

2005

2005 MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS – Ben Owen Cup

The 2005 were staged at the Singleton Golf Course on Sunday 15 May, 2005, with a field of just under 60 old timers participating.

A shot gun start was used and proved most popular with all players completing their round at the same time ensuring an early departure for home for the senior golfers, many of whom had attended the District pennant dinner the previous evening.

"Young" Ken Roe, from the Oaks, made it three in a row when he cruised around with an effortless 2 over par 71. Ken's round was all the more incredible as he drowned two balls in the hazards.

The Match Committee is investigating the possibility of handicapping Ken, 3 years on his age, which would take him out of contention for 2006.

Fellow member Kerry Bridge took second place in the scratch score 5 shots further back on 76.

The handicap event was keenly contested with Paul Burke of Singleton taking first place with a nett 67, from popular local Mal Newman who finished one shot behind on 68. Mal had the event by the ears until a bad case of the Metropolitan Yips struck in the form of 3 consecutive three putts costing him the top place on the winners podium.

Third place in the handicap event went Gary Beeton from Branxton also on nett 68.

Innovative District Captain has introduced a range of leathersgoods, embroidered with the District logo, as trophies, which proved popular with the winners.

AMBROSE PAIRS

A capacity field participated in the District Ambrose Pairs Championships hosted by the friendly Dungog Golf Club, on Sunday 17 July, 2005. Aberdeen Golf Club provided 18 players in the field, rather ironic considering that the event was cancelled in 2004, when other District Clubs failed to support the event which was scheduled at Aberdeen. Each of our Clubs should make a concerted effort to support District events, particularly when hosted by the smaller clubs.

76 players competed for the historic King Warburton Cup, which dates back to 1949. A shotgun start was used which saw all players back to the Clubhouse together and enjoy the country hospitality.

Siblings Jeff and Andrew Wyper returned the best scratch score with an 8 under par 62. Consistent nines of 31 each way gave them a one shot victory. Their "deja vu" victory came 30 years after their father Don teamed with his brother Greg to win the Cup for what was then the

District Foursomes Championships. The boys celebrated their victory with pit stops at the Paterson and the Heddon Greta on the way.

The scratch runner up trophy was won by Dave Curry and Shaun Heffernan from Heritage Green on 67 on a countback.

Next best scratch score, on 63, was the team of Greg McMillan and Russell Bunn (Muswellbrook) who were defending the title they won in 2003. Two costly bogeys on the back nine cost the pair any chance of victory.

Greg and Rusty returned the best nett score in Division I, with a nett score of 62 from District President Greg Owens who had youth on his side in the shape of Josh Knott. The Oaks pairing finished a quarter of a shot back.

The Division II scratch winners were Max Holt and Darren Thrift who travelled all the way from Denman to return a score of 71, one over par in the howling westerly wind.

Local pairing and another "brother " combination Matt & Col Bagnall were runners up on 72. The twins complemented each others game to return a par round of 35 on the back nine.

After a slow front nine of 5 over par 40, Denman pairing Tony Strong and Darren Barter stormed home in one under par for a half shot win in the Division II handicap event.

Ivan Muddle and Andrew Huckstadt from Dungog were runners up on 64 3/4. Ivan is the honorary greenkeeper at Dungog, his intimate knowledge of the putting surfaces were an advantage in the slippery conditions.

2 MAN AMBROSE CHAMPIONSHIPS

DUNGOG - 17th JULY 2005

TROPHY NAME CLUB SCORE VALUE

SCRATCH

| | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|----------------|-------|
| Div 1 Scratch | Andrew Wyper | | |
| | Jeff Wyper | Kurri | 62 |
| 2nd | Dave Curry | | |
| | Shaun Heffernan | Heritage Green | 67 cb |
| Div 2 Scratch | Max Holtz | | |
| | D Thrift | Denman | 71 |
| 2nd | Matt Bagnall | | |
| | Col Bagnall | Dungog | 72 |
| | | | |
| NETT | | | |

| | | | | |
|-------|------|------------------|--------------|-------|
| Div 1 | Nett | Russell Bunn | | |
| | | Greg McMillan | Muswellbrook | 62 |
| 2nd | | Josh Knott | | |
| | | Greg Owens | The Oaks | 62.25 |
| Div 2 | Nett | Tony Strong | | |
| | | Darren Barter | Aberdeen | 64.25 |
| 2nd | | Ivan Muddle | | |
| | | Andrew Huckstadt | Dungog | 64.75 |

2005 MIXED AMBROSE CHAMPIONSHIP

The support of the upper valley clubs ensured a respectable field of 76 players for this popular Championship event hosted by the Maitland Golf Club on Sunday 23 May, 2005

48 entrants came from those Clubs located in the top end of the Association. Special mention should be made of the Denman Club, who provided 20 players, Singleton 16 and Kurri 12. Their support is appreciated.

A heavy track did not affect the winning scores with the winners of the Arthur Frame Shield going to the youthful team from Maitland, consisting of Heather (VB) & David Keith, Missy Beavis and District Committeeman Steve Lill.

A brilliant scratch score of 61, 10 under par, was aided by a barrage of birdies through holes 4 to 8 with an eagle thrown in on the 7th for good measure. A further 4 birdies on the back nine completed the winning round.

Runners up from Singleton were the early clubhouse leaders Mick Kirkpatrick, Peter Vitnell, Lena Mouat and Carin Caldwell, with an impressive 9 under par on their first game on the course.

The major handicap winners were Simon Jay, Peter & Gill Eason and Aislinn Farnon on nett 53 1/4.

Gill & Aislinn have only recently taken the game up and proved an asset to the team with their luxury handicaps.

The raw power of Jeff Wyper and Chad Cresswell was tempered by the finesse of Sue O'brien and Kerry Grant to take the nett runner up prize with a score of 55 7/8.

For those teams who entered the ball comp, a score of 60 or better was successful.

NSWGA KENO MIXED FOURBALL

Congratulations to Tricia & Greg Wyper (Kurri Golf Club) on their excellent performance in the event played at the Catalina Country Club.

Greg & Tricia returned the best 18 hole score over the two day event, a mammoth 48 points, on day two. Tricia held the team together with consistent 2 and 3 pointers, whilst Greg managed to reel off 5 consecutive birdies to boost their score.

Unfortunately their opening 18 holes were affected by nerves or possibly the welcome party held the previous evening. They only managed 36 points for an aggregate 84, to finish two points behind the winners.

Greg & Tricia has such a good time they were seen sucking lemons on the way home.

AMBROSE FOURS

Muswellbrook Golf Club hosted the District Ambrose Fours on Sunday 28 August, 2005. 108 golfers turned out in perfect weather conditions to test their ability against the District's toughest layout which was in mint condition for their forthcoming pro-am.

It was pleasing to see Murrurundi stalwart and resident funny man Ronnie Ferguson back into golf after a spell in hospital.

The local teams performed solidly with the advantage of playing on their home course.

Scratch winners were Kymble Pascoe (3), Bobba Dial (4), Shane Gageler (11) and Ray Glover (17) (Muswellbrook) who combined to shoot an impressive round of 14 under par, 58. The team scored their first par on the 4th hole which was their 13th hole, stringing together 13 consecutive birdies from holes 10 to 3. The only other par "glitches" came on holes 6, 7 & 8.

The best nett score was won by another Muswellbrook team consisting of Paul Gorman, Tony Chapman, Andrew Jackson and Greg McMillan who finished on nett 53 1/2.

Scratch runners up hailed from the Kurri Club in the team led by Andrew Wyper, Kurt Cresswell, Joel Craig and Daniel Craig. Young Daniel bolstered the team with his deft play around the greens. Their score of 60 was assisted by an eagle on the 527 metre par 5, ninth hole, where he chipped in from 50 metres.

A team put together from three upper Valley Clubs took the nett runner up trophy with a score of 56. Phil Reading (Muswellbrook) led his partners, Rob Ryan and Graham Newton (Aberdeen) and Geoff Barton (Scone) into the prize money. A luxury handicap of 11 strokes reduced their scratch score of 67 to nett 58.

The ball competition went to 57 on a countback.

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT GOLF ASSOCIATION

SAND GREEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

MURRURRUNDI - 17th APRIL 2005

| | | Name | Club | Score |
|----------|--------|-----------------|-------------|-------|
| Scratch | Winner | Craig Avard | Murrurrundi | 73 |
| | Second | Ross Banks | Scone | 75 |
| | Third | Jeff Wyper | Kurri | 75 |
| | | Name | Club | Score |
| Handicap | Winner | John Norman | Murrurrundi | 62 |
| | Second | Wayne Crestwell | Scone | 63 |
| | Second | Brett Reid | Murrurrundi | 64 |
| | Third | Rick Cooper | Murrurrundi | 64 |