

Ashburton Golf Club

A big weekend for the Brandon faithful, started on Friday with another successful running of the Tavendale and Partners Ladies open. The weather played ball and a great day was had by all, thanks again.

On Saturday we had semifinals of the Watson Cup and Newton trophy, and some cracking games were played. First up Neil Macdonald and Greig Sparrow found the Snowball boys Ian and Blair a bit too tough and pulled up a wee bit short. The other semi was in the bag for Lucas and Matt but then Gordy and Shane mounted a comeback and took it down the 19th but the young pups found another gear again and finished it off. The final is now Ian and Blair against Matt and Lucas this will be a cracker of a game that may well go extra holes. Who am I backing? Well, I will have to pick the Snowballs as they put myself and Pat out, so it will feel a bit better getting put out by the champs. Just a note for the historians. Blair has won before with brothers Daniel and Karl and is going for a triple crown with the old man. Has anyone ever won it before with 3 different partners??

In the Newton trophy we have Kevin Smith and Jase Overend going against John Duncan and John Ramsay. I reckon this comes down to Jason (no pressure) the other 3 are all similar players and will all make contributions, but if Jase unleashes the big dog he could scare the life out of the two Johns. My call? Big Dogs got to eat, Kev and Jason will pip it.

We now have a new cup to play for every Saturday it's called the TUB Cup (Take up bowls) it's like the Anti Ranfurly Shield. Let me explain. Davo and Bruce as well as Gaby and Perry got beat in the first round of the Watson Cup and then the first round of the plate, so they thought they would play off for a giggle. Davo and Bruce smashed the poor guys so now Gaby and Pez are 0 from 3 and should, Take up Bowls! They now have the cup. This Saturday they will pick a pair of unsuspecting fellas and lay down a challenge and try to get rid of the trophy. From now on, every Saturday will be a challenge, whoever holds the trophy will pick two players to play and Matt will draw them together in the game of the day. We will keep a book with all the rules and the names of the holders in the bar. Hopefully if everyone takes it in good heart it should be a bit of banter for the clubrooms.

On Sunday we had pennants. The Patterson grade were down in Fairlie and the pups had a tough game against Mayfield, now despite captain Jordy absolutely tearing Mayfield's skipper Harley Davies a new one, beating him 8 and 7, (I have heard that Harley reads this so I thought I would mention him). The pups couldn't finish it off. FC won again but the others fell away and a 12:6 loss was recorded. The Old Dogs managed to get another 9 all draw, that's the third this season. The talking point of the day was that Timaru's number two player was a lovely young lady called Angela she plays off a 1 handicap on ladies' tees and this jumped to a seven off the men's index and she was drawn to play against Captain Pugwash. The old Yorkshire terrier tried his damndest, but Ange is Aorangi number 1 for a reason, gave the old dog a chipping and putting lesson then sunk a 15 footer on the last to take the game. The rest of the team thought it was hilarious, and were soon on their phones to let the whole golfing group know.

In the scratch grade it was a tough day at the office for the Ashburton teams at Tinwald. Six games were played in total and only one win was picked up by Tommy and the greenhorns. Then in the Alex grade Shane and the Bravehearts were told to stay in bed as the Denfield course was unplayable due to rain. That will do for this week, catch you around the course, stay clear of the TUB Cup. Good golfing.

Many thanks,

Paddy Bradford