

Ashburton Golf Club

The weather forecast was for showers last Saturday, so we had quite a big field head down early and try to beat the rain. It wasn't a bad choice and most of the morning players got in fairly dry. The afternoon numbers were quite low and they did start in hard rain, but if you had to get a card in for club champs then needs must.

Top score of the day was an amazing 83 by Greg Fleming off a 19 handicap for net 64. This won the day by a clear 4 shots and catapulted Greg to top seed in the Junior A grade. To make it even more surprising he did it whilst playing alongside young Perry, who didn't manage to get net, what Greg shot gross, so it must have been a great round of top concentration. Well done. Four shots behind on 68's were Kenny Clucas and Phil Hill and a shot further back Blair Snowball is starting to find a bit of form again. Kudos to everyone who played, I hope it was worth the early start or the damp underwear.

Now all five rounds have been played we have our grades, our top seeds and the matchplay games laid out. Top seeds are Jeff Hewitt in the senior, Steve McCloy in intermediate, Greg Fleming in Junior A and Grant Hastie in Junior B. In the seniors we have 5 previous champions vying to get Jeff's crown and a few young upstarts who fancy their chances. In the inters we have 6 previous winners and top seed Steve and by looks of the draw, when you have 16th seed Lucas playing off a 10 handicap, it is anyone's title. Junior A has been there and done it stalwarts like Kev Smith, Neil Macdonald and Kenny, as well as newbies Colt Hill and Ross McKay, so that's also very open. Then finally in Junior B, top seed Grant, form player Phil Hill, three ex champions, and the mercurial talents of Pat and Perry. I am really looking forward to a wonderful club champs. This all kicks off on Saturday week. The draw has been sent out, please check it over and make sure you're ok to play the games. We will look at some big match ups next week.

This Saturday we have a fun day, before we get serious. We have the game of the day set up by the 3 Stooges. The Stooges Larry, Curly and Moe or Gaby, Pat and Hamish kindly sponsor our weekly nearest the pin, Brown bombers prize, and they have been tasked with setting up this Saturdays game. I am not sure as yet what we are playing, but I am sure it will be fun. Head down for a bit of frivolity before we jump into the championships.

Last Sunday we had 3 teams play in the semifinals of Pennants at Temuka. One of our teams stood proud and smashed it out of the park. Hard luck and well done to Jeff and his Holmes boys and Terry's Redpath gang, but Jordy and the pups did a number on the Mayfield marauders. Jordy himself took one for the team and fell on his sword playing the opposing gun. Big wins for Dylan Stoddart and Karl Snowball, halves for Matt Tait and FC Senekal, and to top it all off, a massive gross 79 off young Jimmy MacFarlane playing at number six took down the Mayfield Kingpin. That was an amazing effort boys! The pups now head to Geraldine on Sunday week to lock horns with the Waimate mountain goats in the Patterson final, should be a cracker!

That will do for now.

Good golfing.

Many thanks,

Paddy Bradford