

Nambucca Heads Island Golf Club – Golf Report for the week ending Saturday 2nd January 2021.

By Geoffrey McCann.

The weather remained kind to us for most of the week, until around midday on Saturday, when the heavens opened and left the course a mass of lakes, in part also due to the king tide. Lots of visitors played in the 3 competitions during the week, we welcomed many old and new friends to our course. Particular thanks to Greg Jager and his team for the monumental task of keeping the course in such good condition – I swear, you can almost see the grass growing! Such a turn around from 2 months ago!

Tuesday 29th December had 82 players on the course for a Medley Single Stableford - thanks to all for your courtesy to our greens staff who were working flat out to keep the fairways and rough area closely mown for everyone's enjoyment. The preferred lie through the green certainly helped as our equipment was constantly covered with heaps of grass clippings. Our visitors had a field day, showing up the locals in the Trophy hunt. Congratulations to Adam Jesson (13) visiting from The Coast GC who top scored for the day with 41 points to win Division 1 (scratch to 17) from Club President Geoffrey Harris (17 & lost a shot!) with 37 points. In Division 2 (18 to 45) Shane Chillingworth (18) from Tamworth scored 38 points to win from Dean Smith from NTP Golf Club with 35 points. In the Ball Comp, you needed 33 points on countback to win a ball. NTP's went to B. Dyet on the Ecomist's 2nd hole Longest Putt 6.12m, S. Riddle on the Newsagent's 5th 1.57m, T. Fortesque on the 7th 2.9m, Stuart Johnson on Subway's 8th 132cms, M. Simpson won the Pizza voucher on the 13th 2.5m, Brody Clarke got Stu's ball on the 15th 2.87m, and the Pro Pin Jackpot was claimed by Matthew Rose with 2.39m. All unclaimed vouchers and Golf Balls can be collected from the Pro Shop.



PICTURE – Fairway mower covered in grass clippings

Thursday 31st December was our “Open Dolphin Day” sponsored by Nambucca Heads RSL Club with 107 players taking part. The overall winner with 39 points was Peter Hull (20) from Urunga who wins a specially embroidered Golf Shirt and Trophy voucher. In Division 1, Bruce Berry (2) had a great round with 37 points to win from Gregory Smith (11) with 36 points. In Division 2 (18 to 23), Steve Doherty (19) scored 37 points to win from Peter Fredericks (21) with 36 points. In Division 3 (24 – 45), Jo Evans (33) from Brighton Lakes scored 36 points to win from Walter Bortoletto (25) with 35 points. You needed 32 points on countback to win a ball in the Ball Comp. NTP's went Colin Wormleaton on Ecomist's longest Putt on the 2nd, Sean McGoldrick got the Newsagent's ball on 5, Stu Johnson on 7, Chris Thorndike claimed Subway's voucher on 8, Sean McGoldrick another success with the Pizza voucher on 13, but “nobody” claimed Stu's ball on 15, and Ray Baker got the Pro Pin on 18 – Apologies, I don't have the distances!

Saturday 2nd January looked like it was going to be a bumper day to start the New Year, with only a few vacant tee times – but the weather soon put paid to that! From over 130 potential starters, only 84 took to the field, some of the later ones braving the weather closing in, hoping that they would make it around. Alas, the weather won the day, with only 42 players completing their round. The early morning players were the winners - Philip Mander (16) scored 38 points to win Division 1 (scratch to 16) from Graham Watson (16) with 37 points. Rodney Ford (24) had 34

points to win Division 2 (17 to 45) from Peter Moxon (19) with 33 points. The Ball Comp went all the way down to 28 points (on countback). The NTP's cards needed to be wrung out by the time I collected them after 3pm when the rain finally let up – D. Russell won the Ecomist Long Putt on the 2nd with 3.08m, Steve Frost collected the Newsagent's ball on 5 with 2.01m, Philip Mander won the 7th with 3.5m, "Nobody" got the Subway voucher on 8, Bruce Berry collected the Pizza voucher on 13 with a great shot to 113cms, M. Nolan got Stu's ball on 15 with 154cms, and the Pro Pin Jackpot \$74 went to C. Osbourne with 102cms.

PICTURE

Nambucca "Lakes" after Saturday afternoon's rain.

Next weeks' golf (weather permitting!) has Medley Single Stableford events on Tuesday and Thursday with the Men's Monthly Medal Stroke on Saturday. There is an Open Mixed 4BBB Stableford "Island Sunday" on Sunday. The ladies have a 9 Hole Stableford Summer Competition on Wednesday. There is also a 9 hole Chook Run on Friday.



The first round of the 2021 "Island Challenge" Series sponsored by Kempsey Haval takes place on Friday 8th January - a Stroke event, where you can challenge yourself to the best that the Island course can throw at you for very generous trophies if you play well. Your best 5 rounds during the year count towards the race to Royal Pines – for full details, check out the flyer on our website!

Social play is available after competitions, and on other days from 8am until 4pm – please check with Pro Shop for availability. All golf bookings are available on-line for members, or by contacting the Pro Shop on 6568 8172.

Darcy Habgood - We bid a sad farewell to our immensely popular young golfer, Darcy Habgood, who flew out last Sunday to the USA to resume her studies at Washington State University, where she has been lucky enough to obtain a full scholarship. We will miss her friendly welcome at her Dad's Pro Shop, and that lovely smile when she returns to the clubhouse with a better score than her Dad, Paul, who is also her coach. We know that she's a bit worried about returning to the States, but the University has taken a proactive approach to dealing with the contagion and the team's doctors, trainers and supervisors have all already received the Covid vaccination. She'll have to quarantine for 5 days upon arrival, and there'll be daily Covid testing. She might even have to play with masks on! We wish her every success, and trust that she'll be safe and healthy until we meet again.

See you on the Island.