



Men's Weekly Golf Report

Saturday - 3rd July



DEANO'S BACK!!!!

What are the chances of someone suddenly playing a blinder after not having played to their handicap for nigh on eighteen months? You could say they were due I suppose but throw in the fact that it was the first round of the club championships and the competitive juices rise to the surface. Yep, multiple "C" grade Club Champ winner Dean Wright (pictured below celebrating afterwards) picked the right time to come good when he demolished the field in the MULCH N MORE Stroke competition on Saturday with a score of nett 40.

Wrighty just loves a challenge and with his heart problems seemingly in the background now he can smell another club title coming his way. Or was it just a flash in the pan? Time will tell as the club championships stretch over the next month.

The day was cold (well, it IS winter) with an occasional drizzle, it was a Stroke round and the pace of play was testing for many players. Only the truly dedicated golfer was out there. The conditions were a breeze though for "A" grade winner English born Andrew Meddle who charged to a superb nett 66 on the back of a lot of sweetly struck and accurate strokes. Runner up, last year's club champion Jared Thoman, had a nett 70 which was solid enough and he will be looking to go back to back this year and will be the odds on favourite to do so.

Powerful left hander "Buckets" Jackson smashed the "B" graders with an ominous nett 66. Hitting the ball regularly into the next postcode he cannot claim to be the most consistent player in the club however. Steady as she goes Tom Haig grabbed second spot with a handy nett 70 as he thrived in the Scottish highlands like conditions.

Echunga visitor Nick Harrison cleaned up all of the locals and more in the "C" grade with his nett 68. Eric Williams found a pulse in his game to be runner up with a pleasing nett 69 to give him a nice start to the championship series.

Throw in the usual awkward pin positions that head groundsman Joe Ross loves to occasionally come up with and it was tough going to score well. The ball winners list was led in by a score of 70 which Dean Woolford, Garry Ryan, Peter Erickson and "Aussie Bob" McCormick all reached. Tim Pfeiffer and "Midweek Matt" Kowald were one worse off at nett 71 while Corey Dahlitz, Daniel Hocking and Troy Penhall were next with 72's. Even Steve Thiele, Malcolm Blight and Craig Hogben were rewarded for their solid play and scores of nett 73.

Playing in the final group of the day Tailem Bend GC blow in Jamie Bockman was around at days end to celebrate his Pro comp win with his fabulous nett 30 back nine easily doing the trick for him.

Another Echunga visitor looked likely to win the Yabby for much of the day but local par 3 sharpshooter Peter Erickson would have none of it and edged him out with a stunning iron shot on the 11th.

AROUND THE TRAPS

1) Michael Vella had a great start to his round finding more trouble on the first hole than the early settlers and scoring an 11. Very mentally taxing that in a Stroke round. Whilst his golf improved as he continued on (it simply HAD to!) his day turned from boiled lollies to chocolates a bit later when his father's racehorse got up at Flemington at 40/1 giving Michael a very sizeable collect after he was heard tipping it earlier on to anyone who wanted to listen.

2) While Dean Wright was having a day out one of his namesakes young Tyson Wright was enjoying it a tad less. Finding the hazard on the 5th with his tee shot he managed to hack his ball a few metres before then losing it for good in the middle of the water with his third shot. His iron was promptly dispatched into a watery grave in disgust before realising who was in his group. A stony faced KG Graetz and Club Manager Shane Aldridge are doyens of good behaviour on course and, feeling a bit guilty, Wright took off his shoes and socks, waded in knee deep to retrieve his iron before playing on with very cold feet for a few holes!

3) Captain Morgan was heard bemoaning the fact that he had more than a handful of lip outs during his round and was there an unluckier player in the club? Yes there is Captain. Whilst he wasn't playing on the day everyone knows Damo Moloney is that player!



Time for a celebration beer – Well done Deano