

## Ashburton Golf Club

It was a tad breezy last weekend, but we still had a big field turn up on Saturday for the combined Stableford, Sutherland Cup and the top 30 RMF Silva Cup finals series. Top pairing in the Sutherland Cup were Brian Fauth and Stu Dunlop with a score of 76 which is good shooting. They pipped Shane Beaven and Gordy Crawford as well as Brent MacGregor and FC Senekal who were both on 74.

The big mover in the RMF Silva comp was Gaby Jansen, the old flying dutchman shot a very good 79 off a 13 handicap to snag himself 42 points, which catapulted him to the top of the RMF Silva league table. Other good scores and cementing themselves in the top 10 were Shane Beaven and Paddy Bradford both scoring 38 points. As of yet the RMF Silva table has not been updated but by my rough calculations, I get Gaby sitting first just in front of Jeff Hewitt and Neil Macdonald. We now move into the Final of the RMF Silva Cup and this is held over two stroke rounds, the first being this Saturday and the second one being the Santa Marie trophy on 1<sup>st</sup> November. Only the top 20 players are in the hunt and their combined net over these two games will be the final score. For finishing the season on top of the pile Gaby will help himself to 10 bonus shots, which will be taken off his final combined nett score, so that is a good head start. Jeff will get 8 bonus shots and Neil will snag 6.

These bonus shots will decrease as your standing in the final league table with position 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> getting 1 bonus shot and 11<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> just playing off their normal handicap. As I mentioned, I have not seen the official standings yet, but they should be out before this is posted. Good luck to everyone in the final series where the winner will take home a club sub for next year thanks to the wonderful gang at RMF Silva, they really have been a brilliant sponsor for this tournament over the last 10 years.

The course will be closed next week for maintenance, and while I am chatting about the course, a massive thank you and well done has to go to Chairman of greens Neil Macdonald and his wonderful crew of workers and volunteers. It's a couple of weeks now since Ben and Nick left us and we have not missed a beat. They left with the course in great condition which speaks volumes to their characters and now our volunteer crew are keeping the level up until our new Greens super starts on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup>. We have employed Catherine Knight on a part time basis, where her knowledge and experience is proving invaluable, Tim Newton has got himself back on the greens mower like he has never been away. Dave Hewitt just keeps on keeping on and all our other volunteers have been doing a sterling job, thank you all so much.

There will be a call for working bees over the maintenance week and if you can help out anywhere then please put your hand up. We are having new carpet put in Pam's office and the pro shop so will need help moving things out for the carpet to be lifted and new one laid, so please watch this space. We have a very busy time on the horizon for the course as we head into spring / summer. The Tuesday and Friday JKF teams golf is kicking off, we have a few cups to play before the end of the season and the Ladies Inter provincials is here in December. It really is a year round season.

Lynn Small is running some ladies give golf a go days.  
We have some very reasonable summer membership rates on offer, Matt is doing a power of good coaching the juniors and Bruce Leighton is jogging around the course in his 100<sup>th</sup> year. Golf really is a sport for everyone, don't keep it a secret, tell your family and friends and bring them down to the Brandon to join in the fun.

Good golfing.

Many thanks,

Paddy Bradford