

Monday 10.4.17

Your "Wake Up!" Call



ARE WE TOO GOOD FOR OUR OWN GOOD?

As one roams the Far North endeavouring to do one's bit in the pursuit of Pennants success, one's thoughts turn to pondering whether our course is too good for our own good. Here we are, week after week playing on a course that – most will agree – is pretty damned good. Then we turn up to play other courses that, to be gentle, are not quite as good. And we find ourselves struggling to play off large bare patches and putt across greens that do a very convincing impersonation of a disused quarry – while our opponents, used to this sort of thing on a regular basis, manage to maintain their equilibrium. Now, we acknowledge that this is a fairly pathetic way to attempt to explain away the poor showing of our Men's 18-hole and 36-hole teams over the past weekend (there are other reasons which we'll delve into further down this page) but there could be a double-win opportunity for us here.

We could begin by allowing our course to degrade: forget about grooming, fertilizers, spraying, aeration, re-turfing, rolling greens. Think of the money we'll save, letting us slash subs to paltry, petty cash levels. That's a surefire win.

Then start competing on a level (probably the wrong word) playing field against other clubs, becoming as proficient as them at recovery shots from poor lies and at drilling home putts that jag, jump and jerk across pitted, multi-textured greens to end up in the hole. Another win!

That's a dream – or nightmare – world we don't really want to spend time in. But it does serve as a reminder of just how good and how well-presented our course is, compared to others. We hear the occasional mumble from some members who are unhappy with some aspect or other of the course – but we don't hear that sort of thing from visitors who constantly praise our course for its layout and overall condition.

We're about to undertake a course maintenance programme (details later) that will see a fairly serious bit of work being done. This will be disruptive to play and some members may feel hard done by. But the reality is, if we want to preserve and enhance our status as one of New Zealand's best courses we have to accept a few interruptions to our playing calendar. The alternative is dropping our standards – but, really, that's no alternative.



THE DILEMMA OF THE DIXIE CHICKS

Now that we've caught your attention with this provocative little shot of the Dixie Chicks who played at the Mission vineyards near Napier on the weekend, we can reveal that this famous, feisty female trio are responsible for the loss suffered by our Men's 36-hole pennants team at Waipu yesterday. Eschewing the needs of his team, the captain and key player Shayne Stuart chose instead to become one of a throbbing, thrash-dancing throng chanting out feminist anthems at the Dixie Chicks concert. So disturbed and distracted by his dereliction of duty, his team become a rudderless rabble and succumbed to opposition who would normally be no opposition whatever. While we have sympathy with Shayne's bluegrass leanings and his love of a mournful lyric crooned amid banjos and fiddles, his team may be "Not Ready To Make Nice".

(Rumour has it that also stompin' their boots and shakin' their tassles were a couple of Akroyds and a pair of Tobins, having travelled down in their own Sin Wagon.)

WOMEN'S WEEKEND PENNANTS

We've just received the good news that our team won at Wellsford yesterday, by 83 points to 51 against Northland Golf Club. We don't have individual results apart from being told Belinda May chipped in from 80 metres on the 18th hole and won her match against a player to whom she had to give a whopping 16 shots.

MEN'S WEEKEND PENNANTS

Not such positive news here and our two 18-hole teams and our 36-hole teams all got a fair spanking. **Mangawhai 1** went down to Kerikeri/BOI while the highly-favoured and extremely talented **Mangawhai 2** were somehow upset by Whangarei. Men's captain Wayne Watts announced after the match that he is changing his name to Layne Latts as having two W's (signifying wins) in his name is a gross misrepresentation. Both 18-hole teams played at Ngunguru and now languish in 4th and 5th places with two rounds to go. Fortunately there's a 4 week break until the next round so Layne's Lot and Greg's Gang can put in a bit of time on the practice range.

The **36-hole** team also had an ignominious day, going down to Waiotira 5.5 to 3.5 at Waipu. We've already covered off their reasons/excuses for this defeat and hope that their vowed intention to go to the next Doris Day concert works for them.

Que sera sera.

However holding the club's honour high, our Championship Team has completed North Harbour's West Coast Trophy as clear winners of the round robin. They beat Omaha 6-2 (playing at RNZAF) and we now wait to get details of their semi-final.. This is an outstanding result for our club and we all heartily congratulate the team captained by Scott Wightman on their consistent achievement through the rounds. Looking ahead – and, of course, assuming that they'll win both their semi and final – they'll then enter an elimination series against the bottom teams in the premier Frank Nobilo section for next season.

COURSE MAINTENANCE WEEK

This is scheduled to start on Monday 24 April. The work schedule – always weather-dependent – will see the Front 9 closed on Monday. At this time, the morning is being kept for the Monday Men who may choose to play the Back 9 twice. On Tuesday (Anzac Day) the full course will be open, although there will be some variance between greens – some having been cored and sanded, others not as yet worked on. On Wednesday the full course will be closed to all play. On Thursday (projected) the Front 9 will be open but the back 9 closed. Friday's restrictions will depend on how work progresses through prior days and we'll keep you updated as we can.

MEN'S VETS MATCHPLAY COMPLETED

Saturday saw the final 18 holes of the Vets Matchplay. In the youthful 60-69 section Iain Butler triumphed over Peter Cornes while in the more sedate 70+ section Colin Carley overcame Ron Horsfall to claim victory. Congratulations to the winners.

A GERRYMANDER?

While we're on the topic of winners, congratulations to Gerry Hogan whose name was drawn as the winner of Summer Twilight's Grand Prize, a golfing trip to Australia. This outstanding prize, very generously provided by Bill and Jono Mabey of Experience Golf NZ, wAs highly sought after and we thank everyone who took part through a highly successful Summer Twilight season. Thanks to Jenny for all her work and thanks again to Bill and Jono (who assure all those disappointed losers that they can get them fitted with golfing trips to anywhere, anytime, and all at great value). Give them a call at Experience Golf or go to their website www.experiencegolf.co.nz



SUNDAY 16 APRIL

Men - Two Divisions Women - 1 Division

- GROSS (MEN DIV.1 & WOMEN) • NETT • STABLEFORD
- NEAREST THE PIN • LONGEST DRIVE • TWOS

MORNING START: 7.15 - 7.55am (two tees)

AFTERNOON START: 12.45pm (SHOTGUN)

Mangawhai Members: \$30

Affiliated Visitors: \$45

OPEN ONLY TO AFFILIATED MEMBERS OF NZ GOLF CLUBS WITH CURRENT HANDICAP
(Please pay at time of entry to confirm your place)

Entries to Mangawhai Golf Shop

Ph: 09 431 4807

email: golfshop@mangawhaigolf.co.nz



www.mangawhaigolf.co.nz

"The Bonnington" & Mangawhai Invitational

A New Zealand Golf Order Of Merit Tournament for Men & Women



Saturday May 27

**and
Sunday May 28
2017**

BLUE TEE CHAMPIONSHIP FOR MEN

- Restricted to 64* entrants with a maximum handicap index of 7.1
- 36 Holes over two days played from the Blue Championship Tees
 - Best Gross for the Tom Bonnington Cup
 - Nett competition also (over 54 holes)

WHITE TEE CHAMPIONSHIP FOR WOMEN

- Restricted to 32* entrants with a maximum handicap index of 8.9
 - 36 Holes over two days played from the White Tees
 - Best Gross for the Mangawhai Invitational Trophy
- (*Field limits may change. Entry priority will be to those on lowest handicaps.)

ENTRY FEE: \$60

Includes GST. Enter online. Payment must be received to confirm entry. Entries close Friday 19 May 2017.



Enter online: www.mangawhaigolf.co.nz or www.unbeatablegolf.co.nz

Mangawhai Golf Shop, 09 431 4807
Email: nick@mangawhaigolf.co.nz

COMING UP ...

Tomorrow (Tuesday) Women play **Aotearoa Cup & Coronation Medal** rounds, plus a Nett hagggle.

Next weekend is Easter and while we're disappointed at the very slow bringing in of chocolate eggs to the Golf Shop we are pleased with the entries coming in for **Sunday's Barfoot & Thompson Mixed Open**. There are still some places left in both morning and afternoon fields so get your group sorted and get your names on the sheet in the Golf Shop.

Saturday 22 April – a reminder to our Men that the **Pairs Championship** will be held over 18 holes. This is a Best Ball Stableford trophy event and you need to arrange your own partners and get your entries onto the online start sheet. Also, **Round 3 of the Patron's Trophy and Wightman Putting** will be held concurrently, so you'll need to be able to keep track of this on your scorecard. (Yes, we know the greens will just have been cored, but them's the crumbling cookies, bro.) There'll be **no Women's Golf on Anzac Day** (Tuesday 25 April).

And as we sign off, we applaud Sergio Garcia's victory in the Masters. It's always good to see a close battle and he and Justin Rose handled themselves with aplomb through the playoff. The result's a suitable Spanish salute to Seve Ballesteros who, had he still been with us, would have turned 60 during the event.
Felicitaciones por tu exito.