

Ashburton Golf Club

Happy new year to everybody, I hope you all managed to get a bit of golfing done in between the heavy rain. We are moving into a very busy time down at the Brandon. The Property Brokers shootout finalists are almost sorted. After 5 rounds completed, I reckon we have 9 definites who can now put their feet up and watch the final round lolly scramble. Rob Coyle is top on 82 just ahead of Gaby on 81. Henry Lawrence, Tonee Hurley and Captain James are on 79. Brian Fauth, Will Blacklow and Bev Chinn are all a further shot back and then the Hopster is on 77 points. The cut off point is usually 76 but a couple of 75's may well sneak in, it will all depend on how the borderline players can perform on Saturday. One thing for sure is that last years winner will be taking up the MC duties again this year after a pathetic attempt to defend his title. After we get the top 19 on Saturday the Scribe will have to get his A into G and get a form guide out by Tuesday or Wednesday. We have an auction for the finalists after Opening day on the 18th and the great race will kick off at 10am on Sunday the 19th. It should be a great day again.

Entries are now open for the Harvey Norman Classic which is on the 8th and 9th of February. This is sure to fill up very quickly, so don't hang around and get entered. We are very pleased to announce that we have got the wonderful gang from "Kai for Kids" on board this year to do the catering. This is a superb organisation doing a power of good in our community, so it is a great chance to work alongside them and put some funds in their coffers. Food will be provided both days before and after your round, so you should not need to buy any food all weekend. When you enter online there is a question asking about any dietary requirements, so this can be sorted out for you as well. As I said before, this is going to fill up very quickly so you had better get cracking. On the Friday between Xmas and New Year the Jolly Boys had a trip to Weedons and a great day was had by all. Of course Hairy Punt struck again. Teeing off on the 10th his first hole of the day with around 50 other players watching on, he drills a low stinging drive, hits the ladies tee marker, again,. It is only an inch wide, and the ball comes back as fast as it went and he ends up playing his second 15 metres behind the men's tees. He really should hire himself out for parties, he puts a smile on everyone's face when he plays, never a dull moment. I won't even mention the 3 shots and a gin in the 3rd hole greenside bunker on Saturday.

A few Brandon burglars are heading up the road to Rakaia this weekend to take part in their 2 day sponsored tournament. Always a warm welcome at Rakaia with a fun home crowd. Good luck to everyone playing there, the long range forecast looks fine. Will catch you all next week with the finalists of the Property Brokers Shootout. Good golfing.

Many thanks,

Paddy Bradford