



The Eagles Golfing Society of New Zealand (Inc.)

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NEWSLETTER APRIL 2018



David Howie
National President



Jeremy Ballantyne
National Secretary

Greetings, fellow Eagles. It is now seven weeks since the Pukekohe convention when we were installed in our new positions, and we don't want you to think that the grass has been growing under our feet since then!



David at the Gisborne Halberg



Jeremy with locals at Balclutha

We have spent quite a bit of time getting used to our new challenges. David has attended two district Halberg tournaments, at Patutahi in Gisborne (above left), and at the Masterton Golf Club for the Wellington event, and he thoroughly enjoyed himself at both. I have been to the South Otago Halberg at Balclutha (above right) and the West Coast/Buller tournament in Hokitika, where I had the pleasure of meeting Justin Muschamp (next page) who represents the Halberg Disability Sports Foundation so articulately over a very wide area of the South Island. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity and

the hospitality of everyone we've met. Congratulations to the local Eagles who have worked so hard to drum up such great sponsorship and enthusiasm.



With Justin Muschamp at Hokitika

While I was down south, I was due to play in the Otago Metro Halberg at St. Clair, but the weather let us down badly – the course was under water when we arrived, and we spent the morning helping the locals unpick their magnificent trophy table and store everything away for their rescheduled event on Wednesday 11 April. Unfortunately, the weather gods have intervened again, and the new date is now on Wednesday 3 October.



Scenes at St Clair – all that hard work!

Over the next couple of months, David has set himself a demanding schedule of visits – he is also hoping to fit a bit of work round his Eagles duties.

For those of you who don't know us very well, David is the general manager of Hawke's Bay law firm Gifford Devine. I have been retired for some time, after being the principal of Central Hawke's Bay College in Waipukurau for nearly 20 years.

We are keen to preserve the valued traditions of Eagles while progressing the Society as well. We are constantly thinking of ways to position ourselves. David has already done a lot of ground-breaking work with Dean Murphy, CEO of NZ Golf, and we are mutually pleased with our new relationship.



We see a need to brand Eagles, and we want to revitalise the website, which I think is very outdated and difficult to follow. If anyone has any bright ideas about this, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

The annual mid-year meeting in Wellington in September will, we hope, be more of a think-tank than a formalised meeting, allowing presidents and life members to give their views on where they think Eagles should be heading to remain an important, influential, up-to-date and relevant body.

I want to thank the district secretaries for their hard work over this transitional period in Eagles – Ian Chicken has been busily collating the information for the new Red Book which we hope to publish by the end of May.

Please get out there and sell those raffle tickets – sooner rather than later! I'd like to have several weeks to tidy up the loose ends my predecessors have warned me about. You'll notice our new main sponsors are now the Golf Warehouse and Srixon – Bob Rosevear has done heaps of work to cement our partnership with them, and it would be great to have everything running like clockwork this year.

Our grateful thanks to Tom Whitaker and Ray Porter for leaving the ship on such a steady course. The Eagles Society of New Zealand is in great heart, and we are looking forward to the next two years.

Kind regards to you all,

David and Jeremy



Working tirelessly for you! (at the BOP/Taranaki/Man-Wang/HB quadrangular, Turangi, 8 April)