

Betland Takes A-Grade Medal

(contributed by Short Putt)

After an early fog the weather cleared to produce a good weather weekend, and one in which the Forbes golfers were able to produce some good scores. The recent wet made it soft underfoot, but the golfers all finished the weekend with broad smiles on their faces.

The Mens event on Saturday was the August Monthly Medal, sponsored by Bernardis Marketplace. A healthy field of golfers, or maybe a field of healthy golfers, numbering 96 players found the need to play distance-perfect golf as there was no run at all. However, surprisingly the better scores were made by the higher handicappers, perhaps because their balls did not roll into trouble.

The A-Grade finished with John Betland the Medal winner, but only by a count back. For the second month running he and Brian Everest tussled for the Medal, with both finishing on 72 nett. John's near fault-less back-9 saw him claim dominance, scoring a birdie on the last hole to finish with 71 scratch, but 72 nett. Brian was not to be outdone, but a few 6's on the back-9 held him back from an outright win.

The B-Grade enjoyed the company of some good visiting golfers, who filled the top two spots. But the Medal can only be claimed by a club member, which was Ted Morgan on 72 nett. The B-Grade prize winner was John Grogan (Sugar Valley) with a nett 70. He was tidy on the front-9 but warmed up and improved his shot making on the back-9. Runner-up on nett 71 was Hugh Graham (Dubbo) who played alongside John Betland and may have drawn inspiration from him.

The C-Grade is where players often leap out of the pack, and so it was this month. Troy Howe was remarkably consistent in his 69 nett, being pleased to pick up a '2' on the 9th and a par on the 15th. He was adjudged the winner by count back from Matthew Duff, who managed some very good play on the par 3's to get his score to 69 nett also. But the odd '7' coming home did him no good.

The ball sweep went to 76 nett on count back: 70 – C Greenhalgh; 72 – T Morgan; 73 – G Webb, B Hansen, M Collits, C Hurford; 74 – N Duncan, S Uphill, L Whifield, M Spice, G Newport, P Maher, J Ridley, T Cooper, J Haley; 75 – B Chandler, B Robinson; 76 – D Earl, S French.

The flags were under attack for the NTP's with the closest being: 9th – A Demidjuk; 18th – P Pymont. There were eleven 2's scored overall with the 9th being the most prolific despite its dangerous position.

The visitors had a good day, finding the course very amenable to their style of play. Winning visitors included: John Grogan (Sugar Valley) and Hugh Graham (Dubbo), but Stephen Grant (Murrumbidgee) Jono Baker (Caragabal), Bob Hansen (Shoalhaven Heads), Trevor Cooper (Caragabal) all played well. However, Nigel Davies (Caragabal) did not fare so well.

Among all the golf played there were some pretty good shots made. Perhaps the most notable was the NTP shot by our own Head Pro Adam on the 9th. His ball finished barely 10 inches from the hole, with the vibrant urging of him and his playing partners to 'get in!' It would have been a great start to his golf at Forbes, and add to his previous three holes-in-one, scored at Long Reef and Woollahra.

The start of a round can be very important and set the scene for the whole day. Scott Kirkman had to rebound from a deep hole, starting with a four-putt on the 1st hole and a 3-putt on the 2nd. But he did show brilliance to finish each nine with a par and quite a few pars among the rest of the holes.

Another to do well was Greg Webb. He also did not have the best of starts. But in the back-9 he was feeling better and was quite buoyed by pars from the 14th hole onwards. But for a silly missed small putt he could have finished with a par on the 18th, but nevertheless he was pleased with his finish.

And then there is the round which had everything. Bruce Chandler was travelling okay but not brilliantly on the front-9. His back-9 got steadily worse, culminating in a '9' on the 14th hole, courtesy of the water hazard. But he chipped in for par on the 15th, holed his third shot on the 16th for a birdie, and came home comfortably. While his total was not good, he still finished with a smile.

Also smiling was Terry Griffiths, who managed to help his partner snare the 'money' from his opponents, who included Craig Barrett. Terry played the 11th hole immaculately to score a birdie, and in so doing 'tore the heart out of his opponents'. That was his best contribution to the match.

Another who was well pleased with his game was Head Pro Adam. In only his second game on the course he managed to score a 68 scratch. His NTP on the 9th helped, but so did scoring a birdie on each of the par-5's on the front-9. His par score on the back-9 is where he wants to improve, and maybe then threaten the course record.

Despite the heavy conditions there was still some run in places. Shane Sallaway played conservatively on the 13th intending to lay-up before the penalty area. Unfortunately he hit a dry patch which enabled his ball to run into the water. Doug Churchill was playing with Shane, and found the day was good but the golf was bad. But his recovery from injury was a good excuse.

Some real bad luck involved the trees. Harrison Callaghan had so much tree-trouble on the 14th that someone commented he was hunting for firewood. Then Ian Bown had tree trouble on the 17th. He played his 3rd short from behind the Ladies tee, culminating in an '8'. Without that he was in contention for the A-Grade Medal.

Sunday's Stableford Medley was enjoyed by those that played, although the scores were low. The winner was Ash Hogan with 34 points, on count back from Gus Coles. There were no NTP's or ball sweep.

Here is the news:

Head Pro Adam Demidjuk started in the Pro Shop this week. He has ordered quite a bit of stock, and hopes it will get out of the warehouses in Melbourne before too much is shut down. He is already booking lessons so drop in, have a chat and welcome him to Forbes.

We have received notification that the Parkes Open (Sun 20 Sep) has been cancelled. But the Trundle and Cowra Opens are still going ahead this weekend as far as we know.

We are also gearing up for a Legends Pro-Am, scheduled for Fri 23 Oct, and the organisation for the Forbes Nissan Classic on Nov 14, 15 is progressing well.

With the very wet conditions the previous weekend, play reverted to an Individual Stableford. The Kristie Carpenter Memorial Trophy has been re-scheduled for Sat 31 Oct, which should finish our October Month-of-Golf well.

Remember, we still need to practice the social distancing, even in the 'Golfie'. To ensure we keep attention to the Covid-19 issues, we are updating our Covid-19 Safety Plan, which may mean some changes.

Crystal ball:

Sat 11 8 Aug is a 4BBB Stableford Medley, playing for the Bob & Daine Doolin Memorial Trophy. Sun 9 Aug has a Stableford Medley and the Trundle Open.

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