



wednesday 19.4.17

Your "Wake Up!" Call



GOOD MORNING. TODAY IS ANY DAY YOU WANT IT TO BE.

We hope your Easter Monday, devoid of any news from your favourite golf club, passed in a glorious haze of chocolate and good (preferably red) wine. Ours did, which is one explanation why your inbox was empty. Then came Tuesday and other things got in the way (actually, there was so much news to sift through, censor and distort that our poisonous little fingers didn't find their way onto the keyboard). So, to those of you who care we apologise for the lateness. To those of you who don't care – well, neither do we.

THE LATEST VERSION OF A ONCE-IN-100-YEARS STORM

It came. It went. It came back again, in dribs and drabs and downpours. To paraphrase the late and very great Fred Dagg, we don't know how lucky we are. Mind you, we'll borrow another Fredism – if it wasn't for your gumboots where would you be? It rained a bit and we still have the puddles to prove it. Despite this, Easter was more playable than anticipated and we had very good fields on the course everyday, including Sunday's Barfoot & Thompson Easter Open which drew a field of more than 150 players. Friday, Saturday and Monday were also very busy so a great weekend for the club all round.



Some old trout fishes for his species in our new lake on the 16th.



The unstoppable TD ("Tractor Demon") frantically aerates the 1st fairway in wild hope of draining the deluge.

COURSE MAINTENANCE WEEK – STARTS MONDAY 24 APRIL

Just another reminder for you. Some fairly serious – and essential - maintenance work will start next Monday, 24 April, and will have some impact on available start times through the week.

At this stage – and weather permitting – Monday will see 9 holes only open. On Tuesday (Anzac Day) the full course will be open but some greens will have been cored and others not. On Wednesday the entire course is closed to all play. On Thursday (and this will depend on progress of work to date) will probably see 9 holes open. On Friday, we hope to have 9, maybe 18 holes open and will hold Twilight as usual. Please be understanding.

THE SLOW PLAY MONSTER EMERGES AGAIN!

Every now and then we have a bit of an uproar about slow play – whose fault it is, whose fault it isn't, and on and on. The arguments are tedious – but the issue of slow play is even more tedious for all players. Just one example – on Sunday morning (Barfoot & Thompson Mixed Open), an early group took 2 hours 25 minutes for their first 9 holes, which is fairly inexcusable. But ... the group following them had lost a fairway!!! No-one was at fault, of course.

So let's put it bluntly. Slow Play is disrespectful to your playing partners and others on the course. We understand a lost ball or a tricky rules situation can eat up the minutes – but then you set up to make up lost time. We know it's simple ... you know it's simple ... so why do we, week and week, suffer from slow play?

To those burdened with a slow player – don't come in and complain about them when the round is over; step up and say something on the course. It's accepted practice that the lowest handicapped player in the group is responsible for keeping the group moving – but really, everyone in the group should make sure play continues at a good pace. You must keep up with the group in front and if they keep holding you up let them know you expect them to pick up the pace. "Ready Golf" means being ready to play your shot, being ready to tee off, being ready to get moving. Forget excuses – look for reasons and find ways to fix them.



BARFOOT & THOMPSON EASTER OPEN PROVIDES EVERYTHING FOR EVERYONE

After the previous week we could have expected any kind of weather – and we got it all. The morning field enjoyed fairly benign conditions, while the afternooners got a decent downpour, a few claps of thunder and a flash or two of lightning just to test their mettle. To everyone's credit, pretty well everyone finished and the difficulty of the conditions was reflected in what was relatively not-so-hot scoring for a Mixed Open. Our collective thanks to **Craig Matheson** for his very generous support of this event – along with his many other positive contributions to our club. Unfortunately, the rush from clinching another deal straight to the 1st tee did not do a lot for his form – but we won't go into too many details.

More than 150 players took part, approximately 50 in the morning and 100 in the afternoon. The last ones came in a bit before 6pm and results were then compiled and prizegiving took place in a crowded clubhouse. It's pleasing to see so many visitors coming to our events – another sign of healthy growth for our club.

Congratulations to all prizeswinners, a few of which we now list for your edification:

WOMEN

Best Gross Pam Greenhalgh (79) Best Nett Heather Tobin (74) Best Stableford Val Noonan (34)
Other Stableford: Jannette Flavell (34), Karen Person (32), Diane Taylor (33), Louise Hubert (33), Jenny Marshall (33)
Karen Cater (32), Jan Grover (32), Annie Gentry (32)

MEN DIVISION 1 (0-18)

Best Gross Lee Newman (76) Best Nett Julian Rous (66) Best Stableford Jim Henchman (39)
Other Stableford: Paul Volkov (39), James Finlay (39), Tarrin Rous (38), Steve Hinton (38), Colin Sterling (38),
Shayne Stuart (38), Gerry Hogan (38), John Jones (37)

MEN DIVISION 2 (19+)

Best Nett Ben Salisbury (64) Best Stableford Ngaro Raharaha (39)
Other Stableford: Brian Roberts (38), Tony Akroyd (38), Phil Nicholls (37), Kerry Wood (37), Russell Hill (36),
Iain Thompson (36), Mike Robinson (35), Paul Rennie (35), George Robinson (35).

NEAREST THE PIN

Women (13th) Margaret Brookes Men Div 1 (17th) Greg Furnell Men Div 2 (6th) Alex Smith All (4th) James Finlay

LONGEST DRIVE

Women (8th) Annie Gentry Men Div 1 (9th) Robbie Newman Men Div 2 (12th) No winner

TWOS

James Finlay (4th), Gerry Hogan (4th), Jesper Bengtsson (4th), Patrick Buckley (6th), Alex Smith (6th), Steve Hinton (13th),
John Wells (13th), David Llewelyn (13th), Rod Parkinson (13th), Seamus Lynch (13th).

WINNERS COULD BECOME LOSERS

In our tightly-packed Golf Shop we are holding more than a handful of unclaimed prize vouchers, membership cards and passports – all waiting for their owners to lay claim to them. Heather has, each week, typed out and displayed the list of those who have items to be collected and it seems that each week we add more names than we hand out vouchers, etc. While we're basically honest, we will have to eventually impose a time limit on uncollected vouchers and put them back into the Shop Bonus fund or somewhere similar. Which could turn deserving winners into desolate losers. So please, next time you're here, check to see if you have something to collect and ... collect it/them.

EASTER BUNNIES

Over Easter, three of our women members went to Rainbow's End and took a ride on the roller coaster. We won't name them but one was black haired, the second one had brown hair and the third was a blonde.

When they got to the top of the last loop a genie appeared from nowhere and said, "It's your lucky day! When you're going down the ride shout out the one thing that you want and lo! you will land in it at the bottom".

So the black haired woman went down and shouted "*money!*" and landed in a load of cash.

The brown haired woman went down and shrieked "*gorgeous men!*" and landed in a pile of super hunks.

The blonde wasn't listening to the genie and went down screaming "*Weeeeeeee!*".

MEMBERS RELIEVED AS NEW FACILITY OPENS



We're now a club flush with on-course facilities as we celebrate the opening of the new "Tinkle House" near the 15th tees.

The official opening ceremony was conducted by Lesley Tolhopf who offered these remarks while cutting the ribbon to allow the orderly queue to take their turn behind the frosted glass door: "*Firstly I would like to thank and congratulate the Midweek Mixed Group and Warren Partington and his helpers for this wonderful new toilet. I now declare it open, and I am sure that we will all enjoy a tinkle and relief when using this lovely new addition to our course.*"

Drainlaying Consultant and driving force behind the construction of this elegant edifice, Warren Partington, modestly shrugged off the applause of the gathered crowd. "*Be it ever so humble,*" he opined, "*we hope it will provide suitable sanctuary and comfort for those in need. We invite all members to step inside – preferably one at a time.*"

Well done everyone – a superb effort by all of you.

HI HO, IT'S OFF TO WORK WE GO

Last week a merry group of "little people" (couldn't get a glimpse of Snow White but certainly sighted Doc, Grumpy, Happy, Sleepy, Bashful, Sneezy and Dopey) were out doing a brilliant job spreading sand over areas where trees had been removed and fixing washouts on the 2nd hole. These repairs will be ongoing through Winter and we hope members understand the need for the occasional disruption to your rounds. The problem of wet patches around some greens is being addressed and work will start once costings and equipment are sorted. Shallow drains will be dug, scoria dropped in, drain coil laid, more scoria, turf replaced – easy peasy! **Volunteers will be asked for help – if you're available please contact Colin Sterling.**