

HORORATA GOLF CLUB & THE WILLOWS CAFÉ



Newsletter – August 2019

Welcome to this month's edition of our newsletter. Whilst the weather has not been cooperating for us mere mortals to play, our Woodward Cup superstars have been lighting up the competition. With two rounds completed, (at time of writing) we currently sit in sixth place. This comes after a first round loss to the much fancied Christchurch team, and then a great victory over Pegasus 4.5 to 3.5. The buzz around the competition is how the team has hit the ground running and playing some stunning golf. The team wish to acknowledge the supporters who are turning up on Sundays, and from all accounts, our supporters are the largest group. Over the coming editions of the newsletter, I intend building some bio's of our team and introducing our import players.

Competitions

Club Championships are in to the qualifying phase. With adverse weather affecting the last two rounds, the match committee have decided that there will be an extra day of qualifying, this is the 31st August. The Club Champs will now consist of the best **2 out of 4** qualifying rounds, whilst the Stroke Champs will now consist of the best **3 out of 4** qualifying rounds.

Open Stableford Competition (incorporating The Synlait vs Fonterra Dairy Challenge) is on Sunday the 8th September. 11:00am Tee off. \$30-00 (includes meal) Closest pins, longest drives, On Course BBQ. Great prize table, including our friends from Straight 8 Estate Wines, Tattoo Golf, FMG, Repco (Rolleston) and plenty more. Entries are still being taken. Shane.prendergast@synlait.com PH: 021 1949380

Cordylea Cup – There is a catch up round to be re scheduled into the program, so it's not too late to grab a partner and join the action. Keep an eye out for the next round.

Friday Golf – Every Friday, tee off between 1:30 and 2:00pm. \$5-00 entry. Look out for Paul's entertaining emails each week, great for hearing of wonderful feats and absolute howlers!

Central Canterbury Masters – First round resulted in a narrow loss to Tai-Tapu at Greendale. Wins to Shane Prendergast, Allan Hogg and a half to Tony Edwards. Tony and Allan won their four ball too, whilst Shane and David Mansbridge halved their match with a clutch birdie putt on the last by Shane.

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Ladies Golf

Some great numbers turning up on Tuesdays, and the supply of hot soup afterwards from the café is a welcome respite from the cold! Last Tuesday saw Julie Wilson take out the match of the day. This was the final round of "Top Dog" and the seven individual winners will now compete for the prestigious "Top Dog of The Year" final later in the year.

We have four Ladies representing us at The Cowlshaw Cup at Christchurch Golf Club next Tuesday. Raewyn Kars, Pauline Pearce, Nicky Muir and Julie Wilson will be flying the Hororata flag. Good luck ladies, we look forward to you bringing home the cup!

Congratulations to Nicky Muir on being selected in the Pollock Cup. Nicky was successful in winning her match, a fantastic result, well done from the club.

It has been noted that this year has been one of the more successful years for the Ladies. Numbers on Tuesdays are larger and this is reflecting in the level of competition. Come on down, Tee off at 10:00 every Tuesday.

Clubhouse

A huge shout out to the volunteers that are giving up their time. From staffing the office, cleaning the windows, vacuuming the floors and all the day to day running, your help is much appreciated by your fellow members. If you do have some time free, drop in and arrange a time where your help can be best put to use. The office is our first point of contact for most green fee and new members, and is a great way for us to promote the virtues of our club and its members.

Course

There is a multitude of jobs that Andrew and his team have on the go at the moment. The weather is being a bit of an inconvenience, but the team are striving forward. A group of members have been designated as helpers with the mowing over the busy summer period. The number two tee isn't too far off completion, some drying weather would be much appreciated! On the 4th of September there is to be a planting day in the native areas created behind number 6 and the extension of number 4. If you can spare some time please contact Pauline Pearce, this would be much appreciated.

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Course (cont.)

Graeme Harris' merry group of Wednesday monthly workers are doing an awesome job. If you are available for a couple of hours, please get in touch with Graeme at gjharris286@gmail.com. The club is also seeking to purchase our own coring machine. This should enable us to reduce our expenditure in this area each time. You will notice that the 'dead' trees have been removed from the front of the club (footpath) side. It was decided to remove a couple of extra trees on either side to make it more even when viewed from the road. This also enables the clubhouse and café to actually be seen from the roadside and will encourage visitors in the gate. Huge thanks to the team for tackling this job.

Bar

The new arrangement with the removal of kegs to bottles is working well. The club is already starting to see the financial benefits of this decision. With having the member's interests and the clubs, it was a decision that was not taken lightly. Thank you for your support and understanding in this matter. The committee have approved for a new unit to enable the cooler to be up and running again. This comes at a considerable cost, but is deemed a necessity. We can't have warm beer!!!! Feel free to contact James or Al if you have any specific queries or suggestions relating to the bar or supplies.

Junior Golf/Futures Canterbury Selwyn Hub

Currently the Hub has 86 members. Of these 86, there are 13 children and 7 adults that have aligned themselves to the Hororata Golf Club. This is a great initiative for junior golfers and a great way for us to add them to our membership going forward. They have regular events and have a dedicated coach for their training sessions. Many of these children have now gone on to gain official handicaps, and the Hub has four teams entered in the Junior Foursomes Competition. If you have keen youngsters, or know of, please get in touch. Our club contact for the Hub is Simon Williamson. Jump on to the futures link for more information.

https://www.futurescanterbury.co.nz/?gclid=EAlaIqobChMIp7ve3vCS5AIVkIBwCh3eag_SEAYASAAEglw7_D_BwE

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General

It's getting near the time to start thinking about our summer tournaments. These are one of our main ways of fundraising for the club. We are all aware of the added pressures and expenses being placed on households, and the club is no different. Without us running tournaments we would have to substantially increase our subs, and that is something we are reluctant to do. So if you can, please try and support the tournaments where you can, that may either be by entering, sponsoring, donating or helping on the day. It is all welcome. In addition to the Xmas tournaments, we are looking at a machinery tournament near the end of October, beginning of November. The course doesn't look as good as it does without the work from Andrew and the team, and there is machinery out there that we believe can only make it better, alas, it all comes at a cost, hence a machinery tournament.

We are looking for ideas for social events/gatherings after Saturday golf. Ideas presented so far include, quiz night, fun bingo, cards, comedy nights etc. Keep the ideas flowing. These would enable us to utilise the café for proper meals after golf and have a few ales/coffees with mates on a Saturday evening. Speaking of the café, in order for them to help us with food after golf on Saturdays, we are **starting golf all season round at 12:00pm**. This will enable us to finish that little bit earlier, and the café will be able to stay open a little longer. This should be a great win for both members and the café alike. This will commence on **SATURDAY 31st August**. Saturday afternoon's after golf are going well with coffee and hot food being available. We do ask that you please go to the café once you enter the clubhouse after golf, place your order and then proceed to get your raffles and drinks, and fill out your birdies and twos if you're lucky!

I am currently typing this at work, and its 03:30 am. I have a horrible feeling there are things I have forgotten and mistakes have probably been made, so I will apologise for this now. If you have anything of interest that you would like to see in the newsletter let me know. The more information or ideas we can get out to the membership, the more we can learn and grow as a club. With my cheeky, warped sense of humour, I especially want to hear of heroic deeds or horrendous failures!! We all love a good laugh, and especially if it's not at our own expense. Rest assured, I will sensor if needed, and the President has the final proof read before sending to print hahaha.

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An example of this could be like, a particular pleyer was getting ready to tee off on number two (men's tee) when his opponent asked him if he had a spare ball. The player readily replied "I never bring a spare ball up here". The player then proceeded to drive his ball out of bounds into the trees on the left, then ran (a little sheepishly) down to get another ball. He then proceeded to hit that ball out of bounds as well. Another ball was handed to him by his opponent (the one who originally asked if he carried a spare), and the player then proceeded to hit that ball out of bounds as well. Another ball was handed to him, and ended on the fairway. The player ended up leaving number two with an 11 off the stick. It was about a month later when these same two players were in a foursome, they marched up to number two and the story was told with much gusto (not from the player with the 11). After much laughing and ridicule the opponent strode purposely up to the tee and proceeded to smack his ball out of bounds. Déjà vu I hear you ask? It certainly was. The opponent ended up walking off the number two green after recording an 11, exactly the same as his opponent a month before! Oh how the mighty fall Hahahaha. The first player was none other than myself, and my opponent was Paul Cardosi. And every time we are paired together now, we dread number two!!!

Over the coming months I intend shoulder tapping members for a quick few lines bio on themselves for the newsletter. I will also do this for our Woodward Cup team, especially our imports. A great way to learn a little about each other.

Happy golfing everyone, and fingers crossed for good weather. For me it's now two hours till home time, four hours sleep, then off to golf, back to work, four hours sleep, then hopefully up to go and watch the Woodward cup team. Gotta love golf!!!

Cheers

Shane

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