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Akaroa Golf Club Inc.

*“Over the Creek”*

***Spring 2017***

**Club Newsletter**

**Welcome To our Newsletter - Spring 2017**

*“Keeping all of our valued members in the loop”*

**Hello Everyone** -

For the non Akaroa based and overseas members, you’ve probably heard that the past winter was one of the wettest in living memory. The peninsular has been battered with storm after storm starting back at Easter and continuing through to early October. Even the farmers were crying enough is enough months ago. Our Christchurch resident members would find it hard to believe we’ve had almost double the rainfall of Christchurch and the rest of Canterbury. It’s been a lousy wet year weather wise.

Needless to say the course suffered. Parts of the course were unplayable for months, and the remainder marginal. Those few hardy souls who braved the soggy conditions on the odd dry day, have received the benefit of substantial increases in their handicaps courtesy of their high scores, (not at all reflective of their true abilities) while some ladies chose to play at Kaituna rather than wearing gum boots at Akaroa!!!.

Hayden our greens supervisor has had a tough time of it. Not being able to get machinery near many fairways, particularly holes 2, 3 & 4. And many of the greens he’s passionate about have suffered too. Anyway the good news is, Hayden & helpers are putting in the hours and the course is recovering quickly, not far off being back to normal.

Apart from the lack of golf played through the long wet winter, there have been other downsides, like Green fee and Bar incomes being way down, and it played havoc with the clubhouse deck repairs as well. We sorely need all our members & guests back on the course playing & drinking to keep the cash registers ticking over.



A welcome relief is the clubhouse deck its now repaired and back in-use again, just guttering to be added. It was finished the day before the Lions Tournament. Phew!!

It got a great workout on Tournament day. The structural change to a steel beam and uprights providing greater support loads and additional lifespan. Thanks to Kevin Simcock for his engineering expertise and direction.

A number of members volunteered their time and expertise with the steelworks, cutting, welding, and assisting the contractors in the final re-assembly. A big Thank You to everyone involved.

A young man and a priest are playing a game together. At a short par-3 the priest asks, "What are you going to use on this hole, my son?"

The young man says, "An 8-iron, father, how about you."

The priest says, "I'm going to hit a soft seven and pray."

The young man hits his 8-iron and puts the ball on the green.

The priest tops his 7-iron and dribbles the ball out a few yards.

The young man says, "I don't know about you, father, but in my church, when we pray, we keep our head down."

**Committee:**

Two of our long standing committee members Paul Le Lievre and Ken Elliott retired from office at the September AGM. Their contribution to the club has been immense. They leave knowing they’ve helped keep the club fit & healthy, and in a sound financial position. A big thank you from all of us for your time & guidance.

**New Committee:**

Club Patron Barry Brownie

President Gary Knight

Club Captain Ian Whenmouth (Chicken Club Coordinator)

Treasurer Garth Tiffen

Womens Captain Judi Grant

Womens Vice Captain Meg Errington (Marketing & Media coordinator)

Greens Supervisor Jon Clark

Committee Hamish Vogan (Course Construction coordinator)

 Diane Kay (Events Catering coordinator)

 Marg Jones (Club Assets & Grants coordinator)

 Lindsay Brown (Twilight coordinator)

 Hugh Flaus (Sponsorship & Social coordinator)

We’ve also co-opted John Kelland & Ben Hutchinson to non committee positions, to organise “Dads Army” volunteer projects around the course from time to time, as well as Hamish Kay to perform surgery on broken machinery, repairs & maintenance.

A gushy reporter told Phil Mickelson, "You are spectacular, your name is synonymous with the game of golf. You really know your way around the course. What's your secret?” Mickelson replied, "The holes are numbered."

**Health & Safety:**

Recent changes to the H&S act is having a big impact on all PCBU (persons conducting business undertakings) throughout New Zealand, particularly on small businesses and golf clubs like ours. The new requirements are seriously onerous requiring significant amounts of time and cost to set up policies and establish new ongoing protocols. Failure to comply with the new regulation requirements will, in the event of an accident on club property, incur massive fines and compensation payments.

The powers that be are actively making examples of non complying businesses where ever they can, in the hope of getting the Health & Safety message across. Golf clubs have been in their sights, with a couple of clubs in serious trouble. The kind of fines we’re talking about would not only break our club financially, the fines can extend to our club officers and committee personally.

Its no wonder the committee are taking this matter seriously. It’s not something we can pass off or ignore anymore. We’re told ignorance is no defence. All it takes is an accident reported to ACC or Work-safe NZ, and the investigations start.

We’re now required to document all risk areas, notify all players particularly visitors of risks areas; keep plant & machinery registers, service records & manuals etc. etc. Doing everything possible to keep our staff, members and visitors safe, and recording everything. The requirements and recording are now a significant item on the agenda of all committee meetings.

In a nutshell *Common Sense* *Safety* has “left the Building”. It now has to be catalogued, documented and printed for everyone. It could be likened to the impact GST had on small businesses only worse. I guess we’ll all get used to it in time…..

Please note: In future if the Captains or match committee make a call to stop play because of bad weather on the grounds of safety, all players must comply immediately.

A golfer teed up his ball on the first tee, took a mighty swing and hit his ball into a clump of trees. He found his ball and saw an opening between two trees he thought he could hit through. Taking out his 3-wood, he took a mighty swing. The ball hit a tree, bounced back, hit him in the forehead and killed him. As he approached the gates of Heaven, St Peter asked, "Are you a good golfer?"

The man replied: "Got here in two, didn't I?"

**Lions Tournament:**

Due to Health & Safety issues with poor state of the course and deck repairs, the tournament was postponed from October to the first Friday in November,. It will be a fixture on that date from now on.

For the event, the weather gods shined on what was the best week of the year so far, with blue skies and hot temperatures. The course was in good shape and we had a great day.



The Lions Golf tournament is their second major fund raising event each year, raising $16,000.00 this year through sponsorships, entry fees and raffles etc. This year the beneficiaries were split between the Wespac Rescue Helicopter and the Akaroa Health Hub (both under different names) they received $5000 each, with the remaining $6000 for community projects and beneficiaries.

**Drop Zones:**

During the lions tournament we trialled using a compulsory penalty drop zone on the “Stumpy” 13th hole in an effort to speed up play. Players who hit their ball into the creek were required to proceed to the compulsory drop zone to play their 3rd shot. They were also asked not to retrieve their ball from the creek, as it would hold up the group behind from hitting up and could be dangerous. (H&S issues) It was suggested to use an old ball if they were concerned at loosing a good ball in the creek.

It worked a treat! There were no hold ups and players were satisfied donating their “in the creek” ball to the club. We received many positive comments afterwards and no negatives. Its an simple solution for busy tournament days. It and allows payers to get over it quickly and move on without injury or upset. Happier players = more repeat business.

It will surely be used in future, as recommended in the new rules coming in 2019.

There are only two times when a man doesn't understand a woman:
Before marriage and after marriage.

**Womens Stroke Championships:**

On 1 November 2017 the Ladies had the final of the Stroke Championships (best 2 out of 3 gross rounds).  Carmen McCormick was 1st in the Silver Division, Diane Kay and Judi Grant were 1st equal in Bronze l and Judy Reynolds was 1st in Bronze ll.  Judy Reynolds also won the Grace Thacker Trophy  (best 2 out of 3 Nett rounds).

**The Busy Summer & Tournament Season** and major events are already upon us starting with the Lions, closely followed by:-

* *The Womens Open Tournament sponsored by Sharpies Golf, South City, with a Sharpies womens golf clothing display on course - Wed. 22nd November.*
* *Closing Day - Merv Blackwell trophy and Vice Presidents Cup - Sat. 25th November*
* *Womens Closing Day and Carmen McCormick Rose Bowl - Wed. 6th December.*
* *Mens New Year Tournament sponsored by Clark Boyce Lawyers and Miles Construction - Mon. 1st January 2018*
* *Womens “Wine & Roses” - Wed. 3rd January*
* *Battle of the Bays - February date TBA*
* *Our Annual Major Tournament Sponsored by SRB Law and Mahar Charitable Trust - March date TBA*

Why are hurricanes & Cyclones usually named after women?

Because when they arrive, they're wet and wild, but when they go, they take your house and car

**Twilight Golf:**

Got underway last Tuesday with a modest sized field. This year Lindsay Brown has taken on running the show, with assistance and support from last years shoot out champion Jill Lockett, together with Fran.

We are continuing the successful new formula of starting from 3pm through to 6.00pm and with 9 hole and 12 hole competitions to be completed by 8pm. Lindsay is cooking up some ideas to encourage more 9 hole players to the evenings, with finals and trophies at the end of the season.

While Twilight it is a competition by name, the intention is that the evening is as relaxed and casual as possible, with the emphasis on fun and socialising and not so serious competition golf. It’s a great starting point for new and returning players without the pressures of competition golf.

A woman applying for a job in a **lemon grove**

**seemed way too qualified for the job.**

**"Look Miss," said the foreman, "have you any actual**

**experience in picking lemons?"**

**"Well, as a matter if fact, yes!" she replied.? “I've been divorced three times.**

**Stableford Scoring System**

Condensed from a story by Martin Blake & Golf Australia

Millions of golfers around the world are familiar with the Stableford scoring system that often saves them from embarrassment on a tricky hole and speeds up play. But hardly any players know any history about the inventor or its invention.

His name was Dr Frank Barney Gorton Stableford. He created the system while playing his golf in South Wales UK in 1898. Ironically though, his system took a long time to catch on. It was not until 1932 the system became a golfing byword. Dr Stableford is known as "the patron Saint of club golfers''.

For the uninitiated, Stableford scoring - zero points for a net double bogey, one point for a net bogey, two points for par, three points for birdie and four points for net eagle - changed club golf immeasurably since it allowed the average golfer, prone to meltdowns on the odd hole, to compete with a reasonable score, in acceptable time.

If a player can no longer score stableford points on a particular hole, they merely pick up the ball and mark a 'wipe' on their card, and move on. Their whole game is not ruined by the odd bad hole, as it often is in stroke play.

Dr Stableford was an eminent war doctor and surgeon in his own right, and a plus-one handicap golfer. He went off to the Boer War in South Africa to tend the wounded as a doctor, then to a conflict in Somaliland and again served the British Army in World War 1 in Malta and southern Italy, treating soldiers who had returned from the conflict in Gallipoli.

In those intervening years his system went through a few complicated iterations that didn’t work particularly well. However in 1932 around the same time as the introduction of the stroke hole index system, the two systems worked superbly well together.

Today Stableford play is commonplace in New Zealand, Australia and throughout the United Kingdom as well as many other golfing nations, though surprisingly not so much in America. “If the millions of club golfers have not offered up a prayer of thanks to Dr Stableford, they ought to have”.

A priest, a doctor, and an Australian were waiting one morning for a particularly slow group of golfers.

The Aussie fumed, "What's with those guys? We must have been waiting for fifteen minutes!” The doctor chimed in, "I don't know, but I've never seen such inept golf!"

The priest said, "Here comes the green-keeper. Let's have a word with him." He said, "Hello George, what's wrong with that group ahead of us? They're rather slow, aren't they?” The green-keeper replied, "Oh, yes. That's a group of blind firemen. They lost their sight saving our clubhouse from a fire last year, so we always let them play for free anytime."

The group fell silent for a moment.

The priest said, "That's so sad. I think I will say a special prayer for them tonight."

The doctor said, "Good idea. I'm going to contact my ophthalmologist colleague and see if there's anything he can do for them."

The Australian said, "Why can't they play at night?”

*Cheers For Now and happy golfing!*

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