

From the Boardroom

January 2024 Meeting

Our most recent meeting was 18 January 2024.

2024 Committee Strategy

Our overall strategy remains **debt reduction** and the maintenance of our assets. With Higgins gone we have added to our strategy to have more functions that will assist in generating people through the Club and as a consequence generate higher turnover in all our core activities (Bar, Restaurant and Gaming) helping us achieve our overall strategy.

Functions

We have approved a number of functions over the next few months and the indoor adjuncts are also assisting in holding race days and 8 ball tournaments. Our objective is to use the Fantail Room for a function at least monthly. As previously stated we have set up a special sub-committee headed by Dean Candy who along with Management will review the function options and plan accordingly. Many of these functions/shows will require a special license to enable non-member attendance.

A sample of what is planned is as follows:

- 24 Feb 24 Free Band “Emerald” playing
- 14 Mar 24 Food & Wine match dinner
- 18 Mar 24 Renowned Country & Western performer Denis Marsh
- 6 Apr 24 ABBA Tribute night
- 22 Apr 24 Rob Young popular Hypnotist Comedy show
- 9 May 24 Food & Wine match dinner
- 24 May 24 Queen Tribute night
- 22 Jun 24 Mid-winter Christmas Dinner

We also have ideas we are working on for the back half of the year

All of the shows/tribute evenings will be open to the public so please get in early if you want to go to these. Remember “snooze you lose” - note your diary now – discuss with friends.

Adjunct Activity

We welcome the following adjuncts/events to our regular adjunct activity.

- **1 Feb 24 Craft Beer night** – van available – We will be tasting eight varieties from the Hawkes Bay Brewing Company. Tickets only \$10 available at the bar. Finger food complimentary.
- **1 Feb 24 Darts** recommences this Thursday
- **7 Mar 24 Indoor Bowls** likely start

Inflation

As we have stated many times this is ongoing. Fish once the cheapest of the protein meals based on our purchase price should now be the dearest. You will all know that from your supermarket shopping. Gareth and his team are doing everything they can to keep the cost down and provide meal options at a reasonable cost but, alas, we cannot just give it away.

We have also received advice from the Breweries that they are going to increase their prices to us on average 4.9% effective 4 March 2024. Tax legislation will see the alcohol excise tax increase on 1 July 2024 by the annual CPI which is likely to be 6%, along with Government

controlled increases to the minimum wage likely to be at least the CPI 6%. We face some cost increases that we need to pass on to stay in business and service members adequately. Overall this is a likely shift of 4-5% on our sale price not the addition of those increases. Your Committee has taken the bold step not to have a progressive price increase regime but to implement all the increases on 1 July 2024 and your Club bear the cost of some of these increases until then.

Projects

Outdoor Bowls Ablution Block

Via Keith Redman we have filed plans with the NCC and there will be a to and fro until final approval is given.

Front entrance

This work is still planned and we await the holiday season to conclude, reaffirm quotes and get the job done with welcome assistance from Eddy's Balmy Army.

Quotes being obtained for

- CCTV replacement is to go ahead and should be completed end of February 2024.
- Gaming room servicing for peak times is being looked at by management.

Solar Panels

- We are investigating the economics of solar panels and Eddy, Christian and I are in discussions. At this stage borrowing money for the project at current interest rates makes the project expensive. We are looking at alternatives.

Constitution

The Act was changed sometime ago and we thought we had until 2025 to make the changes. However, the IRD has made a ruling that unless these changes to our Constitution are made we lose our charity status that we have always enjoyed. Through an Extraordinary General Meeting we will make some minor Constitutional changes.

For a number of reasons January has not suited so we will do this in February we will let you know the date. The IRD and our solicitors concur with the changes. We will advertise the date and notice of motion soon.

Membership Draw

In mid to late February 2024 we are going to trial a Wednesday membership draw of five draws of \$400 jack potting to \$2,000 with two \$1,000 draws on the final night. This is expected to be self-funding so watch out for our "What's On" in February 2024. Better still come along on Wednesdays and don't miss out.

Financially

Having Higgins post covid and the cyclone was a big bonus as the first half of the year activity was low as people recovered from both. It has picked up since then and we are encouraged by our forward bookings, increased membership and are hopeful of having a successful 2024.

January is slightly behind our forecast and has always been our worst trading month. The rest of the year we look forward to with a high degree of optimism. We can all add to that by being a regular supporter, turning up to functions that suit and helping out when asked. See you at the club. Warm regards.