

Heavy Going in Golf

(contributed by Short Putt)

The weekend golf was played under pressure conditions with all competitions being hotly contested and the ground conditions making the going quite heavy. But the golfers were smiling not only for their chance to play but also for the quality rains around the district.

Saturday's Mens comp was an 18-Hole Stableford, sponsored by Gunns Traffic Control. Control was needed to steer the golf carts away from the worst of the wet ground conditions, and was also needed for players to target specific spots on the fairway that gave them the driest spot for a clean shot.

Of the 76 starters not many were able to exercise enough control to score above their handicap. The front runners had a hefty margin over the majority of the field, with many players finishing on scores well below the mid-20's.

The Div-1 winner was Kim Herbert with 38 points. He needed all of his lowly handicap, helped by birdies on the 6th and 10th holes, to maintain his scoring opportunities. Runner-up was Peter Dawson, lagging behind a bit on 34 points. His was a harder task, but birdies on the 2nd, 6th and 15th holes helped him. Both players demonstrated the advantage of long hitters in the heavy conditions.

The Div-2 winner was Liam Whitfield with a day's best score of 39 points. He used his handicap well, and had no real eureka! moments. Runner-up was Jeff Haley, whose tireless concentration enabled him to score consistently. But for a 'miss' on the 6th he may have put a nose in front.

The ball sweep went to 32 points on count back; 37 – L De Bock; 34 – P Dawson, N Ryan, A Currey, T Morgan, D Churchill, B Chandler, A Dukes; 33 – M Simmonds, D Bernardi, P Grayson, D Earl, T Callaghan, B Slack-Smith; 32 – M Duff, L O'Connor, R Smith, D Bayley, B Doyle, S Uphill, J Cutler and A Grogan.

The NTP's went to: 9th – D Mylecharane; 18th – J Betland, neither of whom got their 2's. There were only three 2's, perhaps reflecting the heavy conditions. Both Andy Dukes and Pete Tisdell got 2's on the 3rd hole with Andy taking the 'Super Pin' prize. The other '2' went to Phil Duke on the 1st hole, which is always a fine effort.

The couple of visitors in the field were pleased to play golf, but not all that pleased with the weather. Lex de Brock (Gosford) did okay, while Rowan Fessey (Kogorah) enjoyed the company of his Cogswell hosts. They did better than the four NCR's by local players.

Not much to say about the golf itself, other than there were numerous 8's scored. But the most unfortunate golfer was that player who managed double-figures on a single hole twice, one in each half of his round.

The heavy conditions were best handled by the longer hitters, as evidenced by the scorers of birdies. Only 13 players managed birdies, and of those only two were Div-2 players. Ecky Dawson and Andy Dukes were prolific birdie makers with three each.

And then we must mention the unfortunate luck suffered by Bede Tooth. He managed to be the first name on the 'NTP score sheet' for the 3rd and 9th holes but alas he got run down by the later players. And on top of all that, he did not get a '2' out of any of his good shots.

Paul Pymont is steadily improving after his forced absence due to injury. Let us hope his shoulder recovers well and he can get back to full enjoyment of the game.

On Sunday the Mixed Foursomes Championship was played, having been postponed from May. The players teed off in good time, intending to beat the forecast adverse weather. Most did make it to the Golfie in time, but a heavy downpour later did catch a few on the course.

Among the 19 pairs who contested the Championship, many individuals were pleased they had a partner to get them down the fairway, where once again long hitting prevailed. There were a few new pairings in the field, some of whom were surprising performers.

After the opening 18-holes, the Scratch leaders by two shots were John Betland and Nicole Death, being one of only three pairs shooting in the 80's. Pete and Lindy Cowhan led the Handicap event by a narrow margin of one stroke.

After the 27-holes there had not been much change in the leading order. A few pairings improved their positions mid-field, but all agreed that a good start was needed to finish near the top.

The Scratch Champions, and winners of the Les Forbes Trophy, were John Betland and Nicole Death on a score of 125. Mark and Kathy Collits stormed home with the equal best score on the third 9-holes but their 90+ opening score proved too much. Runners-up were Barry Shine and Heather Davidson with a score of 132. They were only two shots behind the leaders after the 18-holes, and while they faltered a bit on the final 9-holes they kept their placing.

The Handicap Champions, and winners of the Treanor Memorial Trophy, were John Betland and Nicole Death with a score of 106.25 nett, and one where John felt comfortable using someone else's handicap. They had the equal second best score on the third 9-holes, which was enough to eclipse the early leaders. Runners-up were Pete and Lindy Cowhan with a nett 109.25. Once again, a few lapses on the third 9-holes cost them victory.

The ball sweep went to 115.75 nett, going to: 111.5 - Sallaway/ Rebelato; 112.5 - S & E Uphill; 113.25 - Shine/ Davidson; 115.25 - Griffiths/ Fletcher; 115.75 - Taylor/ Lyell. The NTP's will be announced when I find them.

Congratulations to the winners, and well done to all the participants. The higher numbers than last year helped make the event quite exciting.

Here is the news:

We all wish Andrew McDonald well in his recovery from a recent medical incident. He is likely to be out of action for a while. Our thoughts are with his family.

A reminder about the Condobolin Open, which is scheduled for 30 August. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions all intending players are asked to register by Aug 25. Details are in the Pro Shop.

The Wallace Cup draw has been impacted by the wet weather, and consequently the timelines have been extended. Players are asked to keep pushing ahead when they can.

All players are advised that due to Covid-19 restrictions in the Golfie Hotel, the scanning of score cards will be done by a designated member and not by individual players. It is important therefore that your score cards are completed fully.

Players are reminded, yet again, to complete their score cards correctly. Ensure that all holes have an entry in the score columns, and make sure for Stableford events that you calculate and correctly enter your points on the score card. Having merely a Gross score is not enough.

Remember, we still need to practice the social distancing, even in the Pro Shop. A recent inspection by a Covid-19 Inspecting officer has identified some areas where we need to be more vigilant.

Crystal ball:

Sat 22 August is an 18-Hole Stroke, sponsored by Steele Tech. Sun 12 July has a Stableford Medley, while the Peak Hill Open has been cancelled.

Sat 29 Aug is the Golf NSW 2-P Ambrose, sponsored by Marg & Ron Hurst. Sunday 30 Aug has a Stableford Medley and the Condo Open.

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