



The Russley Chat



Issue No 11—January 2010

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Board Room Chat

Welcome to golf at Russley for 2010. It is the time of the year to really enjoy our golf – wonderful course conditions, a busy time in the golfing programme and hopefully good settled weather.

Currently, the main areas of focus for the Board are:

Club House Upgrade

We outlined in last year's annual report and at the AGM the alternatives available:

1. To upgrade and modify the current members' lounge and function area
2. To move the members' lounge into the current administration/locker room area and thereby create a much larger function/conference area and give us the opportunity to significantly increase the profit earned from functions and conferences and gives us a much improved and comfortable members' lounge with a great view of the course.

The Board will review the proposals being prepared for these alternatives and present a recommendation to members at the June 2010 Special Meeting.

Memorial Avenue/Russley Road Intersection

The New Zealand Transport Agency has prepared their plans for the flyover along Russley Road. This project will require 6000m² of our land, which will include the 16th hole tee area and the land at the back of the 15th green. The traffic volume to and from the airport is overloading the present roundabout, therefore it is likely we will become involved in valuation negotiations regarding our land in the near future.

Our Course Development Committee is currently working on course layout options. It is likely this will also be a matter for our 2010 Special Meeting Agenda. An important objective will be to achieve any course layout alterations without interruption to playing the full 18 holes during the construction period.

Geoff Bailey

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The Russley Trust

The Russley Golf Club Development Trust was officially launched at the AGM at the end of November 2009, just two months ago. The Trustees are delighted to report that immediately some members came forward with donations, or pledges to leave something in their will.

It is recognized, however, that building up an investment fund that will allow the Trustees to grant the club development funds for specified projects, is a long term project that will take a number of years to achieve. As part of this process the Trustees need to develop an awareness and understanding of the trust and its objectives.

Presently our Trustees, Graham Blane, Bruce Fraser, John Dunstan, Sue Angus and Martin Hadlee are considering a number of possible options to do this and start a fund raising momentum.

Members are asked to speak to any one of the Trustees if they would like more information or pass on ideas as to how the Trust may be successfully developed. The Trust is seen as a long term part of the successful development of the Russley Golf Club and as such members are encouraged to be involved.

Greenkeeper's Chat

A Happy New Year to you all.

Mike and I believe that the quality of the playing surfaces is the best we have seen on the course. However we also agree that there is always room for improvement and our team will continue to work hard to enhance the quality of the course. Our view has been confirmed by the positive feedback we've received throughout the year. We do appreciate your feedback whether it's good or bad, so please feel free to let us know.

The weather has varied dramatically over the past month and whilst there may be a few miserable holiday makers out there the recent climate has been ideal for the Golf Course. Apart from the high winds, the rainfall has provided ideal conditions for the greens and fairways and subsequently there has been less pressure on our irrigation system.

The Green Keeping team has been extremely busy over the past week, and we expect this to continue over the next month as we prepare for the two qualifiers: the Russley Open and the Ladies Press Invitational. We fully anticipate that the course will be in excellent condition for these tournaments.

We will be coring the greens on the week of the 8th March and fairway coring will commence the week after. The entire process will take up to three weeks, and as usual we will ensure that there is minimal disruption to your golf.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Noel Hill for achieving a Merit Award for his first year Green Keeping course. Well done Noel, keep up the hard work!

On behalf of the Green Keepers, I hope you all have a great start to the 2010 season, and continue to enjoy your playing experience here at Russley.

John Jones 21C



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Ladies' Chat

2010 is well and truly underway and we hope the weather improves somewhat as our golf season commences.

As usual it is a pretty busy time at the start of the year with Interclub starting on 8th February and qualifying for Fendalton Cups the same week. For those players playing interclub there will be some coaching sessions (9 and 18 hole) so keep an eye on the board to sign up for those. We have moved our Bronze Tournament from February to May 3rd, as we feel it was too early in the season last year and that is why we did not get enough entries. We would have liked to hold it a little earlier than May but the Canterbury Calendar is so busy we could not get a spot. The NZ Women's Open is being held February 25-28th with a Strawberries and Champagne evening event here at Russley on the 23rd. There is a preliminary event at Pegasus on February 9th which you can enter and win good prizes plus the opportunity to win a place in the Pro-Am. Entry forms are on the board in the foyer.

Also I am sure there will be a call for volunteers shortly. The Press Invitational tournament is being played at Russley 6-7th February so should be some good golf to watch.

Unfortunately there is a mistake in the front of the programme booklet with my and Mary Bullock's phone numbers, so please change these, mine is 337 0417 and Mary's 366 8741

The course is in great condition and I look forward to seeing you all on Opening Day. Come and talk to us about any ideas you may have for our golf programme. We are here to help you make your golf more enjoyable.

Tricia Riddolls

Men's Chat

Welcome to 2010. It is my privilege to be the new men's club captain and to my predecessor Nick Lindo I say "thank you for a job well done".

The 2010 men's committee is Steve Garland, Bob Macgregor (Vice Captains) Steve Kilpatrick, Gary McAuley, Maurice Ford, Irvine Paulin and new member Roger Brown. Club members are encouraged to get to know their committee members and freely pass on to them any thoughts and concerns.

No doubt 2010 will present challenges for us, the first being the Russley Open which is scheduled for 31st January, a date that unfortunately clashes with the New Zealand Open. The Russley Open is our premier event of the year. The field is limited to 96 top players and forms part of the double-header with the Clearwater Classic.

Another issue that must be addressed following the decision by Canterbury Golf to change the Blank and Simon interclub competitions to a home and away format played on a Saturday rather than as in the past, on a Sunday, is the provision of a meaningful alternative competition for our interclub players. To this end the committee has appointed Peter MacDonald and Steve Garland to liaise with other Christchurch based clubs to investigate possibilities and to make recommendations.

Autoscore: Generally players score cards have been completed reasonably well but regrettably over the past couple of months this has not been so. Please take the time to complete the "Lotto" numbers accurately and mark the appropriate number with a firm vertical line. Remember that the people processing the cards are volunteers, not servants and are deserving of your courtesy.

Congratulations are extended to Russley members Shaun Jones, Keelan Kilpatrick, Harry Bateman and Owen Burgess on their Canterbury Golf Team selections.

Our thanks go to Mike Yorston and his team for providing us week in and week out with a course that is groomed consistently to a very high standard. Members can also do their bit by ensuring they repair divots and pitch marks when playing the course. Please remember that the carrying of a sand bucket and a pitch reparer is a must, not optional.

Finally, do make sure you have a sound knowledge of the rules of golf. Don't make them up to suit yourself as you go about your round, or worse still, rely on your opponent to help you out of a spot of bother!

Stan Radford

Pro Shop Chat

As members of Russley, we are extremely fortunate to have such a fantastic practice facility. It is by far one of the best in the country and provides an opportunity to practise and develop all areas of the game, from 2 metre putts to 250 metre tee shots. The short game greens have both flat and undulating areas and provide an opportunity to practice from firm lies, fairway grass, rough, and bunkers and we have a great driving range for the less important but more fun areas of practice.

As our Golf Learning Centre develops, you can expect to see a much more organised and structured pitching area where you can learn your distances and practice your accuracy from 30-90 metres. Goal posts on the practice fairway will be at 175 metres so you can practice and measure your driving accuracy.

We are also working on irrigating the teeing area of the practice fairway to allow a better grass surface. In addition we are looking to purchase a ball collection machine so range balls can be collected quickly later in the day; this will allow players to practise later into the beautiful summer evenings.

Since all areas of our practice facility are grass, it is vital that all users take care of the range for the benefit of everyone. Please make sure that you always practice in between the roped teeing area and sand your divots after practice. Remember as a Russley member, this is your area and has to be cared for like we care for our course. Come and buy a bucket of balls this week and make the most of this great facility we often take for granted. Happy New Year from the Pro Shop Team.

Pro Shop Staff

Catering Chat

With just a couple of weekends into the New Year, we've had two wonderful weddings. This wedding season is a bumper one in comparison to previous years! The weather is not "playing ball" on these special days, but we can report back, happy customers and with that, great PR for the Club. The conference business commences in February and the forward bookings look promising.

The mid month Twilight evenings have really been very successful, with an average of 70 meals being served. The live entertainment is an enjoyable change. The next two Twilight Happy hour dates are the 17th February and 17th March!

Another date to diarize is the **21st February from 1pm for the next Christchurch Musicians' Club Road show**; join us for a fun filled afternoon with great entertainment.

The social club will be meeting soon to set the 2010 calendar. It's almost time for another "Battle of the Brains" Quiz Night, so we will keep you posted on upcoming events.

The Catering Staff