

Ashburton Golf Club

We had two great finals last Saturday at the Brandon.

In the Watson Cup we had the Senekal boys FC and Chrisjan playing the Ralston boys Chris and Nick. The Senekals jumped out into an early lead and were two up after 10, then the Ralstons hit back winning 11 and 12 to square the game. Then for the second week in a row young Chrisjan rolled in an eagle on 13 which gave them great impetus to win the next two holes as well, and finish the game on 16. Chris and Nick put up a hell of a battle but FC and Chrisjan were the top qualifiers and the form pairing throughout the competition and were well deserved winners. Great effort.

In the Newton trophy, it was billed as Jeff Hewitt and Chris Lovelock against Kevin Smith and Jason Overend, unfortunately Chris had to go up to Auckland for family commitments, so Jeff was left to battle alone. Jeff loves a battle and by goodness did he give it a nudge shooting a 65 off the stick. He gave Kevin and Jason a hell of a fright, but they are both solid match players and managed to dovetail well to pick up the trophy. Well done to our winners, and thanks to everyone who took part in the competition again this year. Pairs matchplay really is a great fun format.

This Saturday we are back to club champs, with qualifying round number 3. This is the third out of five rounds to get your best two scores and try to get yourself into the top 16 of your grade to compete in the Club champs knockout games. This will be a stroke round off the blue tees and I'm sure Simon will have it set up tough with a few cheeky pins. Come on down and give it your best shot.

On Sunday we had pennants across the district and I was hoping for a big day for the Brandon teams. Terry and the Redpath boys Owen, Hoppy and Davo, set us off on the right foot with a big 12 nil win at home against Gleniti. Jeff and the Holmes team of Chrisjan, Dan and Hamish fought back well to get a draw. Over the bridge at Tinwald, Shane and the bravehearts lost a tight game. Down at Point Jordy and the pups got their backsides handed to them by Tinwald. They must have been hurting as only one of the team made the de brief in the Tinny Tav later on. It seems like there are quite a few rumblings in the puppy pound and I wouldn't be surprised if a coup d'état was in the pipeline, I think Captain Birdseye is on borrowed time. Finally down at Waimate the Old dogs were looking for inspiration after two tight losses. Fortunately, Captain Pugwash was back for his first game of the year and you could see the mood of the team lift. Spud, Bruce, Tim, Pugwash himself and even old Hairy Punt had strong wins for a 14:3 scoreline to get them right back in the mix. The next pennants games are mid June.

As we move into the colder months, we still have a very busy programme, and we may start to get affected by frost delays. If you do intend playing early mornings please make sure you stay off the course, including the practise green until 10am on frosty mornings. Check the club Website and Facebook for closures.

Finally a note to Saturday morning starters on frost delay days. Please make sure you tee off from only one side of the course, either 1 and 7 or 10 and 16. This ensures that the afternoon players can play the same side and we won't end up with a big log jam at afternoon tee off, thanks. Don't forget on those frosty mornings you need to make sure that you keep your balls warm for peak performance as none of us are getting any younger. Top tip, between holes, grab em in your pocket and jiggle em around a bit! Good golfing.

Many thanks,
Paddy Bradford