

# NOMADS NEWS

MARCH 2008

## FELLOW NOMADS

Once again the weather was just about perfect for our fixture held at The Grange on the 13th of March, what a summer it has been. I cannot remember when I last had to abandon a game of golf because of rain. Maybe a year ago, or was it two? Whoever said that New Zealand is the 'land of the long white cloud' could only have been in the country between June and October. Summers in Auckland have to be as good as anywhere, although the farmers may argue that point. I have a friend who immigrated here from Southern Africa about 4 months ago; let's just say he is a bit confused as the one issue he was warned about was the weather! Anyway back to the Grange, I was (un)fortunate enough to play with Dereck Bowman who scored 40 points, yet another case of me bringing out the best of my opponents. It was good to watch though and you could see how excited Dereck was in completing the round with a great 'up and down' on his final hole. Whilst on good rounds I hear through the grapevine that Reno Wijnstock shot a 73 off the blue markers at Gulf Harbor recently. Certainly a venue that has been in the news of late, mostly for all the wrong reasons but which I believe is in absolutely mint condition at the moment. I also gather that an affiliated guest playing with a member can get a round for just \$65, not at all bad value. Perhaps Jeff Meltzer has impressed upon the owner that income would not be a bad thing right now!

Whilst on golf courses, residents bordering the Peninsula Golf Club got a rather nasty surprise a week or so ago telling them that a property developer had offered to build the club a new golf course, club house et al about 10 minutes outside Orewa, in exchange for the current golf course. This along with a sizeable cash donation rumored to be 10 mil has as you can imagine created quite a stir! 44 hectares of prime land in the middle of Red Beach is obviously very tempting to any developer, especially when the area is zoned for mid density housing. As you can imagine the residents are absolutely horrified, and hopefully the members will resist the temptation of allowing this to happen, when and if it comes down to the vote. Ironically this proposal comes only 3 months after the opening of two new holes, the 5th and 6th which have come out looking really great and would have cost a pretty penny or two. This brings to seven the number of new holes on the course. I attended a course residents meeting last night, let's just say there were a lot of very angry people in attendance!

## THE GRANGE 13TH MARCH 08

We had a field of 39 players which included 9 guests. As mentioned earlier the weather was fine and I thought that the condition of the course was great considering how little rain the track has received. It was interesting to see fairway irrigation being installed on a couple of holes; caught up with the guy doing the installation who informed me that it cost about 25k per hole. Not cheap, but what a great investment.

### Results:

**Player of the day:** Dereck Bowman.

**Playing 4:** Reno Wynstock, Ian Braddock, Wayne Adsett and Neil Spencer.

**Individual prizes:** 1st Dereck Bowman 40 pts, 2nd Russell Maloney 37pts, 3rd Mike McKenna 35pts and 4th Paul Rooney 34pts. (Mike it's on record that you have won a prize!)

**Guests:** Peter D'Orsi 38 pts, 2nd Neville Holt on 33pts.

**N.T.P.** Bruce McGhee and Neville Holt.

**Longest Drive:** Bulldog Bell.

**Crying Towel:** Richard Ridler on 25, a bit unlucky to get it on that score, normally a lot lower.

Dereck and Russell both qualify for Gold Cup.

## NOMADS SOUTH AFRICA GOLF TOUR 08

For those who aren't aware I can tell you that a group of South African Nomads will be touring both Australia and New Zealand in October this year. We are expecting a party of approximately 50 people and they will be in Auckland from the 15th to the 20th of October. A number of them will be joining us for our Charity day which is now being held at Muriwai on the



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Nomads Golf Club



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16th October (Note the change of venue and date) and playing one other game at a venue yet to be decided, but possibly Formosa. The Australian leg will be played at Sydney and the Gold Coast between the 7th and 15th October, spending 5 nights in Sydney and 3 nights at the Gold Coast. Accommodation will be at the Marriot Hotel in Sydney and the Q One in Surfers. The cost including 4 games of golf, transfers, accommodation (sharing) and flights will be approximately 2000 dollars. For those who are interested in going let me know and I will provide greater detail. There is also a possibility of joining a 5 day golf tour to Queenstown on the 21st October. This package will cost \$1420 and will include 4 nights accommodation at the Novotel Gardens, flights, transfers and 2 games of golf at Kelvin Heights and 'The Hills'. I would expect that quite a few of us would be interested in doing this trip and again, would those interested let me know. South Africa held there Nationals last week in Bloemfontein and news of the tour was made public. We should know numbers by early May, but I gather there was a very enthusiastic response.

## MEMBER NEWS

Bob McGuinness has recovered well from his bypass surgery and will be joining us at Pakuranga. Paul Murphy has also recovered from his leg op and played at The Grange. Russell Maloney will be out for a couple of months as he will be having Achilles attended to.

Wim Jansen has decided to leave our shores for the Sunshine Coast. Wim, although only a member for a couple of years was not only an enthusiastic Nomad but also a very generous sponsor, and we wish him well in his new life. I am sure Wim will settle down one day, what's that story about the IQ level?

Finally a reminder to those who have not already entered the knock out competitions to do so soonest, look forward to seeing you at Pakuranga on the 17th of April, 12 noon start. I have not forgotten about the Auckland Golf Club survey, I will get it out shortly but this month's newsletter was already too long and did not wish to bore you further.

Mel.

P.S. Ben Hogan once said that it was possible to make 18 birdies in a round and that one day it would be done. It is pretty unlikely as a scratch golfer will on average make about 3 a round or one every 6th hole which gives you odds of 6-1. Two consecutive birdies takes the odds to 36-1 and therefore to get 9 in a row the odds would be a whopping 10, 077,696-1. To get 18 in a row would stretch the odds to more than Ten Trillion to one. Not saying you should not stop trying, but lets just say don't be too disappointed if you don't get it. If you wonder how I worked this all out on calculator, I can tell you it was easy. I managed to get a calculator from my sister living in Zimbabwe!

