



# The Russley Chat



Issue No 12 - March 2010

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## Board Room Chat

The first six months of the 2009/2010 golfing year finishes on 31 March 2010.

The period has gone well for the Club.

1. The course condition is outstanding and the credits Mike Yorston and his team are receiving from members and visitors to Russley are well deserved.
2. The international golf groups have been accommodated with minimal interruption to members' access to the course. The income to the club of approximately \$30,000 is a better than budgeted contribution to our overall financial result for the year.
3. The Bar/Café and Function Centre has had a very busy and profitable six months. Brian and his team have developed the function business to a very good level and the number of repeat bookings is a clear sign of customer satisfaction.
4. The Pro Shop team has had a very good trading period. Ritchie has worked hard with his team to build a very good relationship with customers; whether the purchase is a golf ball or a full set of clubs. The Pro Shop team has developed their product knowledge and experience to ensure the customer is offered advice and guidance which ensures the purchase is best suited to their golfing skills.
5. The Board and Management Group recently held a half day planning session and from this, specific plans, goals and timelines have been developed for the next twelve months.

The challenging time for our trading departments is the winter period so here's hoping the weather is kind to us.

**Geoff Bailey**

## Editor

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## Greenkeeper's Chat

At the time of writing we have nearly completed the coring of all greens, tees, approaches, fairways and semi rough. The coring, despite numerous machinery break downs has gone well and we are pleased with the way the course has come up. All the greens have since been topdressed, oversown and rolled and should be in ideal condition for the second qualifying round of the Men's club champs on April 10th. The fairways will be overseeded the week after coring is complete and this will cause no disruption to course access and play. We would like to thank all members for their cooperation during this renovation work; we appreciate that play is disrupted for an extended period, however the work has to be done at a time that allows us the ability to clean up as we go and for the necessary growth recovery to take place.

Now that coring is out of the way our autumn and winter programme will allow us to attend to other tasks. Irrigation work is required on a number of tees to improve water application and further installation is required over an extended teeing area on the practice range to assist grass growth and recovery in an area that is subject to a significant amount of use and damage. We will also be undertaking the normal tree removal and planting programme over the winter. The first priority is to attend to the pines that are undermining the path around the seventh tee and in addition we will cut the pine roots on selected areas around the course where they are impacting on the playing surface. The upgrading of two more of the red tees, at the fourth and eighth will also be attended to. This should complete the red tee upgrade work currently required.

Lastly I would like to ask players to continue to be vigilant and repair all pitch marks. The recent coring reduces the greens compaction (as it intended to do) which means that the ball landing on the green will make a greater indentation of the surface. This, plus the fact that the advancing winter period reduces the greens ability to recover, means diligent fixing of pitch marks now is vital to retain smooth putting surfaces. Please make this a priority and put a repairer in your pocket to use every time you step onto the first tee. If you have not got one, ask at the Pro Shop, they will supply you one free of charge.

**Course Supervisor**

## Catering Chat

Well what a fantastic year thus far, functions galore! Since January's report we've been "busy as" as you would put! To date we have hosted 8 weddings, 3 large corporate golf days and 2 birthday evening functions, and besides this the normal monthly Pro-bus groups and daily conferences.

Easter this year is quieter than usual with no weddings over that weekend. Over the 8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> April we have some 340 evening dinner or wedding guests. Café and Bar patronage by the members and guests alike are on target to the budget. Again we thank you for your tolerance with the shifting of furniture and encroaching into the lounge on these occasions as we unfortunately have no alternative space. Twilight comes to an end on the 31<sup>st</sup> March and we will finish the season with live music and happy hour. Non Twilight golfers are welcome to join in on the evening from 6:30pm. So no excuses!

NB: The Christchurch Musicians Club Road show was poorly attended this time round and we will keep you posted on the next event.

**The Catering Staff**



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## Ladies' Chat

We are truly into the throes of competitive golf with all guns blazing in both the Interclub and Pollock Cup competitions. This year these competitions have all been compressed into a few months to beat the winter chill and before the annual winter exodus to Australia and northern climes. We are leading our divisions in the Weekend Interclub, the 36-hole silver and the 9-hole interclub. Our two teams in the 18-hole are having mixed results but are by no means out of the running. The completely new-look young Pollock Cup team have competed well, but are just off the pace at present; however they still have a chance to make the semi-finals. Good luck to you all and enjoyable golfing!

We have also begun our tournament season with the 9-hole tournament successfully run with some men competitors (5) for the first time. Congratulations to Lena Choo who took out first prize in Division 1. Looking ahead, please put May 3<sup>rd</sup> in your diaries for the Bronze tournament and June 10<sup>th</sup> for the Canadian Foursomes. We have made good progress with the Fendalton Cups matchplay, despite the hiatus with coring, and now look forward to lots of Foursomes. First the Nancy McCormack 36-hole Foursomes followed shortly by the Knockout Foursomes. So grab a partner and look out for the lists in the foyer so you to enter these events. Meanwhile enjoy your golf, keep well and have a happy Easter.

**Tricia Riddolls**

## Men's Chat

A full field of 97 players teed off in the club's premier event, The Russley Open. A big "Thank You" goes to the Men's Committee and Bruce Wallace who volunteered their time. Some very good golf was played, particularly by Russley's own Owen Burgess who won the gross section with two consecutive rounds of 69. Michael McAuley, also from Russley, won the best net

section.

The annual Russley Classic ran smoothly and was played in balmy weather but regrettably attracted a modest field of 134 players. Our big thanks go to our family of sponsors, Carl Brooking who raised \$560 through the "Beat the Pro" competition on hole No. 10 on the Saturday and to all the juniors and parents who manned the sausage sizzle.

This year, through the generous support of our sponsor's Deloitte, the monthly medal competition has been expanded and players will now compete for: Deloitte Medal.....Best Net; Deloitte Medal.....Best Gross Deloitte Gross Competition.....Best six of eight medal rounds count

There's a new Golf Rules quiz for Saturday players. The questions are based on real scenarios. Get the golf rule question right and have the opportunity to win a beer off the Club Captain by correctly answering a simple trivia question. It is early days but not many free drinks have been earned so far, and it has not been the trivia question causing the stumbling block.

Congratulations go to Keelan Kilpatrick and Mark O'Malley (recently transferred from Ashburton) on their selection to represent New Zealand in the Under 19 Team to play against Australia later in March. We also congratulate Shaun Jones, Harry Bateman and Keelan on being selected to represent Canterbury in the upcoming SBS tournament in Invercargill. The recently announced Canterbury Under 19 Inter-provincial team includes three Russley players Michael McAuley, Owen Burgess and Regan Kilpatrick. The Blank and Simon Cup Inter-club competitions under the new format of Saturday play commenced last week. Russley is scheduled to host seven rounds over the season.

Peter Benseman, recently announced his resignation as the Russley men's representative on the Management Committee of Canterbury Golf Inc. Peter, for the past 10 years, has worked tirelessly for the good of Canterbury golf in general and has been a strong advocate for the interests of Russley Golf Club. Thank you Peter for a job well done. Peter MacDonald has agreed to be our new representative.

A timely reminder to all players that you must report in to the starter, if one is on duty otherwise to the Pro Shop, prior to teeing off and that you must be at your designated tee block five minutes before your scheduled tee off time. It is unreasonable for a player to be late and then expect the remainder of the field to delay their start time.

**Stan Radford**

## Pro Shop Chat

Hi to all Russley members. My name is Carl Brooking I am one of your four fully qualified NZPGA professional coaches. Prior to my coaching, I traveled to more than 15 countries playing golf. I was a NZ representative at two Eisenhower tournaments, before touring Australasia on the PGA Tour for five years. My love for the game keeps me in the golf industry, and I still play a few pro-ams when they come around this area. Since I have been working at Russley I have met many great people, either for a golf lesson, in the club house or Pro-shop, or while playing on the golf course when I have wandered onto your fairway to retrieve my ball! I am on the range teaching players most days of the week. While doing so I have seen many players' swings and am confident in saying that most are improving or have improved to the point where they are enjoying their game more.



If you believe you could do with a golf lesson because you're putting, chipping, pitching, irons, woods, or game management are not up to scratch, then talk to the Pro-Shop team and book one in with me, or five! You will enjoy learning about your golf swing and enjoy the feeling of improvement.

Here is a valuable tip with you. One of the biggest and most common mistakes I see at Russley is scooping the ball to get it airborne (especially chipping and pitching). This is when through impact, the club head is faster than the hands, and the ball travels along the ground...again! Correction: When turning the

body towards the target ensure the hands are leading the club head through impact. 'Hit Down On The Ball And The Ball Will Go Up!' Trust and commit to it 100%.