

Ashburton Golf Club

We now have the finalists for all our men's club champs grades and it took some great games to sort them all out.

In the seniors Jeff Hewitt found himself a couple down to Dave Morrison in the middle of the round, but he rallied well like the true champion that he is. Dave, tenacious as ever was not going to let it slip so a great tight finish ensued and when the dust settled after 18 holes, they were all square. An errant drive by Dave on the 19th gave Jeff a sniff and that was all that he needed to secure himself yet another finals berth. This year he will be playing a new finalist with 16 year old Chrisjan Senekal driving a stake into the ground and introducing himself to the Senior Champs. Chrisjan had a very solid win over ex-champ Owen Miller. Owen played well, but on the day he was no match for a rampant Chrisjan. This has the makings of an epic final. With Jeff's record he could put a lot of pressure onto most first-time finalists, but Chrisjan is certainly the form player at the moment and 16 year olds don't seem to notice pressure. It's gonna be a cracker!

Intermediate sees Chrisjan's dad FC hoping to make it a family affair when he takes on Chris Ralston in the final. Both chaps had good wins in the semis against very solid opponents Dave Hampton and Hayden McMillan. It's FC's first champs final but Chris has played in a couple and will be very determined to take this one out. Another great game looks to be in store.

In the Junior A we have Jolene Senekal taking on! Sorry I got a bit carried away there, slight typo. In Junior A we have Greg Fleming who managed to overcome Kevin Smith on the 19th, and Greg will face John Ramsay who came down on the right side of the ledger against Brian Fauth. Greg and John are both very strong match players and will both fancy their chances of lifting the trophy.

Finally in Junior B we've got Craig Davies facing off against Henry Lawrence. Craig had to go 3 extra holes to put down a stubborn Pat Turton and Henry had a great tussle against strong finishing Stu Dunlop. Craig and Henry have played together a few times and both know each other's game. This could well go extra holes to sort out a champ.

The plate finals will be Charlie Alexander v Ron Carlson in seniors, Bruce Day v Paul Greer in Inters, Steve Kennedy v Paul Clarke in Junior A and Perry Hunt v Sandy Shepherd in Junior B. We will look at all these games and the Ladies finals when everything is sorted out next week.

Finals day is Saturday week, the 26th September the course will be closed until late in the day. Club day that week will be on Sunday 27th with the DRE sponsored Foodstuffs trophy with our friends from Tinwald.

This Saturday we take a break from club champs for a bit of fun. We have our annual Captain v President matchplay cup. You just pop down to the club chat with the starter and pin your colours to either Captain Richard McKernan's mast or to the President Terry Kingsbury's. Matt will then sort out the games and you will play an individual matchplay game with shots given against a player from the opposing team to win a point for your office bearer. After all the games are finished whoever gets the most team wins, takes the cup. Just a note to Terry and Ritchie, over recent years captains and presidents have bribed players with beers before the game, just saying! If you win your game you will get a good golf ball for your prize and you will also get 10 points for your RMF Silva tally. Yes this is an RMF Silva Cup game and we are getting down to the sharp end. If you play on Saturday then you get 10 points for winning, 5 points for a half and your basic two points for losing. I reckon you should make every effort to get yourself down to the club for a great fun day. See you there, good golfing

Many thanks,

Paddy Bradford