

Introducing new manager



The President, Executive, and members of the Cambridge Golf Club welcome the new manager, Geoff Pitman, and his wife, Vivienne.

The new manager, Geoff Pitman, and his wife, Vivienne, (pictured above) were welcomed by the President, Kevin Vagg, at a social function held on Friday 20th January when members had a chance to introduce themselves and chat with Geoff and Vivienne.

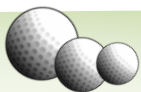
Geoff, a golf professional with 40 years experience in golf, has come to us highly recommended for his business acumen, golfing/coaching ability and knowledge, along with his personal attributes.

Geoff was the Club Professional at the Russley GC (ChCh) 1979 - 1984, Director of Golf at the now Royal Wellington GC 1984 -1991, before developing

a very successful golf business in Wellington (Hutt Valley Golf Centre) which he grew from scratch to a \$2m business in two years selling it in 2002. Since then, Geoff & Vivienne have built a Luxury Golf Lodge in Ohakune hosting both International and NZ guests.

Geoff and his wife Vivienne now have family in Cambridge and Auckland and are taking this opportunity to move north. Vivienne is also a keen golfer and will be a welcome new addition to the Ladies division.

Geoff takes on his official manager duties on 6th March.



Ladies by Karen Payne

Well, I hope everyone has been playing a lot over summer and considerably cut their handicaps, so that out-of-practice winter golfers like myself have a chance to compete. I don't think it's going to work out for me this year, what with all the rain we've been having. But from the road the course looks beautiful and I'm looking forward to playing again.

The ladies' **Opening Day** is on **Wednesday 15 February**. Please be there at 9am for a 9.30 start. As usual, we will be playing only nine holes to ease ourselves back into it. It will be a combined team stableford competition. Just turn up and we'll sort you into teams once you're there.

The following week on 22 February is the Pat Ruge Salver, a one round net competition. And then the week after that the Club is closed for coring. Happily, we have reciprocal rights at Matamata but it is important that players ring to book in.

I hope you all saw the ad in the Cambridge Edition last month, advertising a beginners clinic for women early this year. We'll be advertising again in February and then organising the clinic at a time that suits. Please spread the word wherever you can. Those interested are to register with Debbie or Jill by ringing the office and leaving their contact details.

CLASSADS

Got some 2nd hand golf gear for sale or wanting to buy?

Maybe you're looking for a golf travelling companion?

Members' free advertising in this column.

Just email me or the club OR leave handwritten ads with your details at the office for me to collect.



The following are the member figures for our club as listed on the NZ Golf website.

Men	302
Women	101
Junior Men	32
Junior Women	5
Total	440

Welcome

TO New Members


- Jeffrey Bennett
- Kyle Mallinger
- Gail Drake
- Ryan O'Dwyer
- Peter Knox
- Cameron Collins
- Peter Ludbrook
- Wayne Tosland

ONE OUT OF THE BAG!

DID YOU HEAR about **Graeme Harrison's** fantabulous round on the 31st December when he played a whopping 15 shots under his average game - a gross of 90, nett 57, and scored an amazing 51 stableford points.

RIP

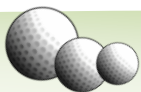
The club has recently lost two valued members of the club in **John Hewitt**, who died on 30th December, and our former Club Manager, **Allan Castle**, who passed away on 23rd January. We extend condolences to their families and to fellow golfers who will miss their presence at the course.



Green Scene by Kevin Brown

The greens are holding up very well. The disease pressure on the putting surface has been extreme over the last few weeks, due to the high rainfall and humid overnight conditions. Fortunately, the preventive fungicide programme put in place just before Xmas has spared us the turf loss problem experienced by some other clubs. There still remains a small amount of melting out and Anthracnose disease in some greens that will need to be closely controlled.

There is a good cover of grass over most of the fairways thanks to the high rainfall; however this weather pattern appears to be coming to an end. Provided the next few months are not too hot, there will hopefully be some finer grasses still alive so a more rapid recovery than normal can be achieved.



COURSE COMMITTEE REPORT

No.1 FAIRWAY RENOVATION PROJECT.

MEMBERS WILL BE PLEASED TO LEARN THAT AT LAST SOME ACTION IS BEING TAKEN TO ADDRESS OUR ANNUAL SUMMER PROBLEM WITH OUR FAIRWAYS.

THE "STRATEGIC PLANNING" COMMITTEE SURVEYED MEMBERS AND ASKED WHAT IMPROVEMENTS THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE AT OUR CLUB.

THE RESPONSE WAS COURSE IMPROVEMENTS AS THE MAJOR PRIORITY, FOLLOWED BY CLUB HOUSE UPGRADING.

TWO YEARS AGO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, IN THEIR WISDOM, PUT FUNDS ASIDE FROM THE SALE OF THE PINE TREES FOR COURSE IMPROVEMENTS.

THE COURSE COMMITTEE MADE UP OF BILL WILSON, GRAEME HARRISON, PHIL COGSWELL AND MYSELF, LAWRENCE McDONNELL, WITH KEVIN BROWN AND STEVE WATSON IN ATTENDANCE, HAVE BEEN IN DISCUSSION OVER SEVERAL MONTHS, TO DECIDE THE BEST USE OF THIS FUND.

WE WANTED TO MAKE THE GREATEST IMPACT AMONGST MEMBERS FOR FUTURE YEARS TO COME. ONE OPTION WAS TO SPREAD THE FUNDS OVER SEVERAL MINOR PROJECTS AROUND THE COURSE. THESE SMALLER PROJECTS WOULD NOT BE IDENTIFIED FROM THOSE ALREADY BEING CARRIED OUT. THERE IS SIMPLY NOT ENOUGH FUNDS AVAILABLE TO MAKE A SIGNIFICANT VISUAL IMPACT OVER THE WHOLE COURSE.

WITH THIS REALISATION IN MIND, THE COMMITTEE DECIDED TO UNDERTAKE ONE SINGLE MAJOR PROJECT AND DO IT PROPERLY.

THIS PROJECT IS TO RENOVATE THE No 1 FAIRWAY IN A MANNER THAT WILL BECOME THE 'BLUE PRINT' FOR A SUSTAINABLE AND COST EFFECTIVE APPROACH TO THE LONG-TERM RENOVATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE FAIRWAYS OF OUR GOLF CLUB.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS HAVE GIVEN THEIR APPROVAL FOR THIS PROJECT TO GO AHEAD.

THE No 1 FAIRWAY WAS CHOSEN FOR SEVERAL REASONS. THE OBVIOUS ONE IS THE HIGH PROFILE IT OFFERS BOTH FROM THE HIGHWAY AND STANDING ON THE TEE BLOCK LOOKING DOWN THE FAIRWAY FOR BOTH VISITORS AND MEMBERS ALIKE. THIS FAIRWAY LENDS ITSELF TO IRRIGATION WITH THE MAIN IRRIGATION LINE RUNNING ALONGSIDE. THE CONTOUR REQUIRES WORK TO SOLVE THE PONDING PROBLEMS DURING WINTER MONTHS AND THERE ARE SEVERAL MOUNDS WHICH ARE BARE OF TOP SOIL, EXPOSING GRAVEL.

OUR FAIRWAYS NEED RENOVATION TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF THE SOIL SO AS TO ESTABLISH AND BE ABLE TO

MAINTAIN A FINER, DROUGHT TOLERANT, LOW IMPACT GRASS SWARD.

TO HELP US ACHIEVE THIS ON OUR No 1 FAIRWAY, WE HAVE CALLED ON DAVID ORMSBY - A SPORTS TURF AGRONOMIST FROM THE NEW ZEALAND SPORTS AND TURF INSTITUTE, GEOFF WALKER, WHO HAS HAD CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE IN THIS FIELD AND OUR OWN TURF MANAGER, KEVIN BROWN, TO GUIDE US THROUGHOUT THIS PROJECT. THE CLUB IS ALSO FORTUNATE TO HAVE THE SERVICES OF OUR SURVEYOR, PHIL COGSWELL, WHO WILL MANAGE THE PROJECT.

PHIL HAS DONE A TOPOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS OF THE FAIRWAY AND CALCULATED THE VOLUME OF SOIL TO BE MOVED TO ELIMATE THE PONDING PROBLEM AND CREATE BETTER DRAINAGE FOR IRRIGATION.

THE STARTING DATE FOR THE PROJECT IS VERY DEPENDANT ON THE WEATHER. WE DON'T WANT TO CREATE A DUST BOWL. MAYBE EARLY MARCH WE WILL SPRAY-OUT THE EXISTING TURF COVER , LOCATE THE AREAS TO BE CONTOURED AND, USING LOCAL CONTRACTORS, STOCKPILE THE TOP SOIL, RESHAPE AND SUBGRADE BEFORE INSTALLING IRRIGATION LINES. THEN RE-LAYING TOP SOIL, SPREAD A BASE FERTILISER AND SOW GRASS SEED, WHICH WILL BE A BLEND OF FESCUE AND BROWNTOP.

IRRIGATION WILL BE REQUIRED AT MULTIPLE SHORT CYCLES THROUGHOUT EACH DAY DURING SEED GERMINATION AND FOR FURTHER ONGOING PLANT ESTABLISHMENT.

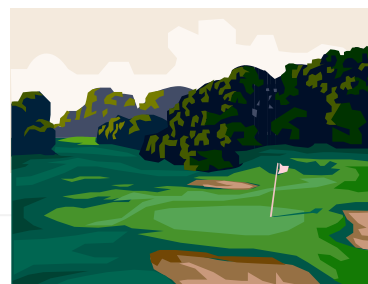
WITH ACCURATE MONITORING, REGULAR MAINTENANCE, AND FAVOURABLE WEATHER, KEVIN MAY HAVE THE FAIRWAY BACK IN PLAY IN AUGUST.

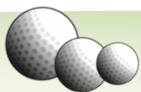
OUR COMMITTEE HAS RECEIVED A LOT OF SUPPORT FROM MEMBERS AND ONE CAN SENSE A GROUND SWELL OF ENTHUSIASM BUILDING-UP AS THEY LOOK FORWARD TO THE COMPLETION OF THIS PROJECT.

AT A RECENT EVENING TO WELCOME OUR NEW CLUB MANAGER, GEOFF PITMAN, HE SPOKE OF THE POSITIVE RESPONSE THIS PROJECT WILL HAVE ON OUR MEMBERS MORALE. WE ANTICIPATE THAT IN FUTURE YEARS IT WILL REMIND MEMBERS WHERE SOME OF THE " PINE TREE FUNDS" WERE INVESTED.

ELSEWHERE IN THE TEE MAIL, THE CLUB CAPTAIN ADVISES ON PLAY FOR AN ALTERNATIVE HOLE DURING THIS PERIOD OF RENOVATION.

LAWRENCE McDONNELL
CHAIRMAN
COURSE COMMITTEE





Tuesday Chatter by Tony Stoner

Over the Xmas break I was wondering what is going to be different in 2012 compared to previous years and decided the easy answer would be to say that nothing is going to be different, that is unless we choose to make it different. With this in mind I came to the conclusion that Senior Moments had had its moment and that it was time to move on, so henceforth, well for this year anyway, my Tuesday Veterans column will be under the title of "Tuesday Chatter" and I would like to start the chattering by saying on behalf of the Tuesday Veterans a big WELCOME to our new Club Manager, Geoff Pitman and his wife Vivienne. We look forward to getting to know you and trust that you have made it a condition of your employment terms & conditions, Geoff, that you are required to play with the Veterans on a Tuesday.

Another difference this year will be the introduction of a monthly "Twos" Ball Pool. This will be run on the third Tuesday of each month. Entry into the Ball Pool will be optional and will cost \$2 with the full amount paid in being used to buy balls. Players who participate in the Ball Pool and who have a two on that day will receive a share of the "Pool". On other Tuesdays in the month, "Twos" will be rewarded with a can of something or other as usual.

Some things don't need to be different so we will again be running an Eclectic competition from 7 Feb to 17 April. Given this has sufficient participants, there will be three men's divisions and one ladies' division - the cost will be as per last year, that is \$5 to enter and \$1 each week that any scores are changed. By the time you read this you should have already bought your Eclectic entry but if you haven't then there is still time to do so and be in for the first round.

Pennants will also be different this year as the Waikato Veterans Convenors voted at their AGM in favour of six-man teams rather than eight as in the past. This, to me, seems a retrograde step but it reflects the majority view of the Convenors. Another decision confirmed at the AGM was that individual Clubs could enter more than one team, however, your Veterans Committee took the view that if we are to improve our position in the nine teams in our zone we should concentrate on putting in one very, very, very good team which Lawrence MacDonnell will be picking shortly. So if you are very, very good, and know it, then tell Lawrence. For those of you, such as me, who don't get selected you can still play as an extra and be in for the prizes.

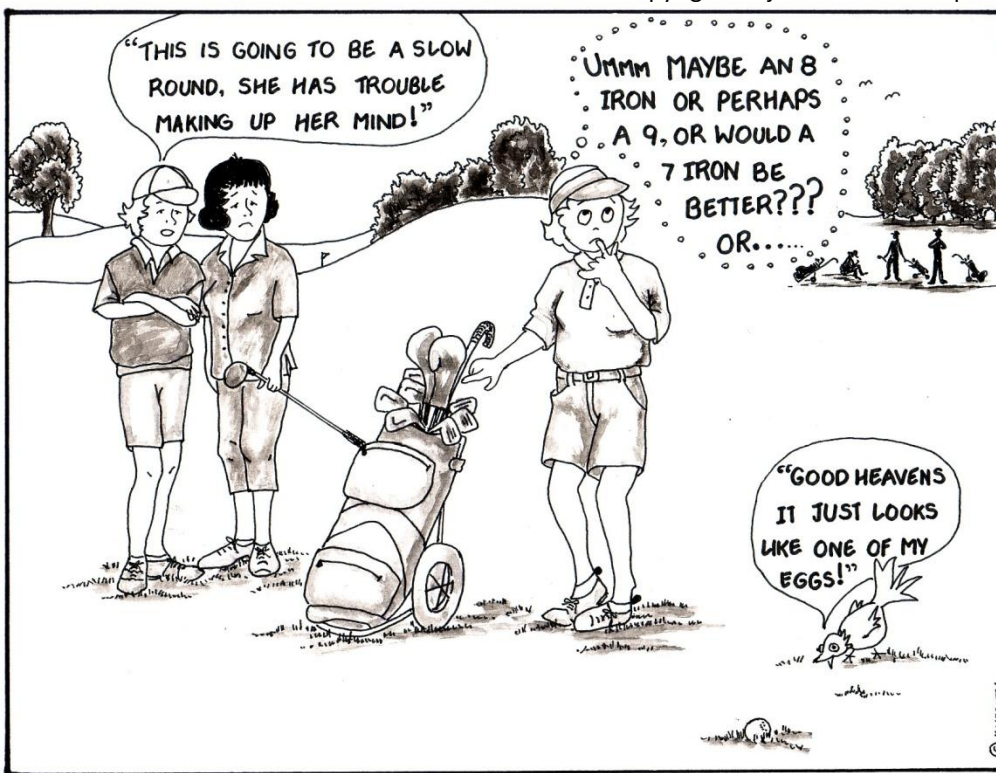
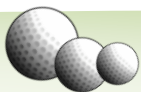
It would be wrong to lose *Senior Moments* completely so I will be listening out for happenings that are worthy of a bit of publicity and I start the ball rolling with a look at myself and wondering how I managed to turn up at the Club one day with a white sock on my left foot and a black-banded sock on my right foot. I, of course, blamed Margaret, my wife, for pairing them incorrectly, but I nonetheless do have to ask myself, "Who actually put them on?" The answer of course was me!! Really must check more carefully in future. Whilst on the subject of checking, a birdie whispered in my ear that Ray Eriksen, who was in a two-ball that was called to play through on the 13th one day, confidently walked up to his ball and putted it into the hole nearest to him for a two, the flag having already been removed for his partner's putt. This brought an outburst of banter from the four-ball letting them through as they delighted in telling Ray that he had played the wrong hole, and NO he couldn't have a Mulligan and take the shot again! Sorry, Ray, I was threatened with dire consequences if I didn't give you a mention.

For the future you are all my eyes and ears when it comes to Senior Moments so please do let me know if you see or hear something that you consider worth a mention. I will, as always, or should that be sometimes, be discreet in the use of any tittle-tattle you share with me!

I chip out this month with a bit of advice for those of you who are of Veteran age but may still have to work on a Tuesday:-



"If you're going to lie about why you're taking half the day off work, must you be so obvious about it?"



Happenings a new column this year by Club Captain, Brian Schinkel

Happy New Year to everybody and welcome to new and old members for 2012.

Starting sheet for Opening Day is on the notice board. Names are required for February 12th. Lets make it a grand opening.

A welcome night was held on Friday 20th January for our new Manager, Geoff Pitman and his wife Vivienne, which was attended by many members.

Representative men squads have been picked, final teams announced on 1st February along with reserves and team captains. Meeting for all on Saturday 4th February at 4pm.

Planning in the process for alignment and fairway watering for No 1 fairway and work to start end of February/beginning March. This fairway will be out of action for 5-6 months. The old 11 fairway will be brought into play as a replacement. Everybody will start at No 2, finish at 9, cross over Driving Range to old 11th

tee and play that as No 1. Then proceed to No 10. Great work has been done on fairways and greens by Kevin and greens staff with the aid of the water from above. The course is in the best condition it has been and seen at this time of the year for nearly ten years.

Men members please note and read the new rules and conditions of play for the Shootout, notice also on notice board.

Have noticed some good scoring over the last couple of weeks. No doubt the handicapper will be doing his cut act.

Club also requires sponsors. Anybody who knows of someone who may be interested please advise office.

Good golfing to all
The Sgt Major



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