

Whitfield Goes Low in Medals

(contributed by Short Putt)

On Saturday the Mens September Monthly Medal, sponsored by McFeeter's Motor Museum, was contested by a total mens field of 103. In beautiful Spring conditions, and on recently sanded greens, there were some very low scores recorded.

The A-Grade was very tight, and reflected the individual performance of players, rather than favour any end of the handicap range. The winner was Michael Wood with 67 nett, who mixed birdies and bogies on the front-9 for a scratch 36, but had a few bogies on the back-9. Only one shot back was Warwick Jennings (Nowra) on 68 nett. He seemed to relish the back-9 where he had more pars.

The B-Grade was where the magic started, initially by an outstanding performance by Doug Churchill to score 64 nett. A double-bogey on the 15th tarnished his card, but that was off-set by two 2's and a string of pars. In the distance in runner-up was Barry Parker on 67 nett. Barry needed his 'higher than expected' handicap to compensate for a rash of 6's on his card, but otherwise was happy with his performance.

The magic continued in the C-Grade where Liam Whitfield stormed home with a 62 nett. A couple of double-bogeys were offset by consistent scoring well under his handicap. Runner-up was Ben Coles with 63 nett, who had a dream run scoring under his handicap where it really mattered.

The ball sweep went to 71 nett on count back, going to: 65 – J Moon; 66 – B Robinson; 67 – B Tooth; 68 - B Woonton, R Taylor; 69 – L Little, P Maher, G Jennings, S Betland, S Uphill, H Steele-Park, P Wells, E Gaffney, R Morris, T Callaghan, D McAuliffe, D Lickess; 70 – J Roylance, S Hayes, M Spice, A Currey, B Everest, S Kirkman, T O'Shea, T Griffiths; 71 – N Greenhalgh, G Drane, N McMillan, G Falvey, P Kay.

The NTP's went to: 9th – J Dobell; 18th – S Betland. The ProShop Super Pin went to John Boyle, who got his '2'. There were ten 2's overall, with most scored by the A-graders and the 18th being ravaged. Doug got the only '2' on the 1st.

The visitors included: Digit McAuliffe (Nelson Bay), Stuart Hayes and Stephen Grant (Murrumbidgee), and a group of travelling golfers – Bob Hansen (Shoalhaven Heads), Dan Hansen (Brighton Lakes), Greg, Warwick, Paul and Pierre Jennings (all from Nowra), Tim O'Shea (Nowra) and Chris O'Shea (Longyard). The travelling group were awed by the course, and have vowed to return when greens are fully ready.

The sand dusting on the greens seemed to turn the greens into cushions for the high shots, but were slippery when it came to putting. Birdies were prolific, but eagles were rare. This perhaps underlines the strong putt to convert when finishing close, but more difficulty when longer putts were encountered.

The 9th hole proved too much for all players in one group. One by one they teed off, dunking each shot into the water. Two players managed to snatch a '5' but another had a '6' and the final one had managed a '9'. Geoff Drane managed to find the water, the bunker, over-shot chips and some ordinary putting. But he was determined to finish the hole.

Jeff Moon defied the slippery putting on the sandy greens. He had a few problems down the 13th fairway, finishing almost off the back of the green. But he only needed one putt, from back to front, to snare a creditable '5'. But then, he missed quite a few 3 and 4 foot putts. Maybe he needs his glasses tested.

Ben Coles often has adventures during his round of golf. This time, he nearly went OB, while playing the 11th hole. It must have been a combination of the left-handers slice, carrying the wind, and running down the dry sloping 7th fairway. But recovery is everything, scoring '5' on that hole.

Speaking of adventures, Brian Clarke can tell a story. His tee shot on the 13th finished on top of the Halfway House. Brian's dilemma was whether to climb up and play it off the roof, or take a drop. Fortunately a nimble and agile younger person, playing the 6th, climbed up and recovered Brian's ball for him. Despite the penalty Brian was all smiles.

Also with a smile on his face was Brett Woonton. He was pleased with his round of 68 nett, and even more so when he realised he had broken 100 for the first time in a long time. Keep the form going Brett!

Three players recorded an NCR, and quickly were not seen. Also rarely seen where scores of '5' on Paul Kay's card. He had a very up and down day, with a lack of rhythm, on all shots, being his downfall.

What a pleasure to see old friends back. Digit McAuliffe was back to visit family and friends, and to enjoy some good golf. He was especially pleased to play alongside old friends in Brian Doyle, Ray Taylor and Tony Cogswell. But he was even more pleased to win the KENO off Brian.

The Sunday Medley numbers were bolstered by the travellers, but also had good club numbers. The club players managed to show the visitors how to play the course, but maybe the visitors were struggling after a good night beforehand.

The winner was Ethel Coombs with 40 pts, on count back from Shirley Redfern. Both ladies used their handicap well to score 20 pts on each nine.

The ball sweep went to 34 points, collected by Adam Demidjuk and Barb Drabsch. The NTP's went to: 9th – C O'Shea (Longyard GC); 18th – Head Pro Adam. Both of these were consolation prizes for their day's play.

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

Here is the News

Planning is underway for the 2020 Rotary Charity Day, scheduled for Sun 27 Sep. This will be conducted under strict Covid-19 restrictions, targeting local players only. Monies raised will go to the Rotary Club work within our community, so please put this in your calendar.

Also underway is planning for the 2020 VW Scramble, set for Sun 25 Oct. Again this will initially target local players, but may be open to other Clubs if the restrictions change. Talk to Adam for more details.

Get your team together for the 2020-21 Summer Sixes comp. Team entry forms are available from the Pro Shop. This is a great way to maximise your use of the longer summer days.

Adam has organised a Taylor-Made Demonstration Day for Fri 16 Oct. There are very few time slots available so get in quick. Go along and try some of the equipment, with no obligation to buy.

Good to see some close tussles in the Wallace Cup. And well done to those players for organising their games. Ethan Gaffney is certainly keen to get into it, and Dan Bayley looked strong in his early game. There are a few dark horses in the draw, so we shall see how things turn out for the semi-finals.

Crystal Ball

Sat 12 Sep is a 4BBB Stableford Medley, sponsored by Cahill's Footwear, so get those feet a-tapping. Sun 13 Sep has a Stableford Medley, with the Bogan Gate Open cancelled.

Keep in touch on our Facebook page – '[.../forbesgolfcourse/](#)', the Instagram page – '[.../forbesgolf2871/](#)', and our website – '[www.forbesgolf.org.au](#)'.