asset to the club.

The last Sunday roast was held on the 14th September and when we return the first of our popular Sunday BBQ's will herald in the summer. It was hoped that we wouldn't close for Friday Night but unfortunately that isn't the case, but this means a change in the Friday Nights Dinner menu to reflect a more summer taste sensation after opening, along with a few other surprises.

Quiz Nights have been great with our resident Quiz Master, Mark Benson, titillating everyone's brain cells, even those of us with very few of them. A BIG thank you Mark as Wednesdays have been a lot of fun.

Still on the quiz thing, we received a huge response to the last quiz question which was: Which Pharaoh commissioned the Pyramid at Giza? The answer is Khufu. The drawn winner from the correct answers received is Karen Leyden who takes home a bottle of wine courtesy of SANZ Global Wines.

Congratulations Karen.

This issue's quiz question is: The com in .com (dot com) is short for what? Please send your answers to waitemata@golf.co.nz. Thank you for not hitting "reply" to this newsletter.

Till we open on the 27th, have a great week.

casual lies

The biennial Ryder Cup contest between the United States and Europe is one of the biggest, most pulsating, and often most controversial, sporting events in the world. In the last three contests, at The Belfry in 2002, at Oakland Hills in 2004 and at the K Club in Ireland in 2006, the Europeans pulverised the Americans, turning the tables after the 1999 debacle at Brookline when the stampeding American team prematurely celebrated victory before the last match was over. In 2004, most appropriately, it was Colin Montgomerie who sank the winning putt, confirming that such heroic and brilliantly consistent performances that players like him have achieved in the Ryder Cup rank as comparable achievements to the winning of a Major.

It was wealthy English seed merchant Samuel Ryder who hit upon the idea of a golf tournament every two years between Britain and America, and was rewarded for his efforts with a crushing British defeat in the first encounter. The competition's resurgence came at the end of the 1970s when prolonged American dominance and the emergence of scintillating new talents like Seve Ballesteros led to its reconfiguration as a USA v Europe affair and an historic European victory in 1985 under Tony Jacklin's captaincy.

Since then it has been a seesaw battle, with breathtakingly close finishes and an ever-more competitive atmosphere as in the intense "War on the Shore" at Kiawah Island in 1991 after the Gulf War and again at Brookline in 1999. The way the last two or three contests have been played has led to a re-affirmation of the Ryder Cup as the epitome of sportsmanlike demeanour at the same time as it is the most pressurised gladiatorial showdown for the world's greatest golfers.

So, who will come out on top in the 37th contest at the Valhalla Golf Club in Louisville, Kentucky after five rounds of competition? Can the USA turn around the 18½-9½ defeat suffered in Ireland two years ago? It will be well worth watching this weekend.

The last word goes to four-time European team captain and multiple major championship winner, Tony Jacklin: "When I look back at those four competitions, it's clear to me that Seve was the key component. Seve made the Ryder Cup what it is today. Every person who has anything to do with the Ryder Cup, or who enjoys the Ryder Cup, should write Seve a note and thank him".

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