

What a great weekend at the Brandon. We knew that we had some great games in store, but no one guessed just how good. We have to start with the Senior Mens because this was an absolute classic. Robbie Bell rolled back the years and kept Jeff Hewitt at arms length for most of the day. Robbies metronome swing and Jeffs power and control had the crowd enthralled. After 34 gruelling holes Robbie was 2 up with 2 to play, but Jeff was never going to lay down and give the win. A birdie to Jeff on 17 and a bogey to Robbie on 18 saw the boys going down the 37th. Shared pars for the next 4 holes and all of a sudden they are playing the 5th which is now their 41st hole of the day. Then finally a wonderful birdie by Jeff saw his name go on the trophy for the 3rd time. What a magnificent spectacle, well done to both warriors.

The Ladies silver final was also a gritty battle between two superb competitors. Pauline Bell and Jen Sheppard went toe to toe with some wonderful golf on a tough weather day. No quarter asked or given, this game went down to the wire, with Pauline finally winning on the 36th hole. The intermediate Mens final was also a game for the ages. Chris Lovelock had a 4 hole lead on Paul Greer turning into the final nine and then Paul found another gear and closed the gap to finish 36 holes all square. Chris showed some great composure to be able to rally again and take out the game on the first extra hole to retain the trophy. In the ladies Bronze 1, Kay Fox played superbly to keep out Lynn Small and in the Bronze 2 Liz Cabout and Sheryl Reid had a ding dong affair that Liz just snuck.

Mens Junior A, was a game of 2 rounds. Neil Macdonald had a solid morning and took a slender lead into lunch over Dave Hampton, but Dave must have had a Red Bull for lunch and came out firing in the afternoon and took out the game on the 33rd. In Junior B we had another great game with Robert Pawsey just getting the better of Grant Hastie.

In the 9 holers, Sega Golf champs Elaine King had a good win over Lois Sparrow in the ladies and Hughie Murchie beat Ken Cahill in the mens. Then in the big match Sam Prince managed to hold on for a good win over Pete Macaulay. Well done to all of our wonderful club champions for 2023. Great effort!

In the plate finals, that were played alongside the champs. Brenda Fechny took Bronze 2 over Robin Bennett, Bev Chinn got her hands on the Bronze 1 prize just pipping Shirley Field. Ray Reitzema held off Matt Young in Junior B, John Ramsay beat Mark Hoare in Junior A. Greig Sparrow got over Tufuga Sa in the intermediates and Dave Morrison won against Aaron Beal in the Seniors. All in all a wonderful day, I said it would be a cracker (many times) and the players did not let us down.

On Sunday we had a combined stableford round thanks to Davidson Electrical and Refrigeration DRE, cheers Brendon. Winners of the day with a score of 72 were Old Spud and Hoppy, all Spuds work by all accounts. Well done boys.

This Saturday we have the Bermaline and Barnett Cups. Par rounds in grades, under 18 handicap and over. We also have the South Island masters going on at the same time, so you need to book your tee time because the course will be fairly full. If you haven't yet booked a time, please contact Matt or Tom and they should be able to help you out, then coming up on Saturday week we have the Hydraulink Brandon Open 36 holes of stroke for men and ladies. Plenty of prizes for gross and net scores, the Aorangi Cup is up for grabs and the best gross score getting straight into the final qualifying for the NZ Open. It will certainly be a test of your golfing skills. Check the website and get involved.

That will do for now Good golfing