



Your "Wake Up!" Call



NOTHING PUTS A DAMPENER ON UNBEATABLE MANGAWHAI

We spent a lot of last week taking calls from sodden Aucklanders complaining about their courses' wet-to-dry ratio and enquiring whether our course was open for play. While sympathy for those Big City folk is something we dispense with considerable reluctance, we do feel a bit for them as they wallow in their clay-based muddiness while we enjoy remarkable playability in spite of the huge amounts of rainfall the gods have seen fit to bless us with. Yes, we played on through a few showers and a bit of wind and most of us had a good time of it all as the course presented itself in generally outstanding condition. Actually, that's barely newsworthy, but we thought we'd mention it anyway.

Friday 30 September

The first round of **Summer Twilight** and an excellent field of 84 entrants – not a bad beginning. Some were chasing good scores, some were chasing entry in the **Experience Golf** prize of a trip for two to gloriously golf in Australia ... no matter what the reason this was a very good turnout and indicates Summer Twilight is going to be very popular through the coming months. 33 **Women** played and Nadine Fitness (20) won on a countback from Diane Dunlop, followed by Heather Haynes, Lynn Williams and Rae McKinley on 19, then Cheryl Hobin, Judy Wilkinson and Marion Bilton (18) and Diane Taylor (17). The **Men's** field of 51 was led home by Len Bilton (22) winning on a countback from Murray Glen (*who was hoping to win enough to buy a new pair of trousers*), Gerry Hogan (*who borrowed a well-known loser's shoes to foot it with the best*) and Des Chitty (*prematurely celebrating the Taniwha's first rugby win in several decades*). Then came Colin Carley on 21, and a real cluster on 20: Steve Hinton, Greg Quinn, Geoff Finlay, Dave Foster, Greg Furnell, Colin Sterling and Greg Carr. Twos were scored by Campbell Rae, Wayne Whyte and Greg Quinn on the 6th and Gerry Hogan on the 13th. Hidden Holes were won by Murray Glen with 7 points on the Front 9 and Wayne Watts with 6 points on the Back 9. The **Members' Draw** for \$500 would have been won by Steve Corbett had he been in the clubhouse, so now jackpots to \$550 for this coming Friday Twilight (to be sponsored by our Life Members).

Things to remember. **Summer Twilight** requires you to tee off between midday (or noon or 12 o'clock – whichever spins your cogs) and 4.30pm, with cards in by 6.30pm. Two tees (1st and 10th) will both be used for starting between 3.20 (approx.) and 4.30pm. One entry in the Experience Golf draw for a golfing trip for two to Australia is earned for every 5 times you play Summer Twilight through the coming season. You need to book your tee times early.

Saturday 1 October

Some say this day is the really the first day of Spring – others just put on their wet weather gear and slog it out. OK, Saturday wasn't the sort of day to rate in MetServ's or Tony's Top Twenty – but it was a tad better than the previous weekend. And so, out went the **Strokeplay Champs** hopefuls, Men and Women, into the maelstrom and in search of glory. To give you a brief overview (*full results are on display outside the Golf Shop and in the clubhouse*): after Round Two Ron Daley Jr leads the Seniors, Paul Goodin (after a great Saturday round) leads the Intermediates, Barry Brennan leads the Juniors and Kerry Wood leads the D Grade – but until the large round lady breaks into song, it ain't all over yet! **This Saturday the draw is seeded – check it out online or on our website, www.mangawhaigolf.co.nz, or check outside the Golf Shop. Tee times start at 9.00am.** We can't update you on the **Women's** scenario as yet because they play on both Tuesdays and Saturdays, so Thursday's epistle may well cover this off.

The **Women's Nett Hagle** was decisively won by Nadine Fitness with a nett 71, ahead of Sherrill Glen, Val Noonan, Belinda May (*off this week to play in the Junior Interprovincials*) and Diane Taylor, all on 77.

Men's Nett Hagle was played in two divisions. Adam Radovan took out Division One with a nett 66, ahead of James Finlay, Hira Wynyard and Chris Butler (67) and Tony Vale (68). Division Two was headed by Kerry Wood with a nett 65, then Luciano Canestri (67), Terry Dowson (69), Barry Brennan (70), Wak Orr 71, then Lance Coker and John McGlinchey (72). Twos were scored by Paul Goodin (4th) and Barry Brennan (13th). Best Gross score of the day was returned by Paul Goodin with a very good 74 off the stick.

(Just a note here on card scoring: if, when playing in a Nett event, you pick up or have an excessive score, score it clearly on a card by circling the number or leaving a dash. Some players or markers have been doing their own adjustment and putting an adjusted score down without marking it as such. Unless we know, the score you write down – if it is adjusted downwards – will be entered into the computer and you will be liable for disqualification because you've signed for a lower score than you had. Also, you'll still be shown as having completed the full round and remaining in any multi-round competition which, to put it bluntly, makes any draw we do come out wrong. Don't you hate that?)

Sunday 2 October

A busy day on the course as we hosted a large group from Maramarua as well as our defence of the Le Garth Trophy against Waiotira. Both went well, with our Le Garth team managed to holding off Waiotira's strong challenge to win 11-9. Congratulations to those who played and we look forward to a long period of Le Garth retention – a great endorsement of the burgeoning playing strength of our club.

Coming Up This Week and Weekend and Soon



Life Members Summer Twilight on Friday. Tee times from midday till 4.30pm, with two tees used for starting between 3.00 and 4.30pm. There's a Members Draw that jackpots to \$550 this week, plus the chance to rack up your entries to win the golfing trip for two very generously sponsored by Bill and Jono Mabey. *(Every 5 times you play Summer Twilight, you'll get 1 entry in the draw that will be held at the end of Daylight Saving. If you can't wait that long to win, give Bill or Jono a call – they've got a brilliant portfolio of golfing experiences, here and around the world, for you to choose from.)* Get your names on the start sheet as soon as you can – we had a really strong field for round one and it looks like the huge success of Winter Twilight will continue.

Both **Men and Women** play the final round of their **Club Strokeplay**, as do the **Men** (and hopefully we'll have a weather day worthy of such an auspicious event). The Men's draw, as mentioned earlier, is seeded and can be viewed online or at the club. If you're not in the draw there are other tee times available for you, from around 10.30am, so book online or via the Golf Shop.

Our very popular **Signature Homes Canadian Foursomes** is to be held on this coming **Sunday 9 October**. An entry sheet is in the Golf Shop. Entry is just \$30 per pair for Members and Visitors in both the Mixed and Men's divisions and there's an overall prize (from this and next April's event) of a trip for two (accommodation and golf) to wonderful Wairakei. Great cash prizes on the day, get your entries into the Golf Shop very soon. Open to all member categories.

Labour Weekend is not too far off and once again we enjoy the generous sponsorship of **Air Vanuatu** for our annual **Mixed Open**, on **Sunday 23 October**. This year we're planning shotgun starts for both morning and afternoon fields so keep an eye out for posters with more details and for the booking sheet which will soon be in the Golf Shop.

Fundraising for our Course Development programme is under way and there'll be a number of initiatives coming your way. One that's now active is your opportunity to purchase a **Shag Bag filled with 50 balls for just \$79**. We all need to practice more and this is an easy and convenient way to carry and pick up your practice balls, on our range or your own backyard. Kathy in the Golf Shop is co-ordinating this, so see her if you'd like to make his most worthwhile purchase while also making a contribution to our fundraising funds. And special thanks to those members who've donated large numbers of balls to give this idea a really string kick-start. (If you've got hundreds or thousands ... even just a few ... old balls lying around at home, please bring them in and make your own contribution to our fundraising.)

The Shag Bags (and balls) can be purchased online via our club website as well as our UnbeatableGolf website.

Just in case we haven't mentioned it recently, this is one very good, very successful and progressive golf club.

To example how well we're doing (surrounded as we are by stories of golfing doom and gloom around the world) take the fact that, compared to this time last year, our number of rounds played over the past 12 months is up 11% on the previous year. And to put that into true perspective: the average for Northland clubs is minus 5.5%, and New Zealand clubs overall are down by 4%. That's pretty sound stuff and our success is due to a number of things (for which we can all claim credit).

While there'll always be debate on issues that affect us as a club and as individuals, things here are pretty damned good.

If you doubt that, spend a bit time – as we do – in the Golf Shop listening to the tales of woe from visitors from other clubs.

"Membership's dropping", "the course needs work",

"nobody knows what's going on" are typical comments.

The reality is that a lot of people are playing golf but are choosing to do so without club affiliation – so membership of many clubs is declining. That's market reality and we need to understand what's going to happen in the future and be ready for it. That relates to course quality as well as the initiatives that bring visitors to pay the greenfees that keep our subs at such reasonable levels.



SHAG BAG &



50 BALLS
\$79

"If you're going to practice, don't shag around!" - Lazza

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