

Paddy's Prattle 15th June 2024

It's all happening down at the Brandon. On Saturday we had the first round of the Presidents Trophy, and we had some cracking games, which sets up some great quarter finals. First up is top seed Gary Stratford, he will take on Brendon Davidson, Gary will get quite a few shots and I reckon he will sneak it. Next we have Adrian Hopwood playing Gordy Crawford. I think Hoppy is hitting some good form and may be too strong. Then Henry Lawrence plays Nick Knight. Henry will be getting at least 1 shot every hole, which I think may well be a bit much for Nick to overcome. Finally, we have Nick Ralston playing Dave Morrison. Nick is fairly new to the Matchplay game and I think he will find Dave a tough nut to crack. Good luck to everyone and play well.

News from Pennants is a fairly good day for the Ashburton teams. In the scratch league all three of our teams had good strong wins. A big well done goes to Terry and the second string boys for taking on Timaru in their own back yard and chalking up a win. Great work. Shane and the Alex grade boys had a close loss, beaten 11-7 by a strong Timaru side. In the Patterson grade, a few harsh words from President Putin got the old dogs back in the winner's circle with a superb 12-6 win over a strong Temuka side, but then on the other side of the draw it was a disastrous day for Captain James and the pups. From turning up late, with missing trundlers and golf shoes, to facing up to a mediocre Point team. Nobody in the team could muster a single point so an 18-0 drubbing ensued. The pups were last seen scuttling back to their kennels with their tails between their legs.

It seems to be raining Aces for Brandon members. Last Wednesday little Pauly Greer stood like a Greek Adonis after hitting the perfect shot on number 8 and in doing so he picked up the Hole in One tin. I believe there was around \$180 in it. On Saturday we started a new hole in one tin, and as always you have to be in it to win it. I managed to snag around 20 afternoon players on Saturday, meaning to catch the rest on Wednesday and next Saturday morning, but Old Greig Sparrow just couldn't wait and got his third hole in one with a superb shot on the 6th at Geraldine during pennants on Sunday. Now I do get a lot of my news second and third hand, but for this one I was Greig's partner and watched it all the way in. I will set the scene! The 6th at Geraldine is a 170metre hole, which everyone knows is well out of Old Spuds range. Luckily it is quite a bit downhill and we had a gale up our backsides, so he took out his driver, kicked the marker stones 5 metres forward and lent on it with every gram of his burly 50kg frame. It was a beauty and we called it in when it was still 20 meters short, it just rolled on a perfect line and disappeared. Great work Greig.

Now I will go and get another money tin and start it all again on Wednesday. Don't forget, you have to join again to be in the club. The list will be out on Wednesday and Saturday and will be on the board next to the bar in the clubrooms.

Finally, exciting news on the horizon. You may have heard about the predicament of the MSA Pétanque club, who have had their Terrain/Pistes sold and found themselves homeless with the MSA selling the bowling club grounds. Well, a couple of informal chats and favourable meetings with the council mean that we may well be able to offer them a home down at the Brandon, on the ground presently unused behind the driving range. To this end our club board has called a Special General Meeting on Thursday the 4th July to discuss this, as our constitution will need to be changed a wee bit if we are to progress. I believe this is a win win for both clubs with around 80 new members, potentially, coming along to join the Brandon family. Please mark the date in your diary and pop along to the meeting. That will do for now Good Golfing.