

## Sunshine for Monthly Medals

*(contributed by Short Putt)*

The breaths of winter ensured the early golfers had to contend with frost, but the later golfers enjoyed full sunshine to warm their swings. Overall, the ground conditions were soft from tee to green but many greens were firm, which surprised many on their approach shots.

The June Monthly Medal, sponsored by BWR Accountants & Advisors, was played on Saturday with 67 players keen to invest in good shots down the fairway and add interest with their putting. The scores were generally better than in previous weeks, but there were still a number of 'cricketers' in the field.

The A-Grade had a group of players bunched around par but the winner, Dan Bayley with 67 nett, was way out in front. This was a welcome return to form by Dan, who was only 2-over on the front and came home in 1-under. Runner-up was Jacob Bernardi with 71 nett. He matched Dan on the front-9 but had too many double bogeys on the back-9, with a neat birdie on the 18<sup>th</sup> to make him smile.

The B-Grade players were also bunched around par, but the two leaders were streets ahead. Paul Kay used the front-9 to build a good score and despite a triple bogey on the 15<sup>th</sup> recorded his best score for a while with nett 68. Close behind was Greg Webb on nett 69. Greg has thrown off the shackles in recent weeks doing well at West Wyalong and culminating in a Handicap win in the 'Trilogy of Golf' at Condobolin. Greg matched Paul on the back-9, but faltered earlier on the 7<sup>th</sup> hole with a double bogey.

In C-Grade we also saw the tension among the players. Frank Hanns (nett 70) was an early clubhouse leader, nervously watching the leader board as each group came in. In the mid-afternoon Tom Toohey recorded a nett 69 to take the lead. He then waited nervously to see if his score would hold, which it did. Tom was steady all day with his only blemish on the 15<sup>th</sup>, while Frank did not have a major blemish but spread his mistakes across more holes.

The ball sweep went to 75 nett on count back, going to: 71 – N Greenhalgh; 72 – A Currey, P Cowhan, G Hooper, L Little; 73 – H Callaghan, Alf Davies, B Robinson; 74 – A Demidjuk, P Tisdell, G Falvey; 75 – W Lovatt, B Clarke, P Pymont, I Bown, J Haley, B Parker. There were no visitors.

The NTP's went to: 9<sup>th</sup> – Bruce Chandler; 18<sup>th</sup> – Terry Griffiths. Neither got their 2's. There were only a handful of 2's scored. The A-grade players managed three, with all on the 18<sup>th</sup> hole. The others were both on the 3<sup>rd</sup> hole and both by early players.

The Super Pin on the 3<sup>rd</sup> hole this week went to Glendon Hooper, whose shot finished just outside a metre from the hole. He did get his '2'. Being an early player he had an anxious wait to see if his shot held.

For many players their game was one of two halves – one half with a very good score and the other the quite opposite. Harry Callaghan was an example of a bad – good split. His front-9 was a 44 without any real dramas except a few double bogeys, while his 39 on the back-9 was smooth pars with a couple of bogeys. Neil McMillan had a similar story with a 10 shot turnaround from front to back.

Both the B-grade stars had a good – bad split, with George Falvey an example with his 39-50 score. But then George's concentration may have suffered when he had a 'Brett Ogle' on the 11<sup>th</sup>. His second shot skewed right, leaving a narrow gap between trees to get towards the green.

His lusty blow sent the ball into the tree directly in front, from where it rebounded towards him. Luckily it struck the ground, taking the pace off it and giving it a 'Shane Warne turn' and thus barely missing him. From then on, any shots played near trees were troublesome.

The usual culprits for a bad score, the 7<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> holes, did not seem to feature much on player's cards. One poor player managed a '10' on the 7<sup>th</sup>, while the worst on the 15<sup>th</sup> was only an '8'. But other holes to cause issues were the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. But the daddy of them all goes to the 9<sup>th</sup>, where one player dutifully played and counted every shot to record a '12'.

It is under such moments that one player commented – "you can be a rooster one week (with a good score) and feather-duster the next". For some, golf would be so much easier if the ball had a Radar in it that enabled it to alter course towards the hole, or assist in its recovery after a malfunction.

Some groups take the group match for a Keno ticket or the drinks quite seriously. One group finished the 18 holes 'all square'. They then shaped up to play down the 1<sup>st</sup>, with only one of them getting a good tee shot away. The others suffered OB, trees and duffs. With so much laughter the winner was undetermined.

There was no Stableford Medley on Sunday, due to the cold conditions and many players resting after the heavy previous three weeks.

### **Here is the news:**

This weekend is the Annual Can-Assist Ambrose Medley. The nomination fee includes lunch, but lunches can be purchased by non-players. All proceeds go towards the Forbes Can-Assist group. Get a team together and put your name on the time sheet in the Pro Shop.

We are well into the Second round of the Wallace Cup matches, with four already completed. So far there have not been any extended matches in this round, but each match was tight with 1-up, 2/1 and 3/2 victories. Players to move into the Third round are Todd Callaghan, George Falvey, Jordan Brett and Ben Robinson. The next matches in the Semi-Finals should be quite even on handicap.

Players are reminded that the LVDGA Championships and Pennants are scheduled to be played on Sun 20 June. This is an Individual Championship with Scratch and Handicap prizes by grades, with nominated teams counting towards the Pennants in a Stableford format (Scratch and Handicap).

Spread the word and get yourselves organised to attend. Entries close on Sun 13 June, with names to the LVDGA Secretary.

The early stages of the Championship season begin with the Mens 4BBB Stroke Championships, to be held on Sat 19 June.

Then the Mens Foursomes Championships will be played over 36-holes and be held on Sat and Sunday 26&27 June. The Ladies Foursomes Champs are 27-holes on Sat 26 June. Choose your partner well and get ready for two days of effort.

Head Pro Adam asks that all players review what they have in credit on the Pro Shop account, and undertake to settle or reduce this by the end of the month.

**It is crystal ball time:**

Sat 12 June is a 4-Person Ambrose Medley, with proceeds to Can-Assist. Sunday and Monday have Stableford Medleys.

Sat 19 June is the 4BBB Stroke Championships, played over 18 holes. Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> has a Stableford Medley.