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MANUKORIHI GOLF CLUB



President's Annual Report 2024

I am pleased to present my fifth and final annual report as President of the Manukorihi Golf Club.

As always thanks go to all committee members for their time and contributions to administration of the Club throughout the year, but in particular to Ian Titter who has executed the key Treasurer role with able assistance from Peter Pearce. I must say however that it has been very disappointing and challenging for the committee to operate without a secretary this year, and thanks go to David Butler for informally filling this role. I would also like to specifically acknowledge Robert Butler in his Vice Club Captain role for stepping up to lead the important Match Committee over the second half of the year.

All members owe a huge vote of thanks to the Club's great team of volunteers for their dedication and outstanding efforts both on and off the golf course during the year, collectively giving thousands of hours of their time. Many volunteers have been individually acknowledged in newsletters, so I will not attempt to do so again here. Whilst those working out on the course might be more visible, there are many important time-consuming administrative tasks carried out behind the scenes, and it goes without saying that our Club would not be in such good heart if it were not for our volunteers across so many areas. One particular area which goes largely unseen is our volunteers looking after third-party golf days, which often requires giving up most of the day.

Course Superintendent Brent Stevens left early in the year and we were very fortunate to employ Ryan Blackburn as his replacement from late February. Ryan is very keen and well organised, has settled in very well and has an excellent attitude to his work along with very positive interpersonal skills. He is also achieving at a high level in his extramural turf management studies.

The Club held a number of successful tournaments throughout the year, once again due in no small part to our volunteers who put in so much time and effort to prepare for and run these events. In particular, we were approached to host the New Zealand Secondary Schools Final tournament at the beginning of September, which proved a real success with great contributions from the Club's volunteers over the two days. A total of 63 talented young players from 21 secondary schools all around the country took part, and many were very complimentary about our course and general hospitality, with the whole event enhancing our Club's reputation.

Junior golf activities continued to be promoted, mainly on Sunday mornings, with purple tee markers being put in place on every hole at shorter distances for the juniors. The number of junior players participating is very encouraging and bodes well for our Club. Esther White and Terry Butler are to be congratulated for their efforts in this area.

On the subject of sponsorship, the Club remains fortunate to have a number of generous sponsors, led again by principal sponsor Todd Energy, who, in the current economic climate, rationalised their broad Taranaki-wide community support portfolio and as a result unfortunately halved their annual sponsorship of our Club from \$10,000 to \$5,000. All sponsors are highly valued for their support of the Club and in return members are urged to support them wherever possible by directing business in their direction.

As you will hear shortly, the Club's finances remain healthy in terms of the current account and solid reserves in the way of term deposits and the asset care account. However, with significant capital expenditure this year for equipment and increased operating costs still being experienced across the board, a tight rein on expenditure will continue to be required. In that respect, after development over the last year or so, a course operating budget is now in place.

Congratulations to all members who participated in the Club Championships, in particular the winners, and to those who represented the Club in representative teams and external competitions. The usual debt of gratitude goes to those who organised our competing teams.

The Club's membership level has pleasingly grown this year and is currently around 305. It is anticipated that this will continue to increase as the superior condition of our course and facilities becomes more widely known.

The Club's weekly newsletter remains a very effective communication medium, delivering a consistently interesting product week after week. And Facebook continues to prove a useful tool to stay in touch with various Club activities and events, and in particular any course closures.

Caterer Maree Zimmerman joined us early in the year and has delivered food of a consistent standard appreciated by all. Maree managed to meet the very big challenge of providing 200 lunches over the two days of the New Zealand Secondary Schools Final tournament.

Thanks must go to our ladies for their initiative in organising and funding the new subscriptions noticeboard in the entry area and the two new sun umbrellas for the deck.

On another note, the committee decided earlier in the year to ban dogs on our course after some unsavory experiences when unbagged dog excrement was found in on-course rubbish bins. The dog ban appears to have resolved the issue.

During the year three very important management issues required attention from the Club's executive and committee:

- Another change in Course Superintendent at the beginning of the year (already mentioned);
- Our water resource consent: After a very long and drawn-out process, the Club finally received the renewed resource consent from Taranaki Regional Council for taking limited volumes of water for irrigation purposes from the tributary of the Waipipi stream at the back of the course. This consent will run for 15 years until 1 June 2039.
- Our bar licence: Application for and renewal of our bar licence from the New Plymouth District Council was achieved, with validity running until August 2026.

A significant number of projects, both on-course and off-course, were progressed and completed this year by volunteers, enhancing our course and facilities to a higher level. However, it is acknowledged that two projects of real interest to members have not proceeded as quickly as hoped: the upgrade of the ladies' amenities facilities and the relocation of the Dotgolf facility to outside the clubhouse. Our Club tries to operate in a fashion controlling capital and operating expenditure, and in this regard the committee generally attempts to source experienced project human resources from within our membership. However, this often has drawbacks in terms of availability of such resources, and these two projects have suffered from that - but should be carried out within the next few months.

The Club achieved some significant course equipment purchases this year:

- The new John Deere hybrid greens mower
- The new Trimax Snake fairway mower
- A new hydraulic hole cutter
- A new sand spreader for the greens.

Additionally, the rationalisation of course equipment through the sale of ageing or surplus items has been getting some focus this year.

We were very pleased to receive a major grant of \$50,000 from the Taranaki Electricity Trust towards the purchase cost of our new greens mower. However, for the second time, a grant application made to the Pelorus Trust for funding towards the cost of purchasing course consumables was turned down.

Finally, last but certainly not least, and as mentioned in the newsletter last week, I would like to acknowledge the honour of life membership bestowed recently by the Taranaki Veterans Golf Association on Trevor Hughes, one of our longstanding members and another great volunteer. Trevor has served the Association in a number of ways over a period of 25 years, and his honour is also one for the Manukorihi Golf Club.

Well, after a very busy five years as Club President, I have decided to stand down from the role. I wish incoming President Karl Stratton and the new committee about to be formally elected all the very best for 2025.

Thank you.

Richard Crowe

9 December 2024