



The Russley Chat



Issue No 10—November 2009

Contents:

Board Room Chat

Men's Chat

Ladies' Chat

Caterer's Chat

Pro Shop Chat

Greenkeeper's Chat

Board Room Chat

This year has been very good for the Russley Golf Club. In particular:

1. The Club spirit has been at a high level. I have had regular comments from new members saying how easy they have found mixing with and enjoying the company of Russley members.
2. The volunteer contribution has been particularly high this year. This work ensures the smooth running of all golfing activities, care of our garden areas and many unseen day to day activities at Russley.
3. The course has been in excellent playing condition all year.
4. The financial results were very good considering the difficult economic time.
5. Our top golfers have performed well at all levels and the men's inter club Woodward and Simon Cup victories were the highlight of the competitive golf year.
6. The Russley Golf Club Development Trust has been formed and will be officially launched at our AGM on 30th November 2009.

The challenge for Management/Board and Committees in 2010 will be to take Russley to the next level of excellence.

On behalf of the Board of Directors I wish you all a pleasant Christmas and enjoyable golfing in 2010.

Geoff Bailey

Editor

kathycron@xtra.co.nz



Greenkeeper's Chat

Did you know that Russley has the best **bunkers** in Canterbury? Or the worst depending on to whom you are talking. The raging debate continues on what constitutes a good or bad bunker. Why do we have bunkers? **They are a hazard.** Some would say they are there to penalise you for going in the wrong direction or are there to increase the challenge of the game, whilst others would say they are there purely for aesthetics and most would agree they are simply there to annoy us. Whatever the reason we have 47 of them here of varying size, shape and design, so we are looking at the best way to deal with what we have. "Fill them in" some cry! There is no question that they do enhance the golf course so I'm not sure filling them in will get the vote, however they are a very labour intensive and costly item to maintain and some design issues make this worse. It is not that we don't have enough sand in them but a lot of the sand is in the wrong place. Often we can have half a metre on the edge and not a lot where most of the play takes place. What is causing this? Well the list is long and includes some of the following.

- in some bunkers the base is very uneven so the blowing wind can leave varying depths of sand
- players moving the sand when they play their shots and raking the sand to the edge when tidying their foot marks
- the bunker bike used to flatten the bunkers pulls a lot of sand behind it especially when the sand is wet
- the base sand is often contaminated by the wash out of silt from around the edge

Our greens staff work hard to maintain the condition of the bunkers and push the sand back but it does not take long for it to be displaced again. Unfortunately the bunkers can not be pristine all the time.

As players, we are required to meet the challenge they create and learn to play the shot that lies in front of us.

The Course Superintendent

Catering Chat

Is anybody counting the weeks to Christmas? We in the thick of it at present as functions are happening almost 24/7. We have become experts at moving people and furniture. Once more, apologies to members and guests for the inconvenience this may have caused over the past few months. We strive to maintain good service and catering and bar facilities to all patrons visiting the club.

As we draw closer to 2010, we can report back with confidence, that the catering and bar department continues to perform positively against budget.

Twilight golf is running pretty well with an average of 60 meals every Wednesday, we encourage more members to come in on a Wednesday evening for a meal. Golf is not a necessity and the bonus is that Mid Month Wednesday is Happy hour with Live entertainment, so good food, great atmosphere and cheap drinks there for all.

Big dates to remember; 4th December Jack's Christmas tournament, Sunday the 13th Christmas Ambrose and the 16th Twilight Happy Hour! Compliments to my fantastic staff, who under some difficult times and pressures have cheerfully performed their duties. To all the members of Russley, their families and F and B staff--- SEASONS GREETINGS!

The Catering Staff



The Russley Chat



Issue No – November 2009

Ladies' Chat

The Ladies' Club Championship winners and runners up are below. The Ladies' Captain was away at the time of writing this Chat.



Junior Winner: Lucia Lee
Runner Up: Carole May

Intermediate Winner: Pam Robinson
Runner Up: Tricia Riddolls



Senior Winner: Jeanette Ross
Runner Up: Margaret Ham

Men's Chat

Off-stage, the last few weeks have been dominated by the apparent determination of Canterbury Golf - in the guise of one man pushing his own agenda - to change Blank and Simon golf from Sundays to Saturdays. Such an arrangement would cause us endless problems and, having discussed the matter with all likely 2010 Blank and Simon players, we have said we will not be involved.

At the time of writing the outcome is uncertain. Strong representations on our behalf have been made in person by Peter MacDonald and Steve Garland. It has all been a bit like boxing with a shadow. If ever the well-worn cliché, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" applied it does so here. Should the final decision go against us, some thought has been given to an alternative competition in which we and other local clubs, for whom Saturday interclub play would be equally difficult, might take part.

On a far more positive note, I have some very good news to report from our "junior" ranks. Over the week-end of November 7th/8th the South Island Interprovincial Championship was held at Waimairi Beach GC with five provinces competing: Southland, Otago, Aorangi, Canterbury and Tasman. No less than half the Canterbury team was from Russley: Shaun Jones, Owen Burgess, Harry Bateman and Keelan Kilpatrick, all of whom went through the tournament undefeated. Shaun, Harry and Keelan had three wins and one half while Owen had two wins and two halves. The gross scores for the four rounds were also impressive; Keelan was nine under the card, Shaun six, Harry two, and Owen one over. Many holes were halved in birdies!

The Canterbury Golf Age Group Championships (36 holes) were held on Sunday, November 8th at Coringa GC. Michael McAuley was 2nd in the U16 Boys' 36 hole gross section (154) and Elisha Crosbie won the U23 Girls' 36 hole gross section (159). The on-course, future success of this club seems assured!

For my overview of the 2009 season please see the recently published Year Book.

My good wishes for another year of happy, not too slow golf in 2010. A Merry Christmas to all.

Nick Lindo (retiring)

Pro Shop Chat

It's a very exciting time for the ProShop, Rodney Yee has nearly completed his first year as a NZPGA (NZ Professional Golf Association) trainee. He has had a fantastic year and worked very hard, not only in the shop, but on his golf and his academic study. He is currently ranked second in the country for all year one trainees and with one assignment to go, we are hoping he can sneak into the top spot. Our four contract Professionals are doing a great job and we are very proud of our coaching offer. Having these four Pros means we provide members with great choice. We are presently developing our Golf Learning Centre. Russley will become the brand behind our coaching. By making some improvements to our practice facility we can design and promote a far greater range of coaching. This will allow our coaches to build up their lesson diaries and for Russley to make a stronger financial return from coaching.

Our current 'Come and Learn Programme' has seen a slight change from its original structure; we now run the 'Come and Learn Programme' in two phases. Phase One is ten lessons in a small group learning all the skills involved in the game, chipping, pitching, bunkers etc. Phase Two consists of five sessions in groups of four with one of our Pro's out on the course. This time spent on the course with the Pro will allow players to learn the necessary etiquette and develop their playing skills and to allow them to feel comfortable out on the course among our members. A very important step in introducing new golfers to the club and the sport is to assist them in this stage of their learning. Golf can initially be a very intimidating sport to learn and I think we can all remember our first few tee shots with people watching. Phase Two is designed to break down those barriers and provide a smooth pathway into membership at Russley.

Keep an eye out for FREE TIP sessions on our practice facility. All you need to do is hire a bucket of balls and there will be a Pro on the range to offer quick tips. These will be advertised via the email and on notice boards.

Pro Shop Staff