

Ashburton Golf Club

Well, that was an absolutely massive weekend, what a rush and didn't the weather play ball. The Harvey Norman Classic has been put to bed for another year. The set up on Friday was a full on day. Putting up gazebo's and sponsors signs, getting BBQ trailers and chillers on site and doing the final titivation around the club. Bruce opened the clubhouse at 6:30 am on Saturday. Simon, Bryn, Neil and Tim were already out on the course doing rolling and roping. Starters Merv Green and Norm Andrews arrived at 7 as did raffle sellers Gaby and Perry, then the players started arriving.

First tee off was at 7:45 and the boys got all the morning players away seamlessly. A brief respite and a big breakfast at Kelly's was called for before we were back for the afternoon shift. Jeff Williamson took over raffle duties and the afternoon round kicked off around 11:40. It certainly is much easier when you are actually playing as the phone is turned off and you can just enjoy the game.

After all the players were in around 6pm, Pam, Catherine and Leah kept everyone well-watered and the Kai for kids crew kept them fed.

We then had the chip off final and old Spud was sitting pretty after stiffing it to 6 inches until right at the end, young Chrisjan put one in to 3 inches and took the \$200.

Top score of Saturday was Bo Houston and Ben Niles with a very solid 62.

Dylan Forde ran a brilliant Calcutta auction, prising every dollar he could out of some very tight pockets. The night rounded off with lots of drink and ham rolls then Mr Sober Perry and Sadie got everyone home safe.

We did it all again on Sunday from 6:30 start (I have no idea how). We had a bit of early rain but that cleared up. Bo and Ben could not back up two days and after the dust had settled we had two pairs tied on 127, Tinwald pair Nic Green and Charlie Morrison and the MacFarlane lovebirds Laura and James. Looking solely then at Sunday's round Nic and Charlie had shot a 62 taking the overall title, just pipping Laura and James on 63 so they settled for the mixed pairs. Tamiti Brown and Tommy Lam from Waimari Beach topped the men's and Judy Moore and Shiree Blackburn led the ladies. Well done to all the winners.

The big raffle went well. Dylan got us some more good takings in the auction and the bar kept ticking over. Thanks to all volunteers who helped out over the weekend, I have already mentioned a few here, but I know I will have missed some. My personal thanks must go to Hilary Ward and Brenda Fechny who did an amazing job behind the scenes, firstly collating all the handicaps of all 224 players, printing all the cards before the weekend. Then after playing, enter all the cards for both days and load them into spread sheets to get our results. Dot golf is helpful and will do both days results, but it will not put the two different formats together so it really is a lot of stressful work with big prizes depending on the correct outcomes. It was Hilary and Brenda's first year of doing this and they both did an amazing job. Thank you so much.

Also a massive thanks to all our Sponsors from our Naming sponsors Harvey Norman and our Major Platinum's, Vision Insurance, NB Accounting, JAE Services and Harveys Bakehouse, etc right down to our Silvers like Kelly's cafe bar and Mitre 10. We have a big board in the club rooms naming all

these wonderful businesses. Please have a read and give these companies a go when you are looking to do your next purchase, and when you do, please let them know that you saw their name at the golf club so we can show them all the sponsorship really is a two way street! It also makes it a hell of a lot easier when we go back next year.

Well, that's a wrap for another year, now I can look forward to the Tinwald 3500 at the end of March where I can watch the professionals show us how it should be done, and I can just go, play golf, talk rubbish and get drunk. Yeah!!

First off this Saturday we have qualifying round 1 of this year's club champs. The course will be set up tough and it will be our first time off the Blue tees for the year. See you there. Good golfing!

Many thanks,

Paddy Bradford