

WAIHEKE CROQUET CLUB (INC)

RECEIVED

18 OCT 2016



C/- 16 The Esplanade
Oneroa
Waiheke Island

Mr Mace Ward
General Manager
Parks, Sports & Recreation
P B 92300
AUCKLAND CITY 1142

cc Waiheke Local Board

Dear Sir,

My Committee has requested that I contact you with regard to our tenure of the greens formerly owned and used by the now defunct Oneroa Bowling Club.

For the 23 years our Club had been situated at Stoneyridge Winery, with the compliments of Mr Steven White, until December 2014 when Stoneyridge informed us that our Club greens were required for extra parking space and that we needed to vacate. Our President and Club Captain approached the then members of the Local Board with a view of utilizing the already established greens of the Oneroa Bowling Club. The Chairman, Mr Paul Walden, said to them "Go for it". Since that time we have had contact with Annette Campion but with few results.

A lot of hard work was undertaken by our members, all Senior Citizens, to bring the greens back to some sort of reasonable playing surface. Over that summer it was exceedingly dry and towards the end of February we were almost playing in a dust bowl. Absolutely no water systems, nor power were available to us. I have attached an information sheet which describes the condition of bores, pumps and watering systems.

Since the beginning of 2015 our Club had been trying to upgrade the greens to bring up to, or close to, the standard that other Croquet Clubs around Auckland do enjoy. Our problem is that we do not have any firm commitment from the "powers that be" that we can enjoy our game and be confident that the use of the greens can be long-term. We have invested small amounts of finance for lawn seed, weeding and rolling but we still cannot achieve anything like a perfect surface to play on. We are unable to invest large amount of finance (or apply for funding) unless we know that we may have use of the greens for future years. Our major expense, of course, is mowing.

Most of our members are elderly, enjoy the outdoor game which is easy to play, and is socially interactive. We do occasionally have outside groups requesting to use our facilities for social events, to which we happily oblige and all appear to have an enjoyable time.

Our Committee sincerely requests your assistance and advice on this matter. We want the greens to be flat, green, a joy to play upon and the ability to water them in the heat of the summer, as all clubs are able to do.

Yours faithfully
Waiheke Croquet Club Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jan Faulconbridge', written over a faint circular stamp or watermark.

Jan Faulconbridge (Mrs)
Secretary/Treasurer

Enc.

CONCERNS REGARDING THE LAWNS AT THE EX BOWLING CLUB

- OBC future revolves around the availability of water to keep the greens alive
- Historically water was sourced from 4 rain filled water tanks from 2 bores on site. When OBC failed the facilities were taken over by Auckland Council for refurbishment etc. Waiheke Local Board vacated the Ostend Service Centre and used the newly improved OBC Cub rooms as temporary offices.
- The Bowling greens were badly neglected to the point of being weed infected with dock and thistle at about knee height.
- The bores had been vandalised with concrete poured into them under the direction of OBC Club Exec.
- The bores have not been re-opened.
- Four previously sited water-tanks were removed and 2x 5000 gallon tanks replaced them. These present water tanks service the OBC building for domestic purposes only.
- The Bowling green lawns were irrigated by a Sprinkler System comprised of 8 Hunter 1-31 heads and perimeter drainage on all sides. The irrigation system was run off a 1 ½" diameter feed via a dedicated pump.
- The sprinkler system cannot be used at present and unless a larger size discharge valve and associated piping is installed, little can be achieved to save the greens over this coming summer.
- Short term solution could entail locating a suitable tank adjacent to the main entrance door of OBC and pipe rain water from that section of roof which now discharges water onto the fore-court near flag pole.