

## Happy Golfers Score Well

*(contributed by Short Putt)*

With the long weekend beckoning and the promise of good weather the Forbes golfers took to the course in high spirits, keen to do well and also have some good family time later in the weekend. For many players they managed a good score, but some had their good feelings dashed with a not so good score.

This weekend is usually devoted to the 'Can Assist' group, but unfortunately this was not possible this year. Instead Saturday 6 June became an Individual Stableford event sponsored by the FGA Events Committee. The field of 84 players was down slightly from previous weeks, due to family commitments, but nevertheless the competition was keen.

The Division 1 players were quite competitive with over a quarter of them scoring close to their handicap or better. There was a 'breakaway' group who were ahead of the bunch. Out of these the Winner emerged, being Matt Roylance with 40 points. Scoring no worse than bogeys on all the par-5's kept his score tidy. The Runner-up on 39 points was Dave Rhodes who seems to relish these colder conditions, having played well over the last couple of colder weeks. A '2' on the 9<sup>th</sup> helped his cause, but there were no birdies to really boost his score.

The Division 2 scores were more spread out, although there was a two horse race to win. Feeling at peace with the world was Stephen McAlister who managed 40 points to take the winner's spot. Despite a miss on the 15<sup>th</sup> he was well pleased with his game. Runner-up was Bede Tooth, also on 40 points. But for an error in his card he may have taken the front spot.

The ball sweep went low again, going to 32 points on count back: 38 – B Everest, P Kay, B Hodges; 36 – A Rees, D Churchill; 35 – D Kennedy, A Cole, D Earl, D Sly, S Betland, P Maher; 34 – S Salloway, R Taylor, B Doyle, B Clarke, S Neal; 33 - M Haley, R Grant, S Uphill; 32 – K Herbert, C Barrett, S Galloway, G Webb.

The NTP's went to: 9<sup>th</sup> – J Earl; 18<sup>th</sup> – G Newport. Both of them got their '2', joining 10 others in the 2's group. The 2's were scored pretty evenly between the Divisions, but mention must be made of Craig Barrett's '2' on the 1<sup>st</sup> hole. It has been quite a while since he has struck a ball so well, especially to start his round in such a way. He is not sure which was better, his drive or his putt. Unfortunately, that was the highlight of his game.

There were a number of visitors relishing the chance to enjoy some freedom. Stephen Neal and Scott Galloway (both Wentworth) both played well, Stuart Hayes (Murrumbidgee) ventured round with Bobby Grant, Scott Malcom (Woollahra) was a long way from home, and James Redden (W/Wyalong) zipped up for a change of scenery. Well done guys.

It was very pleasing to see some of our older players venturing back for a game. Bobby Grant had his swing going, while Albie Callaghan enjoyed the fresh air but found his swing very rusty. Not one of the oldies, but David Sly still has a sweet swing despite his absence for a while.

Our 'plus' golfers are finding it difficult to get near the top of the table. Admittedly the Stableford format is not beneficial to them, but all it takes is a single error to damage their card. Steve Betland did well with 35 points, with Shane Sallaway on 34, and John Betland back on 29 points. Undoubtedly their forte is stroke play.

Many players have been taking the opportunity to hone their skills with tutoring and practice. But some go a bit further. Denis McGroder and Dave Bernardi were at the practice fairway together. Being good friends there was some banter, which developed into some sequences of sledging. Not only were they practicing their swing, but they were practicing 'game time' conditions where sledging was quite the norm.

What a change on the faces of the golfers as they were able to enjoy the sociability of the 'Golfie' Hotel. Once again the stories could be re-told, the thirst could be quenched, and the hunger satisfied. Well done to the 'Golfie' for all of their social distancing arrangements.

It is disappointing to see so many players making errors on their score cards. Some of these errors transpose into the scanned score, making a mockery of the player's efforts. All players are warned that they must complete the card correctly. The scanned score is checked against the score card, which must bear the players signature. Despite previous warnings, it is now time to say that any errors may lead to disqualification. If need be, seek help from Head Pro Ben, or Mens Captain Stevie G.

The Sunday Stableford Medley was a quiet affair, but nevertheless some good were made.

The winner was Ash Hogan with 38 points, capitalising on more than his fair share of pars. Runner-up was Bess Shields with 35 points, which could have been better but for the 15<sup>th</sup> hole. The ball sweep went to B Drabsch (34) and Fred Rupp (34) from Mollymook, but once again no NTP's were contested.

On the holiday Monday there was strong support for the Stableford Medley with 24 players participating. And the scoring was quite good also, leading to a few handicap drops.

The winner was Ethel Coombs with 40 points, scoring 3-pointers at random. Runner-up was Brianna Duncan with 35 points, and on count back from three other players. Her back-9 included a 5-pointer on the 15th!

The ball sweep went to: 35 – E Gaffney, B Shields, B Robinson; 34 – R Hamilton, W Judge; 33 – J Betland, N Death and P Dawson. The NTP's went to; 9<sup>th</sup> - A Dukes; 18<sup>th</sup> – B Shields.

The 9-Hole comp scores will be reported separately this week.

**Here is the news:**

On a sad note we bid farewell to Daryl 'Digit' McAuliffe. Digit is a stalwart of the Golf Club, and while living locally has been keen to play and touch base with his local mates. But with family affairs settled, he now heads back to Nelson Bays to reside. He shall always be a welcoming face to any Forbes players who venture to the coast, and he (and his friends) will always be welcome here at Forbes. Good luck and safe travels Digit.

Remember, always practice the social distancing, even in the 'Golfie' where we can now enjoy after-round refreshments.

**Crystal ball:**

Sat 13 June is the Monthly Medal, sponsored by BWR Accountants & Advisors. Sunday will have a Stableford Medley, with the LVDGA Pennants cancelled.

Then Sat 20 June is the 4BBB Stroke Championships. Choose your partners well. Sun 21 June has a Stableford Medley.

Keep in touch on our Facebook page – '[.../forbesgolfcourse/](#)', the Instagram page – '[.../forbesgolf2871/](#)', and our website – '[www.forbesgolf.org.au](#)'.