

## **Falvey Hits Perfect Shot**

*(contributed by Short Putt)*

Last Saturday the Forbes golfers were once again faced with inclement weather. While this was the case early on, the day improved with sunshine gracing the course, and for one player an exceptional occasion which really brightened his day.

On Saturday the Men played a 2-Person Ambrose, sponsored by Brine Cure. This format enabled many of the field of 39 pairs, to get around the course quite quickly. Those that played later in the day definitely had the better conditions.

One player for whom the conditions were manageable and then became beautiful was George Falvey. His group teed off with threatening rain and continued gamely on their way. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> tee, George played his shot and watched in amazement as it found the green, ran to the pin and disappeared.

By his own admission it was not a very pretty shot. He struck it low, fearful that it may find the dam, which helped it to scuttle towards the green. It had enough speed to glide through the fringe grass and roll all the way to the hole. The jumps of joy on the tee were joined by huge hand slaps (not socially complaint) when George picked the ball out of the hole. This was George's first hole-in-one in over 30 years of playing.

In the comp itself there were some pairings of low handicappers aiming for the Scratch result and some pairs being astute mixes of handicaps aiming for the Handicap results. But whatever the aim, the players all needed to play well.

The Scratch winners were John Betland and Todd Callaghan with 64 gross. They had a solid start with one birdie in four holes, and followed that with a string of birdies for four holes. Their four birdies on the back-9 were offset by one bogey. It was a fine display where luckily they did not need to rely on Todd's chipping.

The Scratch runners-up were Peter Dawson and Mark Collits. With a 31 front-9, where their hole-by-hole score matched that of the Betland/Callaghan pairing, they thought they were heading for immortality. They played solidly on the back-9 where a lone bogey slightly nullified the hard to come by birdies. Their final score of 31-35-66 left them with a small gap back to third spot.

The Handicap winners can be very pleased with their result as they managed to battle through some very heavy rain to achieve a score that a scratch handicapper would be pleased with. Troy Howe and Charlie Dwyer teamed well to score a 34 on the front-9, assisted by a '2' on the 9<sup>th</sup>. They too were solid on the back-9 with two birdies and one bogey. With their handicap they managed to reduce the scratch score of 69 down to Nett 62.

The Handicap runners-up prize saw eight pairs finishing within three shots of each other, resulting in a tight finish. The J Betland/T Callaghan pair played well enough to

reduce their scratch score to 63.5, and thus finish a half shot ahead of Phil Maher and Mike Spice. The Maher/Spice pairing was one of the few to score better on the back-9 than the front-9, but it was not quite enough.

The ball sweep went to 68.75 nett on count back: 64 – P Maher/M Spice; 65 – P Dawson/M Collits; 65.5 – J Grierson/H Sykes, A Dukes/B Everest; 66 – M Duff/S Thomas; 66.75 – N Ryan/D Bayley – R Morris/S Kirkman; 68 – T Morgan/B Slack-Smith; 68.25 – N Duncan/B Shine; 68.75 – P Kay/T Griffiths.

The NTP's went to: 9<sup>th</sup> – C Dwyer; 18<sup>th</sup> – B Slack-Smith, both of whom got their 2's. There were three other 2's, and of course George's ace. There were a couple of visitors, including James Grierson (killing time until the Aust PGA re-starts) and a couple of Distance members including Craig Simmonds.

The biggest issue facing most of the golfers was trying to guess what the weather was going to do and then decide whether to play or not. There were a few that did wish that they had not, and finished with a NCR result.

George Falvey continued on from the 3<sup>rd</sup>, feeling very heartened by his 'lucky' shot on that hole. But despite that good fortune he and partner Damien Kennedy could only seem to muster pars and bogeys.

Having two shots to choose from does certainly help, but then puts the pressure onto one of the pair if the first attempted shot is skew-whiff. Such was the case for the Kay/Griffiths pairing. Terry's swing on the 1<sup>st</sup> tee had all the hallmarks of a rusty gate, with his tee shot only just getting past the Red tee markers. Paul was under pressure to put a good one down there.

Paul Kay admitted he was well used to playing sport in these wintery conditions. He focused on his tee shot, swung and dug a hole beneath the ball but still managed to pop the ball high into the air. It fell just short of the oleander bushes, and was definitely more than twice the length of Terry's shot. So they took Paul's shot.

The aim of this format is for each player in the pair to contribute in the score. Not only by taking six tee shots each, but also by combining well from tee to the hole. Some players in each pair will claim that they contributed not by their shot making but by their encouragement to their partner. The debate still rages in the 'Golfie' on that point.

Among all the play there were some outstanding shots and some lucky shots. Tim West's second shot to the 14<sup>th</sup> landed and stopped within a foot of the pin. But unfortunately he and partner Randall Grayson were NCR's.

Some players will claim that ricochet shots were played for. Kim Herbert's approach to the 7<sup>th</sup> green hit the big gum on the front left of the green, bounced around among the branches then popped onto the green. Played for! The Troy Howe group had similar fortune on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Their approach to the green shied left towards the

12<sup>th</sup> tee. It struck the 12<sup>th</sup> tee sign, then rebounded onto the green. That was definitely played for!

Somewhat less fortunate was Max Haley. On the 15<sup>th</sup> he claimed he wanted to ricochet off the water to run the ball up towards the green. But the ball went diving instead. Max's claim for a stunning shot was refuted by Jeff, who simply said 'That was rubbish'.

Alby Callaghan was all smiles when he finished his game. It was not because he was paired with Ian Bown, nor because they had a great score (which they did not). It was because he was in fine fiddle to enjoy his golf and his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday on 14 July. Congrats Alby.

The Sunday Stableford Medley field was very low. The eventual winner was Adam Deane (Toukley GC) with 37 points. Apart from that there was little else to comment on the event, although the sunny weather did emerge very late in the afternoon.

**Here is the news:**

A reminder about the Programme changes for this weekend and for August 16, when the 27-Hole Mixed Foursomes is scheduled. Also note the Temora Open on 8,9 Aug and the Trundle Open on 9 Aug.

The Wallace Cup draw is on the Pro Shop noticeboard, so please check there for the deadlines and to see who your opponent is. It is up to the contestants to organise your match, playing off the daily handicap on the day you play. Thereafter, usual match play rules apply.

Remember, we still need to practice the social distancing, even in the 'Golfie'.

**Crystal ball:**

Sat 18 July is a 4BBB Stableford Medley, sponsored by the Hawke Family. Sun 12 July has a Stableford Medley.

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