

March Club News

Club Website

We are absolutely thrilled to announce the launch of the Club's very own website at **www.putaruruclub.co.nz** – make sure you save this to your favourite's folder, or better still, set it as your default homepage! We see this development as a key source of keeping our members informed about current events at the Club in addition to providing useful information for past, present and future members.



The home page will show what the weekly draws are worth, theme nights and specials at the Restaurant, upcoming events and links to sports results and much more. The site will be developed further over the coming months with the weekly information updated by Tuesday so we encourage you to check in on a regular basis.

Special thanks to Jeremy Bell for the superb job in designing and formatting the website. If you have any ideas, comments or suggestions about the site, or anything else at the Club, there is a space provided under the "Contact Us" link.

Friday 17th March - This is no Blarney!

We are celebrating at the Club for St Patrick's Day Irish music, Irish fare as specials on the menu in the restaurant & spot prizes; guess the weight of the blarney stone, bring in your biggest Tatle. A prize for the heaviest and a prize for the ugliest (Tatie that is, not the member!!!!!!)



Bring some guests early on Friday March 17th and your Irish party jokes and wear green. There is a prize for the member or guest who is

St Patrick's con't

the "best dressed for the spirit of the celebration" so bring out the green trou and shirts and hats. St Patrick's day isn't the same without a Guinness so why not give it a taste?

Super 14 rugby will be on the big screen at 7.30pm so be at the club where the welcome mat is out. Kick off the water festival weekend with some good honest Irish fun.

Live Music Friday 31st March

Mark this date on your calendar now – back by popular demand **UPFRONT** will performing live at the Club from 7:30pm.

There is no cover charge so organise your friends for an excellent night of music, dancing and socialising



8 - Ball Pool Section

Thursday night 8-Ball commences next week on 23rd March. This is a friendly in-house competition with members placed into drawn pairs. Gold coin entry fee with prizes up for grabs if you play well enough (or draw a partner who does!) Caters for players of all levels and simply roll up before 6:30 and see Royce to put your name forward.

The South Waikato 8-Ball inter-club competition starts up in April and we're looking for players who wish to participate. Last year the Club had two teams entered and they thoroughly enjoyed themselves. It is played on Monday nights and teams are made up of up to 12 registered players with 6 competing each week so you do not have to commit to play every Monday night. Please register your interest with Royce at the Club or phone him on 027 483 3625

Sports Tipping

With the Super 14 underway in earnest we have 40 members who are all "experts" at picking the results of each week's games. Unfortunately the "experts" that don't get it right are in for some good old fashioned banter from fellow players which all makes for a lot of fun. If multi bets is your thing, it may well be worth your while getting a few tips from the current leaders - check out the chart in the Club

Membership

The Club's membership continues to grow steadily and has now passed the 1100 mark. We have seen a marked increase in the number of couples, many of whom have taken the opportunity to join their partners to support the Club at the special couple's rate, with the added benefit of doubling their chances in all the members draws. Through natural attrition the Club loses dozens of members each year and it is important that we continually seek new members to maintain the membership at a level to support such a large facility. Included with this newsletter is a current application form that we seek your support in encouraging family members, work colleagues and friends who would enjoy the excellent facilities your Club provides, to take up a membership.

Supplementary Bonus \$300.00

The subscription notice provides details on the changes made this year in the collection of subs. As an added bonus to encourage use of the membership desk the supplementary draw will be doubled to \$300.00 for Wednesday 22nd and Wednesday 29th March. This is a "must be won on the night" draw; entry is only \$2 and tickets are available from the raffle table.

Be in to Win \$300.00!

Email Addresses

We have been collecting these from new members for 6 months or so but would ideally like to have all members email addresses to enable more regular communication on a cost effective basis. It would be appreciated if members would complete the email address field on the subscription notice and include the remittance slip when making payment.

Debenture Holders

As a result of feedback from the debenture holders, a survey was circulated to gauge the level of repayments or rollover of their debentures. Approx 70% of replies have been received to date and the results will be communicated to the debenture holders once all the replies have been received. If you have not yet returned your form, your prompt response would be appreciated.

A number of members have also chosen to donate their debentures and we express the Clubs most sincere thanks for their generosity, as we do to all the debenture holders, some of whom have loaned significant sums.

Financial Report

It has been a difficult year in many ways, but also a watershed year for the Club. The membership drive has exceeded our own most optimistic expectations and the contracting of the Restaurant has proved extremely cost effective. Peter & Chrissie Cooper have done an outstanding job in rebuilding this important aspect of the Club which has seen the return of many organisations and community groups back to the Club. The operating costs of the Club have been brought under control and are monitored meticulously. Despite some significant restructuring costs this year, the Club has been operating cash flow positive on an annual basis and we expect the full year operating results to 31 March 2006 to show a \$60,000 improvement over the previous year.

Why you should use the Minivan!



You want to give ME a breath test, but not THAT guy?!

Gaming Machines

In September last year members loaned the Club \$40,000 for the purchase of 4 x new gaming machines with repayment due on 20th April 2006. We are pleased to confirm that The Club has secured financing to repay these loans including additional funding to upgrade 6 x older machines and install the cabling to meet the new Electronic Monitoring regulations.

Despite the Club's chequered history the financiers were confident that the changes made over the past 6-9 months were positive for the Club's future and this is reflected in the very attractive rates that the loans were obtained at.

We still have 8 x machines that are redundant and will need to be disposed off in the coming months. The cost/benefit analysis of our gaming revenues indicate an optimum level of 12-14 machines and a decision on the final number to purchase will be made shortly. A full review will be held later this year before any further additions are considered.