

Callaghans Take 'Merv Hawke' Cup

(contributed by Short Putt)

The weekend offered early fog, frost and eventual sunny conditions, all of which were easily handled by the Forbes golfers as they enjoyed their game and the fresh air.

Saturday saw the playing of the re-scheduled 'Merv Hawke' Cup, a 4BBB Stableford Medley event, sponsored by the Hawke Family. The field eventually grew to 56 pairs, in which were combinations of men, ladies and mixed pairings.

The Winners, on count back, were Todd Callaghan and son Harrison with a score of 44 points. This is a combination that could develop into a fearsome winning pair for years to come. Harrison was playing off a reduced Handicap, but still managed to contribute his share of good holes.

Undoubtedly it was the scintillating form of Todd with sub-par golf on the front-9 that set them up. Todd produced six pars and two birdies, while Harrison contributed with a par on the 3rd hole. The back-9 had more contribution by Harrison but Todd was still on song with four pars.

The unlucky Runners-up were Lynette Kennedy and Rose Carrol, whose 44 points saw a big contribution by Rose who played well below her handicap. Rose managed two consecutive 4-pointers on the 3rd and 4th holes, which she played with aplomb. But for one hole on which neither scored a point they may have well been runaway winners.

The ball sweep went to 39 points on count back: 43 – C Hurford/J Brett, N & C Duncan; 42 – A Hogan/L Whitfield, B Robinson/B Hodges, John & Sam Ridley; 41 - J Ridley/D Scott, N Death/E Baker, J Hurkett/T Toole, D Mylecharane/P Duke; 40 – C Barrett/A Rees, K Sly/K Walton, V Lane/C Venables, T Griffiths/P Kay; 39 – S McAlister/C Alley and S Thomas/T Cogswell.

The NTP's went to: 9th – Ladies: J Fletcher, Men: T Callaghan; 18th – Ladies: J Hurkett, Men: J Bernardi. Of these only Todd got his '2'. His was one of only four 2's scored, which included a fine effort by Mike Wood on the 1st.

The visitors included: Peter Mawhinney (Grenfell – taking a break from the sand), Rowan Fessey (Kogarah – enjoying the Forbes isolation), Jan & John Hurley (Pacific Dunes – avoiding the coastal rain), Jack Downes (Moree – travelling slowly), Peter Ryan (Killara – happy to be golfing), Steve and Ros Fuller (Wentworth – scouting for a return), and Brad Hazell (Hervey Bay – seeking cooler climes). They all enjoyed the course and shall spread the word about this 'jewel in the west'.

Also on the course was our new Head Pro, Adam Demidjuk. He enjoyed the company of Brian Doyle and Rod Besgrove, commenting that he was thrilled with the course, finding some challenges along the way – but more on that later.

Just imagine what would happen if the three generations of Callaghan's played in a 3-ball event, Ambrose or otherwise? The experience of grandad Alby, would guide the youth of Harry, while the skill of Todd would lead by example. Wow!

In any format where partnering is involved there are many stories to tell, which quite often revolve around how each player contributed. In best ball there can often be comments made about the sharing of the load.

Many pairings followed the example of Stuart Thomas and Tony Cogswell who had a 'game of two 9's'. Stuart seemed to be leading the way with the use of his scores on the first six holes, while Tony made the score card more out of courtesy than anything else. However, on the back-9 the roles were reversed with Tony being the mainstay while Stuart was useful on a couple of holes.

Amongst all the golf there were a number of good shots played, some of which were regaled in the 'Golfie' after the game. The 14th hole seemed to take a battering. Steve Uphill managed a delicate chip-in from off the right side of the green, to score a birdie.

Not to be outdone, Allan Rees playing a bit later behind Steve, also managed a chip in on the same hole. We are not quite sure what Allan's shot was as the description for it varies between he and his playing partners. In Allan's words it was a pitch shot from 'about 40 metres out', but his partners proclaim it was a full approach from 'in excess of 90 metres'. Either way, it went in for a well needed bogey, with his partner nowhere in sight.

Rod Besgrove showed an acute eye on the 12th green. His third shot to the green, one of those dreaded 'sh..ks' we never mention, ended up on the north side of the green, as far away from the hole as you could get and still be on the green. Taking a line over the slope of the hump Rod struck his putt with grace and the players in the group watched as it tracked all the way to and into the hole. This was a shot that emulated Dustin Johnson's effort in the Ryder Cup last year.

Stevie G managed to drain a long putt across the slope on the 17th green, and earn two points for the team. This putt followed a low recovery shot from the 2nd fairway and through the trees onto the green. One of those very rare occasions when he was not on the fairway.

Robert Grant was feeling the effects of the cooler conditions. His swing on the 3rd tee looked very stiff, resulting in a topped tee shot that bobbed along the pathway and finished just past the dam. Luckily he hits the ball straight, so it narrowly avoided the dam.

It was good to see Head Pro Adam having a game. He played early in the day so he, and wife Ainsley, could travel back to Sydney. Being early he encountered heavy dew on the greens, cold conditions but did warm up later. Adam spoke very highly about

the course, its condition and the challenges it offered. He relished the back-9 which he parred without scoring a birdie, but did come very close on numerous occasions.

Perhaps his best memories were a couple of shots. On the 4th he under-clubbed his tee shot, and needed to play across the trees to the green. Unfortunately his second shot found a stray limb, sending the ball earthwards. It landed in the dead stump beside the bridge, from where Adam considered a 'Sergio Garcia' shot, but common sense prevailed.

He followed that with an elegant tee shot off the 11th that carried the big gum on the corner, leaving him a very short iron to the green. Then on the 14th his second shot ran long finishing near to the 15th tee. His chip shot landed on the green, bounced twice then popped into the hole. Unfortunately it did not settle and skipped out – yet another mishap attributed to the current issues prevailing.

The Sunday Stableford Medley field was again very low. The eventual winner was Ethel Coombs with 31 points, which possibly reflected the cloudy conditions. With improving weather more players should be able to take advantage of the reduced comp fee for the Sunday Medley.

Here is the news:

Head Pro Adam will be back to start in the Pro Shop on 3 Aug. But he will be here on that weekend to play again, leaving his folks to sort out the house. Ah, the joyous role of parents. So, make sure you catch up with him from then on, and welcome him to Forbes.

The Wallace Cup draw is on the Pro Shop noticeboard, so get your game organised to ensure we keep ahead of the deadlines.

The Trundle Open on 8, 9 August will be played under strict Covid-19 rules, so pre-registration is important. Refer to the notice board for details. The Temora Open is on the same weekend.

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

Crystal ball:

Sat 25 July is an Individual Stableford Medley, sponsored by T Griffiths and V Rebellato. There are prizes for Ladies and Men, with an overall winner for the Kristie Carpenter Memorial Trophy. Sun 26 July has a Stableford Medley.

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