

Newsletter Aug 08

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ASB – proud sponsors of the Cambridge Classic

This is the club's
most prestigious event of the year.
We expect a full field of many of the
best amateur golfers in New Zealand.

Mark Saturday 16th
and Sunday 17th August
in your diary.

We would love to have all our club members
involved in this event in at least one of the
following ways...

- Come along and watch, better still bring along a friend and introduce them to golf.
- Become a sponsor (just \$60 + GST) or provide prizes for the Closed Classic
- Make yourself available as a helper Provide a billet for one of the players
- Put up a poster advertising the event to spectators
- Play in the Closed Classic on Saturday 23rd August.

Proudly Supporting Cambridge Golf Club

For your banking and financial needs, contact the
bank that supports your club.

ASB Cambridge Branch

Cnr Victoria Street and Halleys Lane,
Cambridge

Phone: (07) 823 1821

Branch Manager: Anthony Ririnui

www.asb.co.nz

Presidents Comments

I am delighted that ASB Cambridge Golf has come up with another winning formula. At the recent Chamber of Commerce Waipa Business Awards our front line staff were awarded a Certificate of Commendation for Service to Customers. Debbie and Kay have now been with the club for about 6 months and both are outstanding with helpfulness to members and visitors alike. The team helping them has been equally supportive, Allan, Jill and our Monday volunteers Reg, Joy, Lorna, Gaye and Jane. Grant, Allan and Tony also made a great team in the bar.

Just prior to receiving this award it was disturbing to hear comments about being overstaffed, and top heavy in administration. All our staff are part timers and when closely analysed it seems we have an average of 1.4 staff members on duty during shop and bar opening hours. This is to cover customer service, administration and management. For a \$450,000 turnover that would seem extremely reasonable.

The club has been very fortunate in the last period of time to have club members covering management duties for free: Graeme Muir with the clubs finances, Reg Anderson the shop, Geoff Walker course matters and, since July 2007, myself with the overall manager's duties. It has been a great relief to all of us to be able to pass most of those duties on to our new and efficient staff. Although we now have a higher level of staffing we still could not manage without our great team of volunteers. These wonderful people help around the clubhouse, on the course and at tournaments. The volunteers give our staff great support and I thank them for that.

In this newsletter there is an item on New Zealand Golf Nation, I am delighted that our club plans to join. The current slide in our membership numbers makes financial planning difficult and, unless we can reverse that trend, we must ultimately consider a sizeable increase in subscriptions. Our Summer and Restricted membership is currently our main growth area and we need to appreciate that this is helping to keep the dedicated golfers' subscriptions at an acceptable level and to look at ways of encouraging them to upgrade.

A very enjoyable evening was held to farewell Sarah Bradley, I commend the Women's committee for supporting this. Opportunities for simple evenings like this could happen more frequently. Our newly installed TV has already boosted the bar take as people watch to see their results. Thank you to Gary Bennett for his expertise in installing the autoscore results. We currently are having a busy month with our major tournaments and we appreciate the extra effort made by staff and volunteers during this period.

Jeanette Boswell

BAYLEYS Cambridge Masters. 27 July 2008

The worst weather bomb in a decade heading our way for the weekend, thankfully didn't have a great impact on this year's Masters Tournament. The very heavy rain and severe storms around Auckland and the East Coast were probably the cause of the 16 withdrawals, a large number of which were simple no shows, that left a field of 73 players from 30 different clubs playing the 36 holes of golf. The course was unbelievably dry following the very wet week and Saturday's drenching, due largely to the aeration work that has been carried out over the past couple of years.

Steve Haggie became the first local winner in the 10 years of holding the Tournament when he followed a two under par 70 (the only sub-par round all day) in the morning, with a 1 over 73 in the afternoon to finish 4 shots clear of Phillip Hunter (Ngaruawahia) and Martin Tumata (Onewhero). A past member of the Cambridge Golf Club, David George now playing out of Te Awamutu, took out first prize in the nett playing 5 under his handicap for the 36 holes. Only four players managed to play under their handicap, testifying to the difficult conditions and the fact that Cambridge Golf Course is not a pushover when it is set up under tournament conditions.

We thank Stephen Shale and Philip Coles from Bayleys for their sponsorship. They would be delighted if you called into their Cambridge office for help with buying or selling a property.

Two weeks away is the ASB Cambridge Classic, Sat & Sun 16/17 August, which is shaping up to become the best field of players for a number of years. We ask that members help us out for this tournament, especially spotting as these players hit the ball a very long way and some of our holes have blind landing areas for them. If you can help please *give your name and times you could be available* to the office so a roster of sorts can be made.

We intend to run a 'Closed Classic' on Saturday 23rd Aug. for local members to enjoy Classic conditions. Please contact the office if you wish to play or be involved with sponsorship.
Grant Clow

SPECIAL INFORMATION SHARING MEETING
Cambridge Middle School, Clare St, Tuesday, 26th August 2008 at 7p.m.

You are invited to this critical meeting dealing with future directions
of the ASB Cambridge Golf Club.

Agenda: Executive report; Proposed future direction; Discussion

Your chance to be fully briefed with the facts of known issues and circumstances.
Greg Turner and David Moore, from Turner Macpherson Golf Design, will be in attendance.

As members of this 108 year old golf club, with such a wonderful history, your opinions and ideas are
valued and you are encouraged to please be a part of this.

– Jeanette Boswell, President

New Zealand Golf Nation – A New Way To Play

New Zealand Golf has spent considerable time over the past 12 months looking at ways to reverse the decline in club membership numbers. A new incentive program entitled New Zealand Golf Nation has been developed and is currently being promoted to all golf clubs and will launch formally in October.

One of the major aims of Golf Nation is to make golf more encouraging to new members as well as those who wish to play regularly at other than their own club. All clubs will be in a system that allows affiliated members to play at other Golf Nation Clubs for free or at a greatly reduced green fee.

There are certain joining criteria such as promotions of nine-hole membership, family programmes and incentives to new members, most of these joining conditions are already in place at Cambridge. The Club Executive has agreed to join the programme and will be seeking registration. Full details will be advised in due course.

SkyCaddieGPS

Recently our course was GPS mapped for use with SkyCaddie GPS units. "SkyGolf is the international market leader in golf GPS and their handheld units, SkyCaddies, are the only units in the market which provide a dynamic graphic display of the green that changes according to the approach. This gives you full depth of the green distances (front, middle and back of green) from where you stand. Units provide distance information (accurate up to 0-3 metres) on up to 40 points per hole, giving you distance to and carries over bunkers, hazards, ends of fairways, and other key points of reference on each hole, while allowing you to measure the distance of each and every shot you hit."



Veterans

When the weather permitted, turnout on a Tuesday continued to be good - as were some of the scores. Notable this month was a gross 77 from Harry Shields which bettered his age, just goes to show what a cruise can do for your game; a 45 point Stableford from Lawrence McDonnell, who was also fresh back from a holiday, and in the first round of the Ivan Browne Memorial Trophy a nett 67 for Terry Sadler. The normal weekly Stableford scores generally, however, have tended lower as the winter conditions make the course play longer.

A couple of noteworthy non-golfing related decisions were made this month. The first followed on from a suggestion from Ann & Dick Thompson that it might be of interest to the Veterans to have St Johns give a CPR demonstration after play one Tuesday. This was put to the players present and it was unanimous that this be followed up. Arrangements have since been made for a St Johns member to be with us after play on 26 August when a shortened +/- 20 minute version of the normal one hour demonstration of the CPR technique will be given. We are required to make a donation of \$50 for this so we will be asking you for an extra \$1 that day, that is \$5 and not the usual \$4.

The second decision relates to the above in as much as it is aimed at saving life but the timing is completely coincidental. The Club has been offered, free of charge from the Waikato Health Board, an Automatic External Defibrillator. However, although there is no initial charge for this machine there is ongoing cost in the form of new pads being required every two years and a new battery every five years. The Veterans were asked by the Club President if they would consider underwriting the cost going forward. This was discussed with the players present that day and, as with the CPR proposal, agreed unanimously. The cost which is of the order of some \$500-600 over five years will be paid as incurred from Veterans' accumulated funds.

Back to golf. Earlier this year we abandoned a modified Ambrose competition due to heavy rains which came on during the course of play. Weather permitting an Ambrose will be played on 26 August and will hopefully attract a large field not only for this fun form of golf but also for the CPR demonstration. Make a note in your diaries. Another date to note is 12 August when the second round of the Ivan Browne Memorial and, for the ladies the Ladies Rosebowl, will be played.

For those of you who are not members of the Waikato Veteran Golfers Association now is the time to join. The one-off joining fee of \$20 is likely to increase to \$25 very soon - not only can you save yourself \$5, if you are quick, but more importantly membership allows you to play in the many competitions that this Association offers throughout the year at courses all around the Waikato.

In closing, a comment to someone who isn't named, from the legendary Sam Snead "You've only one problem. You stand too close to the ball - after you've hit it".

Good golfing.

Tony Stoner - Veterans Convenor

ROTORUA vs CAMBRIDGE INTERCLUB AT ROTORUA

31 members have put their names on the list to go. The bus seats 46 so we would like to fill it. Remember this is the 100th year of interclub (we think). It would be good of Cambridge could muster a team of 45 to match Rotorua's numbers.

DATE - Sunday 10th August 2008. **TRAVEL** by Coach – Karapiro Charters and Tours.

COST – for **full** coach (45 players) \$20.00pp, if smaller **full** coach (26 players) \$30.00pp

Cost per player will increase if we do not get a full coach.

DEPARTURE TIME - 8.00am from Clubhouse

PLAY to commence - 10.00am at Rotorua course

RETURN - Back at Cambridge Clubhouse by say 7.00pm.

NAMES - Please put name up on notice board at entrance to clubhouse or ring the office and we will put your name on the list.

Women's Golf

To celebrate the gloom of winter we had a fun tournament last week. A wrapped unwanted gift was the entry fee and we all had the biggest laugh when Betty Stuck opened hers.

We are off to Tauranga on the 8th of August for our triangular interclub fixture with Rotorua, and I have started my planning for our mystery trip on the 8th of October. Players who have not been contacted about either of these fixtures please let the committee know.

We have seen some of our 9-holers move up to play 18 holes, and we have offered 2 free coaching clinics to 3 of our keenest new members.

The entry sheets are up for the qualifying rounds of matchplay; the 1st of 3 is on the 20th of August; to qualify, a player has to put in 2 cards out of 3 gross rounds.

For Saturday players we have introduced a second tee time around about 11am. Of course Wednesday players can join in the scramble too, although their cards will not count for the competitions. Please ring the office to put your name on the starting sheet. We hope that Saturday players will be able to play the 36 holes of strokeplay scheduled for October 11th; the winner of this competition will represent us at the Champion of Champions in November.

Congratulations to the office staff, they certainly have learnt a lot about the game this year.

Janet Myers, Captain

Retail Corner

- ❖ Men sized shirts now available
- ❖ Shower proof jackets \$67
- ❖ Cambridge Sportsworld have a reasonably priced range of golf shoes.
- ❖ Give a subscription or voucher for a Father's Day gift.
 - Introductory classes for 1 month \$50
 - Summer Membership Restricted \$195 – starts September
 - Summer Membership (affiliated to NZ Golf) – buy one \$282, receive one at ½ price \$141
- ❖ We are now stocking a new version of a golf bag cover, which fastens easily to the bag, at just \$24.00 – This is a bargain.
- ❖ Powakaddy motorised trundlers are available from our sponsor, Leamington Auto Electric

Welcome to New Members

David Walsh - Restricted Adult Harry Chrisp - Full Youth

Guardians Report

Yes I am still here!

Now the weather has changed and the grass is growing and the vice president has gone on holiday the green staff could do with a helping hand again. The course is looking particularly good at the moment and won't take an awful lot to keep it that way.

Some members have been able to get around and tidy things up but the time has come for guardians to have a look at their fairways to see what can be done to help the green staff out. This wind will spread some rubbish about which will need to be seen to.

The cricket boys have been busy on their hole building a new path on the 14th tee and looking after the shrubs in the triangle behind the green, well done.

Dick Thompson

On the 19th

- A great tournament on the weekend. Thanks to the following who contributed to the successful running of the Masters: Grant Clow, Debbie, Allan Castle, Reg, Russell, Roger Ranstead, Graeme Harrison, Gary Bennett, Andrew Rye, Kevin Cubis, Tony and also those who gave help with preparing the course.
- Farmlands tournament has been postponed to
- The blue 135metre distance markers look great, thanks Lawrence.
- Racing Industry Grasshopper sponsored Monthly Tournament is being moved to the Monday before the last Friday of the month. Check the notice board for details.
- Thanks to Graeme & Marilyn Harrison who donated a side of lamb for the Masters raffle. Over \$200 was raised and Joe Doherty was the winner.
- Seen on the 14th, the 'Guardians', spraying and planting more shrubs, donated by Bruntwood Nurseries (the Ogilvy's). Thanks to Ron Graham for the metal on the new 14th tee track. Also - spotted on the 9th - Alex and John pruning pine trees.
- Welcome to Steve Watson our new Green Keeper. Steve is looking for accommodation, house sitting, flatting, rental accommodation. If you can help please contact the office.
- We now have a results screen in the clubhouse, thanks to Gary Bennett and Andrew Rye for setting it up and helping with the initial problems.
- Sharron Gray is doing a grand job with the Juniors, 20 turned out last Monday. Glenn Millin is still coaching, but we need more adult helpers. This involves taking two or three juniors out for a few holes on Monday evening at 4pm. Sharron would also like a couple of people to join her in learning the basic principals of coaching.
- Do you have any light golf bags that could be loaned to the Juniors until they get their own bags?
- Welcome back to Bill Wilson, called on almost immediately to repair the damage caused in a recent break-in at the club house.