

## Eastern Hutt Rotary's Assistance with Te Omanga Hospice's Annual Golf Tournament

Dear Club Members

As discussed at last Monday's meeting we have been invited to assist the Te Omanga Hospice with their annual golf tournament.

### BACKGROUND

During my year as president of our club we tried on two occasions to run a golf tournament to raise money for Te Omanga Hospice. Both occasions failed. One because of the covid 19 pandemic restrictions we were unable to hold the event. The second time we combined with the Petone Rotary Club to run the event at Shandon Golf Club because we could not get a suitable date at the Boulcott Farm Golf Club. We attracted 7 entries!

The problem appeared to be there were too many corporate events going on at the same time which were attracting the local golfers. These events were raising between \$60,000 and \$110,000 for the hospice. Our "little" tournament couldn't compete.

I met with Matthew McCracken, fundraising manager at Te Omanga Hospice to discuss the problem we had. I also mentioned to him that probably our best way forward was to "attach" ourselves to a corporate event in light of what was happening now. Also because of our ageing membership and the work involved in the running of our event. I also discussed this option with Brian Clarke and John Matthews. They were in favour, in principle, of the approach. I also discussed this with Stephen Fitzjohn of Petone Rotary and asked him to help me find a corporate sponsor who would be interested in having Rotary's assistance with their event. Stephen tried a couple of company's who advised "thanks" but "no thanks". They have their event organised and didn't need our assistance.

On 15 September I received an email from Matthew McCracken asking if our club would be interested in assisting the Te Omanga Hospice with their golf tournament in February 2022 (all going well) and could we meet for a chat about it. When we met I expressed interest in principle but advised that I would have to get approval from my board to proceed. Matthew advised although he had had informal discussions with committee members nothing official had been agreed to so he would now go back to them to get formal approval to proceed and he would get back to me.

After a nervous wait Matthew advised approval had been given by the committee to meet up with us to discuss how we could help. This meeting was originally planned for 4 October but was put off a week and happened on Monday 11 October. Brian Clarke and I were to attend but Brian was unable to so John Matthews attended with me.

It was a very successful meeting. The committee was very enthusiastic about having our club's assistance. They are a small committee of mainly retired folk.

Members of the committee are:

Matthew McCracken, Te Omanga Hospice

Debbie Ferrel, Te Omanga Hospice

John Morgan

Lyncia Podmore

Rod Gillespie

Grant Quinn

The tournament is planned for Friday 25 February 2022 at the Boulcott Farm Golf Club.

It will be 18 holes with tee off at 12.30pm. It will be an ambrose event.

There will be a maximum of 36 teams.

Entry fee is \$600 per team or \$2000 if the team wants to sponsor a hole.

Golf carts will be available for \$100.

The hospice will run the event.

Food stands will be available on certain holes. Our rotary gazebo will be provided on one of the holes for this. I have booked the gazebo to make sure it is available on the day.

Last year's tournament raised \$65,000. They are aiming to raise \$75,000 this event and \$100,000 for the 2023 event.

Kensway are the major sponsors and donate \$10,000 towards the event. They also do the barbecue and provide free drinks on the course.

Our club has been asked to run the raffles on the day. We will source the raffle items.

We will also assist with auction items and sponsors. This will be a club event rather than a committee event. It will be an opportunity for all club members to be involved and be seen to be part of a worthy fundraiser that has been a significant project for our club in the past.

Te Omanga Hospice will include on all print material " In association with Rotary Eastern Hutt"

We will wear our club tee shirts on the day.

The hospice committee members are excited to have our club's input into the event because of our many years running our very successful tournament.

I am pleased to have been able to achieve this in my year as president with the help and advice of Brian Clarke.

We will be able to display our banners in the club rooms.

I recommended to the board:

1. That our club no longer tries to organise and run the annual golf tournament to raise money for Te Omanga Hospice because of the time and effort involved and our aging membership;
2. That we advise the Te Omanga Hospice organising committee that Eastern Hutt Rotary is very keen to assist with their annual golf tournament any way we can.
3. That three or four club members be appointed to work with the Te Omanga Hospice committee to plan the event and report back progress.

The Board agreed.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss please do not hesitate to contact me, John Matthews or Brian Clarke.

Regards  
Jan Palmer  
Immediate Past President