

NOMADS NEWS

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2009

FELLOW NOMADS

Trust you all had a great Xmas and all the very best in '09. Like many of you I also took a break, although mine was somewhat extended having spent 6 weeks away in Southern Africa, which included a week or so back in Zim where I was able to catch up with old friends. I suppose I was not expecting much, but it was still quite a shock to see the scale of degradation in the past 6 years. Zero maintenance has left the place looking pathetically, well dare I say, African. Roads are mostly buggered, grass on the roadside verge was over 6 feet high, quite interesting when you come to a round about, and 90% of traffic lights were not working. This state of affairs certainly tests one's defensive driving skills, believe me! Sadly my most vivid recollection of my trip was the physical state of the population, so many were just so very thin, almost dead men walking.

Anyway on the complete opposite end of the scale I often hear TV 1's breakfast presenter, Paul often sign off saying something on the lines of 'have a good day in paradise'. Well he may be closer to the mark than you realize. With all the flying I have recently done I have purchased a few magazines at the Airports, as one does. (Have males over 30 ever bought a magazine outside of an Airport?) Anyway the one that I shall be using as a term of reference was 'Pocket World in Figures, 2008' which was a supplement to the January edition of the Economist.

This magazine declares that Auckland has the 5th highest quality of life in the world, the highest in the Southern hemisphere based on 39 factors ranging from recreation to political stability. The only cities rated higher were Zurich, Geneva, Vancouver and Vienna. Sydney was 9th, Wellington 12th, Melbourne 17th, Perth 21st, Dublin 27th, San Francisco 29th (the highest placed USA city) along with Honolulu, Adelaide 30th, Brisbane 32nd, Paris 33rd and London 39th. The lowest was Baghdad, so I guess security had a fairly high weighting.

It was quite an interesting read, telling us that by 2025 India's population will be larger than China and expected to be 1 447 mil. The States is far and away the world largest economy with a GDP of 12 417 bn followed by Japan on 4 534 bn. Germany 2,8 China 2.2 and GB next just under 2.2bn. Oz has the 14th highest GDP on 733 bn, South Africa 28th on 240 bn and NZ has the 46th biggest economy jointly with Hungary on 109 bn.

The highest GDP per head is Luxembourg on 77,760; USA 10th on 41 460, UK 16th on 36 830; 17th Oz on 32 260; and NZ in 30th position with a GDP of 27 320 US\$ one place ahead of Singapore. Congo Brazzaville with GDP of 90 dollars a year is the lowest in the world, with Africa holding the bottom 20 places with the notable exception of Afghanistan.

On the economic freedom index NZ is 5th alongside the UK, and behind Hong Kong, Singapore, Oz and the USA. Unsurprisingly Zim heads the list of countries with the lowest economic growth over the past 10 years, negative! A stat that did surprise me was that Germany and the UK continue to be larger exporters than China? Unsurprisingly the USA has the distinction of having the largest balance of payment deficits, nearly 10 times Spain's the country in '2nd' place who was just ahead of the UK and Australia. NZ was lying 13th just ahead of RSA with a deficit of -9, 662 mil.

Another stat that you may find of interest is the house price indicator between 1997 and 2006. The highest was RSA with a 351% increase, followed by Ireland 253%, UK 196%, OZ 6th on 135% and NZ 10th with an estimated increase of 105, one place ahead of the USA on 102%. It would be interesting to get the stats over the last two years!

The USA heads the list of being the most 'Globally competitive' country ahead of Singapore, Oz is 12th and NZ 19th one place ahead of the UK, surprisingly Germany is only in 16th position, just goes to show??? In a business environment (ease of doing business) NZ is ranked 14th (Denmark tops this list), UK is 10th, Oz 12th and RSA 41st. On the corruption perception index NZ, Finland and Iceland are considered the least corrupt countries in the world, Oz is ranked 9th and the UK 11th. The most corrupt country is Haiti.

NZ has the 14th highest life expectancy at 80 years old, behind Japan with 82, Oz 81 and ahead of the USA where the average person lives till they are 78. NZ is the 19th highest cost per production hour inc. benefits etc at \$19 per hour with Denmark being the highest at \$39, the UK in 10th at \$27, Oz 12th at \$26 and the USA at \$24 per hour. The most expensive office rentals are in the West end of London, followed by central London and central Tokyo. There are no Southern Hemisphere cities in the list of highest 28 that the booklet measures.

The last stat but by no means the least, I shall bore you with is the list of Alcoholic drinks per liter sold (off sales). Oz leads the world with 99 liters per head ahead of the Czech republic, NZ is in 9th place (79 liters per person) just behind the Netherlands and ahead of the UK in 18th place with 65 liters per person. I have a few friends who I reckon do 70 liters a month!

Anyway, I suppose I could be accused of digressing just a wee bit, and to those who have been waiting in eager anticipation of seeing their names highlighted as winners in our monthly games, my apologies! If nothing else these stats should impress Neill Reid, the ultimate stats golfer!

Nomads Golf Club



www.TeamMcMillanBMW.com
Locally owned and operated by the name you've trusted since 1956



NOMADS NEWS

FORMOSA 22/1/09

I was unable to attend our first game as I was still away but I gather it did not go as smoothly as it might have and there were concerns over whether it was value for the money charged, with the snacks being disappointing. I gather continued use of this course as a venue is under consideration so hopefully we will replace it with Gulf Harbour which is now significantly more affordable. (It is also a lot closer for me!) The Formosa meeting attracted 32 players.

Player of the Day: Local member Mike McKenna (again) on a very good score of 42.

Playing 4: Mike, Craig Joynt, Mike Nirtel and Don Scott on 138 pts.

Ind r/up Craig Joint 39 pts, who qualifies with Mike for the Gold Cup.

John Philpott (38); Reno Wijnstock 37 and Evan Henning with 36.

NTP; Norm Fairweather (both, but I note with disgust that my JOS partner did not get a two!) and Reno wacked the longest drive.

2's: Tony Banks, Reno, John Philpott, Andrew Robertson, Phil Stickland and Neil Reid.

Crying Towel: Lapa Laubscher on 23.

REMUERA 19/2/09

We made a welcome return to this club which has been off the radar for the past 4 years. I was really looking forward to our return having not played the course since the upgrade. I was most impressed with new holes but somewhat disappointed with the fairways which after our hot and dry summer were rather patchy. How the club had 'play the lie' was almost unbelievable and lies in the rough were generally preferable! Well that's why I didn't aim for the fairways! I enquired why this was the case and was told that there was a big amateur tournament coming up. Surely divots will be deeper without placing??! We had a good field of 39 players which included 6 guests and also saw the welcome return of our regular fines master, Paul Tremewan. Norm and I took on John Philpott and Roger Summich in our delayed final of the J.O.S. and sadly we were on the receiving end of a good spanking. It was a classic tale of our golfing skills being put to test against John and Roger's luck! We had clearly annoyed JP in getting a postponement and he decided to take his wrath out on us with a faultless game, which really pissed me off! I think he up and downed about 10 times. The only silver lining was his high level of focus meant he did not say much, or was it Summich!? I look forward to seeing next years draw, will JP play with Ian or will he prefer to defend with Roger?(I know what I would do!)

Whilst on this competition please let us know at The Grange who you will be playing with in the J O S. Do make an effort to play in this event, and make sure your opponents are abused via email prior to playing! The knock out rounds can be played at the monthly games. One other thing, I noticed a prominent member in trousers that were must unbecoming of Nomads uniform, we may have relaxed dress standards a wee bit, but not to that extent! Whilst on dress standard the committee has decided that for the next 3 games ties and jackets at the prize giving are not compulsory when wearing white shirts. On the playing uniform the Nomads cap and playing shirt are compulsory and if any members needs either let Bill Hanning know and he will provide the same at no charge! Bill's good like that.

Player of the Day: John Philpott 40 points;

R'up: Peter Morrow who joins JP in the Gold Cup.

Playing 4: Reno Wjinstock found 3 guests, Dave McAlpine, Richard Burton and Rick Woodruff from somewhere in the woodwork and the 4 of them cleaned up with 140pts.

Heine Erasmus and Andrew Robertson both with 39 took the 3rd and 4th Ind. Prizes.

Dave McAlpine with 40 and Richard Burton with 35 took the guest prizes.

NTP: Myself and Roger Summich.

Longest Drive: Must have been a par 3 as it was won by Russ Maloney.

2's: Neill Reid.

A reminder that our next game is at the Grange on Thursday the 12th of March. This meeting is "GUESTS DAY" and we encourage all members to make an effort in bring along a guest, we have arranged extra tee off times in anticipation. Also please remember to pay your annual subs which are still \$150 if you have not already done so. Also please remember to support our major sponsor, City golf who are based in the city and North Shore Golf Club.

I was one of the lucky few who joined the senior brigade at Eric's concert last night, he certainly makes that instrument talk! It was excellent.

Cheers

Mel.

PS: A good golf partner is always someone who is slightly worse than you are, that's why I get so many calls to play with friends.



www.TeamMcMillanBMW.com
Locally owned and operated by the name you've trusted since 1956



Nomads Golf Club

