

Ashburton Golf Club

We had a busy weekend in the end at the Brandon. With all the recent rain we were lucky to get any golf at all on Saturday. The course was opened up in the afternoon and we were very pleased to see a big contingent from the Tinwald club, come over and join in one of Matts Pro shop days. We had a very good sized field, over 80 with the nine holers. A stroke round was played, and the course was really showing its teeth with not a lot of run and a bit of dew on the greens. Top score and only player to have a net score under par was Brendon Davidson with a 71. Other good scores on 72 were Nick Knight and Tinwald visitor Patrick Dawson, then on 73 we had Mark Smitheram and Jenny Harex. For the locals this was also a qualifying round for the Presidents Cup with the top 16 going on to knockout matchplay over the next 4 weeks. I have not seen the full draw yet, but a couple stuck in my head, from memory, Davo will battle with young Grant Hastie and junior springbok Chrisjaan Senekal will give President Putin a harsh lesson. Full results and stories next week. The TUB cup was challenged again with holders Gaby and Perry challenging John Ramsay and Antony White and I must say the holders were quietly confident on the first tee, but when the dust had settled after Pez had shanked his way to a net 97 and Gaby's knees had given out with all the dead weight he was carrying the Cup remained firmly in their grasp. Who are they going to challenge this week? The McMillan boys? Barbie and Ken? sorry I mean Lefty, though maybe they would have a better chance against a couple of dolls. Anyway my other story of the day was an absolutely outstanding drive on number 15 the driveable (just) par 4. Young Dickie Mac stood up on the tee ready to unload a stinging 300 metre draw around the corner onto the front of the green. Swinging his club like he was trying to stab a wasp with the end of a scythe, he middled the ball and when it was measured, he had left it just 295 metres short. Every shot brings somebody joy!

On Sunday we had Pennants around the district. Shane and the Bravehearts had a great win at Point over a strong Gleniti side. The Old dogs had a great win over Highfield at Gleniti with the hero of the day being Tiny Timmy Newton climbing out of his sick bed to bring the boys home for a win.

In the scratch grade at home, we had 2 local derbies. After a frost delay, Jeff and the Aces picked up two wins with a 10:2 over Terry's Golden Girls and an 8:4 win over Geraldine. The Golden shower followed up their first loss with a second 9:3 loss to Tommy and the Green goblins who rounded out their day with a 9 all draw against Tinwald 2. Top effort by most of our pennant's teams. Hopefully we get a few finals berths.

This Friday is Matariki so we have organised golf playing for the Vauxhall salver, this is a mixed day with everyone welcome 11:30 for 12noon start. I believe it is a pairs ambrose.

Some great news hot off the press. I have been chatting with top bods from NZ Golf and after they have done their investigations it seems that they now believe that our "Super Patron" Bruce Leighton is the oldest "active" club golfer in New Zealand at 99 years young. They say they have found older club members but they are just honorary and not actually playing regularly, whereas we see Bruce at the club at least once a week still striding out with the nine holers. A brilliant achievement that cements the adage that golf, truly is, "a game for life". Top effort and good golfing.

Many thanks,

Paddy Bradford