

Manukorihi Golf Club
2017 Tournament Report
31st Annual Mixed Veteran's Golf Tournament
Monday 24th April to Friday 28th April 2017

Another successful Mixed Veteran's Tournament is over.

The weather gods were very kind to us as the weather was ideal for golf with no rain and very little wind. The golfers appreciated the conditions on our well-presented course as this year was the second consecutive year that play was not affected by rain. All golfers appreciated the effort put into the course by our greens staff in that every green was mown on the 4 mornings that the matches were played as well as having the fairways mown during the week. Thank you Paul Fairhurst, David Softe, and all the helpers. To the lady tee starter's, a special thank you. Also, a very special thank you to Sheryl for again providing superb food.

We again had 3 full sections of 16 pairs. We were very pleased to have had 10 new names in the field which hopefully bodes well for our 2018 tournament that will be held from Monday 23rd April through Friday 27th April, with ANZAC day Wednesday being our lay-day. Due to funerals in the area five matches were played on the Tuesday afternoon as part of the Le Dejeuner hagggle that had been brought back a day. Six members of the Veteran's Association executive took part.

Some of the matches were tied after 18 holes which meant they had to continue from where they had started with one match going 4 extra holes before a coin toss gave Barry and Margot Thom from the Springfield club the win. For the first time in many years no chip-offs were needed. The main highlights were our own Don Bowers at 80+years playing to his age on both first two rounds of the week and the National President Don Campbell of the Cambridge club having twos on the 2nd, 3rd and 7th holes. On the par 4 second he sunk a shot after using his wedge.

Throughout the country there is still a drop off in Clubs who wish to run these tournaments due to the lack of interest by members who are prepared to do the organising. Of the 96 players in the field the clubs within the Taranaki region were represented by; Manukorihi 20, Waitara 3, Westown 3, Inglewood 1, Te Ngutu 1, Kaitake 1, Fitzroy 1, New Plymouth 2, Waverley 1 and Urenui 16. The field covered entries from Northland-Sherwood Park, Whangarei and Waipu to entries from Waihi, Cambridge, Mahunga, Kapiti, Castlepoint and Paraparaumu in the Wellington region as well as the other regions being represented. The furthest Club represented was Tinwald in Ashburton in the South Canterbury, Aorangi region.

The main results were; **Group A** (the lowest handicaps); Garry & Sandra Payne (Howick) won with 4 wins; Duncan Elliott (Urenui) & Lesley Elliott (Manukorihi), Doug Nevard & Mary Halvoson (Castlecliff), Ron & Coleen West (Sherwood Park) and Don Bowers & Christine Ogle (Manukorihi) had 3 wins.

Group B; Cliff Oxenham (Manukorihi) & Penny Duncan (Waitara) won with 4 wins; Alan & Min Coplestone (Urenui), Brian Mullin (Manukorihi) & Gaye Mullin (New Plymouth), Roger & Tui Maxwell (Urenui) and Alan Wright (Tirau) & Fay Wright (Fitzroy) had 3 wins.

Group C; John & Heather Houston (Waihi) won with 4 wins; Barry Peterson (Apiti) & Maureen Cornwallis (Westown), Alan & Yvonne Allsworth (Mahunga), Barry & Margot Thom (Springfield) and Ray & Elsa Bygrave (Otumoetai) had 3 wins.

It may be of interest that the **Men's average** index last year was 20.9 now 22.2 giving a Manukorihi handicap that was 20 now 21 and the **Women's average** index last year was 22.2 now 21.6 giving a Manukorihi handicap that was 22 now 23 which shows that the men have got slightly worse while the women have improved since last year. Of possible further interest is that there were 27 twos' last year but 37 this year out of 1920 attempts. Is the course getting easier or the golf better? The lowest **Men's** handicaps were our own Kevin Southee on 9 with Colin Harrison of Omanu on 10. For the **Women**, Ann Braithwaite of Te Ngutu played off 6 with Svala Garner of Urenui on 7.

It was unfortunate that for the prize giving the President of the Waitara/Waitara S & C Club, Garry Fulton (Manukorihi), could not be present so Launa Seddon the Secretary/Treasurer of the NZ Seniors Golf Association made the presentations to Group C. Sheryl Page the owner of Harcourt's Waitara and a long-time supporter made the presentations for Group B. Sheryl also provided a hamper for a single draw raffle which Ken Bloor of Omokoroa won. As Methanex could not provide a company representative our President David Butler filled the role for Group A.

We have again been supported by our past sponsors, namely; Methanex, Waitara Town & Country Club, Harcourt's Waitara, Raleigh Restaurant, Waitara Services and Citizens Club, Fitzroy Engineering Group, New Plymouth Top 10 Holiday Park, La Nuova and the Intergroup. Without their continuing support the tournament may not be viable as the entry fee would have to be substantially increased. This year Methanex provided various items that the club raffled and all tickets were sold during the week. Of the 12 winners; club members John Strong, Robin Potts, Melva Meuli, David Butler, Marie Rayner, Peter Wills and Ian Titter were successful.

A presentation was made to Kath Alvis who was playing in her 25th tournament.

Melva has again done a great job in sorting out the draw and finding replacements at very short notice and we thank everybody who came to our rescue.

Our President David made a presentation to Melva who was stepping down from being the contact person after having been on the committee for 21 years. Melva will still be involved in some way so that the club does not lose all her expertise.

It has been our pleasure to have organised the tournament.

By John Stuart for the committee

Melva Meuli, Marie Rayner, Dennis Elliott, John Stuart