

# Thursday Thoughts

MANGAWHAI  
GOLF CLUB

27 April 2017



## WHO TO BLAME WHEN YOUR PUTTS PETER OUT

We've long suspected demons are at work in the still of the night, fiendishly manipulating our putting surfaces to ensure even the best struck putt goes unevenly east/west/north/south of its intended line. Now, this may be an individual and subjective viewpoint as our Wightman Putting competition shows that a few manage to get around with less than 40 putts, but we suspect they're in league with the devil anyway.

Whatever. But now we have proof that a lurking bunch of saboteurs,, under the guise of "volunteers" is roaming our course to wreak havoc on our greens. Arriving early this morning, we saw the sun rise over the pines, and amid the long shadows cast across the 18<sup>th</sup> green we saw furtive movement and the heavy breathing of manual labour. Snatching our ever-present camera we managed to capture some murky images before the pesky band of miscreants scuttled away, gleefully waving their rakes and shovels, leaving us to balefully gaze across a pock-marked patch of lumps, bumps and un-puttable humps.



For those of you who believe in goblins, hobbits and, leprechauns and the like, here is your evidence of who to blame for your wayward putts. For non-believers, you will simply see a hard-working trio labouring long and with incredible commitment to advance our course maintenance programme. Being of the naturally lazy inclination we have enjoyed immensely the sight of these workers toiling through the day on Monday, Wednesday and again today as they have sweated, sworn and strived to get the job done. In truth, we are incredibly blessed to have such teams of dedicated volunteers who turn up so regularly and work so hard to do the often-unseen work that plays such a big part in making our course the showpiece it is.

These pictures show Des Chitty, Len Bilton and TD, but we've also had Ian Dunlop, Campbell Rae, Grant Salmon, John Wallwork, Colin Sterling, Vaughan Sampson and numerous others (we apologise for not naming you all but you know who you are), usually under the highly-organised leadership of Ernest Hurley. We've also had Diane Dunlop providing morning tea for the working teams, and Claudia Dowson busily applying restorative stain to our faded outdoor furniture on Smokers' Deck. These are volunteers in the true sense – not exorbitantly-paid dilettantes who swan around the place playing Solitaire on their computers all day – and they deserve the thanks and praise of all of us for their impressive work. It's an amazing – and much appreciated – strength of our club that we have so many who are prepared to do so much, yet expect so little. Brilliant!

## WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

The course is closed to all play today as work goes on. We expect to have the Back 9 open for play tomorrow (Friday), offering you greens that have been cored, sanded, swept, cut and generally groomed as best we can. Over the weekend, 18 holes will be open but be aware that not all greens have been cored so you will find varying conditions as you go around. *(This will not be unusual for most of you.)*

## TWILIGHT IS ON!

Yes, Twilight will be on tomorrow, playing on the Back 9 only. Good bookings are already in place and the last available tee time will be at 3.16pm although it won't be available as it's already booked. Go online tonight and get your tee time booked. The usual Members' Draw will be held, so stay on for Dinner and sample Glennis's glorious food.

## MEN'S WINTLE ROSEBOWL THIS WEEKEND

This is on Saturday and Sunday, 18 holes nett each day. Book your time on Saturday, on Sunday we'll do a seeded draw from 9.00am. Please enter only if you are able to play both rounds.

*(We're often asked why we don't publicise more Women's events. The simple answer is, women are far more organised and well aware of what's on the programme, while the bumbling boys need constant reminding up to – and even during – events.)*

## CHAMPIONSHIP PENNANTS SEMI FINAL ON SUNDAY @ MANGAWHAI

Our boys will be teeing off from 10.30am, against South Head. Come down and give them your support as they play their way into the following week's final. If they win the semi, the final will be played here. Good luck and great skill to you all.