

PRESIDENTS REPORT

This newsletter is chocablock with good news and positive updates, I am proud to be the President of such a neat club.

The weather in August was crap, and my golf was not much better. But the fact we played when many of our neighbouring courses were under water, makes me feel very grateful. I've heard tales from close by clubs who have not been able to open at all in August, and whilst I feel for our cart driving golf buddies who have had limited opportunities, the rest of us have been pretty bloody lucky to enjoy the high quality of golf we have.

Each part of this newsletter updates golf, projects, successes and developments. None of this is possible without a great team. Let me focus on a couple of significant members of the 'Team'. Club Captain Alan Savell and Women's Club Captain Deb Archer are magnificent people and even better leaders of the club. Savs (along with Warrick Frogley) won the McClennan Cup and they thoroughly deserve this prestigious accolade. However, he deserves an even bigger cup for the work he does to administer the draws and the admin involved in the playing of golf for all members. Sav's - with the great support of previous Club Captain Rich - has really embraced this role and made it his own. Deb has always been a fantastic member and leader of the club, and I take my hat off to both of

these club legends - on behalf of the membership thank you.

Thanks too, to Dave Boswell(Bos) for organising the two Sunday music afternoons in the café. Numbers were encouraging and those that attended thoroughly enjoyed the ambience and fantastic platters.

I would have liked to have reported some personal highlights in regards to the Imlay Saunders Final on Sunday but despite standing on the 17th tee, 2up, we somehow managed to lose on the 20th. The disappointment of this was easily offset by the personal enjoyment in celebrating - with the wonderful Karen - our 25th Wedding Anniversary last week. Here is a photo that could have been taken yesterday, but was actually taken in 1997.

Golf is good and life is good, I hope it is the same for you. Enjoy the club and the course and remember to be grateful for what we have and the people who make it possible.



Brent Cawthray
President

President's Trivia Challenge for September

The first person to either email me the answer or tell me in person will receive a drink of their choice from the Presidential account.

What was the most popular (by volume) beverage consumed in the club house in August?

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

WHO IS READY FOR SPRING GOLF?!

I know Kiel and the team are, and possibly every golfer is ready for a dry and fine September. But how lucky are we to have at least had the opportunity to play 24 days of golf in August. This has allowed Club Champs Qualifying, Business House Golf and the finals of McClennan and Imlay to be completed. All info of winners and highlights are included in this September update. On behalf of the club members thank you to the Greens team and the Club Captains for the outstanding job they do to let us play the game we love.

Highlights for August for me were...

representing MGC at the Golf Manager's of NZ Conference in Christchurch. This was a fantastic opportunity to learn from, and build relationships with, a number of experienced Managers from around the country. I was so proud to hear the praise and see the respect that our golf club has earned throughout the golf network. Our course, our cafe, our pro staff, our practice facilities, all make us the envy of every club in NZ. Comparatively the Membership fees we pay really are also great value when you consider all of the above - more on Memberships later in the newsletter. Many clubs are facing pressure to diversify income streams to stay afloat and a number of clubs - especially in large urban areas - are very concerned about being able to renew leases or meet the increasing needs of their members. We have a lot to be grateful for; we own the land our course is on and, thanks to the foresight of several generations of committees, members and GM's, our club is ready to embrace the challenges we are about to have in front of us. The general theme from the conference was that Covid has had a massive positive effect on memberships and the amount of golf being played, but with borders opening and discretionary spend possibly reducing, golf has to again up its game to stay in the game.

It was great to bring the team of 32 MGC staff together for a staff meeting at Cacia Birch early in

August. Our focus was on how each of our teams can work together to deliver the Manawatu Golf Club mission and how our roles contribute to the enjoyment and pride our members have in belonging to the club. Kath shook her head at the KFC lunch but it was a great chance for our team to enjoy each other's company and with 5 new full time members it was also a chance to get to know each other in a social setting. Kiel and Kauri combined to take out the MGC Kahoot Quiz and it was lovely to see Chrissy back after a successful hip replacement.

The Events team and Cafe have been super busy in August, we are really pumping and August was close to pre covid levels of numbers. We've welcomed back major corporate events, prize givings and weddings and the cafe was booked out for lunch even when the course was closed. Speaking of events, look out for some pretty impressive Audi's on show on Saturday, 3rd September. We are hosting the regional launch of the new hybrid Audi range so make sure you pop down to see member Dave Tarrant and his team from Robertson Prestige to dribble, or tyre kick, around these amazing machines.

VP and Course Committee Chair Grayson Joines has drafted a great summary of the course plans over the next year, and a major infrastructure irrigation project that is on the horizon. Whilst the numbers seem scary, this is exactly the type of forward planning our club has a reputation for, and this will see us well placed for the next generation of golfers and members. For those viewing this on line [here is a link to Grayson's report](#), for those on paper, a copy will be put up in the card room.

You may have noticed the first signs of the aforementioned work with the planting of natives along both sides of 15. This is to future proof our course and is a continued commitment to the planting plan to replace trees that are removed with quality natives. Having a plan is one thing, but having Billsy lead the team of planters really makes it a reality. I have to admit that I worked here for a month before I realised that, despite often working 6

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

days a week, John Bills was not actually a paid member of staff. He represents a huge number of volunteers that give their time and passion for the club so generously. I'm not sure how we can thank and acknowledge Billsy, and like all true volunteers he would not want to be acknowledged, but I would hope he never has to buy his own beer in the bar, or cheese scone in the cafe, or at the very least he gets given his fair share of 2 foot gimmies ... just not on Tankard Day 😊

Challenges for me in August include:

- Shooting 85 that included 45 putts in one round
- Putting on 3 kg since starting in the GM role in July, this can be directly attributed to Rocky Road and Cheese Scones.
As one helpful President has pointed out - "Maybe less time in the cafe and more time on the putting green is needed".
Possibly good advice.
- I'm also enjoying the challenge of harnessing the enthusiasm of our members and their best intentioned ideas to improve the course. Whether this be murals, planting, course feedback or tree carvings, we have a great process in place to ensure these fit in with our overall strategic plan. Please come and talk to me if you have an idea or a passion project that you'd like to develop.

Goals for September:

- We would like to install a set of recycling bins at the first tee. If there is a member or members who have a building background, or some great practical skills, please let me know as these are onsite and ready to make a difference in terms of recycling and sustainability.
- We are looking for clean fill which will be used once the course is dry to form the mounds (up to 1200mm high) that will cover the area between the 6th tee and 7th fairway. If you know of clean fill available, please let me know.
- Rescheduling the Paths Working Bee to ensure we get on top of the lime paths in particular on 8/9/10th hole - date to be confirmed.

- Continue to increase our engagement through the clubs social media channels (particularly Facebook).
- Hosting a successful Devils Own tourney on Sept 22-25, whilst this does bring a small level of disruption for our loyal members, sharing our course with a group who have had a relationship with our club since 1932, and the revenue they bring, is something we all need to embrace.
- We have a major IT upgrade happening on Monday Sept 5 between 3-5pm, this will take out internet, Eftpos and anything online and is part of a major software and hardware upgrade for the club.
- In line with maramataka Māori, this year Mahuru Māori started on Saturday 27 August. It doesn't matter whether your reo skills stop at 'kia ora', or you can whaikōrero on the marae with the best of them, Mahuru Māori is something we can all do. So jump on the waka e hoa mā, and let's give Mahuru Māori our best shot! Over the next month some reo challenges and education will be offered to our members via the MGC Facebook and other events are planned. Kia kaha MGC! For more info go to www.mahurumaori.com/

Thanks team, I am really enjoying the General Manager's role, I am loving the challenge and I really do appreciate your support. I am very open to feedback and if there is something I can do better (apart from my putting) please don't hesitate to let me know.

Nga Mihi

James Lovegrove
General Manager



MESSAGE FROM THE CLUB CAPTAIN

August brought more rain and difficult conditions for all players and again meant that we have had a broken month's schedule with several days being disrupted due to the normal winter weather. Congratulations to all members who slogged their way around the course through the wind and rain. To be fair the course has held up well this winter so a big thanks to the greenkeepers who toiled each day just so as to allow us golfers to get around the course.

September will again be a busy month with the men's club champ rounds finally getting underway.

Remember the course is closed to members from September 22nd to 25th for the Devils Own Lawyer's tournament, so plan ahead.

24th Sept Saturday Men's Bus trip to Rangatira

The above course closure means we have a bus trip to this fantastic course. The cost is \$50 each which includes the cost of the bus, golf fees, snack & blind stableford partners. A great day and home early so just register on the sheet in the card room. If paying over the internet please reference 'BUS'

Men's Club Championships 2022

Due to the frost on the first Saturday of Men's Club champs qualifying, this meant a delay getting the Men's Club Champs draw done by one week

As a result, the play-by-date for the 1st round will be extended by 1 week to September 18th. Please get your games in early as there will be No Extensions

The Top Qualifiers and gross scores were:

Senior:

Ewan Westergaard: 73

Intermediate:

Mark Grayson: 78

Junior :

Dave Boswell 86

C Grade:

Tony Rule 89

Men's Craigs Investment Partners August Tankard Sat 6th

On what turned out later to be quite windy, the scoring was very good for the Tankard day.

Despite 2 great scores of 41 stableford points by stalwarts Stewart Leighton and John Beaumont , The new Club Manager James Lovegrove stormed home late with an awesome 43 points.



Men's McLennan Cup

Congratulations to Warrick Frogley and Club Captain Alan Savell who have won the McLennan Cup for 2022. Sava & Warrick bet Brian Walsh and Keith Wedlock 2 and 1. It was a close match all the way. Well done in winning such a prestigious club trophy!



MESSAGE FROM THE CLUB CAPTAIN

A Friendly Reminder: Returning of Score Cards

As the Club Captain of the Manawatu Golf Club, one of my jobs is to monitor the entry of golf cards by club members after playing a round of golf. This is very important for the integrity of the scoring system as well as the fairness of golfers when playing competitions or matches. Via the NZ Golf Dotgolf Internet Site I can track all Members who play golf.

There seems to have been some confusion in regard to match play cards with some members believing they aren't required to enter cards for handicapping. This is incorrect. The handicapping system requires that scores from all forms of competition, including match play, must be entered for handicapping purposes.

A quick summary of the NZ Golf Club Rules are that "when playing with a partner and have played 12 holes or more, you **must** enter a scorecard".

Please note the full Match Committee playing rules are on the noticeboard in the Cardroom.

Below is an extract from the publicised Manawatu Golf Club Match Committee "playing Rules".

It is very important that you familiarize them for your future reference.

Entry of score cards

Refer to programme book for procedure. The golf club's policy is that the marker enters the players score into the Dot Golf touchscreen. Cards must be entered immediately after the round is completed. In Gross & Net Stroke competitions the Pickup option must be selected on holes where the ball has been pickup (not putted out). If after entering a card this issue is realised, please contact the Pro Shop in the first instance to arrange for proper entry of card score.

Handicap Committee

The Handicap Committee will be made up of the Men's and Women's Club Captain and one other member from the Match Committee.

The Handicap Committee's main functions is to ensure that all members of the Manawatu Golf Club comply with the USGA Handicap System.

The Handicap Committee shall reduce or withdraw the handicap index of players who do not return all acceptable scores, or otherwise do not observe the spirit of the USGA Handicap System. Players who have their Handicap Index withdrawn become ineligible for competitive play.

The Committee may make the penalty and score adjustments without directly notifying the player.

Thanks, and Good Golfing!

Alan Savell
Club Captain



WOMEN'S GOLF – MESSAGE FROM THE CLUB CAPTAIN

It seems that August has gone with the blink of an eye and I'm not actually sure where it went!

Some I know were not playing as much golf as we would have liked with frosts and course closure. If you are unsure of any Saturday, Midweek or 9 hole matches that need to be played check with your convenor regarding playing dates.

For the 18-hole championship matches I know Silver players will get their first round matches played by the 4th September. The second-round matches and Bronze 1 and 2 first round matches are to be played by October 2nd. If you are not sure check either in the locker room or on the website under news.

For 9 hole champs the draw, as Colleen and Natasha would have told you, is in the card room and will be posted on the website so check out your opponent and dates. All the best.

There are a couple of dates to make note of.

The Women's 18 hole Open Day is Thursday 6th October. This is open to all affiliated 18 hole golfers and is always a great day of golf. Great prizes and if the golf doesn't come to the party there are always raffles to win. The poster will be out soon but in the meantime mark it in your diary.

Shortly after this on October 20th we have our Spring Fling!! Now you may well ask October is hardly spring but after having to reschedule last year we kept the name and the date for this year. This will continue to be one of our annual events where 9- and 18-hole women members can have a fun day of golf. I know this is early notice but good to have this in your golfing diary well ahead of time.

It seems that we unfortunately had to say farewell to another person of note within our golf club. Margie Bodell not only one of our Tuesday golfers but also a previous Club Captain, pennant player, pennant selector, great competitive golfer and a great contributor to the club, is leaving us. We had a farewell evening for Margie along with a few items

that she will need to survive in Australia, hence the hat!



We wish Margie all the very best in Canberra and we know having family around and great golf courses to conquer add to another part of life. We have yet to organise an interclub, but anything is possible although we may need to choose a neutral course!!

Keep up the golf everyone and always ask the question if there is something you're not sure of. Spring is on the way and the sun will shine.



Deb Archer
Women's Club Captain

THE CARPARK

A note of thanks to our members who follow the carpark rules and drive and park safely. We have had concerns raised about vehicles turning right as they enter the carpark as this presents a significant risk to both people and vehicles - **it is no entry**.

We have also had concerns raised about visitors (and members) parking in places that are not designated car parks, below are photos of my vehicle parked in the wrong place. This means there is no space to post the photos of the actual vehicles who have been parking inappropriately, however there may be space next month for photos of the offending vehicles if this continues to be a problem.

If you're unsure, if there are two white lines, park between them, if not, it is not a park.

Thanks for playing by the rules, our club safety relies on it.





EST. 1895

MANAWATU

GOLF SHOP

MANAWATU GOLF CLUB

MESSAGE FROM THE GOLF SHOP

Hi everyone,

What a wet end to August we have had! All of us here in the Golf Shop are super happy for spring to arrive.

We have had a few activities on this month and it has been great to have James and Hayley join our team and get to know them better. Their excitement and passion has been awesome and it has been greatly appreciated from the staff! Here is a photo of a few of us spending a cold night watching a Turbos game (unfortunately the Turbos game was as cold as the weather). The Golf Shop team also had a night out at tenpin bowling to celebrate Guy's 30th (Andre & Brydie showed us all how it's done).

Just remember, if you have any questions regarding your game, please don't hesitate to ask us. We are here to help!

Your Pro Shop Team

Alan, André, Tim, Brydie & Guy.



Exciting New Product In-Store!!!

L.A.B Putters are back in stock and available to be fitted. We have a couple of the new Mezz .1. in stock for all to have a look at. These putters are at the cutting edge of putter technology. If you would like to learn more, pop in and see the team or click on this link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZayLXumWkJQ&t=8s>

TSR Testing

Last week I had a fitting with the new Titleist TSR Driver and Woods. They were very good and we are now expecting our fitting kit to arrive mid-September!!!



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The membership committee has presented its recommendations to the full committee, these include

Engaging the services of a course marshal on a Saturday and Sunday for a trial period of 3 months. This is to ensure slow play is not a deterrent to enjoying golf. Sunday tee times have gone up by 150% over the last 4 years, and Saturdays are also very busy, finding a suitable marshal to ensure play is enjoyable for all, may be the key ingredient to Sat/Sun golf. If you have someone in mind for this paid role, please let me know.

The committee is also considering introducing a Cart fee that reflects the extra wear and tear carts place on the course. This fee (annual for members who own carts and casual for visitors) will go directly to the upgrade of paths. This is not set in stone yet and feedback is welcome from all.

The committee is reviewing the 5 and 6 Day membership options and considering whether these could be replaced by a Weekday Membership (and the full 7 Day membership). No decision has been made on this yet as there are many considerations to consider including the effect this may have on Club Champ numbers, total membership revenue, additional benefits for weekday members and other factors. If you have strong views on this or would like to know more, please speak to James or email your ideas. This won't be in place for the 2023 Membership but is under consideration.

We are very close to finalising the Membership fees for 2023. The F&R committee is determined that these will not be increased beyond the level requiring a Special AGM (10%). However to ensure the financial sustainability of the club we can expect an increase, it is likely that Full 7 Day Membership will be close to, but not above, \$1500; all other memberships will be based on a % rate of the full membership. Whilst this is a significant jump (up from \$1382), it does reflect the current cost of living

crisis we are all aware of and reflects the increased cost of wages and increased costs in all areas of running the course. Our team goal is to ensure the level of service (both on and off the course) increases by significantly more than the cost of the increase of membership - you can hold me accountable to that.

Ideas in place for small improvements in member services include

- A trial early cafe opening on Saturdays. Once daylight savings starts, we have engaged the services of a Barista to offer Coffee from 7.30am in the club house for our early starters or early walkers on a Saturday.
- A trial of a course cafe cart in October to offer drinks and snacks in the weekend
- A continued focus on Bunkers - with great progress having been made on #16 (we are delighted with the drainage and the new sand, we still have work to do on the bunker face)
- An increased commitment to our gardens and planting of natives on 15, 10 and 6
- The major work planned between 6/7 to complete the renovation of where the trees were removed.
- A goal for '23 is to improve our practice facilities including opening the grass practice area on the range on Saturdays and developing our pitching and practice areas.
- The introduction of a significantly reduced 'Members Guest' green fee rate to ensure our members can enjoy the course when they play here with their friends.

If you have other ideas of how we can improve the Members experience, please let me know.

COURSE NEWS

MIXED NINE HOLE NEWS

With the rain in the past month, I hope that all members & visitors managed to play some golf. With the amount of rain that has fallen, the golf course has held up remarkably well. As we now head into spring, the playing surfaces remain in great condition. Our course team is back to a full strength, Mitchell Proctor is the last man to join. Our team consists of Kiel, Scott, Ian, Steve, Matt, Mitchell & of course John Bills 😊. In the past month we have got the 16th bunker back in play but we have yet to complete the entrance and re turf the right-hand side. Greens have been verticut.

In September out on the course, we will be coring tees & surrounds, topdressing greens, looking to spray for weeds, work on bunkers & paths. We do need finer weather which will allow us to get a lot of these tasks done. Please bear with us as we try to work in amongst everyone playing golf causing as little disruption as possible, every now and then you may have to wait. If you can, sometimes it is easier to pick up and move to the next hole.

Please remember to watch where you walk or drive a golf cart, pegs and chains are there for a reason. If you move these to play your shot, please remember to put them back. "Carts this way" signs, please follow them also. When teeing off the 10th Tee, please use the path, donot walk across the 9th surround. Please remember to repair your pitch marks & replace your divots 😊, this is for your fellow golfer.

The greenkeepers wish all members & visitors well in their golf game, to all playing matches, play well 😊. Let's hope for some finer weather 😊 and enjoy!

To finish ...

After a particularly poor round, a golfer spotted a lake as he walked despondently up the 18th.

He looked at his caddie and said, "I've played so badly all day, I think I'm going to drown myself in that lake." The caddie, quick as a flash, replied, "I'm not sure you could keep your head down that long."

A "gimme" can best be defined as an agreement between two golfers... neither of whom can putt very well.

Kiel Stechman

Course Superintendent

A very wet month for us all. Well done to the greenkeepers for their hard work keeping the course playable where they could.

We were able to get our finals of competitions played:

Gillespie Cup:

Winner: Liz Burgess. Runner up: Colleen Fraser

Lavender Cup:

Winner: Alva Joe. Runner up: Murray Crawford

Odd Couples:

Winners: Murray & Judy Crawford

Runners up: Alva Joe & Alan McClean

Feilding hosted their Round Robin on Monday. The weather was awful but had quite a good field.

Manawatu did well.	Kay Eagle:	best Gross
	Frances Clark:	best nett
	Alan McClean:	Nett prize
	Gavin Johanson:	2 x 2s

We had a roadie to Hawkes Bay playing at Waipukurau on the way- a first for some players. We then had a very enjoyable lunch at Hatumu then on to Havelock North.

Drinks and nibbles were at the offices of "Fraser, Smith & Sam" where a court hearing was held with a few players having fines to pay. A very fun night!

Friday we played at Napier Golf Club. It was another nice day followed by a prize giving at the motel which involved some chip offs (putting into a cup) then a restaurant dinner. A great time was had by all - thanks to 'The Crawfords' for their organisation.

The draw is done for the Club Champs - good luck to all players!

Good golfing!

Colleen Fraser/Natasha Meyer



Welcome!

The Committee would like to confirm the acceptance to the Club of the following new and returning members who applied in July 2022

7 Day Member

Jake Johnson, Kurt McNamara

6 Day Member

Jon Bowen

Under 30

Jason Emery, Tom Hughes

Tertiary

James Wang

9 Hole

Jim Goodall

Restricted Junior

Quinn Busbridge, Mitchell Lin

Social

Ross Rainham

During this same period, 14 members resigned bringing our total membership number to

1113 members.

We wish our resigned members all the best and welcome our new members, we are sure you will enjoy your time at the club.

Congratulations to the following golfers who got a hole in one in August!



Kay Eagle

16th August, 2022

Hole 8



William Leipnik

17th August, 2022

Hole 16



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