

Presidents Report July 2021

Hi Members

Another financial year has come and gone in a flurry. I hope you are all safe and keeping well during the cold winter months. While the world is still coping with the Covid-19 pandemic, we in Raglan have managed to carry on relatively unscathed so far.

Restrictions associated with Covid has affected the Club over the year, we have lost a few bookings from other Clubs as they become wary of travelling, and organised event bookings, like last years Karioi Classic were cancelled because of uncertainty.

Through all this, we have still managed to keep the Club in a good financial position. We still have a lot of maintenance issues that are slowly being addressed. Our restaurant caterers didn't renew their contract and so the Club is taking over the restaurant. This way we will have control over opening hours and menu options, but we will have the added costs of purchasing and staff. As the Club hasn't spent anything on the kitchen for many years it was necessary to splurge to bring it up to scratch. We had a consultant that led us in one direction but our new manager had his own restaurant and bar for many years and knows exactly what we need so is working on procuring the right equipment for the right price. It does take time, but we hope to have the restaurant up and running in September. In the meantime Kaiwaka Kitchen has been providing our meals and doing an amazing job of it. Thank you Sascha.

We have had some great entertainment this year with mixed success. It's always hard to balance the need for top quality entertainment for members with the costs involved in putting them on and the inconvenience to members who have to buy tickets or leave their Club for the night. We can't please everyone so we are always balancing the various needs of the Club, the different members and the community. I hope you will be understanding and supportive of the various events as they come.

During the last year we changed the computer system that manages the gaming. This has made it so much safer, quicker and easier for staff to payout and to top up machines. We are in the process of getting a new POS (Point of Sale) system. That means all our tills and back of house systems will be upgraded. Our old Quest system has done well but it is well over 10 years old and is no longer fit for purpose. The new POS system will integrate with Xero thereby cutting down the work the treasurer has to do. It should also make daily reconciliation quicker and easier as well as making the restaurant and bar tills easier for the team to use with a faster and better interaction with the eftpos machines. The next step will be to put the membership form online so new members can enter their own details onto a iPad or tablet and it will automatically go into the membership database. This will cut down on the admin and data entry work required. The more we can use technology to automate things, the more efficient it will be with less room for errors to occur.

We have 3 minor remits this year. The government is tweaking the 1908 incorporated societies act this year and with changing rules and social expectations we need to keep our constitution legal but permissive enough to make it easy to be a member.

The first remit I'm suggesting is to tweak section 5.1 of the constitution to remove the need to have a nominator and seconder on new member forms. People have told me they are new to town and don't know any members so didn't feel they could sign up to the Club. We want to make it easy for them to sign on as a member.

Another remit is to introduce corporate membership. This is something a lot of Clubs are introducing to make it easy for businesses to pay a corporate subscription for their staff and guests. Corporate membership doesn't allow them entry to the member draws or to hold office in the Club.

The other remit is a bigger change. We have shown that stable governance is important to the success of a Club and a few years ago we changed the constitution so that 2 committee members stand down every year and can reapply. This gives members a chance to stand for the committee while keeping experience and stability in the committee. However, if the position of President, Vice President, Treasurer or Secretary comes up for re-election it can be a barrier for a prospective committee member. We are suggesting that members vote in a committee and the people who fill the President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary roles are decided by committee members at their first meeting based on aptitude and experience. We are also suggesting that we keep a committee of 8 but giving the committee the power to head hunt up to 2 new members if required. This can help with succession planning and giving prospective members experience on the committee. It is different, so please discuss with the committee if you have any questions.

This year, as per our current constitution 2 members must step down, this year me and Pablo, the president and vice-president, have volunteered. We are both re-standing but if you want a change in leadership this is the time. The changes proposed in remit 2 will allow prospective candidates to put their name forward for the executive and if successful the president and / or vice president roles would be filled by sitting executive.

I would like to thank our sponsors, staff, volunteers, members and Executive for supporting the Club over the last year.

Regards

Debbie Dalbeth

Raglan Club President

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