

## Ashburton Golf Club

It's been a few weeks since I put fingers to keyboard. Who am I kidding? Finger to keyboard. There has been a bit going on. We had a great day playing for the Blacklow Trophy. The Blacklow family and friends turned up in droves and a very big field followed. Top player of the day was Greg Fleming. We also had a Club Champs qualifier, the first one of the year. Ryan Stoddart led the way in this with best nett and Jeff Hewitt shot 2 under for best gross, the course played long a tough and we didn't have many play to their handicaps.

Ben, Nick and the gang then had a maintenance week, where lots of good work was done. Not a major coring so the greens should bounce back very quickly.

Saturday just gone we held the Don Houghton trophy playing an Irish Stableford in teams of four. Again, Don's family showed up and had a game which is wonderful and a big field played a fun filled game. I am not actually sure who won this as I wasn't around at prize giving but well done if it was you.

Looking forward, this Saturday and in fact the next 3 weeks is the Brandon Cup. This is a Stableford game with all three scores added together to find the winner.

Hot news coming up I think everyone knows that we are holding the NZ Interprovincial Ladies Masters on our course in early April, this will be a wonderful event for our course.

One thing that you may not have heard is that we have recently been asked to hold the NZ Ladies interprovincial at the end of November. This is the elite female golfers from the 14 provinces across the country descending on little old Ashburton. A conservative estimate with players, support teams and families will be around 140 beds for 5 nights. This will be great for all the hotels/ motels and eateries in town and another great feather in the Brandon cap. It really does speak volumes of our club when NZ golf actually ring me and ask to use our course because of great feedback from the provinces. Its wonderful news and something for Ben and the boys to sink their teeth into. Finally, as you are reading this a deadly half dozen of fine chaps will have returned from Timaru levels on Wednesday evening, hopefully holding the Bristol Cup aloft. We have sent down a very strong team and expect nothing but success.

Finally, finally weekend pennants starts this Sunday, we have three teams in the scratch league led by Jeff, Terry and Tom. Jordy and Paddy lead the pups and old dogs in the Patterson grade and Shane will try to control the Alex grade gladiators. Results next week. Good golfing.

Many thanks,

Paddy Bradford