

Fun golf is here Fun golf is here



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We are very pleased to have been associated with the Pukekura Lions Club in their long awaited Mini Putt and congratulate them on their efforts. We constructed most of the office kiosk.

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Name: Lions Mini-Putt Golf Course. Par: very seldom. Course record: 53.

That just about sums up New Plymouth's new mini-putt course. The holes are deceptively easy — most can be holed out in two and holes-in-one are possible on many.

But in the case of most people who give the course a go, it's a laugh a minute as players get shots caught up by a variety of hazards.

Driftwood, bricks, blocks, tunnels, water, slopes, raised holes — they are all there to trap the unwary.

But good scores are possible, illustrated by the skilful (or lucky) chap who scored a record 53 there the other day. That means he must have scored a three on 17 holes and a two on one.

Believe me, a score like that is very difficult to record.

The last time I tried my luck on the mini-putt course, my score was marred by no less than three nines and an eight as my beautifully played strokes put the little white golf ball in the most unlikely places.

It bounced over the bricks and out of bounds. It bounced off other obstacles and ended up behind where I had played it from. I missed the hole from centimetres out.

But I had a lot of fun. A round on the mini-putt course costs \$1. For that price a golfer gets a putter, a ball, and a chance to "give it a go".

The course itself is very well laid out, with each hole numbered and named after a sponsor.

The tee of each hole is placed close to the cup of the one before it, meaning there are no problems finding out where to go next.

And the cup at the 18th hole is ingeniously planned, so that a ball, once it has been putted into the cup, rolls under the ground and into the "ticket-seller's" building at the course entrance.

The "fairway" of each hole is covered in green artificial grass so a good putting surface can be provided.

In wet weather there is no problem with surface water — it runs off the artificial surface with ease. — R.L.M.

Daily News

special feature

Congratulations to the Pukekura Lions on their marvellous achievement.

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Fun golf is here

Course with hazards and a laugh a minute

New Plymouth's latest attraction, the mini-putt golf course near Strandon Beach, will be officially opened tomorrow.

Officially opening the course will be New Plymouth MP Mr Tony Friedlander, and after the 10 a.m. ceremony he'll be joined by city public relations officer Bryce McPherson and Radio Tararaki personalities Bill MacArthur and Roger Tonkin to play a round on the layout.

A number of special guests will also be at the ceremony, including representatives of firms that have sponsored individual holes, supplied equipment and manpower for the course construction and people who have helped out in other ways.

Apart from giving pleasure to a lot of people, the mini course will also be

of great benefit to the community.

Designed and built by the Pukekura Lions Club, funds raised by admission fees to the layout will be channelled back into the community.

In future, the money may be used for a wide range of purposes, all of which will benefit people living in the area.

The club intends forming a special steering committee soon that will hold discussions with the New Plymouth City Council on how to use the money raised in the future.

Construction of the mini-putt course began in June last year, and members spent most weekends working on the project.

It is estimated 90% of the club members gave time towards building the course.

Costs were kept down through sponsorship and generous assistance by a number of local firms during course construction — but the project still cost the Pukekura Lions \$13,000.

It is now insured for \$2,000.

It was hoped to open the course in early December last year when the New Zealand Open golf championship was held in Plymouth's Irigamotu course.

The club couldn't quite manage it — but the course was opened for public use in late December, which meant it was able to be used by holidaymakers in the city.

In the time the course has been open, it has proved very lucrative.

The initial building costs have already nearly been cleared, which means it is now very close to becoming purely a revenue-maker for charitable purposes.

It is thought to be one of the very few charity-based mini-putt courses in New Zealand.



A young putter tries his luck on one of the mini-putt course's 18 holes.

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Strange rules

There are some rather strange and special rules pertaining to the game of golf on New Plymouth's new mini-putt course.

The rules of the game are as follows:

- "Ball over, side add two shots. Replace position it went over."
- This is the out-of-bounds rule of the mini-putt golf world. In other words, if a shot flies over small brick walls lining the "fairway" of each hole, there is a two-shot penalty.
- "No more than four players per round."
- Keeping a group of players down to four means it will take a relatively short time to play the 18-hole course and there won't be any frustrating holdups for other players.
- "Ball on brick sides to be placed one club head away."
- "Sound strange? It isn't once a game is played on the mini-putt course. As mentioned before, each "fairway" is lined with a small brick wall.
- A ball can be very difficult to play if it is lying hard against the inside of the wall, so players have to be careful to place the ball one clubhead length away from the brick.
- "Ball in rough, two shots penalty. Place front of rough one club head away."
- "Just like the "real" golf courses, the New Plymouth mini-putt course has its hazards — including water, driftwood, rocks and gravel. And if a ball rolls into the rough, it costs a two-shot penalty to come out."
- "Maximum of nine shots per hole."
- "Hah! you say... fancy anyone taking nine shots to finish a piddly little hole on the mini-putt course. Well, it's very easily done.
- Hazards abound — and double figures on each hole would be very common if the maximum of nine wasn't imposed.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PUKEKURA LIONS CLUB.

On the completion of their new mini putt golf course.

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