

112 golfers [44 ladies and 68 men] played in the 33rd Annual Seniors Tournament held from February 2nd to Friday the 4th. This was the best field in the last 10 years at least and the future numbers look promising for 2023. Unfortunately the maximum number that is viable for such an event is 120 so next year, all things being equal we would have some reserves. There were 8 players that had entered but had to withdraw for various reasons. Golfers came from all over the North Island, many of them in mobile Homes and Caravans. We even had two players in tents, which was a first, as were the two electric vehicles. A sign of things to come I guess.

The weather was great, being pleasantly warm without getting too hot or humid. The hi-lite of the Tournament was probably the "Hole in One" on the first day by Dawn Rumney from Omokoroa [North of Tauranga]. She won \$500 for her efforts, but unfortunately had to leave prior to the formal prizegiving for family reasons. The Hole in One was sponsored by the Braemar Trust and the Club thanks them for their support. Our main sponsor once again were Property Brokers Ltd with The Forgotten Highway people sponsoring a trip for two raffle. Both Companies have our grateful thanks. Cold water and snacks were available, courtesy of Property Brokers.

The tournament was played over three days with a practice round on the Tuesday. The format was Stableford for the ladies and Gross, nett and stableford for the men. Needless to say some very hot scores were recorded with Anna Reece from Taupo scoring 49 points on the Wednesday. The highest stableford score by a man was 45 by Peter Spurway of the Tieke Golf Estate. The best gross for the three days was Peter Rankin of the Royal Wellington Golf Club with a three day total of 224. Peter is a regular to our event and at 80 years old and plays off a 2 handicap, he is a joy to watch. A handsome new trophy for this event was donated but again unfortunately, Peter had to leave prior to the prizegiving, so we were unable to formally present it to him and get a photo.

A huge amount of work went into this event , especially by the Greens Staff, the Club Secretary, the kitchen ladies, the bar staff, the office [who do the draws, results etc] and cart people. Also all the helpers who sold raffle tickets, manned the office [checking players in and sighting the Vax passes] wrote up the white board upstairs, put out the markers each day and cleaned up after it was all finished.. Many hours spent before, during and after the event. As President of the Vets, my thanks go out to all of them.

Unfortunately only about 10% of the players were locals with only two getting to the prize table. Eric Lei came 2nd in Division 2 [gross] and Santokh Bhullar won the Best nett for a Taumarunui Player over the three days. Santokh was presented with the Hong Kong Salver and a voucher for his efforts. Katy Walker, the Manger of Property Brokers presented the winners with their prizes on the Friday afternoon.

In conclusion, I have been very involved with this event for the past 15 years at least but will be hanging up my "boots" so someone else can have a go. This was only the second year in 27 years that I did not actually play but with the large numbers of players, and the issues that Covid brought, it needed my full attention. I'm already looking forward to playing again next year.

These Tournaments are great for the town with motels and restaurants etc being supported and long may it continue. We receive many compliments from our visitors who say this is their favourite Tournament because they love the Course itself and the way the event is run, which is very satisfying.