

Ashburton Golf Club

We had the first round of the RMF Silva Cup finals series last Saturday, and it seems like a lot of players could not handle the pressure.

The scores were decidedly average, and that is putting a very positive spin on it. The only player of the top 20 to shoot their handicap was Grant Hastie, who in scoring nett 71 catapulted himself from 14th place to second. New leader and now overwhelming favourite is Paul Clark, he played steady enough and shot a nett 74, then with his -8 shot advantage this took him down to a score of 66 which means he is 5 shots clear of the chasing pack. We have two others on 71. Dave Hampton also shot 74 and he had a -3 start, and then top finisher Sandy had a bit of trouble on 17 and ended up shooting 81 and using all of his -10 advantage to keep in joint second place. We have a couple of players on 73 and three more on 74. I think it will need a seriously good round from someone to get over the top four, but it is a stroke round, and anything can happen. Everyone has a week off to re assess so we will look a bit more in depth at the RMF Silva Cup final next week.

In the normal Saturday round last week, it was great seeing Brian Nuttall back in the winner's circle, he shot a great 80 for 40 Stableford points, top work Bri. He just pipped Matt Harvey and Lucas McGee on 39 points with David Rush and Mark McDowell a further shot back. Good shooting.

This weekend we have games on Saturday and Monday. On Saturday, tied into our normal club day we have the Brandon Open. This is an 18-hole stroke round off the Blue tees, with gross and nett prizes. The major gross prize is a qualifying spot for the men's NZ Open, so this should hopefully pull all the gun golfers in the area. This is a 12-noon registration for a 12:30 tee off. Good luck.

Then on Monday you can finish off the long weekend with a bit of fun and a 3-person Ambrose. This is open to all players and can be mixed teams, just pop down at 11:30 for a 12 noon kick off and have a good laugh. Not much more to chat about, we are pushing into the busy time of year, warm days and evenings.

The JKF Homes Social teams golf has kicked off which sees a full course on Tuesday and Friday evenings. Get yourself out there, enjoy the sunshine and your beautiful back garden.

Catch you around. Good golfing

Many thanks,

Paddy Bradford