



# The Russley Chat



Issue No 8 - June 2009

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## Board Room Chat

The high number of computer Tee bookings made each day at 7.00 am shows many of us are enjoying the great winter condition of our course, despite some really cold days.

This newsletter will be published around the time of our mid year Special General Meeting on Tuesday 30 June. This is an opportunity to briefly mention some of the matters we will cover in detail at the meeting.

At Russley we are withstanding the economic slow down extremely well.

1. Our membership numbers are up overall, in particular the men's full membership category is well ahead of the same time last year.
2. The 'Come and Learn' programmes are very well supported and Rod Gordon has focused on helping these golfers handle the challenging transition from lessons on the practice area to the course.
3. The recent Quiz Night was a very successful social evening, with over 150 members and friends working their way through the varied questions. This was a new format for a social event, which is likely to be repeated again next year.
4. Our trading activities are handling the tough economic conditions very well, with the Function, Café and Bar profit at the budgeted level. The Pro Shop profitability is ahead of last year and in co-operation with our suppliers, Ritchie is bringing some very good equipment offers to customers.
5. Project work – the first Tee Assembly Area upgrade work will be undertaken in the Spring. The Club House refurbishment project plans are being developed. The challenge is to get the best balance between our financial budget and the final design. When a plan has been developed it will be available for members comment.
6. The next major event for the Club is the Mid Winter Tonk on Sunday 5 July 2009.

**Geoff Bailey**



## Editor

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## Pro Shop Chat

For those of you who have noticed the new face in the Pro-Shop, I would like to introduce Matthew ("Matt") Holten. Born and raised in Te Aroha, he has been playing golf since the age of eight. Matt won his first National Amateur title, the Waikato Stroke-play at age 16, including an albatross (2 on a par 5) in the final round. Matt went on to represent NZ as an amateur between 1998 and 2006. In 2006, Matt began his career as a touring professional on the Asian and Australasian PGA Tours, where he had some fantastic results. He is married to a Christchurch girl, Jocelyn, who plays off a 3 handicap. Matt is looking forward to gaining his status to play in Canada or Europe next year. In his quiet times, he has kindly offered to join the Pro-Shop team. He has an incredible amount of knowledge as he has been taught and worked with some of the best trainers in the world. Matt has a real passion for helping any level of golfer enjoy the game and he is proving a fantastic member of our staff. Drop in and say hi to Matt on your next visit - just don't challenge him to a game off the stick!

**The Proshop Staff**

## Gift - Defibrillator at Russley

Two very generous members have purchased a defibrillator for the club to use in case of a heart attack emergency on the course or in the clubhouse. It is now housed in a new emergency medical cabinet in the main entrance foyer. Rapid use of a defibrillator in the case of a heart attack emergency improves the patient's chances of recovery significantly, so we are fortunate to now have this at our disposal. All the staff have been instructed in its use and on Thursday July 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3pm, after ladies golf, St John is coming out to provide all members with a demonstration on the proper use of it.

## Catering Article (continued on next page)

With end on June insight as we head into the second half of 2009 catering at Russley is on the 'up and up'! Although the current financial climate is challenging we are happy to report business remains constant, with June being an exceptional month in comparison to last year. Promoting WINTER Dinner functions have assisted the P&L, especially hosting the Rotary Change over dinners. Weekday Conferences keeps the coffers ticking over. The demand remains positive and on a number of occasions we simply don't have enough space to meet this demand. We are fortunate enough to have a perfect location to facilitate these bookings and have become a venue of recommendation especially from the Health and Educational sectors that utilise Russley in various forms monthly and at times consecutive days at that. Our biggest challenge is managing the facility to accommodate function requests and members pre and post golf Café and Bar needs. As we proceed into the concept design phase of the Clubhouse upgrade proposal we recognise the need for proper sound proofing/noise management from the rooms.

.....Continued on the next page.....



# The Russley Chat



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## Men's Chat

Warm congratulations to all four Club Champions:

Senior: Andrew Dufton - for the third time in five years!

Intermediate: Lex Clarke

Junior: Trevor Knight

Masters: Frank Thomas

And commiserations to the runners-up, Jordan Pentecost, George Turner, Ik Su Lee and Jack Barber. All matches were played in the competitive but always sporting spirit we expect at Russley. The Championships, in general, went smoothly with only the occasional 'unnecessary' default. People who enter such competitions should do so not on the premise they will have lost by a certain date; rather that they are available all the way to the final.

Now we are in the proverbial 'depths of winter' daylight is in short supply. To ensure as many golfers as possible get 18 holes before dark I would ask - again - that a few 'rules' be followed.

- 1) Play 'ready' golf. If you are in a position to do so safely, play your shot and make your putt. There is no need to wait.
  - 2) DO NOT sign cards on the green or anywhere near it. Make sure trundlers are not left in the front of the green making it impossible for those behind to play their approach shots.
  - 3) The first person to have puttied out must proceed at once to the next tee and hit off, as long as it is safe to do so.
  - 4) The lowest handicapper of the four (three) must act as unofficial 'marshal' and be responsible for ensuring his 'team' keeps up with the one in front.
  - 5) Reduce the number of practice shots and the time you take to select a club, look into the distance - and the future - walk back to your bag, select another club and then, at last begin your shot-playing routine. Behind you there will be others keen to get to the shelter of the Club House before it is pitch dark. Multiply that ritual and what do you get? SLOW PLAY. There just isn't time for such self-indulgence.
  - 6) Think of others; do what you can to be efficient and time-conscious on the course without causing yourself unnecessary stress. It can be done. *SLOW PLAY TENDS TO BE IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER*
- Many who complain about it are themselves 'proven' slow players. There are, too, those 'in denial' who fail to see they are the cause of the hold-up, neither their playing partners nor those ahead....but them. Examine your own play before blaming others for being slow.

## AWARDS

A winter-warming awards ceremony was held at the club on the evening of June 13th when our own victorious juniors, as well as those from other Canterbury Clubs, were rewarded for their achievements.

Here's news of the last-minute triumph of our Metro 'A' team who won their last match when they had to and Coringa failed to win theirs!

Finally I urge you to sign your card before handing it in to be processed. This tendency not to do is spreading like our own epidemic through the club. Without two signatures – yours and your markers – a card can be discounted; a large number now have been.

Stop Press. Congratulation to 'righties', Lex Clarke and Paul Hoffman who beat 'lefties' Chas Cruse and Vern Guy 6 and 5 to win the C&W Cup for 2009.

**Nick Lindo**

## Ladies' Chat

Despite two cancellations because of bad weather, interclub has reached the finals stage and we have one 18-hole team represented. Our other team just missed out qualifying in the final round. Our 9-hole teams are still doing well with one team at the top of the table. We were delighted to see that Jenny Sim was awarded Female Junior Golfer of the Year by Canterbury Golf, and that Maddi Hill Lovett was chosen to represent Canterbury in the SI Age Group Interprovincials. Also congratulations to Kathy Seaward and Grace Han who have both had holes in one recently.

It has been great to have people turn out to help tidy up the gardens around the course and also to supply new plants. I am sure we all appreciate the difference.

A date for your diaries – we are invited to visit Greendale on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July - a sheet will go up in the Foyer shortly.

Our membership numbers have gone up this year and this has meant a bit of pressure on playing times on Tuesday. By starting at 9am, we have been able to get the required number of tee times. However, as there may be a frost delay you are required to book a frost time as well which will cover starting on No 1 and No 5 tees at 10.30. You need to book on the frost sheet in the pro shop as well as your normal time on the computer. Keep warm!

**Tricia Riddolls**

## Greenkeeper's Chat

The autumn rains have come and gone and we are in the grips of what seems to be a pretty stiff winter. The early snow on the hills has brought very hard frosts for this time of year with the grass growth and recovery coming to a very abrupt halt. Because of this we have brought in the foot traffic management with tape and hoops as well as the red lines to direct trundlers away from the high traffic areas around the greens. These are designed to spread the wear/damage to the grass plant so it can eventually recover from the constant battering it gets from people's feet. Please help to protect your golf course by adhering to these lines.

We are well into our tree removal programme and as you will see from the pegs along the right side of the 2<sup>nd</sup> hole we are just about to start a tree planting programme to replace some for the trees that have been removed but also hide the unsightly buildings that are likely to appear in the not to distant future. It is hoped that it will go some way to protecting their windows from the many golfers, including myself, who venture over there on a regular basis. This is just one area that has been identified for the planting programme.

We have started the construction of some red tees. Some were either very uneven, of very poor turf quality, needed a jack hammer to insert a tee peg or have poor irrigation coverage. We also suffered some turf loss in high traffic areas around the course during the summer so have spent time re-turfing these areas and will continue to do so. There are still some bunker renovations to be done on the winter programme if finances allow.

**The Course Superintendent**

## Catering Chat (continued)

Ultimately we want less disruption (not to mention all the furniture moving around) to the members and their guests. We would like to take this opportunity to apologise for any discomfort over the past few weeks.

What a great Quiz night!! Yup 144 eager Brain boxes pitched up to prove who knows it all!! With Rick McLaren as quiz master and the social committee assisting we all had a pleasant relaxed and fun filled evening.

The next golfing event is the Mid Winter Tonk so please confirm your availability on Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup> July!

The next social event will be the 25<sup>th</sup> July – 'Christmas in July' and for those wishing to burn the candle longer the opening Tri-nations game between the All Blacks & Springboks will be screened LIVE (from sunny SA)!!

**The Catering Staff**