

Paddy's Prattle 30 January 2019

What cracking weekend we have just had down at the Brandon. The sun was shining, the course was in immaculate condition (no change there then) and big crowds turned out both days. On Saturday we had men's opening day, playing pairs best ball for the Jim McKenzie memorial trophy where Lucas McGee and Kirk Schmanski tore the course apart with a wonderful 56 to beat all comers. Lucas in fact shot a 59 on his own with a magnificent 74 off a 15 handicap. That great round saw Lucas come bouncing to the course on Sunday taking his place in the Property Brokers Shootout final and he rode the tidal wave of euphoria for massive 2 holes before carving two balls into the trees on three and taking the long trudge back to the club house with his tail between his legs. Oh the shame! At least he wasn't the first faller, and in the toughest first hole ever a nett 5 was not good enough to get through. Now, no one can call me insensitive; of course I won't name names lets just call the first 2 fallers Merry Tolley and Derek Farr.

We had a few nerves early doors with yours truly almost having a gin shot on the first tee and only managing to just get past the ladies tee. After the early jostling everything calmed down a bit and the large crowd were well entertained with some wonderful golf. The cream certainly rose and on the 16<sup>th</sup>. We were left with Hamish Niles, Bill Hetrick, Wendy Parr and Dave Hewitt. Wendy had a 5 on 16 all the boys shot 4 and as everyone had a shot Wendy was out. On 17 Bill and Dave had shots over Hamish and both got wonderful pars with Dave getting up and down from 120 metres out in the trees, but Hamish wasn't going to give in easy and he also managed to up and down for a lovely birdie so a 3 way putt off ensued.

Hamish and Dave putted theirs close and Bills just trickled a bit wide so that was the end of a superb challenge by the Club patron and legend. The 18<sup>th</sup> was a spectacle Dave hit great drive, Hamish put it in the hedge bottom, Dave's rescue wood just short of the green, Hamish chipped out and pulled his third well left of the green. Dave chipped up to 10 feet; Hamish hit a glorious wedge to 8 foot. Dave lipped out his put, Hamish canned his, both boys tied on 5 net 4. Another put off, a long raking put was laid out, Dave's missed the flag by an inch but ran a metre and a half past, and Hamish just finished about a metre short, so Mr Property Brokers picked up the Property Brokers Shootout. What a day.

Thanks to all helpers especially Nutts, Terry, Paul, Bunge, Perry and Caty. Same again next year I think!

This Saturday we have Brandon Open 36 hole sponsored by Hydraulink still a couple of spaces but get in quick.

Good Golfing