

Paddys Prattle 21 November 2023

Last Saturday down at the Brandon we had a mixed club day playing a stableford round, and Tonee Hurley stood proud on top of the podium with a stunning 42 points, great work Tonee. One shot back with 41 was Neil Macdonald and then rounding out the leaders we had Nick Reynish, Charlie Alexander and Jeff Williamson all carding 40 points. Well done to all the winners.

Captain Tom took a battle hardened crew up to Rangiora to take on the hosts in their own backyard. In the end Tom put a 12 man team together and instilled the importance of the game to them. It must have been an important game as President Bruce and Pat didn't even front up on Friday evening at Kelly's and there was not a chilly bin in the bus for the way there, obviously that was because Davo wasn't selected. Any way the Rangiora club were very welcoming and a big field turned up to greet us. Terry K, Richie Mc and Captain Tom led the way with solid rounds of 37 and 36 points, everyone else chipped in with all the scores in the 30's and at the final total up the glorious Ashburton team had retained the Haggie shield by 17 points. Story of the day must go to the Brandon Legend Greig Sparrow, he was partnering Richie Mc, which he should get a medal for anyway, but they were 3 down with 3 to play then all of a sudden they are only one down with one to play. Old Spud strutted to the final tee with his chest puffed out like a Cock Pigeon in Spring, swung at his drive like he had a spider up his shirt and he was trying to impale a wasp on the end of a scythe and failed to make the ladies tee. He then rushed to hit his second shot before anyone else noticed and proceeded in, not only carving his second shot out of bounds, but also his next one as well so he was then hitting his 6th shot, still from behind the ladies tees. When he finally arrived at the green, Richie said "for goodness sake pick it up" and he was given a ten foot putt for an 11. Top effort Greig.

The Rangiora club MC was a loud, bald, pommie fella and all the Ashburton crew said they were getting déjà vu, but I didn't see it myself. The Rangiora members were wonderful people, great fun and it's a lovely course. If you are up that way, give it a go, you won't be disappointed. The trip home was uneventful, at least I think it was, but I did wake up on Sunday morning with a sore head and an empty wallet, so I reckon I may have been mugged. The haggie shield did get home in one piece, but there is a photograph somewhere on social media of it covered in a mysterious white substance, which I can assure everyone is only excess salt off the hot chips!

This Saturday we have club closing day, playing a mixed 2 person Ambrose for the Smallbone Trophy. Then afterwards from 5.30 we will be having Presentation evening with Platters and a Happy hour. All details are on the website.

Our AGM is on Thursday 7th December, make sure you get yourself there to have your say. The club is owned by its members and everyone has a right to know whats going on and to have an opinion. The club is in wonderful heart and has been very well run by the incumbent board. Captains Hilary and Tom are stepping aside after their two year stint and both deserve a well earned rest. New captains Lynne Small and James MacFarlane will be wonderful replacements. Then also calling it a day after 6 years on the board are Andrew Tindall and Brendon Davidson, thank you both for your wonderful service to the club. We do have a few, new nominations for the board so head along to the AGM and cast your vote. See you around, Good golfing.