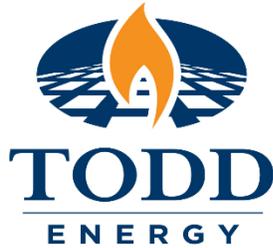


PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



MANUKORIHI GOLF CLUB



7 December 2020

## President's Annual Report 2020

I am pleased to present my first annual report as President.

The last AGM saw a significant changing of the guard leading the Club committee, with the elections of Martin Nobbs as new Secretary, Barry Burns as new Treasurer and myself as new President. This led to quite a few challenges, in particular for Barry as the Club had only just started migrating its financial management information onto the cloud-based Xero software platform. However previous Treasurer Paul Rauputu has supported Barry well during the year, and in terms of providing some continuity to me, David Butler's experienced support as Vice-President has been invaluable.

A main committee of 15 was elected last December, and thanks go to all for their contributions throughout the year, with Jody Bound carrying out the important role of Club Captain and leading the Match Committee. The new role of Health & Safety focal point for the Club was established, with Steven Voyle taking on this responsibility.

Twilight golf went from strength to strength at the start of the year, with many visiting players participating and really enjoying their nine holes early on a Thursday evening – the clubhouse atmosphere was buzzing on many an occasion. Many thanks to sponsors and our organising team.

Well, what can I say about the arrival in New Zealand of the Covid-19 coronavirus in March: the few words possible here do not reflect the hours of time and effort put into managing the impact of this crisis on the Club, starting with developing a Covid-19 Safety Management Plan in line with guidelines from NZ Golf. Hygiene-protection course modifications were required on several occasions as the Alert Levels changed, the clubhouse had to remain closed under Level 4, and a contact register roster was established to manage players upon arrival under Level 3 - thanks to those who volunteered their time to man that roster. It has been a very trying and stressful year for all with this pandemic hitting the world, and unfortunately the saga is not over yet, although our country is clearly doing very well in comparison with others and for that we must be extremely grateful.

The Club held various successful tournaments through the year – once again many thanks to those who organised and ran these events, which we recognise take a lot of time and effort – and in particular in arranging sponsorships and prizes: in this respect, on behalf of all members I wish to thank John and Marie Rayner most sincerely.

The Club is extremely fortunate to have a number of generous sponsors, led by our principal sponsor Todd Energy. All sponsors are highly valued for their support of the Club, and members in return are urged to support them where possible by directing business in their direction.

The golf course's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration day on Easter Saturday 11 April had to be deferred due to lockdown, and a very successful day was finally held on 15 November – sincere thanks to the willing Ladies subcommittee for organising this event so capably. The Club even managed some welcome publicity in the *Taranaki Daily News*.

Congratulations to all players who represented the Club in external competitions, and a special thanks to those who put in the effort to organise our competing teams. Congratulations also to all who participated in the Club Champs, and of course to all winners who will rightly be very proud to see their names up on our Honours Boards.

Many thanks to Sue Nobbs for willingly taking on the newsletter editor role at the beginning of the year and making newsletters colourful and interesting. Two additional features in the newsletters this year were acknowledging each week one of our generous sponsors with some background on the sponsor's business, and a "Rules Corner" where golf referee Garry Johnson contributed some useful clarity on one particular golf rule at a time.

Our Handicapper Robert Butler has continued to carry out his important but largely unsung role in very dedicated fashion, and deserves the sincere thanks of members. But Robert is not to blame for the World Handicap System which came into effect in mid April and seemed to trim about four shots from our course handicaps when our indexes did not change!

Caterer Jan Laurence broadened her schedule this year and has provided great food options for Tuesday ladies' and Wednesday men's competitions as well as for Saturday Club days and various tournaments and other events the Club hosted throughout the year – thanks Jan.

Treasurer Barry Burns will present his report next but suffice to say that the Club's finances remain in good heart due to a tight rein being held on expenditure notwithstanding the number of projects being progressed and course equipment purchased during the year. In particular, in February a second-hand Toro Reelmaster Sidewinder greens surrounds and tees mower in very good condition was purchased, with a greens roller purchased in mid year improving our greens significantly. In the bar, a new point-of-sale smart cash register system was installed in February.

In September, due to his unfortunate ill-health precluding further playing at this time, Austin Wood made the generous donation of his golf cart trailer to the Club – this was much appreciated, and it is intended that the trailer will be made available for all-purpose daily hire by members.

Despite the disrupted year, we were able to progress several course improvement projects including:

- *Bunker refurbishments* – new sand and drainage improvements were actioned on several of our six bunkers. The face of the front bunker on the 10<sup>th</sup> hole is being targeted for improvement too as an effective bunker should provide players with a fair chance of getting out in one shot!

A proposal to add fairway bunkers to the par-5 12<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> holes, and possibly some pot bunkers around the 18<sup>th</sup> green, “lies on the table” for consideration whilst reactions of members are assessed.

- *New hole signage* – thanks go to Paul Rauputu for initiating and scoping out this project, and to John Rayner for then leading it in conjunction with Jim Newlove and David Butler in particular: a lot of manual work was required and the result is an impressive addition to the tee areas on all holes. Placing of paving stones under the signs is yet to be carried out.
- *Shelter by 1<sup>st</sup> tee* – many thanks to Kath Alvis for her generous donation to facilitate this project, and once again to the volunteer installation team led by John Rayner and Kevin Mancer, along with the valuable stainless steel cutting and welding expertise of Bryan Bellamy.

The committee has obtained quotes for upgrading and sealing our carpark, a project that would really enhance the entrance to our Club and add to pedestrian safety. The quoted cost of \$84,000 (excl. GST) for a two coat chipseal finish, as well as providing adequate drainage, would clearly be a major investment for the Club. Apart from allocating Todd Energy’s 2021 sponsorship funding to this project, the committee is pursuing and considering various funding options, including applying for another grant from the TSB Community Trust and possibly seeking interest-free debenture loans of between \$1000 and \$5000 from members, for say a five year period.

During the year I have addressed a range of issues in newsletters, but one in particular that I would like to reiterate is the value of massed and mixed starts on Saturdays in building Club spirit – we all tend to like to play with our usual golfing buddies, but it certainly doesn’t hurt us to spread our wings and play with others from time to time. For my part I have enjoyed playing with and getting to know better some of our lady members.

I must acknowledge Course Superintendent Paul Fairhurst, who stepped down at the end of October after ten years maintaining and improving our principal asset, the golf course. Paul’s efforts have proven very valuable over those years, and we wish him well in his future endeavours. I would also like to thank David Soffe for his continuing good work out on the course, and am pleased to advise that our new Course Superintendent Justin Harper is scheduled to commence work tomorrow – please make yourselves known to him as he settles into his new role.

Most importantly, we all owe our team of willing volunteers a huge thank you for their dedication and outstanding efforts both on and off the golf course during the year, and especially during the last five weeks while we have been without a course superintendent. The condition of our course over this period has been a real credit to those involved. It goes without saying that our Club would not be in such good health if it were not for our volunteers across so many areas.

Overall, it has been a rather demanding year for a first-time president, but I have decided to stand again with a view to consolidating the gains made this year as the Club moves onward and upward.

Thank you all.

Richard Crowe