

# November Club News

## Membership Update

We are delighted to announce that the official membership total now stands at 1076 and we owe a huge vote of thanks to both our new members and our existing members for your tremendous support during the recent membership drive. Since 1<sup>st</sup> June the paid membership has doubled and the membership drive has resulted in over 300 new members and scores of past members rejoining. The campaign has been a watershed for the Club, providing the immediate cash injection required and an ongoing increase in all of the Club's income streams.

## Business Awards

Recognition of the Clubs contribution to the Hospitality sector was given at the Annual Business Awards held at The Plaza on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September with the Club taking the Peoples Choice Award for Services for Hospitality. Given the considerable effort put in by all those involved at the Club over recent times, the membership's voting in the Awards is very much appreciated.

## Club Draws

Members have won over \$3000 in recent months in Club draws and it's as simple as being present in the Clubroom with your membership card and a little luck with your number being drawn.

**Wednesday Members Draw - \$1250.00**

**Friday Business House Draw - \$1180.00**

Also don't forget the supplementary draws are only \$2.00 and the prize must be won every week. Tickets available at the raffle table.

## Sports Section

The Club has fielded 2 x 8-Ball teams in the South Waikato 8-Ball challenge with Putaruru hosting this years finals. The day was a Roaring Success with 13 teams really enjoying a great Finale. Even wild pork on the Menu!!! All set to go again in the New Year. Visits from Hamilton Cozzie and Tauranga Citizens with return visits from us planned.

## Restaurant

As indicated in the July newsletter, the Club Restaurant is now operating under full contract to Peter and Chrissie Cooper who have been doing an outstanding job. Such is the success that the Wednesday Club nights are regularly a "full house" and special Thursday Theme Buffets (Indian, Kids Night, Tripe & Onions) very well received. Keep an eye on the Board for Thursday options. Let your friends know about the Christmas Menu for Group functions that is being promoted with special prices for Seniors. The Downstairs Lounge is up and running with full catering and bar facilities. This is The Place to be seen in Putaruru. Roll on the SW News photographers; did they snap the NZ Symphony Orchestra being entertained by Wrightsons recently? A warm welcome back to the Camelia Lions Club.

## Melbourne Cup Day

A fun time had by all. Best dressed members were Sheryl Miratana, winning a \$50.00 voucher from Tuscany Road Fragrantly floral complete with "My Fair Lady Hat" and Spencer Dillon taking out the men's section with a \$50.00 voucher courtesy of the The Club Restaurant. All dressed up to head off to Brisbane the next morning to go Train riding. (Tena was so proud of him and looking so well after his health scare a year ago). The Buffet Meal at lunchtime and evening was SO TASTY complete with freshly caught trout from Lake Arapuni. Yummy!!! Roll on next year for Bigger and Brighter but could it get any Better?

## Fishing Club

Our thanks to Graeme Scott who has this section up and running. A good day out at Coromandel on the Mussel barge with plenty of fish to share. There is another trip coming up to Coromandel on 11<sup>th</sup> December. The first 20 names on the Board are the ones who will go to sea.

## Gaming Machines

The Club had been in dire need of some new gaming machines for some time. The issue was discussed at the AGM with members supporting the proposed purchase and we are pleased to advise that 4 x new gaming machines were installed in September.

## **Gaming Machines cont'd**

The purchase was only made possible with the financial support of members and an underwriting from the Committee who together have loaned the Club \$40,000 until April 2006 at which time the Club will be in a position to refinance the loans. Our most sincere vote of thanks to the generosity of those members who participated in the scheme and it is pleasing to report that both September and October's gaming revenue's have exceeded the projected increases in the gaming budget.

## **Financial Update**

On Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup> October a meeting was held with the debenture holders to provide a financial update and an open discussion on the state of their debentures. The level of interest shown from non-debenture holders have prompted the Committee to provide a copy of the half-year financial report presented at the meeting to the total membership and this is enclosed with this communication. The key elements of the report and meeting are summarised below;

That following a fresh start in October last year, the Club accumulated losses of approx \$65,000 by the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2005; overdue creditors stood at \$49,000; its annual subscription income had already been spent and the club was once again technically insolvent.

The Committee sought to address that situation by taking a more active role in the management of the Club, driving a hugely successful membership campaign, contracting out of the Restaurant, tighter controls on wages and overheads, reviewing procedures, setting realistic budgets and monitoring of same.

The measures implemented have seen immediate and tangible results with the Club achieving an adjusted quarterly profit of \$21,000 in the last quarter ending 30 September, a remarkably turnaround from the large losses incurred since the restructure. The improvements have also continued through October with overall revenues up 9% on the August and September months. As a result, the overdue creditors' position has improved by \$40,000 in the 5 month period from 31<sup>st</sup> May to 31<sup>st</sup> October.

The members attending the debenture holders meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> October were overwhelmingly supportive of the Committee. John Van Dyk also

addressed the meeting and advised the members that the Committee has the unqualified support of Elite Properties as the decisions being made were with the long term best interests of the Club foremost. He also commented that the Committee had "put their necks on the line for the Club" and that they had personally advanced half of the \$40,000 raised for the new gaming machines.

## **General Commentary**

It is acknowledged that decisions made by the Executive may not find favour with 100% of the membership 100% of the time; however the Committee is resolute in the decisions made as the Club has run out of lifelines. The practice of spending significantly more than its income simply cannot be sustained and will not be tolerated by this Committee.

The measures required to achieve financial stability require a united commitment and close working relationship between the Committee, Management and Staff with the support of the Membership. There is still much to be done and the current issues continue to absorb the Committees focus and energy away from the all important task of providing the Club with a sustainable future.

It is critical that all members make an effort to attend the meeting and exercise their vote. Your Club requires strong governance and fiscal responsibility and can ill afford a return to the previous regimes which almost resulted in the Club's demise for a second time.

This Committee has shown their resolve to get the job done - allow them to complete their task; not for their benefit, but for the benefit of your Club. This is the second occasion the Club has sought Elite's assistance to avoid liquidation, we cannot expect that there will be a third.

Finally and most importantly, while the recent successes are encouraging, the Club is very much reliant on the continued support of the membership. The frequency of your visits and use of the Clubs Private Function facilities are key areas that will determine its future.

**Remember to note the date on your calendar  
Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2005 at 1:30pm**