

Auckland Golf 2022 Annual General Meeting – Chair’s Report

It was great to see some sense of normality in 2022 as the team at Auckland Golf re-mobilised its programme after a couple of years of disruptions. There have been some staffing changes as well with Pauline Smaill retiring after 24 years of service to the association. Her contributions over the years, though mostly behind the scenes, were not insignificant and the wonderful relationships that she had forged with the various stakeholder groups were the cornerstones of the many successes the association had enjoyed over the years. Thanks to Jacob Cameron for facilitating the transition and for welcoming PJ Campbell into the team.

We are grateful for the level of interest and involvement from our member clubs as Auckland Golf continues to explore ways to evolve and be of service to its stakeholders. The work by the Taskforce group has been a good check and provided insights from member clubs on priorities from their perspectives. The golf participation, club membership and business of golf in the Auckland region is changing and is more complex therefore requiring Auckland Golf to challenge its thinking and the role that it can or can’t play as an association. Special thanks to Jo Beattie (Pukekohe GC), Richard Nauck (Titirangi GC), Chris Davies (Remuera GC), Hana-Rae Seifert (Golf NZ), Carl Fenton and Jacob Cameron (AGI) for their work on the Taskforce. The Board is cognisant of what can be achieved with limited resources and the need to look at different structures to go beyond what has been traditionally delivered/ facilitated by the association. This includes seeking partnership possibilities including exploring this with GolfNZ.

The Auckland Golf tournaments, inter-club and representative programmes continue to deliver, and our representative teams and individuals feature very favourably at the national and international scenes. It is only appropriate that we acknowledge the volunteers who play a pivotal role is empowering, supporting and encouraging our players/ambassadors to be the best that they can be.

We will continue to work closely with key partners including GolfNZ. The work done by the GolfNZ team through the council’s Auckland Golf Investment Plan debate, was a huge support to our district member clubs and golf in New Zealand. Support from our corporate sponsors (Winger, Panasonic, Clubroom) and grants received (Lion Foundation, NZCT, TAB, Pub Charity, Blue Sky Trust, Four Winds and GolfNZ Flexiclub) help sustain the AGI operations. Our CEO continues to exercise due care in managing the finances of the AGI with the support of Hudson Kasper.

We thank Jacob, Pauline and PJ in the Auckland Golf office for coordinating and supporting the various stakeholder groups over the past year. Our men’s and women’s presidents (David Solomann and Ann Barltrop) and their respective management committees, too have worked tirelessly to support the range of teams and tournaments. It is a huge commitment in time and energy by these volunteers to cater for our district golf programme.

We thank Wade Eatts and Carl Fenton for their contributions on the board. We wish them well as they step down to pursue other endeavours and look forward to welcoming the new directors to the Board.

Lastly but just as importantly, the district association is very grateful for the huge support from our member clubs. This support, including but not limited to making courses available for competitions and events, bears the hallmark of good collaboration within the group but also the spirit of golf that has graced the sport through its history. Many of our clubs are at capacity and therefore their ongoing endeavours to support our programme is appreciated.

Walter Chieng
Chair, Auckland Golf Incorporated
18 November 2022