

Under the Pohutukawa Tree on the left hand side of the 14<sup>th</sup> Green, sits a plaque that reads:

## PHILLIP JOHNSTON Club Member 1936 – 1996

Phil arrived in Tauranga in 1960 after selling his hardware business in Katikati. He bought a similar type store in Greerton, and called it Greerton Hardware.

Phil served on the Senior Men's Committee 1981 and 1982; was Secretary in 1983; Vice President in 1984 and President in 1985.

Members recall Phil as a likeable fellow, playing on a handicap of about 8 or 9 and interested in Course development. He was a willing worker; a private person who did not require recognition.

Noel Copestake admired Phil and saw him as his inspiration on what could be done voluntarily around the Course; someone who went quietly about his business doing things his way.

Phil was also well known in Tauranga's Tennis circles.

### **Source – Ken Lewis, Club Captain, Gate Pa Tennis Club:**

Phil joined the Gate Pa Tennis Club soon after moving to Tauranga. He quickly shared his talent for, and knowledge of Tennis by offering to coach children behind his shop after school. Phil was very generous with his time and never hesitated to give advice if he was asked. Because of his particular interest in Junior Tennis, in 1965 he put forward the idea of an age group tournament to be held at Labour Weekend. That idea was implemented and was so successful that the 49<sup>th</sup> tournament will be played this year. Hundreds of Juniors from all over the North Island have benefited from Phil's concept.

Phil held various positions in the Club. He was Secretary from 1963 – 1971, and again in 1982; Vice-President from 1960 – 1961, President from 1971 – 1975, and a committee member from 1978 – 1981. In all, he gave 17 years of committed service to the Club.

Even in his later years when his playing days were over, Phil continued to take a keen interest in the Club and attended many special functions.

Footnote: After leaving school, Ken worked for Phil in a full time position for 4 years at Greerton Hardware. He recalls that Phil played golf every Thursday and would bring back all the empty spirit bottles from the Bar. It was Ken's job to clean them up and remove the labels so Phil could re-use them for selling paint thinners.