

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
TAURANGA GOLF CLUB (INC) HELD IN THE CLUBHOUSE
ON TUESDAY 29 APRIL 2019 AT 7.00 PM**

Board Chairman Graham Cathie opened the meeting and welcomed all members present. There were 61 members in attendance.

1.0 APOLOGIES

15 apologies were received.

"**MOVED THAT** the apologies be accepted."

Moved: Adrienne Coad

Seconded: Dan Keller

CARRIED

2.0 OBITUARIES

The Chairman asked the meeting to observe a moment's silence in memory of those members who had passed away during the year. Life member – Hazel Casey, Roy MacGregor, Arthur Singh, Malcolm Gartner, Gary Ware

3.0 MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 24 April 2018

MOVED THAT the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in the Clubhouse on 24 April 2018 as circulated, be accepted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Moved: Andrew Parkinson

Seconded: Adrienne Coad

MATTERS ARISING

NIL

A motion accepting the Minutes of the previous AGM was put to the floor **CARRIED**

**4.0 PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED ACCOUNTS
FOR THE 12 MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31 JANUARY 2019**

Graham Cathie presented the Annual Report on behalf of the Board of Management and asked for any comments from the floor.

MOVED THAT the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the period ending 31 January 2018 be adopted.

Moved: Lindy Bryant

Seconded: Eddie Jackson

CARRIED

5.0 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

There was only one nomination for the position of President and accordingly the nominee was elected unopposed:-

President – Michael Smith

There was only one nomination for Club Captain and accordingly the nominee was appointed unopposed:-

Club Captain - Tony Breeds

6.0 APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

MOVED: Graham Cathie that BDO are appointed as Auditor.

SECONDED: Andrew Parkinson

CARRIED

7.0 APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY SOLICITOR

MOVED: Graham Cathie that HOBEC are appointed as Honorary Solicitor to the Club for the coming year.

SECONDED: Evan McCain

CARRIED

8.0 MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2020/2021

Proposed by the Board of Management to defer the setting of the 2020/2021 subscriptions until November 2019 to enable the Board to assess the Financial needs of the Club closer to the end of the financial year. The Board advised that they will not increase subscriptions above 5% without further approval from the membership through a Special General Meeting.

MOVED: Graham Cathie

SECONDED: James March

9.0 NOTICE OF MOTION – LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The following notice of motion was received prior to closing date:

Life Membership

Life Membership of the Tauranga Golf Club to be awarded to JACK CARTER

Proposer – Bruce Simister

Secunder – Chris McAlpine

Life Membership

Life Membership of the Tauranga Golf Club to be awarded to ALISON HOLDEM

Proposer – Adrienne Coad

Secunder – Lindy Bryant

Graham Cathie Read the notices of motion and asked the members to vote for each nomination.

The motions were unanimously supported – Jack & Alison were congratulated and thanked for their outstanding service to the club.

10.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

- Richard Craven asked for clarity on the process and background to the Life membership nominations. Bruce Simister addressed the meeting and gave an overview of Jack Carter's nomination. Adrienne Coad addressed the meeting and gave an overview of Alison Holdem's nomination. Tony Breeds explained the nomination process.
- John Bickers asked why the Accounting & Consultancy expenses have increased. Graham Cathie responded that changes had been made to expense coding that was previously coded to Repairs & Maintenance. Included in this category is Health & Safety consulting expense, Steve Marsden's Course Report, Xero Monthly fees, Accountant and Audit fees.
- Bruce Simister queried why Donations were approximately \$60K less than last year. He asked who the major funds originally came from and why they are no longer available. Graham responded that funds are available but it is becoming harder to extract funds. Graham also commented that the funds are for capital purchases such as greens mowers and equipment.
- Bruce Simister asked if the Board are totally happy with the work that the contractors have done during renovation week. Graham responded that nobody is ever happy immediately following renovations and in fact the first complaints came in 24 hours after the course reopened. Unfortunately the greens were playing the best they have done in the last 5 years prior to renovations so the change was significant. Graham advised that he has consulted our Course Superintendent and is satisfied that the job has been done to the best of the contractors ability and the overlapping is already starting to improve and will continue to improve over the next few weeks.
- Craig Griffin commented that he is absolutely "horrified" at the standard of the course and in particular – the greens. He went on to congratulate the greens staff for "getting away with it again – and he is disappointed in the extreme". The members applauded this statement.
- Mike Thurgood asked why the fringes around the green are only approx. 1 metre wide. He specifically mentioned the greenside bunker on the 8th and the fact that when you play out of the bunker you can end up in tufty grass. Why aren't the fringes at least 3 metres wide. Mike then commented on the inconsistency of the length of the rough, why don't the greenkeepers cut it all down to the same length. Graham commented that it is inappropriate for the Board to comment on how the course is set up and this is more of a question for the Players Committee. Paul Gartner commented that the rough is a mixture of grass species and this is why we get different growth patterns. We are in the process of converting to one standard species and short of ripping out all of the rough and starting again, it will be a long slow process. We are currently spraying out the Kikuya and introducing some finer grass species – Fescue. Paul suggested that we could cut our rough down to fairway height like Omanu but this would take away any defense. He went on to comment that our Fairways are the best that he has encountered in the North Island. Mike agreed with the comment about the Fairways but went on to comment that the first impression when you arrive at the club is disgraceful and embarrassing – it looks like a tractor has driven all over the back of the 6th green and it looks like a farm. Mike questioned how long the Club was prepared to allow this to continue and continued to challenge the length of the rough. Mike also questioned why the contractor continued scarifying when it was evident that his machine was causing damage. Mike then commented that last Friday he was playing at 3.30pm and saw 2 Greenkeepers on the greens blowing leaves – why? Graham commented that they were preparing the course for Saturday morning and went on to explain the demands of setting the

course up for Saturday play. Graham commented that the grass at the back of the 6th green has been turfed with fescue grass but due to the very dry conditions, the recovery is slow, but it will come away within the next 6 weeks. Mike asked again if the rough should be cut at a standard height or will it remain inconsistent. Graham advised that ideally it will be cut to a standard height but due to the extremely dry conditions it may not have been cut as frequently but the intention is to achieve a standard height and consistent grass species.

- Ian Gane – Commented that the members are being asked to rake the bunkers but the club does have a mechanical bunker rake and if the greens staff showed some pride in maintaining the bunkers, the members would follow. Graham suggested that members should take responsibility for raking the bunkers when they are in them.
- Guy Abel asked how much the closing down of the woodgang has cost the club. Graham responded approx. \$10 - \$15K. Graham replied that it was not our desire to close them down but following the incident at Whitford Park, the Club has to ensure that the Health & Safety issues are taken care of and does not believe that we currently have the personnel to ensure this is done. Graham advised the meeting that we have recently had a greenkeeper break his leg whilst getting off a mower and the worth of a good Health & Safety system was instrumental in protecting the club from a work safe fine. Graham commented that he would love the woodgang to be operating again but there have been 2 incidents involving the woodsplitter that could have caused considerable financial risk for the club if they had occurred under current legislation. The Whitford incident cost in excess of \$70K - \$80K
- Harvey Bryant commented on the heavy grooves on the greens following renovation and suggested that it was operator incompetency and totally unnecessary if he was a good operator. Harvey asked if the greens were supposed to be cored or ripped and what is the difference. Graham explained that the greens were scarified. With coring, you remove approximately 5% of the surface and with scarifying you remove upwards of 11% which enables us to get more sand in and address the top 10mm of the surface of the green which was the desired outcome.
- Richard Craven commented that we have spent 40% less on course maintenance than we did last year and this can't be ignored. Richard stated that prior to the renovations, our Course Superintendent proved that he can get the greens to a fantastic condition. As a member he is confused as to why the rutting on the greens has occurred and has since discovered that it was operator error and him not having the brains to identify this and change his behavior and perhaps our Superintendent did not supervise the machine operator. It has impacted on the recovery time for the greens but he has confidence that they can be returned to the condition they were prior to renovation week. Richard asked the Board to advise the Course Superintendent that he is accountable to the members and is measured and is given feedback on the supervision of contractors performance. Graham assured Richard that those discussions do take place. Graham specifically asked the Course Superintendent tonight about the condition of the greens and what his expectations were and he is confident that going into winter, the greens will be in very good heart and able to withstand a winter far better than they did last year. Graham said he has to have faith in what he is saying but does concur that the rutting on the greens is disappointing but it is done now and nothing much can be done to change it. Graham commented that he inspected the greens on his way in tonight and noted that they are definitely improving and Chris has stated that it is still going to take 4 – 5 weeks.
- John Bickers – commented that he concurred with Harvey Bryant that it is a classic case of operator incompetence, he should not be overlapping and have the skills to do the job correctly. John asked if the contractor had been paid – Graham advised that at this point in time, they have not been paid. John suggested that the club should be asking for compensation.
- Richard Craven added that he was disappointed to see that the 16th tee was used to remediate the damage done by the contractor.
- Grant Whittaker – commented that the Seniors had had paid several thousand dollars to establish a turf farm but we are ripping up tees to provide turf for repair work. Why do we not use the Turf Farm and if we don't have the grass suitable for the job – why don't we? Graham replied that since the funds had been provided the grass has been

recycled two to three times and there is grass growing there but not the species required at this time.

- Grant Whittaker – commented on the poor condition of the practice nets and mats and requested that this is addressed.
- Ann Partridge – Commented that when the fairway was done on the 3rd hole the rough was extended and the fairway shortened. Ann does not believe this was in the Course Management plan and would like it to be reinstated. Also when the ladies were playing their Club champs on a Wednesday last August – there were road cones all over the fairway and the rough and the Superintendent was there with Dave Cooke. They ladies asked them to move and they reluctantly did so. Ann felt this was inappropriate in a Strokeplay round, one of the main events in the ladies calendar. Graham responded that the old fairway was in such rough condition that it was hard to tell the difference where the rough started and the fairway finished. The new fairway follows the same contours of the old fairway.
- Viv Coughlan – asked what the club is doing to control the rabbit population. The holes on the course, particularly below the ladies 3rd tee has a lot of rabbit holes right where the ladies walk off the tee and could cause people to roll their ankles. Viv also asked if the sand box on the 3rd fairway can be moved as it is in the landing zone for ladies. They would prefer to have the sand available at the tee box.
- Laurie Becroft – asked if there is anything being done to increase the cart & club storage. Graham acknowledged that we are at capacity at the moment and it would take major redevelopment to create more space but the comment is taken on board.
- Richard Craven – Congratulated the Board on the cash reserves and asked the Board what plans are in place to use those reserves on major capital events – machinery or course related. Richard asked if the Board had considered levying the members for a specific purpose. Graham advised that the Gross surplus fell from \$195K last year to \$72K this year and at this stage, to enable us to continue operating in the black Graham does not intend to use the cash reserves as they are not that significant and only just enough to run the course effectively. As far as a levy is concerned, this is something that may have to be considered as our irrigation system is approximately 25 years old and mainly PVC piping which is failing. The replacement cost is estimated at between \$400 - \$500K. Graham went on to explain the club is focusing on getting all machinery up to scratch. We have virtually a new suite of rough and greens mowers and they are being paid off over a period of 3 years.
- Ray Pittams – Would like to see the Bay Seniors who run their fixtures here once a year, to be able to run their event as they see fit. The players travelling from Opotiki have to leave fairly early in the morning and when they get here they are expected to tee off at 9.30am and have to get through traffic. It is a great event and with a 5 tee start the course will be cleared by 3.30pm to allow the 10 for 10 to continue. Graham responded that this is not a Board/Governance issue but should be referred to the Seniors Committee.
- Keith Dawkins – commented that the membership numbers are down and asked if the Board is doing anything proactive to advertise for new members. He noted that he has never seen us advertise and asked if we are too proud? Graham replied that the membership fluctuates and is currently slightly down at the moment. However, the core membership remains steady. Graham stated that we are not too proud to advertise but is more a case of getting the best bang for buck and questioned the effectiveness of the current advertising at other local clubs. Graham commented that a lot of younger people turning up on a Thursday.
- Bruce Simister – advised that the Mount have increased their membership by 140 this year and they are the most expensive club to join. Bruce suggested that we spent \$217 on advertising last year so maybe we could double it this year.

Graham Cathie thanked members for their attendance and offered a complimentary drink at the bar.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.50pm.

_____ Chairperson

_____ Date