



NOMADS GOLF CLUB (NZ) INC

po box 6444 , wellesley street , auckland , new zealand

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2009

GREETINGS

Where has the year gone? Gold Cup is already upon us and Christmas is around the corner. Perhaps a good time as any to reflect on how the club is doing, having been around 12 years. Financially it is strong and has about 60K in cash reserves. There is a strong core membership and this bodes well for the future. Having been around for sometime the club also has strong credibility within golfing circles, particularly with the clubs we play at, quite often the Manager remarks to me on how impressed he or she is with our standard of decorum and dress. We should be very proud of the fact that the club has donated over \$400 000 to charity organizations, making a significant difference to those lesser fortunate than ourselves. Being part of an organization with clubs in other countries is a huge plus of which a few members have taken advantage of by visiting these countries and participating in very well organized 'Nationals'. Members, or lack of them to be more precise is the disappointing statistic for the club. This has been an issue for the 6 years I have been involved with the Auckland Club. Why are clubs in Southern Africa and Australia thriving on the membership side, whereas we constantly seem to battle in growing ours? The committee has no doubt debated this issue over the years, and in an effort to grow our numbers we have amongst other things relaxed dress requirement which was considered unnecessarily 'too traditional', and also reverted to the NZ stroke index handicapping system. Hopefully these two changes along with the introduction of 'away tours', a new modern website which will be used extensively as our communication medium, continued support of sponsors, and an advertising campaign to let golfers within the greater Auckland region know about our club will change this trend. I really don't know why we aren't a club of 100 odd members having to book within a week of the monthly game to get into the field restricted to 60 players? Are our monthly games too costly at \$70? Personally I don't think that is the issue when you consider the top courses we play and the snacks on offer afterwards, the accounts show us that without fines income the monthly meeting would barely cover costs. Australia charge A\$50 and play average courses without offering food afterwards. So not much difference there, are the members struggling to take one Thursday afternoon off a month and would a Sunday afternoon be a preferred date? It would be great if you let me know your opinion. Let's hope that our advertising campaign is successful but in the meantime please make an effort to promote the club within your circle of golfing mates, tell them about our ideals, forward them our playing calendar and get them to come along and play as a guest! In a country which has such a strong affiliation with the game by having the 2nd highest number of golf courses per capita in the world, there is surely a place for a club which promotes golfing camaraderie, business networking and provides assistance to those in need?



MONTHLY GAMES

MURIWAI 15/10/09

With a dreadful weather forecast it was hardly surprising that from an expected field of 42 we had just 26 players turn out and play in surprisingly fair weather. What a fabulous course it is, the more one plays it the more impressive it seems, for me it is the best course within the Auckland region, just a pity one has to drive 40 minutes to get to it. Although a bit windy, (when isn't it) the umbrellas were barely used and a good day's golfing was had by all. Once again the club looked after us very well and provided a course that was in absolute mint condition. Pete Morrow assisted me on the registration desk and Ian Braddock gave an entertaining fines session. By the way Pete is still looking around for something to get his teeth into, he has many years of management experience especially in the clothing industry, so if you hear of anything give him a shout.

Results

Player of the day: Bob McGuinness 38 R'Up Norm Fairweather 37. (They had both already qualified for Gold Cup)

Playing 4: Jeff Meltzer, Neill Reid, Norm Fairweather and myself.
3rd. Ian Braddock 34; 4th John Philpott on 33.

Guest: 1st Bryce Hawkins, followed by Jeff Wilson.

Longest Drive: Bulldog Bell. (Did everyone miss the fairway?)

NTP: Bryce picked up both.

2's: Bryce, Neill Reid and Roger Summich.

Crying towel: Tony Banks 22pts.

PUKEKOHE 12/11/09

The weather Gods looked after us and we had had a glorious golfing day. Another beautiful course which has so many really good golf holes was also very well presented. How these country courses manage to give us a course where placing is not required is a great credit to their greens staff. We had a field of 28 including two guests and the scores were particularly good. My thanks to Tony Clephane for assisting with registration and Mike McKenna for an entertaining short and sweet fines session which meant that proceedings were finished by 6:45.

Results

Player of the Day: Steve Gladding with 40pts. Tony Banks who improved by 18 points from Muriwai was counted out on 40 and they both qualify for Gold Cup. 3rd was Mike McKenna on 39, Pete Griffiths next on 38 and John Foyle followed with 37pts.

Winning guest was David Neumann on 27.

Winning 4: Tony, Bryce Hawkins, John Kelliher and myself on 146, by lot over John Foyle, Mike McKenna, Norm Weissman and Peter Griffiths.

Longest Drive: Big Bad Braddock.

NTP: Mike McKenna and Tony Banks.

2's: Peter Griffiths and Neill Reid.

Crying towel: An injured Paul Monks, well done for turning up and playing Paul!



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MEMBERS NEWS

Special congratulations to Ray Parsons who received his 35 year tie from Ian whilst playing in the Oz Nationals. Peter Griffiths, Lapa Laubscher and Stu Corser received a 5 year tie and Andrew Smith was inducted, welcome to the club, Andrew. Kerry Sharpin has recovered well from his Hip op and has started playing golf again, hopefully with a little more success than has been the case over the past year!

You have probably heard, but a past member Ross Finlayson recently passed away. I did not know Ross but it sounds like he was quite a guy. He was a Shore man who excelled at both rugby and cricket who was a member of North Shore Golf Club for many years, and very involved in forming the North Harbour golfing province. He was very active in the beef industry and was instrumental in getting NZ beef onto plates behind the 'Iron Curtain'. Reading his obituary I noticed an interesting opinion of his. Ross reckoned that the Russians were "The nearest people to New Zealanders that I had come across". Besides being President of the NZ Meat Exporters Association he was also heavily involved in the horse racing industry. Along with his association with Nomads he also actively assisted the North Shore Hospice receiving the Civic medal from Mayor George Wood in recognition of his efforts. Condolences to Ross's family, he seems to have been one helluva man. If you want to read the full text of his obituary I will gladly pass it on to you.

OZ NATIONALS

In the end eight of us crossed the ditch and had a fantastic golfing weekend hosted by the Nomads Queensland Club at Noosa Springs Resort Golf Course. The accommodation at the course was very comfortable and from the moment we arrived we had an absolute ball, which for most of us sadly reflected on our scores which were very average but still good enough to take the Tri Nations Trophy, thanks largely to Ian Braddock's 36 points he scored on the final day. That was good enough for Ian to win the A Division and win two golf bags (he donated one back). Tony Clephane won a couple of hundred bucks in a lucky draw, and Ray Parsons won a set of the latest Taylormade Gold Clubs with bag etc. etc. valued at \$2700 which was first prize in the draw. All in all a most successful raid which improved our trade deficit. The Course, the goody bags, the dinners, cocktail party and prize giving were all very well done, and many friendships were made over many a XXXX Gold! It was a particularly festive trip for me as I caught up with many an old Zimbo mate who has now settled in Australia. There were approximately 90 players in the field including 10 from Southern Africa, 34 from the Sydney Club and 38 odd players from the Brisbane club. Both Oz clubs seem to be thriving and should you wish to play at a Nomads meeting whilst in Sydney or Brisbane on a visit let me know and I will give you a contact name and number. The coordinator, Wayne Richardson and

his committee did a fantastic job in organizing the tournament and we look forward to playing at next year's event due to be held in The Hunter Valley and hosting a Nationals in Auckland in 2011. The 8 Aucklanders who went across were David Bell, Ian Braddock, Tony Clephane, Don Scott, Ray Parsons, Bill Hanning, myself and a late entry being John Philpott who also gave an entertaining fines session. All in all, a great trip!

WEBSITE / CHARITY

Our new website is now up and running and if you want to see how you fared in the annual competitions log onto www.nomads.co.nz and it will give you all the latest results. The new website is really good and our thanks to Neill Reid of Cyberstate for all the effort he has put into it, at such a subsidized rate!

We will be having a representative from 'Homes of Hope' at our Gold Cup day to receive this year's charity donation. This organization has recently set up a home for 'extreme' foster kids in Waitakere and is a most worthy recipient deserving of our support.

Gold Cup at Titirangi 4th December.

The following have qualified for Gold Cup this year: - Mike McKenna, Craig Joynt, John Philpott, Peter Morrow, Paul Tremewan, Norm Fairweather, Mel Clements, Tony Clephane, Charlie Tapper, Paul Monks, Neil Spencer, Bob McGuinness, Peter Cotton, John Abbott, John East, Steve Gladding, Bill Hanning, and Ian Braddock. If you think you have qualified and I have not mentioned you, please let me know. As per usual we will be having our AGM after the golf as well as a dinner which is supplied by Nomads at no charge. We tee off at 12 noon and although we will also be playing the 'Battle of the Bridge' guests are most welcome to join us. As we need to book our meals in advance please let me know if you will not be staying for the meal which will be served straight after prize giving.

That's about all the news for this month; I will be shortly sending you an email giving final costs for our trip to Queenstown on the 18th of March. Don't forget to support our sponsors City Golf and Phillip Drew Advertising and I look forward to seeing you at Titters on the 4th. Oh and by the way don't forget to pick up a copy of December's Pacific Golfer which is sent to your local Golf Club, there will be an article about our club.

Cheers

Mel.

PS I had the privilege of playing Kinlock last week, what an awesome track that has got to be in NZ's top 5, perhaps even better than Wairaki, although to be fair that course was also in absolute mint condition. Kinlock, although obviously not on the Coast has the feel of a Links course and has some incredible holes, particularly on the back 9. I gather a couple of Aucklanders now own it and it's future appears to be secure.



philip drew advertising