

Medals are well earned

(contributed by Short Putt)

The Saturday golfers braced themselves for some very dreary conditions, and tried to focus on finishing as quickly as possible to reach the shelter of the 'Golfie'. Nevertheless, there was a battle for each Medal with the players being challenged by the conditions and themselves.

On Saturday the Mens comp was the July Monthly Medal, sponsored by Walkers Agn-Vet. The field of 65 players found it hard to keep their hands quiet while putting, with many players looking for some warm clothing or woollen merchandise to ward off the conditions. But overall the results were not inspiring and reflected the conditions.

The A-Grade saw a return to form by John Betland to take the early lead. However, Brian Everest, finishing in the second last group, came in with a 71 nett to eclipse John's 72 Nett. No birdies for Brian, but a plethora of pars with few blemishes nudged him ahead. John was the epitome of par golf, with two bogeys countered by three birdies, the best of which was a '2' on the last hole. That helped John take Runner-up on count back from Ethan Gaffney, who faltered on the 15th.

The B-Grade needed a count back to decide the winner. Dave Earl came in early-ish with a tidy 70 nett, and glad to have gotten away with only a '7' on the 7th. But a little later Jeff Haley arrived, also with a 70 nett. His round was tidier, with a par on the last hole to earn him the Medal on count back.

The C-Grade was a case of youthfulness over experience. Mark Simmonds did very well off his 24-handicap to score in the low 90's. His 67 nett was a formidable target. Meanwhile Brian Clarke played a steady and determined game, sidestepping an unfortunate '9' on the 6th, to finish on 69 Nett. Mark took the Medal, while Brian commiserated on his forgetfulness to check his ball.

The ball sweep went to 77 nett: 71 – A Hogan; 72 – L Whitfield, D Rhodes, E Gaffney; 73 – K Sanderson, S Kirkman; 74 – N Duncan, G Webb, S Sallaway, P Kay, J Ridley; 75 – S Uphill; 76 – P Tisdell, B Parker, T Morgan, K Herbert, M Spice; 77 – A Dukes, S Betland, D Kennedy.

The NTP's were halfway pleasing for both players: 9th – A Dukes; 18th – E Gaffney, although neither got a '2'. There were only three 2's, with the best being by John Betland with a monster putt (his own words) on the 18th.

There were two visitors from Wentworth, both of whom enjoyed the course. Unfortunately they were led astray by John Boyle and played off the white tees initially, but they were pleased to have a belt.

Most of the stories this week revolve around the putting woes, with three putts being quite common. One golfer was quite pleased to chip his ball to within four feet

on one hole, but then managed to 4-putt from there. He referred to himself as a really good bad putter.

And then of course there was Warwick Judge. Suffice to say that on one hole he did far better from tee to green than on the green, where he more than doubled the number of shots. His '9' on the 11th did not start the back-9 well, and neither did the 4-putt on the 17th to finish it.

But it wasn't all putting woes. One player, who is pretty handy I might add, had trouble chipping. Two glorious shots left him just short of a green. Then three chips later he still had not made the green. Out came the putter where he made the green, then sunk the next putt for a '7'. This followed a run of pars and preceded another par. His father, Alby, could only shake his head.

Going OB also caused some problems. Steve Betland hit his opening tee shot over the fence, managed a '6' but still finished the front-9 on par. Some OB's did draw blood though. Bruce Chandler volunteered to collect the OB's from his on the 6th. He did the safe thing and walked down to the gate. Stepping through it his feet tangled in the grass, whereupon he fell to the ground. His hand impacted a sharp stick causing some bleeding.

Some players really enjoy playing the golf course. Garry Collits made the 2nd hole longer by zig zagging his way across the fairway, and seeing plenty of the 17th and trees along the way. Les Little played the 9th in an uncharacteristic fashion. His tee shot finished in front of the Ladies 10th tee, from where he played onto the Mens 10th tee and then onto the green. All-in-all a tidy a tidy '5'.

Brian Clarke was unfortunate on the 6th when he not check the ball he played and incurred a 2-shot penalty for striking the wrong ball. Stevie G watched him do this, then realised it was his ball being played, but he spoke up too late. Then Karma lent a hand, as Stevie G played a woeful tee shot on the 9th to plonk that aforementioned ball into the water. Brian did laugh.

There was some keen tussles in the intra-group match scenarios. Warwick Judge and Barry Parker were sailing along confident in their match, leading 3-up with four to play. However, Niel Duncan and Les Little changed up into top gear, storming home to win on the 18th. It was a shared effort where Niel parred or matched Scadger, while Les used his handicap well to win a few holes.

Unfortunately the bleak conditions on Sunday turned players away, leading to a small field in the Sunday Stableford Medley. Accolades go to Veronica Rebellato who won with 37 points, followed a long way back to Runner-up Ethel Coombs on 31 points. There was no ball sweep or NTP's. Here is for sunny weather this weekend.

Here is the news:

Last Saturday we farewelled Head Pro Ben Gear and his partner Som (real name Sudarat Ok-oon). Both of them have achieved a lot while among the Forbes golf community. Ben's calm coaching and Som's delicious sandwiches will be missed. We wish them well in their new life in Cairns.

President Andrew McDonald is pleased to announce the appointment of a new Professional. Adam Demidjuk will commence duties as Head Pro on Aug 3, so pop in that week to welcome him to Forbes. He does intend to pay a flying visit on 18,19 July so you may see him then.

Programme changes, brought about by the Covid-19 restrictions earlier in the year, have resulted in the following: Sat 11 July – Men is a 2-P Ambrose, with a Par event for the Ladies, while Sat 18 July sees the 4BBB Stableford Medley for the Hawke Cup.

Players are advised that until the new Head Pro arrives we shall be providing refreshments from the Halfway House. This is a long day for the providers so support them and give them cheerful encouragement.

The draw for the Wallace Cup will be out this weekend, so sharpen up your match play skills.

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

Crystal ball:

Sat 11 July is a 2-P Ambrose, sponsored by Brine Cure. Sun 12 July has a Stableford Medley.

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