

NOMADS NEWS

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2008

FELLOW NOMADS

Finally Spring has arrived, we are told that the past winter has been the 4th wettest on record, very believable! I guess with the golf courses not only being very wet but also closed most of the time 99% of us have seen our handicaps slip out (no pun intended) as well, so we should expect to see some pretty good stableford scores coming through over the next few weeks as we start to play more often off our rather generous handicaps.

I guess the biggest NZ golfing story has been the success that Danny Lee has had over the past few weeks. Only a couple of weeks after coming 20th in the Wyndham PGA tournament having received a sponsors invite he goes on to nail the US Amateur! What an achievement and what a talent, surely with his commitment this is the "Real Deal". I suspect that with the amount of time he puts into practising the game he will become a top 10 player in years to come and subsequently bring many hours of enjoyment and excitement into the homes of Kiwi golf supporters as they follow his progress in the Pro ranks on the PGA Tour.

The "Asian dedication" is quite remarkable. At our club (Peninsula) we have a young golfer, Todd Baek, who literally goes to school, walks across the road to our practice range and only leaves at nightfall. A typical example was in January when he returned from having played in the NZ Open at the Hills course and, having missed the cut by 2 shots that morning, was practising on our range at 5 pm. His age - 15!

Michael who??? Maybe a bit harsh, as he also seems to be finding a bit of form lately. Whilst on commitment, how strange has Vijay's month been? For a man who never misses a cut to having missed two cuts in a row and then following up this form with two wins in a row in the Fedex playoffs. From being a guy 'who cannot putt very well' to a player who knocks in a 35 footer followed by a 60 footer 2 holes later, on the back 9 of the last round, no less. The other player who seems to have turned his putting round is Sergio, the guy most of us would probably follow after Tiger, and want to see win a major. On the last 9 of the Barclays and seeing Sergio miss a 5 footer, the commentator mentioned that this was the first putt inside 5 feet that Sergio had missed in the tournament! Dreamland for us mere mortals. Imagine going 63 holes without missing a putt inside 5 feet? If that putting stat was impressive, how was Camillo Villegas's stat of making every putt inside 10 feet in the first 3 rounds.

Your committee recently held an extraordinary meeting on up-dating policies and procedures as a follow-up to a similar meeting held in April last year. This was well attended and all

in all most successful. Once again most of the attention was given to how we can increase membership. Neil Spencer has recently taken on this portfolio and is showing vigorous enthusiasm, with our help I suspect he will be very successful in building up the membership of this club. Imagine, if we each introduced just one new member each over the next year, we would have club membership in excess of 120 and fields of around about 70 players. How good would that be for networking and camaraderie? Never mind how much money our club would generate for those less fortunate than ourselves. At the end of the day it is up to each and everyone of us to make this happen, your committee is fully committed to making this happen!

Whilst on new members I played a few months ago with a long-standing member and we were discussing this very point. He indicated to me that a major stumbling block was the prohibitive cost of getting kitted out. This is not the case today. If a prospective member brings up this issue advise them that it will only cost \$35 for a playing shirt. The chances are that they have a pair of beige trousers and a blue / white dress shirt in the cupboard, however \$130 will get you the trousers and the shirt, and these are of excellent quality and will probably be worn outside of Nomads. The committee does not expect every new member to rush out and spend \$400 on a new dark blue jacket whilst still feeling the waters. This purchase can come in due course and be worn with pride outside of Nomads functions as well. Whilst on dress, a reminder that the uniform order form is on the website and if you need anything then please fill one out and pass onto Pete Langerak.

Quite a few of you have asked me about the possible relocation of Peninsula Golf Club so I will attempt to give you the picture as I understand it to be. I attended the club AGM last night and can give you an up-date. About 9 years ago the club board made a strategic decision in applying to Council to have the golf course reclassified as an urban zone from what was then open space. This was duly approved and allowed the club to sell off unused land on the perimeter of the golf course. Funds received from 4 separate land sales on the perimeter of the course were used to get a new course design in place, known as the Pittman Plan, and fund the redesign of 7 holes to date. In March this year a large Accountancy firm, believed to be E&Y, approached the club essentially offering the club a new 18 hole golf course in Wainui along with a new club house and a cash incentive. That cash incentive is 12.2 million dollars, and the deal would effectively be a 'walk off, walk on' deal. Apparently after 15 'expressions of interest' were received, three developers were identified in what will effectively be the

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start of a housing development along with some lakes and park land on the current golf course site. It seems as though two of the developers have received approval from their boards to run and the third one currently awaits final approval. As of now there is only a heads of agreement in place and a firm letter of offer will be presented as, if and when the third developer comes on board. Should the members vote for the change and accept the offer it is expected that the new course will be completed in 2012.

It will be interesting to see if the proposal is accepted as, along with neighbouring residents, quite a few of the more senior golfers are less than enthralled with the idea of playing a 'championship course' week in, week out. As you can imagine with this issue on the boil, the club house was absolutely packed to the rafters.

By the way the course architect is the same guy who has recently designed Jack's Point. I suspect, with so many golf courses within our cities occupying prime land, that this sort of option being offered to members will not be the last.

The other contentious issue discussed was our annual fees being increased to \$1,100! I guess this issue brings up vigorous debate at all club AGMs.

Whilst on golf courses, am I right in saying that 4 resort courses have gone under over the past couple of months? Those being The Lakes, Kinlock, Jack's Point and Gulf Harbour? I gather the members of Gulf Harbour have purchased that course for 5 mil.

CHARITY DAY 2008

This is, as you are aware, on the 16th of October at Muriwai, only 6 weeks away.

Pete Langerak has received quite a few entries so, if you have not as yet sent in your entry form, please do so ASAP (see attachment).

We are still looking for hole sponsors, \$500 is not a huge amount, not only is it tax deductible but you will also get good mileage and know that your contribution is going to a most worthwhile charity organisation. So please let me know if you or your company wish to sponsor a hole.

This years principal recipient is Kawau Emergency Response. They are desperately trying to shore up their emergency response team with very limited resources and your committee felt that their appeal was the most deserving.

Win Charlebois of the Diamond shop has once again donated a diamond ring for auction and preparations for the day are under control so please participate and ensure we have a full field.

MANGAWHAI HEADS 22/7/08

A most successful 'away game' was held an Mangawhai, and our thanks go to Tony Banks for all his effort in arranging the event as well as David Bell for taking over from Tony on the day as Tony was overseas.

It was great to play on a relatively dry course which was in excellent condition. We had 40 players who mostly travelled on the bus and a good day was had by all. Russ Maloney skinned most of us with an entertaining fines session and the club provided a tasty roast meal after the days play. All this including a light lunch for 60 bucks, oh to live in the country! Jeremy Cooper was in my 4 and as per usual was entertaining to watch. He can never be accused of holding back and I very nearly witnessed what would have been the longest drive I have seen on the 18th. His ball landed on the fly, into the upslope of the bunker, not the first one on the left, the 2nd one! That metallic plate he recently had inserted into his forearm must be spring loaded.

Results:-

Ind. Ian Braddock on 37pts, 2nd Kerry Sharpin 35, 3rd. Mel Clements 34, 4th Neil Spencer 34pts.

Playing 4: Mke McKenna, John Foyle, Dennis Western and Allen Cummings on 126pts.

Ian and Mike McKenna who had 36 both qualify for Gold cup.

NTP: Bill Hanning.

Longest Drive: Giles Maurice our new sponsor from City golf.

2's: Brett Morpeth, Bill Hanning, Ian Braddock, Russ Maloney and Paul Hollows.

Crying towel: Neil D'Arcy Brain. From winning at Manakau to last at Mangawhai!

Many thanks to all those members who helped out on the day, what a good day.



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Golf City, our new sponsors have got a great offer on at the moment. If you purchase a driver from them at either their shop in the city or at North Shore Golf Club you will receive an "Ignite Privilege card" valued at \$300 and includes a 30 minute golf lesson and 12 months access to video analysis. I would have to assume 2nd hand drivers selling at a hundred bucks do not qualify. Still what a great offer. If you are still unsure what your family should get you for Fathers day, Neil tells me that he has some pristine BMs on the floor at the moment, and Team McMillan BMW are open all weekend! You can also have the option of changing the colour should the yellow one not be your cup of tea.

Cheers, see you at Huapai on the 25th of September where we have a 12 noon start. Please note that this a date change. Daylight saving should be about then, start of summer; HAPPY DAYS!

Mel.

PS. Why is golf better than sex? Three times a day is still possible.

PPS. Editor's note from Bulldog – you can also change your equipment when it wears out!



City Golf is happy supporting the Nomads. We would like to invite all Nomad members along to either City Golf in Auckland CBD or City Golf North Shore Golf Club to view our state of the art facilities.

For all your golfing requirements, feel free to call us or pop in to talk to one of our friendly staff at any time.
