

## **One of the Best - Opinion**

It's not for a more recent member (11 years) to say that the recent (2019) championships competition was the best ever, but in my view, it has to be close. Certainly, in my time at the Club, it was the best.

As Captain Ben says, a 20% increase in numbers from last year in the comp is a significant result in itself and there is no doubt that the 4 days spread over two weekends has been well received.

Add in a course in excellent condition, perfect spring weather, at least for the second weekend, and a first-rate social function to conclude the final day, it was altogether a wonderful series.

And what about the fantastic competition and good camaraderie over the 4 days!?

While in the end the new Club Champion, John McInnes won comfortably in the end and Women's Champion Anne Hunter finished well clear, the B grade finished in a 3-way tie that was played out on the 18<sup>th</sup> before an enthusiastic spectator group. Andrew Basford prevailed over Jim Knight and David Schultz.

Phil Hendry played consistently over the 4 days to win the C Grade by 2 strokes from Jeff Knight. Rob Harris, with a score that exceeded some in the C grade, won the D Grade from David Jarrett.

The Women's Grade Champion, Barb Hird, won a closely fought battle with Mary Parkyn by 1 stroke.

James Smart won the Handicap Championship.

Added features of the competition this year was a long drive on the 6<sup>th</sup> hole and an eclectic competition, both sponsored by Trevor Porter.

Captain Ben Birtles and his match committee are to be congratulated on this terrific event which requires an amazing amount of organisation and management. The time and work involved by Ray McVey, David Schultz and Rob Harris in just recording scores, is immense. Take a bow everyone.

The magnificent course condition was due to an untiring effort from course director Grant Parker, his course committee and a band of enthusiastic helpers.

The evening meal, instigated and organised by Max Jenkins, who took on the role of house manager this year, was a great success with many players and wives/partners staying to enjoy the 3-course dinner and social event.

Many helpers, including tireless women members, set up tables, made soup and salads to go with the fantastic steaks, sourced through Greg Richter, and cooked by Greg Baschiera.

All in all, it was a great championship series with a lovely finish.

Of course, it must be said that without those who took part in the competition it would not be possible. And neither must we forget all those who helped in various ways to make it “one of the best”.

Afterwards, speaking with President Peter Murray, who unfortunately due to a health issue had to sit out the championship competition, it was easy to tell he was very pleased with how everything went. Furthermore, Peter, who adopts a low-key role as president, is clearly delighted with the way the Club is moving ahead.

Bring on next year!

Ed