

July 2021

Ohariu Valley Golf Club



Just one of the very many interesting skies we see from Ohariu Golf Course

From the Editor

Hello team, what a strange time, or indeed times, we are currently negotiating. The blessing for us at Ohariu is that Covid has had a limited impact and we have generally been able to enjoy the course and Club camaraderie with limited restrictions. Things can't be too bad if we can still get out and play golf regularly.

The course, as ever, is in great condition and many thanks to Mike Homer for this. *(If you find stones on grassed areas, can you pick them up and throw them away. Will save much wear on the mowers)* I must say that with the more wintry conditions I would have expected the Greens to have slowed a bit. This does not seem to be the case, or am I just hitting the ball too hard?

We are coming into the exciting part of the year with Club Championships just around the corner. Time to get out and start practicing, well for the more serious players in any event.

Robin Semmens

Observations from the 19th

I hope you all had an excellent summer and autumn, making good use of our wonderful course, and getting out and enjoying the great golfing experiences this country has to offer. As is often said these days, we are the envy of the world, operating largely without restrictions within our own country, while the pandemic rages on overseas.

However, there is no room for complacency, and I urge you all to follow our key Covid-19 guidelines for Level 1. Above all else, please remember;

- If you are feeling unwell, stay home, and if symptomatic, get tested.
- When you come to the course, use the Covid Tracer App to scan in.

Now that winter has arrived we look forward to our most prestigious competitions coming up. The Handicap Cup is played during June / July, and Club Championships are in September / October.

We recently completed major tree removal work, which was required to address a significant Health and Safety risk. This involved the removal of some large pine trees that had already fallen, and the removal of an entire row of trees from the edge of the #7 fairway identified as in danger of falling. Thank you for your understanding as we closed the course for 10 days to enable this work to be undertaken safely. We timed the work to coincide with renovation work on the greens. This was a particularly challenging time for our Green-Keeper, Mike Homer. Many thanks to Mike for the long hours he put in supervising the tree removal work while also leading the renovation work on the greens. He was assisted by a number of volunteers who helped restore damaged areas of the course – many thanks to M Goodson, S Jang, M Gaukrodger and P Corbett. This tree work was funded largely through a successful grant, so thanks go to Bill Cooney for his efforts on this.

Bob Sutton, Bill Cooney and Muz Goodson also successfully secured a grant to help us pay for a replacement external wall for the lower clubhouse (kitchen end). Many thanks to Bob for planning and arranging quotes. Now that funding is secured, Bob is starting to plan the build, so heads up that some volunteer labour may be required to complete this work (I've got my brushes and rollers ready!).

Also, many thanks to Bob and a team of Wednesday Wackers who did a great job cleaning down the exterior of the Clubrooms.

We have started the process of replacing our Rough Mower. This is one of the largest purchases the club makes, done on a 5 year cycle. This is when we thank the foresight of committees before us who established the Asset Replacement Reserve fund to assist us to fund our large equipment purchases without borrowing. This process is a team effort, with Mike Homer and John Redman identifying mower options and organising quotes, Bill Cooney leading the process of applying for grants, and the committee confirming funding requirements.

You will have noticed new signage on the course warning of hazards, and reminding players of their course preservation responsibilities. Many thanks to Mike Homer for this.

And finally, please join me in wishing Wendy and Lloyd van der Krogt a long and enjoyable retirement in the South Island. Lloyd will be greatly missed on the Committee and I would like to thank him for all his efforts, especially through the lockdowns. Wendy will also be missed, being one of our top women players of recent times.

Please take every opportunity to spread the word about our fantastic course and friendly golf club.

Happy golfing everyone.

Steve Henderson, President

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Course Preservation and Etiquette

The results of the time and effort put in by our fantastic Green-Keeper, Mike Homer, and his team of volunteers are clear to see. Our course is magnificently presented, and we are all responsible for playing our part in preserving the course to this high standard.

Unfortunately there are a small number of players who need to be reminded of some key do's and don'ts, so here are a few reminders for us all:

Replace your Divots – seems obvious, but it appears still not everyone understands this

No Carts or Trundlers on Tee Blocks

No practice with multiple balls on the course – Please use the designated practice areas to avoid damage to the course proper

Tees must be used on the Tee Blocks – This is a Local Rule to help preserve the Tee Blocks

Do not interfere with the Watering System – If you are out very early and sprinklers are on the greens, please do not interfere with the system in any way

Drop away from Water Pipes – You get free relief from water pipes and hoses, even in a Penalty Area. Please drop away to avoid damage and be careful not to stand on the pipes.

Mashie

After 5 rounds we are lying 4th but only 4 points behind second. Te Marua are leading courtesy of a default by Boulcott. This earned Te Marua 15 points which has exaggerated their lead. Our next game is at Trentham where we play the hosts. Always a difficult prospect playing a team on their home track.

If anybody is interested in playing mashie, please contact me. Email sdhmec@gmail.com Phone 04 9344223.

Mark Casey

The “Ball Catcher” on Hole #3/12

The small conifer to the right of the #3/12 green, affectionately known to some as the “ball catcher” has been the cause of some discussion recently. Is it over or under 2 club lengths in height? Do you get a free drop? Short answer – NO!

When measured correctly (from the base of the trunk, not from beside the tree on the uphill side), it is more than 2 club lengths in height.

To avoid any more discussions, our Club Captain has made a ruling that this tree is over 2 club lengths in height, and therefore a drop will cost you 1 Penalty Stroke.

Interclub Teams

Div 6 - The good news for the season is that we held the grade. Division 6 was won by Miramar with Masterton getting the wooden spoon, so it's goodbye to them and a warm welcome to Mornington who won Division seven and earned promotion. As team Captain I am already receiving notes re Granny's mysterious illness that only occurs when playing away on a hilly metro course.

Worry about that next year. This season the honours were well spread with everyone contributing to our season's success. We got far more away points this season and in the end that's what kept us in the grade. As captain I want to say thanks everyone for ongoing support and availability. To Bruce, our sponsor, thanks and to all the others who prepared food for visitors and did dishes.

Look forward to 2022.

Mike Feely

Div 10 - Another tough competition this year in Div 10.

You know it is going to be a tough match when you see the opposition team list and you realise that their highest handicap is equal to your lowest handicap. We faced a few teams like this during the season and the team handled it quite well at home in the Valley but it was certainly tough going on the away leg. The big clubs have such a large pool of good players to choose from.

We ended up in clear 5th at the end of the season with Shandon losing their last match 14 -1 at home to Te Marua and being relegated for next season. Waikanae topped the table and gets promoted back to Div 9. Looks like Judgeford drops from Div 9 and Trentham comes up from Div 11.

A big thank you to our main squad, Ken Albrecht, Boyd Atkinson, Mark Bowman, Colin Brown, Phil Carter, Phil Crosby, Steve Henderson, Kev Hilder, Fili Liua'ana, Barry Marsh and Takashi Shigeeda, for making yourselves available for the majority of the season and for your support. And a massive thank you must go to our reserve players this season, who made themselves available to at the last minute to fill gaps due to injuries, illness and family commitments. To Muz Adams, Phil Amaru, Gary Butler, Paul Crompton, Ben Hilder, Shane Kinley, Mike Magurk, Chris McMannaway, Prem Singh and Bob Sutton.

To the Ohariu Valley Golf Club and its members, we very much appreciate the support and the opportunity for us to play Interclub golf and hope we have represented the club to a standard befitting of the club.

Fili Liua'ana

Obituaries – Graeme Loveridge and Lester Anderson

Graeme passed away back in February this year. He had been a regular for about 13 years and was always good company on the course. A number of members attended the funeral back in February.

You will have noted from the message sent a few days ago that one of our long term Life Members, Lester Anderson, passed away last Thursday 24th June 2021, aged 95 years.

Lester was a prominent figure in our golf club from the 1960's through to 1988. He was our clubs Junior Champion in 1964, and Senior Champion in 1967, 1968 and 1973. He played Interclub for OVGC over many years, and was the Captain of the B Grade Pennants team when they won the title in 1970. In addition he served many years on the Management Committee, and was Course Convenor from 1970 to 1979. He was appointed a Life Member in 1979.

What a great contribution he has made to our club. Rest in peace Graeme and Lester, you have both earned it.

Photo Gallery



I think he's saying How did you miss that Phil



We need an inquiry – why is Ian Gemmill winning so many competitions?



Roger Kyle Trophy – Tony Kwok and Barry Winfield



Barrett Pate – Takashi Shigeeda and Mike Magurk



Ward Trophy – Joint winners – Paul Inwood, Mike O'Shaughnesy, Ian Gemmill and Barry Winfield.

OVGC Competitions

Weekend Men

Summer Cup Ian Gemmill
Veterans Trophy Ian Gemmill

The McPherson and Bishops Bucket have both started in the first half of the year but are ongoing.

Midweek Men

Jim Murphy Summer Trophy Peter Corbett
Billings Trophy Takashi Shigeeda and Phil Whitelaw
Hughes Mug Murray Goodson and Mike O'Shaughnessy
Ward Trophy (Shared) Ian Gemmill, Barry Winfield, Mike O'Shaughnessy and Paul Inwood
Roger Kyle Trophy Tony Kwok and Barry Winfield
Barrett Plate Mike Magurk and Takashi Shigeeda

Women Competitions currently suspended

Coming Up

JULY

Weekend Men - Handicap and Ward Cups continue, Warren Bryant Round 1 on 31 July

Mid week Men – Cooney Cup and just competition of the day.

Women – Due to Covid and other issues the programme is suspended meantime

AUGUST

Weekend Men - Warren Bryant continues, Hughes and McPherson – Entries for Club Champs close on 29 August

Mid week Men – Cooney Cup and just competition of the day.

Women - Due to Covid and other issues the programme is suspended meantime. If they are to run a Club Championship, preliminary rounds will be in August

SEPTEMBER

Weekend Men - Club Championship, Stroke Play, 2 rounds and Match Play commencing. Kenward Cup if eligible entries'

Mid week Men – Cooney Cup, Merv Rodgers Memorial Trophy and Littler Jug.

Women – Club Championship final if to be played.

