

Paddy's Prattle

Ashburton Golf Club

Everyone played their part wonderfully well last Saturday at the Brandon, and the Hydraulink Open could not have flowed any better. Many thanks to everyone taking extra care to keep to a good pace.

Forty four hardy souls took on the 36 hole challenge. The course was certainly baring its teeth, especially in the morning round, and when all the scores were in, only two players had managed to play better than their handicaps.

Top score in the gross competition, picking up the Aorangi Trophy was Sam McGill a +5 handicapper from the Clearwater club, he shot level par in the morning then 66 in the afternoon for a 6 under 138. Great shooting. He finished up 11 shots clear of the chasing pair Tom Wilson of Templeton and our own Jeff Hewitt on 149. Top lady in the gross scoring went to Timaru's Angela Gerken on 161, three shots clear of previous champ Nicky Webb from the Christchurch club.

In the nett competition picking up the Brandon Open trophies were the only two under par players. Blair Snowball took out the mens title with 142, and Judith Webb won the ladies with 143. Second in mens was Tom Blacklow on 145 and Tonnee Hurley had a great day shooting a level par 144 to snag second in the ladies. It was an absolutely cracking day, everyone was in praise of Ben, Nick, Josh and all the greens crew for the expertly produced course. Many thanks have to also go to Dan and Abbie Bruce and their absolutely amazing staff at Hydraulink Mid Canterbury for their continued support of this tournament. Well done everyone.

We also had the 18 holers playing on Saturday and they also found it tough going with only Bryan Donaldson playing under his handicap with a net 71. Craig Davies came in second with 72 and we had a gaggle of golfers on 73. It was lovely seeing ex President Bruce back after his recent knee surgery and also the return of the Flying Dutchman after ten weeks away fingering dykes and tiptoeing through tulips back in the homeland.

This Saturday we are playing for the Sutherland Cup which is a pairs combined stableford game. You can pick your partners or pop along and let Matt work his magic. Don't forget start times are back to the summer times. 7:30 for 8am start in the morning and 12 noon for 12:30 in the afternoon.

Next Tuesday and Friday is also the start of the JKF Homes Social Teams golf season. This is always very well supported, thanks again to JKF Homes and all their crew.

The Course will be closed on Thursday 17th for the annual Lions Tournament which is a wonderful fundraiser for the Lions club. If you have not yet entered I believe you still can with contact details on the website.

That will do for now, catch you around the course. Good golfing

Many thanks,

Paddy Bradford