

THE AVIATOR

**News from
Aviation Country Club
of N Z (Inc)**

SOME COURSE NEWS

NEW GREENS STAFF MEMBERS

We currently have two vacancies at the shed with Tee moving on a wee while ago and then Steve leaving us recently and we will have two new staff members joining us on Monday 9 May.

Both hold turf qualifications with Brad joining us from Ngahinapouri where he was the sole green keeper and Kieran coming to us with a back ground in cricket wickets.

18TH HOLE COMPLETION

The Golf Committee at their April meeting decided that this is not yet ready to open as the grass cover is a little sparse. They will open this as soon as they are happy it will stay open. The patience of our members is appreciated but once it is open it will be a great hole and we are sure it is worth waiting for.

14TH HOLE FAIRWAY BUNKER

For some time now we have been persevering with repairing this bunker after every heavy rainfall but not any more. The cost of maintaining this is just not worth it so the Golf Committee has made a decision to fill this in. The sand is being removed to our storage area or placed in other bunkers around the course. This work has started but now we have been stymied by the wet weather. We need a really long fine spell.

11TH HOLE

We still await the completion of the concrete path from the old men's blue tee to the new men's blue tee and we had a meeting with Adams on 2 May 2011 and they will get this completed as soon as they get some better weather.

9TH HOLE

The concrete path from the back of the 9th green crossing immediately in front of the 10th tee will also be finally completed by Adams once the weather has improved. We need several fine days in a row.

"QUOTABLE QUOTE"

Man blames fate for all other accidents, but feels personally responsible when he makes a hole in one.

GOLF INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

In our March 'The Aviator' we reported that The Grange were in discussion with the airport company over acquiring some land to possibly build a new course and this was being taken to their AGM to see if it should proceed. Their AGM which was very well attended has given approval to their Board to look at all possibilities available to them.

All golf clubs are facing some form of either financial difficulty or declining memberships. Indeed we fall into the latter category with many other clubs.

Also it is considered by all authorities that New Zealand is over golfed in terms of clubs and this can be borne out by the close proximity of clubs e.g. Aviation, Manukau, The Grange and Whitford, Pakuranga, Howick just to name a few.

Our Board has been concerned about this falling membership and through the Think Tank has corresponded with some clubs about having some discussion regarding all clubs futures in these torrid times. Things such as selling some clubs, creating new amalgamated clubs are just a few of the possibilities.

We are in the early stages of discussions with several clubs as to the future of golf in the 21st century and beyond and will clubs survive as they are run today with continued falling memberships. We are not in a position to part with any details of these discussions at this stage as they are strictly confidential. When we are in a position to do so we will let the members know what is happening.

If any members feel they can contribute positively with their thoughts on the topic of "The future of golf in the 21st century" please feel free to let us know by email or speak to one of our Board members. We can not promise you will get a reply to your thoughts immediately but any constructive input is always welcome.

HOOKS AND PULLS

SPRIG BAR

This will continue to open over the winter period and we are awaiting some new beer taps so that we can connect this to the existing system up stairs and bring all 8 beers online in the sprig bar.

DB has agreed to provide the beer pouring towers and we are just awaiting the completion of the paper work for this. At the same time DB are going to provide a new 8 tower bar pourer for the lounge bar upstairs. We hear you say who is paying for all this

With the exception of the tables and chairs which were purchased from raffle funds raised at the Bar all the other expenses have been funded by a very generous benefactor and we are very thankful for this.

LOUNGE BAR

There is a change planed here with the bar top being changed to cater for a new beer tower being provided by DB. This will be a replica of what is being installed in the sprig bar.

"QUOTABLE QUOTE" -

Golf can best be described as an endless series of tragedies obscured by the occasional miracle, followed by a good bottle of beer

CHIPS AND SHANKS

BOOKINGS FOR LOUNGE BAR

We have the opportunity of catering for a wedding party on Saturday 4 June 2011 which is the Saturday of Queens birthday weekend at 4:30pm.

With co-operation from the Women and the Saturday club we will take up this opportunity and there will be a two by two tee start on this day – 7:30am – 9:15am and 11:35am until 13:20pm. The Women and Saturday club will have the use of the first 2 tee start times. The second two tee start times will be for our members other than the Women and Saturday club.

The lounge bar will be open to the members until 2:00pm when it will need to be vacated so we can set up for the wedding. Members will be encouraged to use the sprig bar after 2:00pm as this will be open for them.

This will be the first time we will be putting some pressure on our refreshment systems to see how they stand up and we appreciate all members co-operation during this time. This does not mean we will be having lots of wedding parties in the future either.

NEW BAR PERSON

We have recruited a new barperson to fill the vacancy left by Tony's departure and we hope you all introduce yourself to Meri at the first available opportunity. Meri will start here on May 4th with help from Lisa but will fly solo from Friday 6th May. Please be patient as she learns the ropes and gets to know what our regular patron's specialty is.

HOLE IN ONE – ACCOLADES

3 April 2011	Dennis HARLICK	-	5
22 April 2011	Joe TANG	-	9
1 May 2011	Pule OFE	-	9

Congratulations go to these members.

GOLF COMMITTEE

The men's pennant teams have completed their competitions for the year with some mixed results. The club finals are set to be held here on Sunday 22nd May 2011 with the course being closed until the pennants are over.

Members are welcome to join in as spectators and then have a game of golf afterwards if tee times are available. See the staff in the starter's Office to organize a time.

With these finals being held here Ray has arranged some reciprocal tee times at other clubs so see him to enquire about tees at other clubs that are available.

The women's pennants team continue in their competitions with the "A" pennants pulling out a spectacular 16/2 win over Whitford Park at Pukekohe on Monday May 2nd. Keep up the good work ladies – knees bent, head down etc.

The Business ladies pulled off a great half in very trying conditions at The Grange recently.

PARS and BOGEYS

A young man and a priest are playing 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 when we pray in my church, we keep our head down."

IF YOU CHANGE ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBERS, NAME, EMAIL ADDRESS OR ANY OTHER PERSONAL INFORMATION THAT WE REQUIRE COULD YOU PLEASE UPDATE THIS AT THE OFFICE, BY EMAIL TO aviation@golf.co.nz, PHONE 275-6265 extension-1 OR IN PERSON. Thank you

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