

Captain's Column

Another newsletter and another sad duty to perform, Geoff Brewer has passed away and was remembered at a lovely service held at the Clubhouse in February. Geoff was a valued member of both the club and committee and will be missed. Our best wishes go to Jill and her family. Jill has asked if she could purchase a flag pole for the club in Geoff's memory, the committee wholeheartedly agreed and we are in the process of having that installed, along with a club flag.

The club has had a busy summer season with good weather and plenty of golf being played, thanks to those that have persevered with the changes in the booking of tee times and the new membership cards. The new cards have resulted in a number of casual drinkers becoming social members, which makes management in the bar so much easier. Thanks to our hard working bar staff for all the extra hours over the holiday period and to Simon and Salt Catering for all the extra meals and snack truck.

Following the Annual General Meeting and the wishes of the majority of those members that attended, the committee have developed and circulated the policy around the appointment of a new patron. We have followed these procedures and are pleased to nominate Mrs Shirley Simpson for confirmation. A special meeting on Easter Sunday (12 April) at 11:00am will be held so that the nomination can be ratified by the members. Shirley has agreed to be nominated and is honoured to be asked.

We have completed the installation of the acoustics in the clubhouse and this has made a big difference, I am certain those of you that have visited have noticed the improvement!

The midweek women recently held a *She Loves Golf* event over two weeks that included goodie bags from NZ Golf and free coaching (thanks Cec for sponsoring this). We had a great response and are hopeful that a number of the ladies that attended will become full playing members and boost our numbers. We are already thinking of running the programme again.

A very big special thanks to Becs for all her hard work, please remember she is only paid part time and has a big and varied job.

See you on the course, Karen Barbour.

World Handicap System

A warning to those that are not too tech minded, we have big changes coming from NZ Golf around our handicap system. New Zealand is adopting the World Handicap System. This was to be implemented in March 2020 but has been pushed out to April 2020.

The biggest change will be that all competition games of golf need to be updated daily, with a little more flexibility for the casual round. This means your index and therefore your playing handicap will be reviewed after each card is entered and not on the current two week cycle. In conjunction with this, there will no longer be a list of handicaps and indexes on the board and you will be expected to have found this out yourself either by text or on line.

Please don't blame the messenger this is a NZ wide initiative. To find out more please visit www.golf.co.nz/whs. Posters are also displayed in the clubhouse.

Office Chit-Chat

Exciting news – we have our booking kiosk system in the foyer up and running! This means you can now see current course bookings on the screen, and also create your own (for both members and visitors) as well as pay greenfees, all at the touch of a few buttons.

An instruction sheet for the new kiosk system is located next to it. Please try it out next time you visit, we welcome feedback – this is all about making things easier for our members.

Karen and I recently completed a review of our tech refresh goals, and are happy to announce that we have completed (and exceeded) all the major upgrades that were planned for 2019/2020. It's nice to see the systems operating successfully, so thank you all for your support during the changes.

Now that all the systems are in place, there will always be upgrades and add-ons that become live. One of these planned additions is a Scoring App that you will be able to use on the course instead of the traditional card (don't worry, you can still use the hard copy method if you prefer). This is due to go live mid-year, so we will keep you informed.

Finally, as mentioned above, the Handicapping System is changing. This will mean some amendments to the

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way we manage the process of entering cards to the DotGolf system. Please bear with us while we work through these, as yet there is a lack of clarity around how this is best managed by smaller clubs (we are awaiting further details from the governing body).

All the best, Bec.

Tennis Courts

The tennis courts are up for some TLC, with the nets currently away for repair and some fundraising events (such as the 3 Person Ambrose and upcoming Shenanigans band evening) contributing toward the cost of upkeep and maintenance.

The committee is looking for someone in the community with a passion for tennis to step forward and get some events up and running in the future. We currently have no committee members with an interest in tennis, but would love to have this asset used more. If you are interested please contact the club.

On the Green

The greens are looking pretty good at the moment, and now the summer season is over this is a great time to start on some renovation.

Grooving and sanding will start after the Canadian Foursome tournament (March 14/15). Disruption should be minimal and the greens should be back to normal within two weeks.

The fairways are running very hot at the moment, so an excellent time to get your shootout scores in before worm season!

Happy golfing, Stu.

Dates to Note

March 14/15	Kere Ell Canadian Foursomes
April 12	Special Meeting 11:00am – Patron
April 12	6x6x6 Tournament
April 25	Shenanigans Band evening
June 13	Whareama School Quiz Night

Full details for the above events available in the clubhouse or on our website.

Tournaments

It's been a busy summer with tournaments, and the committee wish to thank all members and visitors that have played in these events as well as our ever generous sponsors for helping to make them possible.

We are always looking new sponsors to come on board, so if you (or someone you know) may be interested in sponsorship opportunities please contact Paul Greenlees to discuss.

The January Ambrose Tournament continues to be one of our most popular events and was a full field this year.

The Junior Tournament was well supported and continues to grow year on year. We welcomed a total of 35 juniors to play on the day!

The Men's Open had 52 players, registrations were slow to start but a large number didn't enter until middle of the final week. This makes management of catering and the draw very difficult, so the tournament committee has agreed to have a registration cut-off date for next year to encourage earlier commitment and easier management.

The 3 person Ambrose on the 15th Feb was also over-subscribed, well run and fun to be part of. This tournament continues to grow and improve year on year, with the proceeds from 2020 event going toward the tennis courts.

For details and results of our tournaments, you can visit our website

www.riversdalebeachgolfclub.co.nz/latest-news.

Match

We have a new sponsor for the Shoot Out for 2020 following Pacific Gold has stepping back, thank you Gus and Cec for your support over the years.

Our new major sponsor, Simon from Salt Catering has come on board, welcome Simon and thank you.

Remember you need 5 good net scores to be in to participate and you have the entire year to submit these scores, so get in early while there is plenty of run.

All draws for the RBGC competitions are now up on the noticeboard. Please ensure you play your match on time.

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Social Media

Remember, those of you that are Facebook users, "like" our page to get all the updates and happenings about the club. Our website is also constantly being updated and has all competition information.

Please feel free to send any photos to Roger at people@xtra.co.nz. We always love seeing your snaps.

Joke

Bill and his assigned caddie started off the first tee of the fancy resort course Bill was playing. It was his first time using a caddie, and he was very excited.

By the eighth hole, Bill was already 24-over par. He had lost nine balls in water hazards. Trying to hack his way out of the rough, Bill had dug a trench a foot deep.

Then, on the No. 9 green, Bill was standing over a 1-foot putt when his caddie coughed right in the middle of his stroke. Bill exploded.

"You must be the worst caddie in the history of golf!" Bill screamed.

"I doubt it" replied the caddie. "That'd be too much of a coincidence!"

*That's all folks, we look forward to seeing
you at the club soon! RBGC*

