

Golfers Survive the Wet Conditions

(contributed by Short Putt)

The weekend produced some beautiful and most welcome rain across the district. Among the weather some Forbes golfers showed their hardiness by shrugging off the raindrops and focusing on their game, buoyed by the prospect of a warm welcome at the end.

Saturday was meant to be the playing of the Kristie Carpenter Memorial Trophy, but with the significant number of withdrawals the competition reverted to an Individual Stableford Medley format.

The weather, while welcome to many in the agriculture industry around the district, significantly affected the enthusiasm of many golfers, many of whom were mindful of their health in these wintery conditions.

Of the 95 players registered to play as at late on Friday, 45 took to the field on Saturday. This was a mix of both Ladies and Men, all with a combination of carting and walking. The consistent rain proved too much for some players, while others were determined to finish. In the end 19 players completed their round.

The Ladies Winner was Rose Carroll with 33 points. She has certainly been playing good golf in recent weeks, and used her handicap to good effect to counter a couple of 'misses'. The Ladies Runner-up was Sally Perry, with 26 points, and who gamely toiled alongside Rose to ensure they both provided a creditable finish. Sally had a couple of 'roughies' in the middle of the back-9, but otherwise played very well.

The Mens Division-1 winner was Marty Woods (Parkes) with 37 points, getting there on count back from playing partner Neil McMillan, also on 37. This pair started very early, reaping the rewards on the front-9 when it was relatively dry, and just holding things together on the back-9 when the rain started to settle in.

They both scored 1-over on the front-9, with Neil's handicap earning him more points. Marty finished 2-over on the back-9, while Neil had a few too many one-pointers but used his buffer from the front-9 to produce a good score.

The Mens Division-2 went to Nick Ryan with 35 points. Nick warmed up on the practice fairway before play, being slightly damp so any more wetness during his game was inconsequential. He was quite pleased with his front-9, despite a few blemishes and maintained good form on the back-9. Runner-up was Liam Whitfield with 32 points, on count back from Adrian Cole. They both did well on the front-9, and both faltered on the back-9 but Liam's four-pointer on the 16th helped.

The ball sweep went to 25 points: 34 – A Alley; 33 – C Dwyer, D Bayley, A Wallace; A Cole; 31 – S Flynn, J Bernardi, J Boyle; 29 – T Howe; 28 – M Spice, B Robinson; 25 – A Dukes.

The NTP's went to: 9th – Ladies: S Perry, Men: R Scott; 18th – Ladies: nil, Men: T Wallace. The four 2's scored all went to Division-1 players, with Tony Wallace being the only one to convert his NTP.

The visitors included Marty Woods (Parkes), who was lucky with his time, Simon Flynn (Mudgee), who probably would have enjoyed a 'good red' once he got back into dry clothes, and Barry Hazell (Hervey Bay), who commented that the amount of rain 'was similar to home but colder'.

Another visitor to play, but unfortunately unable to reap rewards, was Garry Hopkins from Merewether GC. His handicap was a provisional 36, on which he scored 54 points which is equivalent to an 18 handicap. However being provisional he was ineligible for any prizes, but with his swing there will be many more good rounds to come.

The main story of the day was – The Wet. Too wet to get any photos on the course and too wet for many players to hang around the 'Golfie' in damp clothes. But then there is always a silver lining in a dark cloud.

Many of the starters hung around in shelter before committing, using the reason that once started the sooner they finish! There was all manner of wet weather apparel donned. Much of this proved ineffective as seen by the drenched clothes on the players when they trudged past the Pro Shop. And it did not seem to matter whether you walked or carted.

Some players finished the 9th hole then decided to head to the 'Golfie'. The determined players carried on and completed their 18 holes. But the unsung heroes were those who carried on past the 9th in order to encourage their playing partner who was having a good score, but then when that player faltered they trudged back across the course from the 12th, 13th or 15th holes. They gave it a good shot, but alas the weather prevailed.

As the day wore on the challenges got higher. Interestingly, the 12th green suffered more surface water problems than the 18th, which is the usual barometer. One visitor needed four putts to hole out from six feet.

The attention to Covid-19 health regulations had a negative side, with the 'noodle' rising up out of the hole as the water rose in the cup. But like all true golfers, they adapted and played on.

Once having finished their rounds the golfers had yet another challenge – getting a sodden score card through the scanner. Luckily the cards either dried out sufficiently to retain some stiffness and allow it to be scanned, or the manual entry function was used. Ah, the joys of modern technology.

Understandably the Sunday Stableford Medley was not played. With water across the 2nd, 5th, 13th and 17th fairways and very damp conditions around the greens the

use of carts was prohibited. There were a few walking golfers but conditions were still very difficult. Thankfully next weekend is forecast to be sunny.

Here is the news:

The health restrictions are affecting the organisation of Opens scheduled at other Clubs around the District. The Temora Open (8, 9 Aug) has been cancelled.

As far as we know the Trundle Open (8, 9 Aug) is going ahead with pre-registration by 4 Aug needed to set tee times and meet Covid-19 restrictions (view the flyer). Additionally, the Cowra Open (8, 9 Aug) is still going ahead, with registration needed by 7 Aug.

The Condobolin Open is scheduled for 29, 30 Aug and again under Covid-19 restrictions. Contact (02) 6895 2465 for more details or view the flyer on the notice boards. And as far as we know the Parkes Open is still going ahead on 19, 20 Sep.

We are working towards staging a Legends Pro-Am on Friday Oct 23. Details are yet to be finalised with the PGA, but the intention is that this will be an event in a 'swing' including Tumut, Cootamundra, Young and ourselves. Stay tuned for more news.

Remember, we still need to practice social distancing, both in the 'Golfie' and around the Pro Shop and 1st tee area (where groups have a maximum of 20 people).

Crystal ball:

The Mens comp on Sat 1 August is the Monthly Medal Individual Strokeplay, sponsored by Bernardi's Marketplace. Sun 2 Aug has a Stableford Medley.

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