

Ashburton Golf Club

We had another lovely day last Saturday. A frost delay early and a good crowd in the afternoon.

We played a Stableford round where you could pick which tees you wanted to play off. Most chose to keep off their usual white tee's and a few went back to the blues, but I didn't actually see anyone go forward to the reds. Anyway, when the scores were posted. Colt Hill and Mike Kelly sat on top of the table, both shooting a very good 42 points. Well done guys. Just behind them on 41 points was young Grant Hastie and rounding out the top five were Jason Overend and form player Murray Wackrow who both got 38 points. I had the pleasure of playing with new / old member Richard Leith on Saturday. When I joined many years ago Richard was a strong club member and big pennants player. Life changes and a couple of injuries saw him park up his clubs for six years, but now he is back playing good golf and still laughing as he is drinking the beer I had to buy for him. Welcome back Richard!

This Saturday we have the 5th and final qualifying round for club champs. This will be a stroke round off the Blue tees. Your final chance to get yourself into the top 16 of your grade or move yourself up the seedings for a more favourable draw. By the looks of it again. Intermediate and Junior A are going to be very competitive, with the chance of some good players missing out.

The Seniors will be very strong at the top with the emergence of some great juniors and the dogged old guard. Hopefully we can fill up the 16. We are also struggling to fill Junior B, but with the Junior A champ of two years ago now finding himself in Junior B, it may end up being a one horse race anyway, especially if we make the bunkers GUR again.

Get yourself down on Saturday, give it your best shot and hopefully we will see you all in the knockout rounds. Matchplay doesn't start straight away, we have a week off to play the Three Stooges game on the 22nd. Then we kick in to Champs on the 29th. Good luck to all.

On Sunday we have Pennant's semifinals down at Temuka and three Ashburton teams have done us proud in qualifying. Jeff and the Holmes team will have a tough game against a very good Gleniti team, but the boys are all in good form and will certainly fancy their chances. Terry and his Redpath gang will have their work cut out against Tinwald and will start as big underdogs, but as I recall a couple of years ago when they won the whole thing it also came with an upset win over Tinwald in the semis, so can they do it again? Of course they can. Finally in the Redpath grade Jordy and the pups will take on perennial finalists Mayfield who have a very rich history in this grade. Mayfield will be very confident of making another final, but Jordy has formed a strong team of tenacious yappers who certainly won't lay down and will fancy biting a few ankles. Hopefully we will have three finalists to write about next week. Go well boys and play hard!

That will do. Good golfing!

Many thanks,
Paddy Bradford