

the waitemata word



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a slice from the driver

Almost a final reminder that all subscriptions must be paid by Saturday 31st May.

Members paying by automatic payment should contact the office to arrange any adjustment required to their monthly payment, or to make a one off payment to square any outstanding balance.

Any subscriptions unpaid by 1st June will result in cancellation of membership and loss of New Zealand Golf affiliation.

Your new membership ID cards and bag tags were held up for some time in China. These have now arrived and are in the process of being mailed to members.

I thoroughly enjoy a game of pool and if Grant Hayward is my partner I will challenge anyone to a game of doubles. The table also brings great enjoyment to members and guests alike. Please respect it by not trying to lift it or tilt it. If it needs to be shifted, please ask the office staff or bar staff before making any effort to move it. My thanks to Alf Dickenson for his care and attention to the table.

eagle eye

Congratulations to Lyn Crowther who returned the best nett score of 70 to be this club's entry in the national Coronation Medal and Aotearoa Cup which are part of the National Home Links series. Lyn's 81 was also the club's best gross score for the Gross Cup. Barbara J Evans returned and nett 72 to be our Veteran's Cup entry.

These scores go to Harbour Golf to be compared against the best from the other North Harbour clubs with the best of those going to New Zealand Golf for comparison with the best from around the country.

The majority of our pennant teams are having a very good season so far.

To follow the progress of our teams, log on to www.harbourgolf.co.nz and click on Pennants.

There were 96 entries for the Women's 9-Hole Open Day which was played on Tuesday. The day's activities went well and were enjoyed by our members as well as the large number of visiting players and the catering was of the usual high standard.

The 3rd and final round of the George Gair Trophy (mixed golf) will be played on Sunday 18th May. The entry sheets are in the breezeway. As well as the overall trophy, there are individual round prizes to play for so you are most welcome to participate if you haven't played in the earlier two rounds.

out of the rough

What a difference a couple of weeks makes. Two weeks ago we had summer conditions and now we are well and truly in winter mode. In the past week we have had over 120mm of rain with 60mm falling on Sunday 4th.

Very heavy rain, combined with a bit of turf loss which was due to killing all the hydracotyle (the weed you see on the 10th green), has made a few greens very soft and this was why we had to close the course for a few days so we could verti-drain (core) these greens to assist them with the drying process. They have dried a lot but we will also put a vibra-mole (slits) in the greens to make them as dry as possible. We will also spray all of the tees and fairways for worms to try and get things as dry as possible.

Because of the winter conditions we also raise the height of cut on all the mowers and we don't mow as much so the greens, tees and fairways can get a thicker cover in order to handle the traffic better.

One job we will do over the winter is to replace a few drains in the bunkers that flood on a regular basis when we get heavy rain.

There has been a dangerous practice going on where players have been walking from the 7th green in front of the 3rd green to get to the 8th tee. There have been a couple of near misses recently so please use the paths and walk around the back of the 3rd green.

We have filled up a few holes around the course with topsoil and then seeded so could you walk around them until the grass has grown please. This also applies to golf carts as several of these areas have been driven through. There is a Local Rule on the board showing relief without penalty must be taken from these areas.

Security of the grounds is a major priority. Please note the car park is not for casual parking and may only be used for members frequenting the club. During the hours of darkness a chain is locked across the entranceway. Any vehicles remaining in the car park after the clubhouse has closed and the chain has been put in place, will need to stay there until the car park is unlocked the following morning.

Free firewood is available from near the greenshed.

If you see a black cat running around the place, don't worry, it isn't lost as it is a member of the greenstaff. His name is Johan.

sand wedge

The last BBQ on Sunday 20th April was the busiest one yet, we got very close to running out of food. Always expect the unexpected.

Roast dinners started again on Sunday 4th May and the new Winter Menu came into effect on Friday 2nd. New items include Lamb Racks, Marinated Scotch Fillet, Fish of the Day wrapped in Parma ham, Chicken Jambalaya, Pork Fillet with brandy sauce and mustard, Ox Tail Stew to name but a few. A copy of the new menu will be available from the kitchen.

Quiz Nights have successfully transferred to Wednesday nights but there is still room for more teams so get hold of some knowledgeable friends and come down to a very warm, comfortable venue with good food, good wine and, most of all, a very good Quizmaster in Mark Benson. It is just \$2 per person to enter and the winner takes all.

The answer to the question in the last issue about the USA's official language is that it doesn't have one, they won't accept English as their language.

This issue's question: What are the names of the Gemini twins?

casual lies

The last word is from the legendary Sam Snead "Give me an opponent with a fast backswing and a pocket full of dollars".

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