

Paddy's Prattle Saturday 13th April

A lovely historic day on Saturday down at the Brandon when club legend Bruce Leighton was made Patron of the Ashburton Golf Club. After a bit of digging through the archives by Jeff Williamson, it turns out that Bruce is in fact the 9th Patron of the club. The first Patron was Mr D Wood in 1925 following on were Messrs W Anderson, R Tucker, H Smallbone, S Truman, J Brand, K Anderson and then from 2009 Bill Hetrick. We will be getting a board made up to honour all these club stalwarts.

Bruce joined the Club in 1959 and is still actively playing in our 9 holers group twice a week and still walks the course. I am sure he won't mind me saying that he is 97 years young, turning 98 early next month. Mindy got hold of NZ Golf to check on his status and he is the 4th oldest "active" golfer in NZ. There are a couple of members up in Auckland at 100 and 101 and a 99-year-old playing at Russley. I am sure Bruce will have them in his sights! A great man a well-deserved award and a wonderful day for the club.

In the golf we had Club Champs qualifying round 2 and Blair Snowball re discovered his form with a great 75 off a 10 handicap for a net 65. Other good scores were Mitch Lye 67, Grant Hastie and Nathan Stephen 70 then John Ramsay on 71. Well done everyone.

This Saturday we have the Murray Webb trophy which is a pairs best ball net and is the qualifier for the Watson Cup the most sort after pairs trophy.

Get your pairs together or let Matt work his magic, but please don't forget to let Matt know if you are available or not, for all the knockout rounds. The top 16 pairs qualify and then the next 4 weeks are Matchplay with the first round losers going into the Newton Trophy. Good luck.

On Sunday the Men's Pennants kick off with all our teams playing. This year we have 3 teams in the scratch league with them all having double headers at Pleasant Point. In the Patterson grade the Old Dogs are joined again by the little yappers and they both start with home games. Looking at the fixtures they will not face each other this season as they are in different sides of the draw, although they could meet in the finals. Yeah right! Then finally in the Alex grade, Shane will take his chaps to Gleniti. Hopefully all the teams will have good seasons, and with lots of teams in Pennants this year, captains will need quite a few fill in players to get through all the games, so if you will be able to help out please let myself or Tommy know, and we can keep you in mind. All results and any stories next week.

NB: I have got a photo of myself and Bruce from Saturday if you would like it. Just give me a shout!