

Shirley Simpson – Patron

Shirley started her golf at RBGC early in the club's inception in 1967 / 68 and by 1978 she was on the ladies committee becoming the Club Captain in 1983 and held that position for 5 years.

It was recorded in the minutes that in 1978 she was responsible for providing 6 loaves of garlic bread for the Open Tournament and agreed to knit a golf jersey for use as a raffle. This involvement has continued and she is still providing plates for Women's Open tournaments, 42 years later, that is commitment!

In 1979 she is recorded as being on the main committee and by my reckoning the first women to serve on that committee. She served on the main committee from 1979 to 1985 –a period of 6 years, many of these alongside her husband Colin.

In 2004 Shirley took over part way through the year as the club secretary, she served for 5 years until 2008, I know this because I talked her into it! We had a lot of laughs coming to grips with the new technology and variable and very slow internet.

The first organised lady's mystery golf trip was organised by Shirley in 1984 and that continues to this day on an annual basis.

In recognition of her service to the club she was made a life member in 2008.

Shirley has in the past and continues to be, a regular team member for Ladies' interclub teams both local and in the Wellington Regional competitions and is still an active golfer and supporter of the club. Our proposed new Patron has won the Bronze Championship 7 times, the Ladies 4 ball 3 times and the Shoot Out once, this over a time span from 1967 to 2020.

Shirley alongside many others, has also been the club caterer, I have no knowledge of for how long, but she is always the first to put her hand up to bake or cook to raise funds or to support the club.

Shirley is a font of local knowledge (not just a know all) and has spent most of her life supporting this district, not only with the Golf Club but also the two local schools and East Coast Rugby Club, a true community person.

When reviewing the role of a Patron following last year's Annual Meeting, we decided that:

The primary role of our patron is to lend credibility and support and is someone who has had a long association with the club. A Patron should be committed to the principals and values of the club.

Shirley enjoys her golf, has a sense of fun and never takes herself too seriously, but has a good moral compass and is always ready to support the club at any level and on top of that is a thoroughly lovely person.

I have no doubt that Shirley fits all the criteria required of a patron and I would like to have her nomination ratified today.