

Well here we go with my eighth, and final, Presidents report. It's amazing how time flies when you're having fun. And there has been a lot of that over these eight years, far out weighing the other side of the coin.

As I have done every year the most important, and first part, of this report is the thank you's. And I do these in no particular order.

But I have to start with Nick and Ian. The work you do day in and day out is exceptional and the course you present to us, the members, is absolutely outstanding. This Winter we really saw the results of the drainage and verti drain work you have done over recent years. I was continually amazed at how quick the course would recover after heavy rain events. We often played on it the following day when, just a few years ago, the course would have been closed for two or three days at least. I also want to make a special thank you to Ian. We all know Nick had three months off this year as he recovered from his operation. During that time Ian did an exceptional job in managing the course. Those of us who work closely with Ian are well aware of the time and effort he put in. You should be justifiably proud of your efforts Ian and you have the clubs gratitude.

Now lets move on to those who sit on our committees. Thanks to you all for your dedication and support. I fully appreciate the time and effort you put in and I know it is vastly appreciated by the majority of our members. Now let me single out a few.

To Bryan McKay, our retiring Vice President and my good friend. The support you have given me over the last eight years is immeasurable and during all that time I cannot recall us ever disagreeing on the direction of the club or any of the decisions we have made. Not only that but the work you do behind the scenes negotiating with various third parties has been a critical part of why our club has been so successful. It doesn't seem that long ago that we sat in that Pub in Edinburgh sampling Scotland's finest when we decided to put our names forward.

To Geoff Milnes our retiring treasurer who has held the position that long that he can't remember when he started, thanks so much for your sage advice and friendship. I am going to miss, as I am sure you will, our monthly discussions as we pour over the financial reports and anticipate what our end year position will be!

While Rex isn't retiring he is taking a slight backward step, in name only, to vice chairman of the match committee. We will all miss your Saturday word of the day but from my perspective I certainly hope we will continue our robust and frank discussions. You have certainly made your mark as Match Chairman and given your all to the club, not least in the area of technology where your contribution has, and will continue to be, immense.

To our membership secretary Gael Jewell thanks so much. And a special thank you to Emily who has been the clubs secretary during all of my term. We have had a lot of laughs, some serious stuff, but through it all you have always been professional and efficient. We are lucky to have you.

To those who are resigning from our committees this year, thanks so much for your time and efforts. To those new this year thanks so much for putting your name forward, welcome, and we look forward to your contribution.

Now to my mates the Woodies, thanks once again for an immense year. The work we have done on No 9 in recent months is probably the biggest task we have ever taken on and as I write this we have delivered 52 trailer loads of wood from that area. While we make a significant contribution financially to the club that is not what drives us, its the pride we take in our work, the results we see on the course and the camaraderie that we share. So to Strachan Adams, Richard Bullock, Kevin Fell, John Gudsell, Geoff Park, and Pat Stevenson thank you my friends.

To Barrie Walker thanks for your support, the work you do leading the House Committee and most importantly as the author of our Strategic Plan. To Kevin Armstrong our creator of He and She loves golf. I know you have been frustrated under Level 2 Kevin but next week you will be underway again and we look forward to your graduates joining the club in the future.

To Pete Cederman and John Frater thanks for the work you do on the tractors, to the many others working in the gardens, helping with the many odd jobs that get done and to those who assist the club in other ways, many of you anonymously, thank you. I can't mention you all here but I do know who you all are and that you are all appreciated.

There is another group who I have not acknowledged previously but I will this time and that's the Friday Club. This is a group of guys who play socially on a Friday in, what is, an event not sanctioned by the club. However they continue to make a significant contribution to the club through their donations. To give you some examples, all the native grasses on No 11 and 18, all the Gabion Water Fountains and Gabion Posts and many of the new trees on the course have all been supplied by the Friday Club. Thanks so much guys.

To Rob and Jenny thanks again for being the face of our club. Apart from your normal tasks the work you do in welcoming players to the club is a vital role and we are grateful to you both for doing it so well.

To our Club Captains Daryl and Sue thank you both for the work you do. You have to front issues from time to time and you both do it professionally and well.

That's all the thank you's, if I have missed anyone my apologies, it is not intentional and I will put it down to senility.

To all those who have represented the club over the last year congratulations. To Mike and his team well done on winning the Sloan Trophy again. From memory I have congratulated you on seven of the last eight years, that's an outstanding achievement. I'm not sure what your formula is but whatever it is it's clearly working!

I now move to our sponsors. As a club we are so lucky to have such a great group of sponsors. To our major sponsor NBS we are so grateful for your continued support. Greg and his team are great to work with and very supportive of our club. This year we have also welcomed New World Motueka as a major sponsor, thanks for your tremendous support Bruce. New World have been a long term Sponsor of our Twilight Competition and we are very fortunate that this has now been taken over by Coman Construction, welcome to Ben Coman and his team. To our partners; Hamish.Fletcher Lawyers and Bowater Hyundai/Isuzu thank you for supporting our club. We are fortunate to have the support of such a quality Law Firm and Car Dealership.

To the many other sponsors who support us, including the new sponsors we have taken on board this year, we thank you immensely. As I have said many times' sponsorship is a two way path. We as a club purchase from our sponsors whenever we can and I again encourage you all to do the same and don't be shy in telling them why you are supporting them, they really do appreciate it. In these difficult times it is more important than ever that we continue to give them our support.

As in previous years we have continued our capital investment and replacement programme. This year we have purchased a John Deere Tractor and a Trimax Snake rough mower. The capital cost of this purchase was \$100,000 and I want to acknowledge the New Zealand Community Trust who kindly contributed \$30,000 towards this purchase. The John Deere tractor, apart from pulling the Trimax, gives us a lot more flexibility with our machinery useage. The Trimax Mower has been an unqualified success as you will have all seen by the quality of the rough. When we finally manage to prize Peter out of the drivers seat the Greenkeepers might even learn how to use it. This year we have also purchased one more golf cart. This brings our fleet to five electric carts, four of which are less that a year old.

The other significant cost this year has been the refurbishment of the interior of the clubrooms. This project started in 2016 when we re-roofed the building and painted the exterior. It continued in 2019 with the construction of the deck. This year the toilets facilities have been renewed, the interior of the clubhouse painted, the fireplace and surrounds replaced, the lighting and wiring replaced, the honours boards replaced and aluminium joinery replaced the ageing wooden windows. Thanks to Barry and his team for overseeing this refurbishment. I think we can now give it the big tick! The number is now

Our membership numbers as at the end of our financial year stand at 440. And as we sit here today that total is 460 This is the highest they have been in my time as president, I don't have figures for prior to my time but I know they were 330 in 2014. I think this increase can be put this down to a number of factors including the flexibility of our membership categories, the way we welcome members to our club and our mass starts and shuffle draws. These all make it easy for members to join and quickly feel part of the club. It is always a bit daunting joining a new club or organisation and the easier we make it the better and I have no doubt that our mass starts and shuffle draws are a competitive advantage for us. And they are also a key factor in our "Friendliest Club in the Top of the South" banner.

Now lets move to the financials. I know Geoff is looking forward to presenting his last set of financial accounts. I won't steal his thunder but it would be very unlike me to not make a couple of comments. Firstly two significant firsts were achieved this year, we exceeded \$200k in subscriptions and \$100k in Green Fees - that is amazing. The second important point I would like to mention is that the Management Committee has now put aside \$100k to be used exclusively in the case of an Adverse Weather Event. We believe this is a prudent risk management approach and while we, of course, hope that we don't have to use it, it is inevitable that at some point we will. Whether the amount we have set aside is adequate we have no idea but the important point is that we now have a fund available. There are two points I want to make in relation to this fund. Firstly when I explained this decision in one of my newsletters I received more positive feedback from members than almost any other decision we have made. Secondly, when I apply for grants now, many organisations are asking if we have a contingency fund for such events and I can now say, yes.

So in summary we have had another excellent year. We are in a position where we have now virtually completed our capital investment and machinery replacement programme. Our machinery would be the envy of most clubs in the country. Our Clubhouse is also now in great conditions and should, baring unforeseen eventualities, require little maintenance in the coming years.

When we take this all into account we are comfortable that we can increase our cost base by employing an Apprentice Greenkeeper and that process is now under way. This extra employee will give Nick and Ian some time and space to tackle the many improvements they would like to make to the course but never get the time too.

We head into another year which is shrouded in uncertainties but we are in great shape to face them head on. And next November we will be hosting the New Zealand Freyberg Masters tournament, one of the prestige events on the New Zealand golf calendar. This is a great opportunity for us to showcase our course to players from across the country. I spent three days in Wellington last week observing this years event which was held at Paraparaumu. I have no doubt that, with the help of our members, we will host a very successful event.

To all our members let me say that you are served by an incredibly talented group of people who give their time voluntarily to make the club what it is. We expect that with over 400 members there will never be an absolute consensus but they work on your behalf and make decisions so suit the majority and to ensure the longevity of our club. It is important that we all give them our absolute support.

In conclusion it has been a privilege and an honour to be your President over the last eight years. I remember when I took on the job I said I would give it 120% and I think I can say that I have done that. What I didn't realise at that time was that Shona was also signing on, but in her case her efforts were more in the 150% category. My final thank you goes to her for the support she has given me, especially during the difficult times, and to the support she gives the club.

I know Bryan joins me in saying that we are both thrilled to be handing over the reins to two such capable people as Pete and Bruce. They have our absolute support and we are both happy to support them in whatever way we can.

It is therefore with pleasure that I present this eighth report as your President. I am very happy to take questions from the floor.

Peter Johnson

President

November

2021