

Ashburton Golf Club

Well, we had another beautiful day last Saturday and we saw some great golf played in the Club Champs quarter finals. A couple of shocks, a couple of games going extra holes and now we are ready for the big semifinals.

In seniors Jeff Hewitt managed to subdue a spirited performance from Barry Jury and will now face Dave Morrison who had to birdie the last then win against Richard McKernan on the 19th. In the other half of the draw Owen Millar and Robbie Bell went toe to toe all the way round before Owen just snuck home. He will now face Chrisjan Senekal who managed to overcome his good friend Joseph Digby in the battle of the young guns. Two cracking semifinals with 3 previous champions and the new kid on the block. If I was a betting man, I would keep my money firmly in my pocket as both games are too close to call and they will come down to the small margins. Into intermediates, we are going to have a new name on the honours board as all the ex-champs are gone. Chris Ralston took down top seed Steve McCloy, so he now faces Hayden McMillan who did a number on Paddy. Form player FC Senekal looked very solid in beating Greig Sparrow he now plays surprise package Dave Hampton who was not in the original draw but got a reserve spot after a withdrawal and has he jumped at it. Last week he beat previous champ Paul Greer in the first round which pitted him against second seed and reigning champ Pete Morrison. By all accounts it was a ding-dong battle with them both dropping monster putts and it was no surprise when they went down 19 where Dave dropped another 20 footer for a birdie and a place in the Semi Final. Two more great games in store and again too close to call. Junior A sees another four, seasoned match players lock horns. Top seed Greg Fleming will face off with the wily old fox Kevin Smith, both guys are in good form and don't do much wrong. Across the draw John Ramsay and Brian Fauth will do battle, again we have two players who never know when they are beaten as it doesn't happen very often. Both these games are picked for going extra holes. Finally in Junior B, Pat Turton seems to have grown a couple of inches, smashing Perry in round one and then taking down top seed Grant on Saturday. He might find Craig Davies a bit tougher as he doesn't scare easily, both of them will be full of confidence, there could be blood on the fairways. Playing alongside them and a bit more sophisticated we will have Henry Lawrence and Stu Dunlop in the other semifinal. Two perfect gents will play the game how it is supposed to be played, with class and decorum. Play well everyone and give it your best shot.

We also have plate semifinals featuring Jason Overend against Charlie Alexander, Brendon Davo against Ron Carlson, Bruce Day v Mark Smitheram, John Duncan v Paul Greer, Steve Kennedy v Josh Coyle, Paul Clark v Ken Clucas and finally Mark McDowell v Sandy Shepherd. Lots of great games. Hopefully we have a cracking day.

Last Sunday we had to cancel the Foodstuffs Trophy against Tinwald as it rained all day. This has now been re arranged for Sunday 27th September. This is the Sunday after Club Champ finals on Saturday 26th, so it was already in the diary as a club day. This is normally a DRE sponsored game and Davo has agreed to keep the day and put up a good prize for the individual winner overall. Davidson Refrigeration and Electrical are a wonderful sponsor of our club and have always brought innovative games. Last year was a great day. Brendon backed himself by saying he would buy a free drink to every player who scored better than him, this was posted on Facebook so 200 players turned up and Davo promptly shot 24 points in total! It cost him a fortune. Oh well, we will have more on the DRE sponsored Foodstuffs Trophy nearer the date, but please jot the date in your diary.

This Sunday we have the Templar Trophy, Aorangi against Canterbury match at the Brandon so the course will be closed until late in the day but do pop along and watch the best players from the two districts lock horns on our beautiful course and cheer on our local superstars. Good golfing

Many thanks,
Paddy Bradford