

*Much of the contents of this book were written by Past President and Life Member Bert Andrews for the 75 year Jubilee.*

Sometime in 1908, a certain young gentleman returned from his studies in Edinburgh, Scotland, obviously smitten with a disease purported to have originated in that country, "golf". Dr Malcolm Morrison, the newly qualified practitioner, no doubt aroused sufficient enthusiasm in other members of the Morrison family, that they too, were intrigued by the new game's subtle attractions. They owned a large orchard, known as Red Bluff, on the Mahurangi river, and employed, for those times quite a large staff. This may have had an added incentive to get the first golf course started, being viewed as a recreational outlet for their thirty odd employees. So the very first venue was nine holes on Woodcocks Road on property now owned by Mansel Price.

Apart from the Morrisons, Edward, Selwyn, John and Malcolm, and probably Andrew White, no record of any other foundation members is available. Unfortunately, all the early minute books, etc., are believed to have been destroyed in a fire, down by the Warkworth Wharf, along with early Town Board records as well. So whether the then Town Clerk was also the Golf secretary of the day, is at this stage a conjecture. So, bearing this in mind, the early history of the Club will only be as accurate as the writer can ascertain. This we do know, that by 1914 there were sufficient members to have a Club Championship competition, first competed for in 1916. The name of Selwyn Morrison appears eleven times on this Cup, between the years 1918 and 1941. In fact the name Morrison is synonymous with this Club. John, Selwyn, with his sons Athol, Mervyn, Hubert and Peter all played a huge part in golf establishment on all the courses. At the time of the 75th Jubilee there was still a Morrison playing, Alex, a past President, and past Patron.

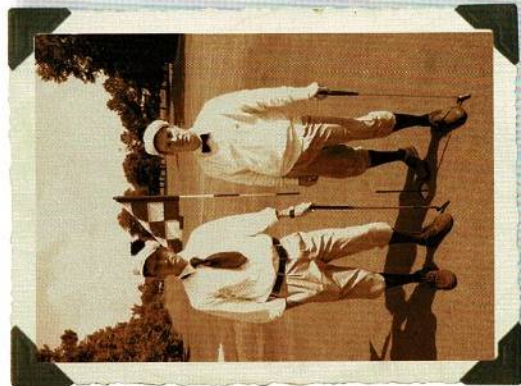
In this early period, no doubt golf clubs, especially good woods, would be about as plentiful in Rodney as the proverbial hens' teeth. But did this worry the early exponents? Not a bit, they made their own! Grandfather Edward Morrison, and probably his sons and grandsons too, turned out some very good woods, using Puriri or Miro for the heads, and either white Ti-tree (kanuka) or tanekaha for the shafts. Good old Kiwi ingenuity!

Around 1920, the Club left the original venue and formed another 9 hole course, where Walton Avenue is now. The kitchen of the old farmhouse served as the Club rooms. What a pity there were no recording devices in those days, to preserve for posterity some of those early game post mortems! The property was then owned by Andrew White and it is likely that around this time the first cars started to appear, for up till then golfers either rode horses, drove gigs, or simply walked to the course, with their bags over their shoulders.

When White sold his farm, the third course was constructed, this time another 9 holes, on the Sandspit end of what is now Solway Farm, which was then owned by Walter Culling. Percy Smith from Matakana, erected a tin shed to serve as a Club House. The greens were fenced to keep off cattle, but not sheep, and as Peter and Mervyn Morrison recalled tales, of not so much mowing greens, but cleaning them, sheep being sheep. By all accounts it was a course of some character, one hole in particular, nicknamed "The Devil" could evidently be quite awkward.

However, when the Solway property changed hands, it was once more back to the drawing board. This time, the usual 9 holes was formed on Sid Edwards farm, just past Wyllyies Road. A four roomed bach, approximately 20ft by 20ft, consisting of 4 small rooms, was transported from the Dome Valley, to serve as a Club House. One wall was knocked out, leaving a common room, and men's and ladies changing facilities.

Interesting to note, that all these four early courses were on average sheep and cattle farms, no fine grassed greens, tailored fairways, full time Greenkeepers or sophisticated mowers. What mowing was done, was with old push hand mowers, and probably no catchers either.



These too, were the days of the old hickory shafted clubs, that were known not by the numbers but names. Driver, brassie, mashie, niblick, spoon, etc. Balls, costing perhaps 9c to 15c each, came in various types of patterned surfaces, dimples, pimples, little raised squares, while some even had a crescent moon pattern, no doubt for those playing a late round! Even though subs were in the vicinity of fifteen shillings to three pounds bracket, it appears some members thought them far too high, (human nature doesn't change much) and various private little courses came into being. Amongst these were McElroy's, Braymer, (on Rokes property) Cyril Farmans and Lyn Smiths at Tauhoa.

In 1925, the first set of rules were drawn up by John Ewart, and witnessed by V. W. Holden, a young Warkworth Solicitor, and club member. These were duly presented to the Incorporated Society, and approved, so in 1925 we officially became a registered Golf Club.

In the late 1920s, members must have decided it was time to own their own property, and so, in 1933, or thereabouts, they purchased a block of land on the Matakana Road, consisting of eighty eight acres (35.2 hectares) and set about transforming a wilderness of swamp, gorse and ti-tree, into the nucleus of what is a fine golf course today. The total price was about eight hundred and eighty pounds, (17600 dollars), doesn't seem much on today's prices, with the course's present valuation of around 1.625 million dollars but probably presented quite a financial undertaking for the early members. In keeping with many other country courses throughout New Zealand, this was brought about by the dedication and enthusiasm of succeeding generations of golfers, but especially the countless hours of voluntary labour, and materials, given so generously at the many working bees by these members. All this on a shoestring budget.

Initially the new (and present) course opened in 1935 with 9 holes, later extended to 12. For a Club House the "batch" was brought from Edwards by Percy Smith, Edward Roke and his two sons. It was moved in two sections, and enlarged and modified several years later by Percy Smith. Edward Roke became the first Patron of the "new course".

A crop of Swedes were grown on the area across the creek (fairways 5 and 6) when the Club bought the land. The Club offered Edward Roke twenty pounds to grass the areas (fairways 3,4,5 and 6). He stated it could not be done for that amount, suggesting fifty pounds. He did not accept the Club's offer, but later made a donation of fifty pounds to help with the development.

The development of the last 6 holes was slowed by the advent of World War Two, and not without supreme sacrifice on the part of two of the Club's oldest and most revered members. In 1943, whilst burning gorse





and scrub on the back of the course, they both succumbed in the fire. No one else was present at the time, so the circumstances concerning this double tragedy are not clear. A brass Memorial Plaque in the Club house commemorates the names of these two members, Ross Pulham and Selwyn Morrison, who lost their lives through the sport they loved. With the aftermath of the war, and the death of President Selwyn, the Club was in a somewhat dormant period. However, Peter Morrison, Selwyn's son, was prevailed upon to take over the leadership, and so get the Club moving again. This he was successful in achieving.

The first part time Greenkeeper was William (Willie) Colville, who owned the adjoining farm on the South eastern boundary. He grazed the back part as payment.

An extract from  
**RODNEY AND OTAMATEA TIMES**  
 Wednesday, August 8, 1928

## Rodney & Otamatea Times

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8TH, 1928

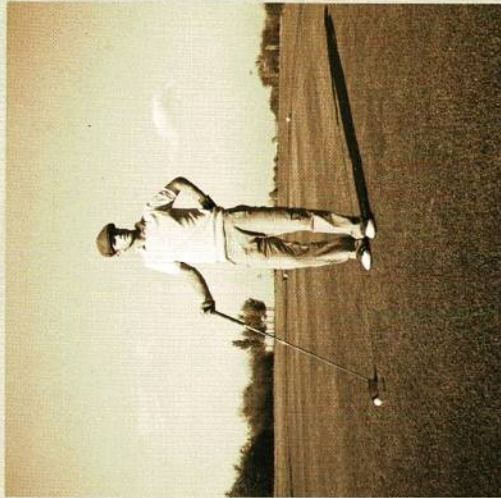
# RODNEY GOLF CLUB VISIT OF MAHURANGI HEADS TEAM

Local players greatly appreciated a visit on Saturday last from a few enthusiasts of the Mahurangi Heads Club. The weather was ideal, and some thoroughly enjoyable golf was indulged in. The ladies of the Club provided a dainty afternoon tea.

Before dispersing Mr. McElroy voiced the sentiments of the visitors by thanking the Warkworth golfers for the hos-

pitality extended, and congratulated the Club on a very marked improvement of the links. He expressed the hope that the worth players would again visit Mahurangi this season.

Mr. Verry acknowledged Mr. McElroy's remarks, and stated it was a pleasure to receive a visit. The invitation to make a further trip to the Heads will be heartily accepted.





## Progress and Reminiscences

- 1947** Snippets from a monthly Executive meeting: "Green fees were increased to 1 shilling and 6 pence per round (16c). Accounts for payment 18 pounds 15 shillings and 6 pence."
- 1948** The fences around the greens were removed in 1948, and the first tractor was purchased. This was a Farmall B, sold to the Club by Stewart Campbell, who was an active member at that stage. However, prior to this the first motor power used on the course was an old 1928 Dodge Coupe, of flat top, which towed (opinions vary, and memories are hazy) either one, or three gang mower units. This old faithful had studded rims for additional traction, and tyres and chains for the summer. It was used in conjunction with the sheep, but was not very satisfactory, and after a couple of seasons or so, was dispensed with and the mowers sold to Tui Glenn, with the sheep remaining the faithful chewers for a bit longer, probably till the advent of the Farmall and the new gang mowers.
- Up until 1953 there had been a number of part time green keepers, mainly involved with greens mowing, the first full time Greenkeeper being Jack Dunning. He not only maintained the golf course, but serviced the Warkworth men's bowling greens as well.
- 1953** The old Club house was enlarged, with an additional wing, and improved facilities. There are many fond memories of the "Old Tin Shed" parties, with Alf Bell doing his Tarzan acts over the cross-bar in the lounge, a feat this agile veteran kept up till well in his sixties!! A good advert for Lemora perhaps?
- 1958** Subscriptions: Men 7-10-0 (\$15.00). Ladies 5-10-0 (\$11.00).  
October 25th saw the Club celebrate its 50th Anniversary. Many visitors, past and present members enjoyed the day, with golf and putting competitions, capped off with a superb buffet tea provided by the Lady Members - no caterers in those days. Dancing, and a sing-song around the old piano (donated by our Patron Tom O'Rourke) carried on to a late hour. The many names in the Special Visitors Book, testify to the 50th being well and truly celebrated.
- THE OFFICERS OF THE CLUB AT THAT TIME WERE:**
- |                     |   |                 |  |
|---------------------|---|-----------------|--|
| PRESIDENT           | Tom O'Rourke                            | VICE PRESIDENTS | F. Anderson, J. Stubbs                                     |
| CAPTAIN             | E. Wyatt                                | VICE CAPTAIN    | B. Rees <i>(still a member today)</i>                      |
| SECRETARY/TREASURER | E. Rees                                 | COMMITTEE       | W. McDonald, J. Boys, P. Morrison, J. Dunning, J. J. Munro |
| LADIES VICE CAPTAIN | F. Smith                                | LADIES CAPTAIN  | J. Dawson  |
| SECRETARY           | S. Perkins <i>(present Life Member)</i> |                 |  |
- 1962** The green keepers house was completed, at approximately three thousand pounds (\$6000.00). We can be thankful that the past Executives had the courage to borrow money and complete this project when they did.
- Water reticulation to the greens was discussed for many years, until finally the top dam was constructed, and water started to flow in late 1966. Sometime after this, No 16 tee (now no 14) was re-sited, lengthening the hole, and posing a challenge to the men teeing off over the lake. And incidentally, for all you male golfers who occasionally (?) shatter



the tranquility of this placid water-lily domain, the record to date is 14 in. and the 15th across. This noble feat was achieved by one **Neil Olliff** from Kaipara Flats. He almost made it with the 12th which hit the pump-shed and bounced back in. He admits to checking now and then, to see if he is still King of the Lake, and it would appear that he still reigns supreme!

**1968** A new Clubhouse had been discussed for many years, until finally a Finance Building Committee was appointed to report on possible means of financing such a project.

**1969** In November, a Special General Meeting was called to hear this Committee's findings, attended by the Executive and 50 members. A motion was passed authorising a certain sum to engage expert opinion as to its siting, size, and feasibility of raising funds for a new Club house.

Interesting to note that the future of the Club looked so bright at this stage, and membership so buoyant, that this meeting gave serious thought to limiting the Club's membership!! Fourteen years later, many fuel price rises, creeping inflation, and the general economic decline now make this another nostalgic dream.

This year also saw the completion of the new tractor shed, giving more facilities, and storage for our modest, but increasing equipment.

**1970** Construction of a second dam, to the lower right of no 11 (now no 7) green, as a further source of water for the greens. However, this was not without it's problems, for it meant pumping the water up to the top weir for distribution via the main pumping system. There are many who can recall the old sledge-mounted diesel motor, chugging away on this chore – when it hadn't broken down.

**1971** At the Annual General Meeting, members accepted the recommendations of the Finance Committee, and voted for a start to be made on the new Club house.

**1972** At the January Executive meeting, one committee member, (who shall remain nameless, in case he be given the job again) submitted plans for a membership drive, which were approved. So successful was this that by the end of November 90 to 100 new members of all categories had been recruited. But, although literally thousands of people join golf clubs, it appears that something less than 19% retain an average membership of 5 years.

In February a building sub-committee was set up comprising: **Gordon Stock, Dick Fell, Mick Berthelsen, Sam Wenzlick, Bert Andrews, Boyd Tipling, Bruce Grayson, Trevor Colville, Ngaire Colville, and Eva Grayson.**

This Committee decided, at a meeting on 29th August, to accept the tender of *Ellis Wyatt Limited* to erect the new Clubhouse, and report to the AGM on 14th October, where it received unanimous approval. Resolved to finance building by *Auckland Savings Bank* mortgage, and member debentures.

Great credit for this important milestone in the Club's history must go to the President of that period, **Don Mason**, whose drive and enthusiasm was the turning point in getting this long discussed dream underway. Many members may not be aware of the fact that Don also combined his Presidential role with acting Secretary as well. All unpaid.

**1973** On Saturday, 11th August President **Bill Whitehorn** officially welcomed a large gathering of members, ADGA and Club representatives, local dignitaries and visitors. After briefly outlining the Club's history, he asked one of our oldest Life Members, **Peter**, son of foundation member **Setwyn Morrison**, to declare the new Club house officially open. **Mr Roy Pullman** suitably replied on behalf of the *Auckland District Golf Association*, and all those present.

Now, new members wouldn't know, and old ones find it difficult to visualise, that as they tee off the enlarged No 1 Tee (now No 17) they are standing on the site of the "Old Tin Shed", which held fond memories for many.

1975

On prize giving night of the Annual 72 hole tournament, mention was made of perhaps a unique phenomenon in the history of the *Auckland Golf Association*, maybe even in New Zealand. This was the presence of three incumbent *Warkworth Golf Club Presidents*. Club President **Bert Andrews**, *Auckland Association President Dave Miller*, and *New Zealand Golf Council President Jim Bissett*.

1977

The desirability of an automatic sprinkler system on the greens had long been envisaged. In January 1977 such a scheme, to be implemented in three stages, was adopted in principle, and Stage 1, construction of a pump house, serviced by underground power, was carried out on the 7th (now 8th) fairway side of No 2 dam. This also included raising the level of No 2 dam, and this work was completed in April. At the November General Meeting the Executive outlined the proposed 2nd stage of the Harvin scheme, reticulation to all greens, with automatic watering switches. Perhaps members still had memories of burnt up greens, because somewhat to the Committee's surprise it was wholeheartedly approved. Finance was again by *ASB mortgage loan*, the debt to be serviced by a \$5.00 water levy per member, per year.

The installation of a beer hoist, by a committee member, proved highly successful and eased the work load of our long serving and hard working bar manager, **Sam Wenzlick**, who must surely hold the record as the most energetic Life Member.

1979

The 2nd stage Harvin scheme was completed, and ready for use in October 1979, all work being voluntarily done by Club members, men and women, under the watchful eye of a Harvin's Supervisor.

Although many worked hard and long on this, two men merit special attention. **Les Hatfull**, the then current course Chairman, whose enthusiasm, expertise, and knowledge was largely instrumental in getting things moving, and **John Donaldson**, the elected Project Manager. John's liaison with Harvins, his drive and meticulous attention to detail assured the concepts smooth installation, all members must agree, that to date, our greens have benefited enormously. Stage 3, pop up sprinklers could be something for future members to contemplate.

1981

Monday, 7th December, we had an *Air New Zealand* sponsored exhibition match by four well known professionals. The evergreen Aussies, **Peter Thompson** and **Kel Nagle**, the American **Mike Krantz**, and New Zealand's **Simon Owen**. For a week day a substantial crowd enjoyed some good golf, especially the big hitting of **Krantz** and **Owen**. Many of us now don't feel quite so bad when we card a six on No 1 (now No 17), after seeing **Kel Nagle** do it.

1982

The Club's name officially changed from *Rodney* to *Warkworth Golf Club* in 1982. With the greatly enlarged boundaries of the present *Rodney County*, and so many organisations and businesses hearing the name "Rodney", members felt *Warkworth* would be more explicit and identifiable.



*Rodney Golf Club 1980 - some of the midweek players.*

The Club also had a part-time Secretary/Manager. Ideally we would like someone full time on this, but until such times as membership increases sufficiently we just cannot afford it. Volunteers are still very much a part of the Warkworth Golf Club. Long may they prosper.

**1983**

The year of the 75th Jubilee. Celebrations started on the 9th April with the 72 hole tournament.

The main celebrations were held on the weekend of 23rd and 24th April. These celebrations consisted of a \$1.00 haggie on the Saturday followed by a Banquet held at the Rodney Aero Club hangar at Kaipara Flats Airfield. A good night was had by all. On the Sunday an executive day was held.

**THE COMMITTEE OF THAT TIME WERE:**

PATRON	Tom O'Rourke	PRESIDENT	Norm Page
VICE PRESIDENTS	Len Trent VC, Jock McLean (now a member Auckland Golf Club)	VICE CAPTAIN	Ken McGregor (living in Warkworth)
CLUB CAPTAIN	Ellis Wyatt	COMMITTEE	Phill Copestake (Life Member), Peter Goudie (living in Warkworth), Roy Newdick (living in Warkworth), Vern Becroft, Athol Gubb
SECRETARY	Denise Hultford (living in Auckland)		

**LADIES PRESIDENT** Edna Turtley – Interesting to note that Ellis Wyatt was Club Captain in both 1958 and 1983.

**1984**

Patron Tom O'Rourke passed away. He left a legacy to the Club of \$2000.00. Athol Morrison was appointed Patron.

**1986**

The president, Jock McLean, started the tradition of the "opening day" arrival by air. The aircraft, a Fletcher topdresser was owned by and flown by the present incumbent Dave Starr. This procedure occurred several times with different presidents, landing on the present 10th fairway, until Dave was told in no uncertain terms by his wife Mary to cease and desist!!!

**1987**

Patron Athol Morrison passed away in 1987 doing what he loved, playing golf at his home club. Ellis Wyatt was appointed Patron.

Club Captain Len Whitcombe passed away suddenly during the year. Bob Thompson stepped in as Club Captain.

**1988**

The Club required money to pay for new machinery (nothing has changed much over the years) so the land above the Greenkeepers house sold to help with these payments. The property was purchased by Mr and Mrs Cole, who built a house on the land and still reside there today.

**1989**

Discussions took place re forming a new association north of the harbour bridge. This did not eventuate at that time.



Standing: Bryan Sorenson (President) arriving opening day 1991.  
Pilot: David Starr.

A new 29 inch colour TV was installed in the Club house. Gambling machines were also installed. Alterations to the Office were carried out by George and Ken Brewer. While collecting golf balls out of the drains, Bob Thompson was bitten by an eel and had to have a finger removed after it became infected.

**1990** Roy Newdick resigned as Head Greenkeeper. David Looker was appointed after serving his apprenticeship at the Club. Club house bar and kitchen renovated in 1990. The bar area was extended on to the deck which gave a lot more room. The extensions were opened on 29th September.

**1992** Another meeting was held regarding the forming of a new association.

**1993** The North Harbour Golf Association was incorporated and a constitution written. At the beginning of 1994 the men started with the new association with the Women starting in October. Men's pennants that year were run by ADGA. In 1995 the new North Harbour Association was fully operational. Before that the men were part of the Auckland Golf Association and the women were part of the Northland Golf Association.

**1994** At the time when Tom McDermott was President, the Club decided to change its direction with the appointment of a full time Secretary Manager.

Jean McKechnie resigned at that time as Secretary after many years of faithful service.

Kevin Miller was appointed first full time Secretary Manager, and resigned in December, only a few months after starting. Barbara Looker appointed temporary Secretary/Manager.

**1995** Barbara Looker being one of several applicants was appointed Secretary Manager. Margaret Murray and Mary Sorenson selected to play for the North Harbour Masters team at the National Masters Tournament in Alexandra.

**1996** Carolyn Dobblyn chosen as Sportswoman of the Year in 1996 and also in 1997.

Gran Turtley painted posts around for the new chain fence around the car park. New deep freeze purchased.

Quote received from Brooker and Whitmore regarding extensions to Club house. \$90,000.00.

Mike Leeper won the best of 5 out of 6 stableford cards with an average of 40 points off a 3 handicap.



Presentation of plaques as an appreciation for the running of the Rodney Lodge Charity Golf Tournaments for the past 30 years.

Annual trip by members of the Sapps Golfing Syndicate 1996.



On the ferry between Russell & Paihia.



Finished fishing and celebrating on the balcony of the BOI Sword Fish Club.



**1998**

During 1998 the Stubbs family kindly erected an attractive seat on No 6 tee (now No 4) in memory of **Joe and Marie Stubbs**. Joe played a large part over many years in the development of the course, was President in the early 1970s, invited to join the *Eagles Golfing Society* and was made a Life Member of the Club. Marie was Ladies Captain, Ladies President in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Distinguished herself by holding the Ladies Club Championship 9 times in a row.



Betty Trewin,  
Club President 1998-2006

**1999**

Negotiations took place with our neighbours, **Peter and Lynn Membery** re purchase of paddock above the 1st (Now 17th) fairway. There had been several near misses between players and vehicles as players were crossing from the Club house to the course. Also when Office extensions were being contemplated, it was discovered that the Club house was too close to the road. Because of these two points, it was decided that the best option was to purchase the Membery land and build a new Club house on the same side of the road as the course. The land was eventually purchased.

At the Annual General meeting of the Club, a change in administration took place, by changing to a Board of Management instead of a Committee situation. The first President was **Betty Trewin**, who had been the President for two years previously. Club Captain was **Jim Patterson** and the other four Board members were **Marcia Wheeler, Bill Lawrie, Bill Lees and Dave Starr**.

**2000**

On the 1st of March, **Margaret Murray** shot a 69, breaking the course record by 3 shots.

**Phillip Leishman**, with the help of **Terry Wright** filmed for the Golf Show at the Club, which was shown on 3 Sky Channels. Expense of show very worthwhile, attracting many green fee players.

**2001**

**Ian Jackson** won NZ Seniors and foursomes at Akarana.

He was nominated and was a finalist for the North Harbour Masters Excellence Award. Unfortunately he did not get the award. Ian came fourth in the Auckland Masters at Titirangi. Top North Harbour player.

**2002**

Over many years, both the *Lions Club* and the *Masonic Lodge* conducted charity golf tournaments. These tournaments raised money for local charities, and in the case of the lodge, some of the money was used to help run the Roskill Masonic Village, a retirement home. In appreciation of allowing the Rodney Masonic Lodge (which was established in Warkworth in 1877) to run these tournaments at the Club in excess of 30 years, the Northern Masonic Association Trust Board, who owned and operated the Roskill Masonic Village, presented a plaque to the Club in recognition of their support.

Further land purchased from the **Membery's**. This is where the driving range and part of No 1 fairway are now situated.

**Ian Jackson** successfully defended his NZ Seniors title at Nelson and was a member of the winning North Harbour Masters Team at Napier.



**2003**

Construction of the new Club house commenced, with the construction being carried out by Brooker and Whitmore. Major works carried out on course as well.

The old Club house and Greenkeepers house sold to *New Zealand Golf Resort*.

Land around the green of the old 17th fairway and top end of 18th sold to **Graham and Dorothe Gamble**, where they have built a house, and now reside. They are both members of the Club and are very generous sponsors.

**2004**

First Mahurangi Masters Tournament held.

On the days of the annual autumn coring of the greens in March, the final earthworks on the 18th fairway was carried out.

It was also a great opportunity to move in to the new Club house while the course was closed.

There were problems with the new course lay out, having to climb the old 12th fairway twice. Later the layout was changed to what it is today.

*Carters* supplied the results whiteboard for Club house.

The Warkworth and Districts RSA donated flag poles which are situated next to the No 1 tee.

Our Patron **Ross Copestake** passed away, and **Lillian Andrews** became the new Patron.

A Golf shop opened, being stocked by **Stuart Reese**, the Professional from Peninsula Golf Club, and run by the Warkworth Golf Manager.

The new Club house was officially opened by **Vijaya Vaidyanath C.E.O** of the Rodney District Council on 25th April. The opening was attended by a large number of members, past members visitors from other clubs and dignitaries from various organisations. A tribute to all concerned in the idea, purchase of land, design and building of this Club house.

**2006**

**Lillian Andrews** resigned as Patron and the position was filled by **Gran Turtleley**. Gran has been a member of the Club since 1957.

**Mike Leeper** won the NZ mid-amateur at Pukekohe.

**2007**

**Mike Leeper** was part of the winning North Harbour Masters team. Warkworth can produce some players of note.

During the winter the area had a terrific storm with winds stronger than **Cyclone Bola**. Tiles were ripped off the Club house roof and a lot of the pines on the right hand side of No 6 were blown over. The three Greenkeepers, with the help of a good muster of volunteers spent several days cleaning up. Over the time the course has been in existence, this would have been the storm to have created most damage.



*Womens closing night party 2006.*  
Left to Right: *Brenda Marsh, Betty Faesen, Judy Wane, Betty Trewin.*



*Womens closing night party 2007.*  
*Trish Lawrie, Annette Sharp.*



## Past and Present

**Patrons** Past Patrons of the Club have been: J. Morrison, C. Ellis, N. Hamilton, F. Clegg, S. Edwards, E. Roke, E. Wyatt, R. Copestake and Mrs L. Andrews. The present Patron is Gran Turtley.

**Presidents** Past Presidents have been: L. J. Verry, J. Morrison, P. Smytheman, P. Halligan, C. C. Ellis, S. Morrison, P. Morrison, E. Christianson, C. Stone, A. J. Morrison, T. O'Rouke, F. Anderson, J. Stubbs, W. MacDonald, N. Roper, H. Perkins, W. Connell, M. Berthelton, D. Mason, W. Whitehorn, B. Andrews, A. Walters, R. Copestake, N. Page, L. Trent VC, J. McLean, J. Ferguson, Mrs G. Reeve, B. Sorenson, T. McDermott, D. Starr, Mrs B. Trewin and M. Calvert. The Present President is Dave Starr, who was also President from 1995 to 1997.

**Life Members** over the years have been: Mrs A. Warin, Mrs I. M. Guy, Mrs C. Ellis, P. Morrison, S. Moore, H. Perkins, J. Stubbs, H. G. Wenzlick, F. Anderson, and N. Roper. Present Life Members are Mrs S. Perkins, Mrs L. Andrews, Mrs G. Reeve, P. Copestake, Mrs B. Trewin, and D. Starr.

**People** Over the years there have been many members who have contributed a lot of voluntary work, as well as donating a lot of time and effort into running the Club. There have been so many that it would be hard to remember them all. No golf club would be where they are today without the lady members, especially country clubs, and Warkworth is no exception. Before the advent of Club caterers, the catering was organised by the Women's committee, and for 70 odd years, what a wonderful job they did! It must have been a great relief when caterers were employed so that the women members knew they could play their round of golf and not be on "afternoon tea" duty when they finished.

The Ladies (or Women as they are now known as in golfing circles) have been instrumental in establishing and maintaining a lot of the gardens around the course. This has been very much appreciated by the members and visitors alike. Also the Women have some "riotous" evenings on their closing days. No men are allowed anywhere near the Club house on these occasions.

Both the Women's and Men's Pennant teams have had successes over the years. In 2000 and 2001, the Men's pennant teams went on a three day golfing trip to Rotorua. A very enjoyable time was had by all.

One member who will be remembered by the long serving members was Sam Wenzlick who you could say was the unofficial/official barman for many years. Bert Andrews wrote the following tribute to Sam in a newsletter in July 1999.

### Tribute to Sam Wenzlick

I know very little about Sam's early life, except that he inherited that streak of dogged determination, that his forebears must have had, when they paddled their boats up the Puhoi river last century, to carve out a new life from the then virgin native bush.

This Club had many hard working members in the past, and doubtless there will be many more in the future, but it's pretty safe to say, that no two of them combined, could match the countless hours of voluntary time that Sam gave, both out on the course, and behind the bar.

Although he would not take on any high office in the Club, nevertheless he served on the general committee for many, many years, mainly in his capacity of head barman. And at the monthly meetings, when it came time for the various sub-committee reports, the President of the day would ask, "anything to report from the Bar Sam?" To which Sam invariably replied,



"No, no, dey seem to be drinkin' O.K."

Sam of course, loved his beer. Just a few months ago, we were sitting by the window, having a drink, and I said, "You know Sam, it would be interesting to know just how many bottles of ale you've drunk since taking up golf?" He thought for a while, then said "Yeah, yeah, I suppose it would, guess it would average 22 or 23 a week." Well a few moments with a calculator, soon converts that to over 40,000 bottles! When the next balance sheet comes out, don't be surprised if the bar profits show a small decline.

Although he took up the game fairly late in life, he still developed into a pretty useful golfer, playing between a 9 and 12, for a very long time. Down in the old Club house, when **Marie Stubbs** was the Ladies President, after a tournament when Marie was handing out the trophies, if Sam had won something (and he quite often did) she wouldn't give it to him, unless he kissed her first. Well, what a performance – "Dat damned Kussin", he said once, "Dat's a filthy habit."

Although Sam spent perhaps the greater part of his life, living with his older bachelor brother, Ted, there was never much liaison between them. I played golf with old Ted one Saturday, and he said, "Last Tuesday morning, I got up and made breakfast, and I'd nearly finished, when I thought Sam's late this morning. Then Sam comes out, all dressed up in a suit, so I said 'goin' to town, huh?' "Yep" he said, "I'm getting married!" And that was the first Ted knew about it. What a turn up for the books that was – provided quite a talking point in the Club house for some little time.

During my term as President, I made it one of my priorities that Sam's efforts for the Club should not go unrecognised – we elected him to Life Membership, and at the AGM, where it was passed unanimously, Sam got up to thank the Club for the honour they had bestowed on him, he got as far as "Mr President –" but the words would just wouldn't come, and then I noticed a couple of small tears starting to trickle down his cheeks, so to save the poor man too much embarrassment, I said "Sam, just because you've been made a Life Member, that doesn't mean you can knock off work." And as we all know, Sam never did. Just a few weeks back, when the fires were burning out on the course, who did you see stocking them up, pushing the ends together, one of the oldest members in the Club, Sam Wenzlick.

Seven or eight years ago on the occasion of our *75th jubilee*, I acquired a good photo of Sam and I've taken the liberty of ordering a framed enlargement so, with the Committee's approval, I intend to hang it above the bar, as a lasting Memorial to the man who spent so much time there, for our benefit. And I've got a sneaking suspicion, although we would never admit it, that when it is in place, old Sam will look down, (or perhaps up?) with just the slightest semblance of an appreciative smile on his face.

There was only one Sam Wenzlick. The Warkworth Golf Club gained a lot when he became a member, and as his friends, were all just a little richer for having known him.

**BERT ANDREWS**

## Points of Interest

When the new Club house was opened in 1973 the President at the time was **Bill Whitehorn**. Bill passed on many years ago. The Ladies President was **Elsie Sharp**, whose husband **Browning** is mentioned in other parts of this book. Elsie was Intermediate Champion in 1967. Ladies Club Captain in 1969-1970 and President in 1972-1973. Elsie is now a resident at Amberlea Rest Home in Algies Bay and on January 8th celebrated her 93rd birthday.

Sponsorship over the years has been a major factor in the running of the Club. **Peter Butler** and **Peter Jones**, owners of *Gubbs Motors* were very generous in this respect. They sponsored the annual Christmas Tournament for many years and also supplied buses for pennant travel and inter Club visits at a very reasonable cost. Peter Butler unfortunately contracted cancer and passed away at about the time when Peter Jones was diagnosed with the same thing. In 1995, Peter Jones required surgery in Perth which was to cost a lot



of money for air travel and accommodation for Pixie his wife. Because of his help to the Club, a tournament was run to raise funds to assist them in their expenses. It was very well supported and over \$12,000.00 was raised. Unfortunately Peter passed away about 18 months later, a few weeks after attending his nephew, Kevin's wedding. The Weight For Age board in the Club house is in memory of Peter Jones. A trophy, named the *Peter Butler Peter Jones Trophy*, in memory of them both, was played for at Gubbs sponsored tournaments, and awarded to the best net Warkworth women and the best net Warkworth man.

**David (Pip) Looker** started as apprentice Greenkeeper in 1985 under the direction of **Shannon Dudley**. Later **Roy Newdick** was his mentor. After completing his apprenticeship, Pip left to work with his father, **Robin**, who was and still is a fencing contractor. In 1990 when Roy Newdick resigned, Pip came back and took over the roll of Head Greenkeeper. At that time he was 20 years of age. Pip has always been a hard worker, and over the years with the assistance of apprentice Greenkeepers and assistant Greenkeepers, has maintained and improved the course to the condition that it is today. When the new Club house was built and alterations done to the course, Pip did a lot of the work on the course and the gardens around the Club house. Pip resigned in January this year.

**Jim and Betty Faesen** joined the Club after spending many years as members at *Huapai Golf Club*. Betty's name is well known around both the Auckland and North Harbour Golf Associations as there is a Women's competition in both areas bearing her name.

Jim supplied the first Golf Carts for the Club. These were petrol driven carts, which were used for several years until the Club purchased electric carts.

**Ken and George Brewer** were very active volunteers at working bees and also just by themselves. Ken carried on after George stopped, building all the shelters on the course. Most of these he built at home and transported them to the Club. For his efforts, Ken was made an honorary member.

The Club's machinery always require maintenance. For many years this was carried out by **Nape Roper**. After that **Peter Goudie** was the man. The Club owes a lot to these members for all the time and effort they put in to the Club. Both these members were invited to join the *Eagles Golfing Society*.

**Les Stringer** was a member for many years. Along with his friends **Ian Farmer** and **Wally Parker**, who all had beach properties at Waikare Bay on the Takatu Peninsula, did a lot for the Club. Even after Les was really unable to play golf, he still kept up with his donation of prizes, mainly trundlers. In recognition of his generosity Les was made an Honorary member in 1993.

**Mike Taylor** was an agricultural pilot working for Barr Bros Ltd. He flew an Airtruck, a peculiar aircraft built in Australia. Mike used to arrive for golf on Saturdays landing in Membre's paddock, pull his golf clubs out of the back of the aeroplane and walk up to the Club house. He became well known for this. Mike unfortunately was killed at Puhoi on 24th January 1977 while working. His clubs were in the back of the aeroplane. The Patron and Life Members board in the Club house was presented by Mike's family in memory of Mike.

## A Women's Perspective

By **Mary Sorenson**, a past Women's Champion, Club Captain, President and assistant Secretary Manager of the Club as well as having served on the Women's management committees of both the *North Harbour and Northland Golf Associations*.

Mary writes – The Ladies of the Warkworth Golf Club built a reputation around the area as a team of golfers who on their day could beat most others in gross competition. In the 1980s we were part of the *Northland Golf Association* and played pennants on handicap against teams in the lower half of Northland. We also played the *Merle Berry competition*. Both of these competitions were won by Warkworth teams. At this time we also played a weekend Interclub competition in the North Harbour area which we also managed to win occasionally. When



we became part of the new North Harbour Association in the early 1990s (and became Women instead of Ladies) we played "A" Pennants, which we won against clubs with many name players and many more to call on, and won the competition in 1995 and 1996. The Betty Faesen competition (teams of four; matchplay off the stick) was also won against the odds by a team which mostly comprised Margaret Murray, Mary Sharp, Carolyn Dobbyn and Mary Sorenson. All of this competition involved a lot of travel to and from venues and with the involvement also in National and Association events and many other Club members involved as caddies and spectators a great camaraderie existed within the women's section. Most enjoyable.

### **Thelma Little** a member for 20 years penned the following comments.

It was February 1988 that I joined Warkworth Golf Club as a beginner golfer, having had very little experience of playing any sport whatsoever. I thought that this would be a very good opportunity to meet people in the community; my husband and I having retired and being new to the area.

First day at Beginners Day, I arrived on my own, and was terrified to say the least, and thought that I would turn around and go home!!! However, decided I had better stay, when beckoned by Mary Sorenson, a Silver lady member, who said "Come this way" – so I followed the other "Beginners". I was made very welcome, and taken under the wing of Irene Herbert, given a wonderful morning tea, then taken onto the course by those wonderful Silver lady members, whom I thought, just had to be Professional Golfers, as they looked so good. I was given an internal handicap of 60!! The aim being to obtain an official handicap of 36, which I could never see myself achieving, as I was carding around 90 a side. My husband suggested I should consider having a practice swing, this of course was out of the question, as I was thoroughly worn out at the end of each round, with scores of around 180.

A few weeks into the season – we "Beginners" as we were known as, and who always started ahead of the field, were invited to stay behind after our game, and join the 70th birthday celebrations of one of "The Big Girls" whom we "Beginners" always referred to those Ladies who had an official handicap. It was then I had the pleasure of meeting a wonderful lady, Eileen Lawrie, whose 70th birthday was being celebrated, and whose daughter Robyn was bringing the cake for us all to share, 70 years old, and on a 10 handicap. To me, who was 51 years old, and on a 60 handicap – this lady surely had to be "Wonder Woman". Eileen my "Idol" – how I admired her.

Now 20 years on, and yes, I did manage to gain the 36 handicap, although many times considered "Giving this crazy game up" – "This game is not for me". There must be better ways to have fun. I now look back, and can say in all honesty, that the friends whom I have made, the many fun trips away that we have had, the laughter and tears we have shared, have all been worthwhile. Now when I visit my friend Eileen, who is no longer able to play this "great" game, she and I do enjoy going "Down Memory Lane" and recalling "The Good Old Days".

The Game of Golf, surely must be a worthwhile exercise. I hope that I shall be lucky enough to be able to continue playing it for some time to come.

Congratulations Warkworth Golf Club on 100 years Golfing.

### **Shirley Webber** a member of some years.

When you start playing golf at 57 it's a different mind set from if you started at 13. Winning is not so vital. My plan was I would get much needed exercise, enjoy the company of other like minded people, be outside in good weather, and maybe reasonable golf would be a bonus.

Today 13 years later I get exercise, I enjoy the company of others, weather not always good (but something to enjoy moaning about) and good golf remains elusive. However I did not expect how much fun and laughter I would get through golf.

Never will I forget a fellow new golfer being 7 off the tee on the old 15th. The drains were a magnet. No wonder I needed a sheep counter to count my strokes and no wonder in that first



year of our golf we were shunted off first before the serious players started. There were trips up north for two day events – wow did we have fun! Mystery trips – always great – even if we did vomit all the way back from Waiheke. Never would I have missed one moment and what wonderful friends I have made.

At the 100 years I guess I am thinking as we grow bigger and more of a business, as was always inevitable, don't let us lose sight of the fact that golf is a game to be enjoyed.

### **Audrey Shaw a member for 14 years**

After my retirement from teaching in 1994, I joined the Warkworth Golf Club as a beginner and I was greatly impressed with the way the members were welcomed and assisted. Very impressing was the caring attitude of members to each other, including the support of members suffering a bereavement in the family, and also having a health problem.

Several of us who were kindly nurtured through those early stages are still keen golfers with grateful thanks to Betty Trewin and Judy Wane.

At that time the members were attired in black watch tartan trousers and bottle green jerseys and were readily recognisable on any course. Some of the competitions were such fun and I can recall on one of their teams day when four members entered their team of Tele Tubbies dressed accordingly and acting the part. On the same day, a visiting team of four, wearing bright yellow tops, emblazoned with the words "fore play" won the prize for best team name. Another interesting incident occurred when members were playing Russian Stableford (two players multiply their individual Stableford for a result - 3x3=9). Player A teed off on the par 3 11th (now No 7) hole and scored a hole in one scoring 5 points (multiplied by a lesser score would equal a big score). However player B teed off and scored 0. Result - 5x0=0. The story goes that the unfortunate player, with all due effort, but a little misadventure, did get a "birdie", but it was a duck which expired on the spot. What good sports they were, because we all enjoyed the mirth that followed in the Club rooms at prize giving.

### **Further Factors and Figures**

Lillian Andrews, life member, past patron, joined the club in 1936. In 1943 Lillian Langridge (as she was then) won the senior ladies championship and 38 years later in 1981 won again. There appears to be no category to cover this in the Guinness Book of Records!

CLUB CHAMPIONS: since 1955 repeat champions have been Marie Stubbs (11); Carolyn Dobbyn (6); Jess Roy (4); Sheryl Smith (4); Margaret Murray (4); Mary Sorenson (4); Alison Odlin (4) and Jan Newdick (3). FOR THE MEN: Bruce Tucker (13); Jack Dunning (5); Warwick Braithwaite (5) and Mike Leeper (3).

### **Memory Lane by Gran Turtley (an extract from a newsletter cc1998)**

We look back on our humble beginnings with the old Club house perched on what is now our first tee (present 17th). In the early days, with limited staff and very little resources almost every Sunday was dedicated to voluntary working parties engaged in all types of projects from mowing fairways to digging drains. Making a decent score was not easy.

For a start all the gullies had rows of large flax bushes plus gorse and blackberry. Retrieving balls was a prickly problem. Down the left hand side of the 11th was a nasty little drain, protected ruthlessly by long spiked acacia shrubs; lots of strokes were dropped here. From the tee on the 7th (now the 8th) the pine trees on the left hand side, right around the corner was OB. I remember playing with Brian Ree's father when he notched up 13 strokes before he reached the corner.

I could ramble on, but we have one thing in common, our love for the game. Some have more access than others, but we all keep hoping that the next round will be our best one and so keep coming back for more punishment. We now have a fantastic Golf Club and our executives have very positive views. The Club can only prosper.



## HONOUR ROLL - MEN

YEAR	PRESIDENT	CLUB CAPTAIN	CLUB CHAMPION	YEAR	PRESIDENT	CLUB CAPTAIN	CLUB CHAMPION	YEAR	PRESIDENT	CLUB CAPTAIN	CLUB CHAMPION
1957	T O'Rourke	J Dunning	J Dunning	1975	B Andrews	R Copestake	E Smith	1993	T McDermott	G Whitmore	W Braithwaite
1958	T O'Rourke	E Wyatt	B Rees	1976	B Andrews	E Smith	P Watson	1994	T McDermott	G Whitmore	W Braithwaite
1959	F J Anderson	E Wyatt	JH Boys	1977	B Andrews	E Smith	B Tucker	1995	D Starr	O Stokes	M Cruickshank
1960	F J Anderson	R Archibald	JH Boys	1978	A Walters	R Sumner	E Smith	1996	D Starr	O Stokes	M Cruickshank
1961	J L Stubbs	R Archibald	J Dunning	1979	A Walters	R Sumner	B Tucker	1997	D Starr	T Fitzherbert	B Tucker
1962	J L Stubbs	R Archibald	P Magee	1980	R Copestake	P Copestake	B Tucker	1998	Mrs B Trewin	E Coffey	B Ashton
1963	W McDonald	H Perkins	P Magee	1981	R Copestake	R Copestake	B Tucker	1999	Mrs B Trewin	E Coffey	W Braithwaite
1964	W McDonald	H Perkins	J Dunning	1982	N Page	D Russell	B Tucker	2000	Mrs B Trewin	J Paterson	P Ashton
1965	N Roper	M Berthelsen	J Dunning	1983	N Page	E Wyatt	B Tucker	2001	Mrs B Trewin	M Leeper	M Leeper
1966	N Roper	M Berthelsen	R Archibald	1984	L Trent VC	E Wyatt	B Tucker	2002	Mrs B Trewin	M Crombie	P Ashton
1967	H Perkins	B Rees	G Sharp	1985	L Trent VC	K McGregor	B Tucker	2003	Mrs B Trewin	M Crombie	M Leeper
1968	H Perkins	B Carson	V Williams	1986	J McLean	K McGregor	B Tucker	2004	M Calvert	M Crombie	M Leeper
1969	W Connell	B Carson	J Andrew	1987	J McLean	K McGregor	B Tucker	2005	M Calvert	M Crombie	I Jackson
1970	M Berthelsen	K McGregor	H Hart	1988	J D Ferguson	R Thompson	B Tucker	2006	M Calvert	M Crombie	A Garnett
1971	D Mason	A Walters	J Dunning	1989	Mrs G Reeve	P Goudie	B Tucker	2007	M Calvert	M Reid	M Reid
1972	D Mason	A Walters	G Sharp	1990	Mrs G Reeve	P Goudie	W Braithwaite	2008	D Starr	M Reid	M Reid
1973	W Whitehorn	W McDonald	M Berthelsen	1991	B L Sorenson	D Starr	B Tucker				
1974	W Whitehorn	R Copestake	P Bothaway	1992	B L Sorenson	D Starr	W Braithwaite				

## HONOUR ROLL - LADIES

YEAR	PRESIDENT	CLUB CAPTAIN	CLUB CHAMPION	YEAR	PRESIDENT	CLUB CAPTAIN	CLUB CHAMPION	YEAR	PRESIDENT	CLUB CAPTAIN	CLUB CHAMPION
1957	-	J Dawson	M Connolly	1975	G McCarthy	W Copestake	J Roy	1993	C Beachen	B Trewin	M Sorenson
1958	-	J Dawson	M Connolly	1976	S Perkins	P Embling	J Roy	1994	B Trewin	J Wane	C Dobbryn
1959	-	F Smith	G Lawrie	1977	S Perkins	L Andrews	J Roy	1995	B Trewin	J Wane	C Dobbryn
1960	-	F Smith	G Lawrie	1978	L Andrews	M Phillips	J Roy	1996	J Wane	B Dudding	C Dobbryn
1961	-	W McDonald	W McDonald	1979	L Andrews	M Phillips	S Smith	1997	J Wane	B Dudding	C Dobbryn
1962	-	W McDonald	M Stubbs	1980	M Phillips	M Page	S Smith	1998	***	B Ririnui	M Murray
1963	J Dawson	S Roper	M Stubbs	1981	M Phillips	M Page	L Andrews	1999	-	B Ririnui	A Odlin
1964	J Dawson	S Roper	M Stubbs	1982	E Turtley	P Gubb	S Smith	2000	-	-	A Odlin
1965	J Dawson	M Stubbs	M Stubbs	1983	E Turtley	P Gubb	M Treen	2001	-	-	C Dobbryn
1966	J Dawson	M Stubbs	M Stubbs	1984	P Gubb	P Gubb	J Newdick	2002	-	-	A Odlin
1967	J Dawson	E Grayson	M Stubbs	1985	P Gubb	G Reeve	M Murray	2003	-	-	J Hunter
1968	F Smith	E Grayson	M Stubbs	1986	G Reeve	G Reeve	J Newdick	2004	-	-	A Odlin
1969	F Smith	E Sharp	M Stubbs	1987	G Reeve	M Murray	J Newdick	2005	-	-	M Murray
1970	M Stubbs	E Sharp	S Smith	1988	M Murray	M Sorenson	M Murray	2006	-	-	A Odlin
1971	M Stubbs	L Andrews	M Stubbs	1989	M Murray	M Sorenson	M Sorenson	2007	-	-	C Tucker
1972	E Sharp	G McCarthy	S Smith	1990	M Sorenson	C Beachen	M Sorenson				
1973	E Sharp	G McCarthy	M Sharp	1991	M Sorenson	C Beachen	C Dobbryn				
1974	G McCarthy	W Copestake	E Grayson	1992	C Beachen	B Trewin	M Sorenson				

\*\*\* From 1998 Warkworth Ladies Golf became redundant. Presidents and Club Captains were selected from the club as a whole.

**PATRONS:** S Edwards, T O'Rourke, E Roke, A J Morrison, E Wyatt, R Copestake, Mrs L Andrews, G Turtley.

**LIFE MEMBERS:** Mrs A Warin, Mrs I M Guy, Mrs C Ellis, P Morrison, S Moore, H Perkins, J Stubbs, H G Wenzlick, F Anderson, Mrs S Perkins, J N Roper, Mrs L Andrews, Mrs F Smith, P Copestake, Mrs G Reeve, Mrs B Trewin, D Starr.