

Ashburton Golf club

We thought the weather would keep a few at home on Saturday, but we still got a good crowd playing down at the Brandon. The course is in great nick for this time of the year, and that does not happen by chance. Ben, Nick and all the wonderful volunteers have put in a power of work to make sure that we have this superb track to play on. Quite a few members have played pennants games through the autumn and winter at courses across the Aorangi region and it really shows up how good the Brandon is, thanks again to everyone involved.

On Saturday we had four semifinals for the Presidents Cup and Plate and what great games they were. First up in the cup young Chrisjan made use of his shots and played a very steady game not allowing Jeff to get over him. As he always does Jeff battled till the end, but Chrisjan held on for a great win. He will now face off with last year's champ and cup holder Adrian Hopwood. The Hopster proved too consistent for Mark Smithers, it was a great scrap, but Hoppy does not want to give the cup back just yet. If you recall I did pick both the winners, so who do I reckon will go all the way? It could be Chrisjan's year.

In the Plate Kenny Clucas jumped out of the blocks against Barry Jury and took an early lead, but Barry knows his game well and what a well organised game it is. Fairways and greens were the order of the day, Ken used his shots well, but Barry put it to bed on the 16th. He will now face El Presidente. Putin beat Davo with the old three card trick.

No.1 feign injury, tell him "I don't think I'll make the turn, but I will give it a go". No.2 Butter him up "oh you're such a good player and a handsome devil to boot. Ashburton's best chipper and putter, I've got no chance" No.3. Smash him! Now Barry is too much of a wily old fox to fall for anything like that, nowhere near as gullible as Davo, and Putin will respect him too much to try the same tactics. So, who will win this one? Well Barry is a great player and a good looking bugger, he certainly is the best chipper and putter in the club. Putin really is injured this time and will struggle to get around the course, so I reckon Barry wins on the 11th. Results and reports next week.

Tell us who won the TUB cup? I hear you say. Well, Gaby and Perry thought long and hard this week, finally settled on Al Jopson and FC Senekal. Now Al and FC wanted to play combined Stableford but lucky for Perry he managed to talk them out of it for just a straight up best ball. If they had of played combined Gaby and Perry would have won on the 13th, but in the best ball scoring, the match was all tied up after 18 holes. The rule book was checked again, and it states that you have to win the game to lose the cup, a half isn't good enough, so there is no change at the bottom! This week Lefty and Ken are in the firing line.

Not a great Pennants Sunday for the Ashburton teams. I hear that a draw for Tommy and the greenhorns was the best result across the board. Not many rounds to go before semifinals. Jeff and the Aces look to be safe in the Holmes draw, Tommy's gang look a shoe in for the Hayes but Terry and the shower need a big finish to make the Redpath. In the Patterson both the Pups and the Dogs can mathematically make it but will need results to go their way as will Shanes Bravehearts in the Alex grade.

Coming up on the next few Saturdays. The 19th we have round one of the DCL cup a three round combined stroke comp, and then on the 26th its round four of club champs qualifying when the handicaps are set for the finals, so plenty of things to get your game on for. catch you around the course.

Good golfing

Many thanks,

Paddy Bradford