

Ashburton Golf Club

I hope everyone had a wonderful Xmas and all your new year's resolutions are still intact. I can honestly say that mine are still going strong and not one floret of broccoli or cauliflower has passed my lips this year. It's all about will power people, this will now be over 50 years that I have managed to stay off the devils' vegetables, you just have to find good substitute choices. If I get tempted, I have found that either chocolate biscuits or Guinness work for me. Stick at it! But enough life lessons from me let's get on with the golf.

The Property Brokers shootout qualifying is really hotting up with 5 rounds gone and only one left, this Saturday. We had a couple of weekends of bad weather over the holidays so we never had the massive scoring days that I thought we would and at the moment 74 points is still in the top 19. I honestly don't think it will keep you in, especially as we have decent weather forecast for Saturday. I think 77 points will keep you safe and a couple of 76's might just make it. Not worrying about that and definitely safe in the final we have Mark Smithers and Perry Hunt on 83, Hoppy, Rob Coyle and Geoff Wright on 81. Matt Young and Kenny C on 80. Henry on 78 and then Davo and Hayden on 77 look safe enough.

It is going to be a frantic day on Saturday and the scores will need to be double checked as it is going to be tight. We have quite a few players outside the top 19 with one good score in already just looking to pair it up with something. Good luck and play well. The Final will be on Sunday week the 18th but more on that next week.

Over the holidays 24 of the jolly boys headed up to Weedons for a great day. Player of the day was Neil Macdonald who managed to snaffle himself 42 points. Great effort, but his pleading with the match committee players on hand that his score should be allowed to count to his shootout tally fell on deaf ears.

The shot of the Weedons trip will take some explaining so please bear with me. The Weedons 9th hole is a 560 plus metre par 5 with out of bounds left and a creek 60 metres short of the green, a real stroke index 1 hole. Well a certain Dutchman who shall remain nameless pulls out a bright, shiny, brand new Pro V1, \$10 of anyone's money. Absolutely stripes his drive down the left edge of the fairway, pulls out his laser yardage finder. Can he make it over the ditch in two? It will be talked about for years, poets will write glorious tales about him. He pulls out his 3 wood, beautiful swing! The club head somehow slides under the ball, popping it a wee bit then with his follow through hits the ball again over his own left shoulder and out of bounds, never seen anything like it! Unperturbed he pulls out another Pro V1 and just lays up, and then to top it off, chunks his approach into the creek which is brown and muddy so you can't see anything in it. One hole, four shots, zero points and two brand new balls lost. Oh well, I think Matt has got plenty for sale!

Coming up very soon we have the world famous Harvey Norman Classic on February 14th and 15th. This is always a massive weekend and the biggest money maker for the club. We have again got "Kai for kids" on board to do the catering for both days so nobody will go hungry and we can share the love with an absolutely wonderful charity. As of writing, entries have been open less than a week and we are already around half full, so don't hang around, get your entries in as soon as possible to secure a good start time.

See you on Saturday, Good golfing.

Many thanks,

Paddy Bradford