

the waitemata word



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a slice from the driver

Junior Tiger Day attracted a large field of youngsters, all of whom had a great time with the majority showing very promising early talent.

Thank you to the helpers on the day, some of whom were incognito, but we know who you are!

Club hours over Xmas and New Year are displayed in the breezeway and bar. Obviously the course is closed as usual on Christmas Day, and this means closed for practice also.

The “word” will take a break for a few weeks. Enjoy the wondrous golfing conditions, have a cool yule and a safe and relaxing festive season.

eagle eye

The big day on the men’s calendar takes place on Sunday when the Men’s Committee host the Men’s Hamper Day / Trophy Day. We have a full field of 128 players and play commences, shotgun start, at 9:00am. The draw has been out for a week or so and is on the internet tee booking system and in the breezeway. The competition is 4BBB Stableford (no divisions) and Single Stableford in two divisions. There will also be Nearest the Pins, in two divisions, on the 4th and 10th holes and Longest Drive on the 9th hole, also in two divisions. The annual trophy prize-giving will take place after golf. All scorecards are to be handed in to the management office, the same routine as on Saturdays.

Before golf though, all players are requested to report to the boardroom to collect their scorecards which will have been pre-printed in order to eliminate a lengthy queue in the golf shop. When printed this way, the scorecards will show the starting tee, as indicated by the pointer, and the tee time of either 9:00am (first group on that tee) or 9:07am for the second group.

Our Mixed Pennants team has won the Flight 3 trophy in this year's competition by just half-a-point from Redwood Park. The team started the trophy matches with a 39½-32½ win over RNZAF, then a 36-36 draw with Redwood Park and finished it off with a 38½-33½ victory over Whangaparaoa.

The 2009 championship was an extremely close affair with both Huapai and Peninsula-1 tied on 110 points. Huapai were declared the winners because of their win over Peninsula-1 in the finals.

Our sincere thanks to Sheila Aisbitt for looking after the team's affairs again this year and the players who participated in the success during the finals were Clive Sligo and Lianne Hughes, Mike and Karen Leyden, Mike and Sue Spence, Robert Geck and Sheila Aisbitt and Warren Robinson and Barbara Bowyer. Well done, team.

The North Harbour Men's Interprovincial did not have a successful trip to the Manawatu Golf Club last week for the national event, eventually finishing in 8th position. There was a possibility of making the semi-finals before play commenced for the final two rounds on the Friday, but defeats to both eventual winners Bay of Plenty in the morning and then Otago in the afternoon finished the week. Tom Cardno was the best performer with a 4-win, 1-half, 1-loss record while Kevin Budden's record was 2-1-3.

We have had two holes-in-1 recently. Chek Phoon scored his first career ace on the 10th hole when having a casual round a couple of Fridays ago. Sam Geange had his 5th lifetime hole-in-1, this time on the 12th hole, when playing the the Rosan Cup mixed competition last Sunday. Congratulations to you both.

The women's Hamper Day was held on Wednesday as was followed by the trophy presentations. The competition for the day was a Team Stableford with the best three scores on each hole counting. The winning team was the "Hang Ten Team" of Sheila Aisbitt, Viv Dykes, Penny Hughes and Runa McPheat with 123 points. The runners-up, just one point back on 122 were the "Wonder Bra Girls" comprising Barbara Corkill, Kim Milne, Carol Turner and Judi Turner, and on 120 points in 3rd place were the "Hotgirls", Evelyn Blackett, Young Hee Chung, Susan Geck and Marie Kornfeld. Nearest the Pins were won by Carol Fitzhenry (10th) and Karen Woodroffe (4th).

Congratulations to Keith Hume and Denise Craig who won the Rosan Cup mixed event last Sunday with a Combined Stableford score of 72 points. Runners-up on 70 points were Alan and Daphne Kent on a countback from Mike Taylor and Lorraine Moorhouse. Nearest the Pins were won by Susan Geck and Sam Geange on the 4th while Gerda Eriksen and Martin Wills were the most accurate on the 10th hole.

The final mixed event of the year is the Canadian Cup, which is scheduled for Sunday 20th December and is played as Canadian Foursomes. This is also the mixed trophy presentation day and the sign-up sheets are in the breezeway as entries are still open. The draw for the day has been done and can be seen on the internet tee booking system.

Tomorrow's women's competition is Combined Stableford after the champagne breakfast which marks the completion of the Business Women's competition year. There are no afternoon tee times reserved for the women tomorrow.

The men's competition tomorrow is a 2-Turkeys Stableford event. The best score in each of the two divisions will win a turkey to enjoy as Xmas dinner. The 2-Turkeys Par competition was not played because the heavy rain on Friday cause the course closure on Saturday but this has been re-scheduled for next Saturday.

Saturday-week ago the 2nd round of the Laing Memorial Trophy, which was two rounds of Nett Medal, was played. Dennis Hale was the winner with a score of 132 (63, 69) from Jeff Still on 134 (66, 68) and Martin Ford on 135 (67, 68).

Over the holiday period, in order to keep those competitive juices flowing, we will be running holiday competitions on a regular basis. Entry will be as usual in the golf shop with an entry fee of \$5 which will cover the Holiday Stableford and holes-in-2.

the iron lady

Check out our Xmas specials:

Titleist: AP1 irons that were \$1499, now \$900; Carry-bag that was \$359, now at \$289.

Taylormade: Men's Burner irons were \$1399 are now \$1199; Rescue-4 was \$399 and is now \$279.

Clickgear trundler was \$359, now \$299; Gloves are as cheap as \$10 and men's Nike shirts at \$69.

Very best wishes to all members from the golf shop team and thank you for your patronage during 2009.

out of the rough

As this is the last "word" for 2009, I would like to thank some people.

The team of Owen, Nick and Wesley have done a super job this year and have been great to work with and take a lot of pride in presenting the course to a high standard.

We always try to keep a positive attitude in everything we do even though we do have some very trying weather patterns to deal with.

Bruce, Ian and the Board members are always supportive and encourage us in the improvements we put in place for Waitemata.

Audrey Johnson does great work on the gardens around the clubhouse.

Scott is always willing to assist with the coring programme and any other jobs we ask him to do.

Annette and the golf shop team give us an endless supply of milk for smoko.

Finally, but by no means least, Barbara Bowyer provides home cooking for us every Wednesday.

So, a big thank you from the greenstaff to all of these people and to them and all of the members, have a very Merry Xmas and a very Happy New Year.

Any questions on the course please send to waitemata@golf.co.nz

sand wedge

Giddyay everyone, only two weeks to Xmas.

On the note of Xmas, the club will be operating during the festive period with restricted hours. Catering will shut down on Xmas Eve (24th December) and re-open on Monday 4th January. During this period the bar will be open only from 3:00pm to 7:00pm on the days other than Xmas Day and Monday 28th December. A limited supply of cold food will be available from the bar.

Notices showing the opening hours will be displayed in the clubhouse.

Quiz Nights have concluded for 2009 and Quizmaster Mark Benson will work out and advise when the first one will be in 2010, probably around the middle of January. Thank you to all of the teams that tested their grey matter against our quizmaster and a big thank you to Mark for all the work he has put it to make these possible. It has been a very successful year and everyone involved has had a lot of fun.

Sunday BBQs have been a mixed bag and there are two to go before we shut down until the new year.

The Men's hamper Day / Trophy Day takes place this Sunday so it will be pretty busy upstairs with a field of 128 players vying for those Xmas hampers.

The last Friday Night Dinner will be on 18th December and will resume again on the 8th January.

The question in the last "word" was: "Of all the flags with animal emblems, which country's flag has the largest emblem?" The answer is Sri Lanka and the winner of the final quiz for 2009 is Sue Spence who takes away a bottle of wine courtesy of quiz sponsor SANZ Global. Congratulations Sue.

Till next year, Caio

casual lies

Every year, it seems, a new record is broken for length on the pro tours. Par-4s stretch to 500 yards and par-3s creep up to the 300-yard mark.

Augusta National gets longer every year; the courses for the US Open and the Open Championship constantly top their previous marks by one or two yards, despite the impossibility of such four-round precision when you consider the placement of tee markers and hole locations. As a result, it is fruitless to try to list the longest championship-level courses; a longer one will crop up as soon as the ink is dry. The lengthiest non-tournament golf course has for many years been the Pines at the International in Bolton, Massachusetts, which plays to an unearthly 8,325 yards from its Tiger tees. It was originally designed in 1957 by Geoffrey Cornish, with help from Francis Ouimet among others, but was re-worked in 1972 by Robert Trent Jones Sr., who added the length that gives the course its notoriety. The scorecard alone is breathtaking and it is hoped that if the day arrives when such distances are standard, we will be playing the game with titanium limbs and jet-powered golf balls.

The card reads: Hole 1: 405yds, par-4; Hole 2: 460 yds, par-4; Hole 3: 674 yds, par-5; Hole 4: 180 yds, par-3; Hole 5: 715 yds, par-6; Hole 6: 530 yds, par-4; Hole 7: 277 yds, par-3; Hole 8: 412 yds, par-4; Hole 9: 535 yds, par-4. Total 4188 yds, par 37.

Hole 10: 440 yds, par-4; Hole 11: 590 yds, par-5; Hole 12: 567 yds, par-4; Hole 13: 250 yds, par-3; Hole 14: 437 yds, par-4; Hole 15: 487 yds, par-4; Hole 16: 270 yds, par-3; Hole 17: 440 yds, par-4; Hole 18: 656 yds, par-5. Total 4137 yds, par 36.

Course total: 8,325 yds, par 73. The Course Rating is 80 and the Slope Rating (unconfirmed) would more than likely be at the maximum of 155.

A recent contender for the crown of the longest course is the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain Golf Club in the Chinese province of Yunnan. The course measures 8,548 yards from its Record tees, has four par-4s in excess of 500 yards each, no par-3 shorter than 236 yards and, unlike the International, it calls its 700-yarder a mere par-5. However, this length must come with an asterisk, because the site is near the Himalayas, at an elevation of over 10,000 feet, and shots travel nearly 20% farther through the thinner air.

In November 2005, The Asian Tour played its Double A International Open at St. Andrews Hill Golf Club in Rayong, Thailand. The course has two par-6s, but one of them was converted to a par-5 for the pros. The remaining par-6, the first to be played on any major pro tour, measured an imposing 878 yards. It featured a choice of fairways divided by a lake, with the green protruding into the water,; pros reported playing it as driver, 4-iron, 3-wood, wedge.

The last word goes course architect, Jay Moorish: "I don't have a clue where to put a fairway bunker any more. I hate the fact that we have to build courses longer every day just to keep pace with equipment. I'm tired of fighting it".

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