Farewell to Cam/Welcome to Ben

Young Ben Engels has big (work) boots to fill with our now qualified apprentice Cam Collins heading off to the US.

At a recent staff farewell for Cam, President Dave Donnelly and Turf Manager Kevin Brown, both spoke highly of Cam’s dedicated work ethic and his valued contribution to the Cambridge Golf Club and wished him well for his future.

Workmate Lyall Keyte also said he had started at the same time as Cam and had found him to be a very pleasant and likeable young guy to work with and they often took the mickey with each other.

Cam (22) who plays golf off a 17 handicap is now a fully qualified Level 4 Turf Manager and his career now takes him to the US. He will fly to Ohio for three days induction then on to TPC Potomac at Avenel Farm (Maryland) for two months. The rest of his placement will be at TPC Boston (Massachusetts). The club members wish Cam every success in furthering his career.

Filling the apprentice gap at Cambridge GC now is 18 year old Ben Engels who is from Putaruru. Last year Ben had three months’ work experience at Pakuranga Golf Club in Auckand.

The club welcomes Ben and we expect to see his happy smiling face while out on the course.
The 2017 season programme is now well on its way with plenty of golf being played by all. The Club’s finances are tracking close to budget with the exception of a few unexpected non-budgeted costs, such as rewiring of the flat in the clubhouse and a new power pole down to the greenkeeper’s shed, which in both cases were close to causing serious potential harm to persons or property. We are confident that with some special events being planned, extra funds will come in to help make up these cost overruns. We are also especially happy with an increase year to date in memberships which, when compared with the national average of golf memberships being in decline, we are bucking the trend. Collection of members’ subs have also been well above this time last year, so welcome to all our new members and thank you to all existing members for paying your subs promptly, as this helps the club’s finances and cash flow.

I also wish to take this opportunity to remind members of the importance of our sponsors who contribute significantly to the finances of your club. Without these sponsors’ generosity the cost of your membership would increase, so when purchasing goods or services please give your club’s sponsors an opportunity for your business; after all, they are supporting you to play golf!

Let’s also not forget our very own Pro Shop which is owned and managed by our Club Manager, Geoff Pitman who also contributes greatly to the Club. So when purchasing golfing equipment, if Geoff does not have it in stock, he can procure it and in most cases, less than the larger golfing equipment suppliers. So lastly, please support all our sponsors who you can find listed on the back page of this newsletter, and when purchasing from these sponsors please thank them for their sponsorship at the Cambridge Golf Club.

**Club Captain’s Report by Phil Jackson**

Well another month down. Mixed Opening Day was a great day with fine, hot weather. Thank goodness for the early start. Good to see the nine hole players joining in for the day.

Winners of the Ron Armstrong Memorial were John Hansen and Kathy Miller.

Great to see the president Dave Donnelly getting in a great drive down one to open the season. Well done.

This was also the first round of the John & Max Hewitt Memorial. Leaders after this round were P Jackson, J Woodall, J Dudson and G Harrison.

The second day was a washout, due to the heavy rain around 12.30pm, making the course unplayable and not all players able to finish their rounds. As a result the John & Max Hewitt Memorial became an 18 hole competition, with the winner being Phil Jackson with a nett 63.

Saturday 25 February was qualifying for Handicap Matchplay. Well done to the top 16. Good luck for the matches to come. The top qualifier was Steve Cooper with a nett 63 (shared Sat jackpot with Ken MacKenzie) who was then unavailable for the Cambridge Matchplay.

Prebble Cup saw Waiterimu too good on the day, winning 6½ to 5½.

Best of luck to the Tolich Trophy team. They will be playing at Whangamata against Pauanui.

On Sunday Cambridge hosted the Handicap Matchplay Pennants which saw our local team come out on top 6 – 3 v Putaruru.

Our 2 Championship Pennants Teams competed in Round 2 of this years competition at Lochiel Sunday. The Div1 team made up for their narrow defeat in Rd 1 with an emphatic 7-2 victory over Walton to jump up to 4th place overall with Jarrod Gyde remaining unbeaten for the season.

The Div 3 team were not so fortunate suffering a second defeat to Ngaruawahia 3 ½ to 5 ½ with Grant Carson yet to be defeated.

Following on from a 7 under par 65 on Opening Day, the club’s number one golfer Jordan Woodall represented the club with honour last Friday at St Andrews when he placed 1st Junior in the Brian Perry Classic and then went on to win the Junior Shootout. Next month (Mar 11) Jordan is off to Vietnam to represent NZ in the prestigious Nick Faldo Series alongside a number of Junior Boys and Girls. His parents Bryan and Marie are in the support team heading to Vietnam and the club wishes them all the very best for a safe and successful venture.

Good Golfing
Opening Days held on the 15th and 18th of February couldn’t have been more different. Forty three keen weekday ladies played an Ambrose competition over 9 holes in perfect weather after Judy Higgins hit the first official ball of the season. Judy was 15 years of age when she first joined Cambridge Golf Club and with time away to raise a family, she then re-joined and has been an avid supporter of the club ever since.

Several new members participated and we look forward to their company throughout the year. Once again Wilson’s Carpet Court sponsored this day and the prize table looked very smart.

Saturday 18th looked a bit doubtful weather wise but who would have predicted the deluge that had the course awash a few hours after tee off. Eleven unwary ladies including three new members teed off for their combined stableford competition in light drizzle. Only three managed to complete their round while the rest sloshed their way back to the clubhouse after 14 holes seeking shelter and towels. Waikato Chiropractic generously sponsored the day and a shortened competition decided the placings.

Congratulations to Pauline McGlade and Joy Totman on winning the Summer Cup and Summer Plate respectively. These were well contested and some sizzling scores were recorded. The Pat Ruge Salver is traditionally the first trophy competition of the new season and with so much run low scores were inevitable, however Kathy Miller took the honour with a 65 nett. Congratulations. 

Due to the extremely wet weather, the working bee to remove the garden beside the ladies first tee has been postponed until Friday 3rd March. Thank you to all members who have been busy maintaining the other gardens and to the men who have done a great job pruning and removing all the debris from the trees on the course.

Sian is organising a fundraising evening, which will be open to the public, in early April. It is hoped to auction off several items to raise funds for the women’s section. If you have something (new) to donate that you think may be suitable, please contact Sian Stevenson.

Thank you to our sponsors this month
Wilson’s Carpet Court
Waikato Chiropractic
Bettie Monroe

Reminders:
• Eclectics, Birdie/Par Trees and Shootouts are underway
• Championship Pennants at Cambridge Sunday 5th March
• Mitre 10 Mega Open teams Tournament Friday 17th March
• Course closed for Coring 28-31st March

THANK YOU
A very big thank you to both Craig MacDonald and Alan Lyne for removal of the trees, also to the men: Lyall Mike Paul Alan & the lovely Liz who pulled out the No 1 tee garden.

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2/03/2017
The R&A and the USGA have unveiled a preview of the proposed new Rules of Golf, as part of a joint initiative to modernise the Rules and make them easier to understand and apply.

The online release of this preview begins a six-month feedback and evaluation period during which all golfers worldwide can learn about the proposed changes and provide input before they are finalised in 2018 and take effect on 1 January 2019.

The proposed 24 new Rules, reduced from the current 34, have been written in a user-friendly style with shorter sentences, commonly used phrases, bulleted lists and explanatory headings. The initiative also focuses on assessing the overall consistency, simplicity and fairness of the Rules for play.

Highlights of the proposed Rule changes include:

Elimination or reduction of “ball moved” penalties: There will be no penalty for accidentally moving a ball on the putting green or in searching for a ball; and a player is not responsible for causing a ball to move unless it is “virtually certain” that he or she did so.

Relaxed putting green rules: There will be no penalty if a ball played from the putting green hits an unattended flagstick in the hole; players may putt without having the flagstick attended or removed. Players may repair spike marks and other damage made by shoes, animal damage and other damage on the putting green and there is no penalty for merely touching the line of putt.

Relaxed rules for “penalty areas” (currently called “water hazards”): Red and yellow-marked penalty areas may cover areas of desert, jungle, lava rock, etc., in addition to areas of water; expanded use of red penalty areas where lateral relief is allowed; and there will be no penalty for moving loose impediments or touching the ground or water in a penalty area.

Relaxed bunker rules: There will be no penalty for moving loose impediments in a bunker or for generally touching the sand with a hand or club. A limited set of restrictions (such as not grounding the club right next to the ball) is kept to preserve the challenge of playing from the sand; however, an extra relief option is added for an unplayable ball in a bunker, allowing the ball to be played from outside the bunker with a two-stroke penalty.

Relying on player integrity: A player’s “reasonable judgment” when estimating or measuring a spot, point, line, area or distance will be upheld, even if video evidence later shows it to be wrong; and elimination of announcement procedures when lifting a ball to identify it or to see if it is damaged.

Pace-of-play support: Reduced time for searching for a lost ball (from five minutes to three); affirmative encouragement of “ready golf” in stroke play; recommending that players take no more than 40 seconds to play a stroke and other changes intended to help with pace of play.

Simplified way of taking relief: A new procedure for taking relief by dropping a ball in and playing it from a specific relief area; relaxed procedures for dropping a ball, allowing the ball to be dropped from just above the ground or any growing thing or other object on the ground.

A series of materials have also been prepared to explain the proposed Rule changes and provide background on the initiative. Found on randa.org and usga.org/rules, they include:

**Overview of the Rules Modernisation Initiative**: goals, proposed changes and process for implementation in 2019

**Draft New Rules of Golf for 2019**: the full text of proposed Rules 1-24 and Definitions

**Draft Player’s Edition of the New Rules of Golf for 2019**: Written from the perspective of “you” the golfer, this shorter version covers the most commonly used Rules and is meant to be the rule book golfers will use when finalised and adopted in 2019

**Explanation for Each Major Proposed Change in the New Rules of Golf for 2019**: Short summaries of each major proposed change

**Summary chart of major changes**

**Videos and Infographics**: Visual explanations of the proposed Rules.

Golfers are encouraged to review the proposed changes and submit feedback online via worldwide survey technology that can be accessed at randa.org or usga.org/rules from now until 31 August 2017.