

Ashburton Golf Club

It was a wee bit damp for the first day of our daylight savings early starts last Saturday, but we had a good field take to the course.

We were playing the Bermaline and Barnett trophies also the final qualifying round to get into the RMF Silva Cup, final 30, The Bermaline Cup for 18 and under handicaps was picked up with a superb +5 by young Oliver Polson. We can all see a good future in the game for this keen young fella. Well done Oliver.

Picking up the Barnett trophy for over 18's was another fine young fella, Grant Hastie bagged himself a very good +4, even after a rap across the shins from an errant drive off a tree hit by an unnamed culprit. The errant drive came from a group of four in front of Grant, who I happened to be a part of, and the group had a bit of trouble off the tee on more than one occasion. In the four was myself, Simon Cabout, Jordie "who's your daddy" Bird, and Capt McKernan. One of the four hit into poor Grant, but before that on the first hole, someone put 2 balls out of bounds, then followed up with two OB on number two as well. Expensive start! Then a third person had a twottie on number two to wrap it up. See if you can work out who did what. Anyway rounding out the good scores on Saturday were Greg Fleming and Peter Walker both with +3's, good shooting boys.

The final top 30 of the RMF Silva Cup is now set, and we will only be looking at those players this weekend. Kenny Clucas and Greg Fleming are top dogs at the moment on 58 points. Just scraping into the top 30 on 33 points is Kevin Smith. A set of rules around the RMF Silva Finals Series is on the website and on Facebook, so make sure you check them out before Saturday.

On Sunday we welcomed our friends from around the district playing the County Stroke. Our Men's and Ladies came second in their groups and overall. The Tinwald ladies picked up the Ladies trophy, and Rakaia picked up both the Men's and the overall Mayors Trophy. Ashburton's own living legend Pauline Bell did pick up the individual Ladies trophy so well done Polly.

This Saturday we are playing the Sutherland Cup, which is a pairs combined Stableford game. Get on down there with a good partner or just let Matt work his magic for you. We will also be looking at the individual scores for the top 30 players in the RMF Silva cup, because they need to play well to ensure they get into the top 20 for next week.

On Sunday we have our annual Lefties Tournament where all the devil spawn left handers are allowed on to the course. Details for this are on the website, it is always a good fun day with lots of prizes and morning tea. Normal people are allowed to go along as well and join in the day if you so wish or just go to laugh and point at the weirdo's. The choice is yours.

Finally, a couple of our young guns are presently lighting up golf courses across the country. Chrisjan Senekal and Joseph Digby spent the first week of their school holidays up in Cambridge playing in the NZ Junior Interprovincials. They stayed at the St Peters boarding school and played seven matches through the week. Chrisjan had a strong week with 4 great wins and a couple of tight losses. Joseph playing in his first big contest really stepped up a level and did himself and the club proud with a couple of great victories. The boys then arrived home, gave their washing to mum, had a couple of games at Brandon over the weekend, packed up their newly washed and ironed clothes again and set off up to Windross Farm in Auckland for the National Junior Eagles tournament. As of writing this I don't have any results, but chaperone FC tells me the Windross Farm course looks very tough but both boys were looking strong in the practise round. We know that they will both give it their best shot and be fine ambassadors for their families and golf club.

Finally, one for your diary. The Ashburton Lions will be holding their Annual Charity tournament at the Brandon on Thursday 22nd October. This is always a great day. Only \$25 to enter which includes morning tee and sausage sizzle. Loads of prizes and raffles. They certainly know how to run a golf tournament and make good money for local charities. All details can be found on the website or Facebook page. Give it a go. See you all around, good golfing.

Many thanks,
Paddy Bradford