

2011

A Grade Pennant Final

BETTINGTON CUP - Maitland v Muswellbrook

at Kurri, Sunday 3 April, 2011

MUSWELLBROOK AVENGE 2010 LOSS



In a tense tussle for the 2011 Bettington Cup, Muswellbrook overcame Maitland 4 1/2 matches to 2 1/2, to win the Cup and avenge their loss to Maitland in 2010.

After the seven players went through nine holes it was all tied up at 3 1/2 apiece, but as the games proceeded into the back nine the youthful Muswellbrook side fought on courageously to overcome their experienced opponents.

Playing at number 7 for the Brook Brodie Mainey fought back from 3 down at the turn to take the match to the 17th hole, eventually succumbing to Adam McKenzie 2 and 1.

Young gun Kyle Blinco had his nose in front for the majority of his match against Maitland Club Champion Mitch Laney, but found himself all square heading to the 18th hole. Two magnificent shots later he was sitting pin high on the fringe of the par 5 18th hole, needing only two putts to win one up. He calmly knocked the put to within gimme distance and won a vital match for Muswellbrook.

Muswellbrook captain Bobba Dial had a close match with Maitland's Simon Dillon. Both players started in dramatic fashion, neither reaching the ladies tee markers with their opening drives.

One nark in the crowd was heard to remark "is this the C Grade final!". Following up his drive with another cold top Bobba recovered to make a miraculous 5 and win the hole. Under the guidance of his caddy Kurt Barnes he went on to win the match 2 and 1 reversing his loss to Simon in 2010.

Cameron Benkovic playing his first year out of the junior ranks played consistently to defeat Bryan Gulliver 4 and 3. Cam played maturely and proved he wasn't scarred by last years loss of his match on the last hole

Junior Dylan Perry playing in his first Bettington Cup final came up against Mr Consistent Steve Jones, who with precision driving and a deadly putting stroke, recorded a 4 and 2 win for Maitland, to close the matches to a 3 - 2 margin in Muswellbrook favour.

Playing at number 2 for the Brook was the steady Kymble Pascoe who was never headed to defeat Mitch McPhee 2 and 1 and thus secure the Bettington Cup for Muswellbrook.

The final match between Scott Hayes and Craig Melville never had a greater margin than one hole either way through the 16 holes they had played and a gentlemanly draw was proclaimed after Muswellbrook had secured their fourth match.

At the presentation Muswellbrook Captain Bobba Dial put the win down to his youth policy.

MUSWELLBROOK		MAITLAND	
Scott HAYES	SQ	Craig MELVILLE	SQ
Kymble PASCOE	+2/1	Mitch McPhee	
Dylan Perry		Steve JONES	+4/2
Cameron BENKOVIC	+4/3	Bryan Gulliver	
Bob DIAL	+2/1	Simon DILLON	
Kyle BLINCO	+1 Up	Mitch LANEY	
Brodie MAINEY		Adam McKENZIE	+2/1
	4 1/2		2 1/2

B Grade Pennant Final

POGONSKI CUP – The Oaks v Singleton

at Kurri, Sunday 3 April, 2011

VINTAGE VICTORIOUS IN 2011



In a courageous contest the B grade final for the Pogonoski Cup went down to the final putt on the 18th hole to decide the 2011 victors.

The Vintage Club, after winning a play off the previous week to secure the second place in the final, came up trumps with a nail biting 2 - 1 win over Branxton. 2011 was the first year The Vintage had entered a B Grade side.

The first match out was Lethal Leathley and Shane Walsh for the Vintage up against Branxton captain Kyle Mounser & Lee Heuston. Throughout the match the Vintage side held the advantage, with Leathley doing most of the damage. However it was his partner Shane who sank a crunch putt on the 17th green for a par when they held a two up advantage, and starting to look shaky. His putt halved the Branxton's boys par and gave the Vintage a one match lead.

Meanwhile the number 3 pairings of Evan Gledhill and Glen Batty, for the Vintage came up against a red hot pairing of Steve Eccles and Gary Anderson, who annihilated them 5 and 4. This win squared the matches at one all, and it was down to the number two pairings to decide the victor.

Tim Ledgerwood & Paul Fitzsimmons (Vintage) were dormie over Darren Gilroy and Phil Carter, after the 15th. The Branxton boys weren't about to give up and clawed back two holes to send the match up the last.

The match became a two man battle, between Tim & Phil, after Darren sent his drive over the fence and Paul scrambled for a six on the hole.

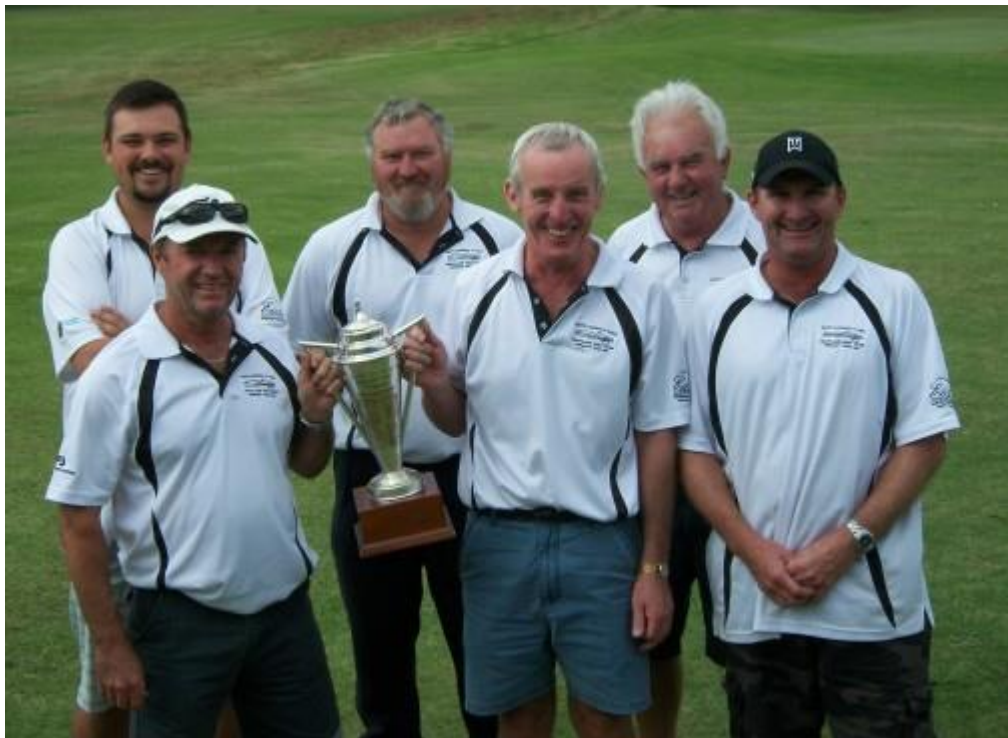
Both Tim & Phil reached the fringe (pin high) of the green in regulation. Tim was first away but lagged his putt some 2 metres short. Phil, who was as cool as a cucumber throughout the round, casually putted to tap in distance, leaving Tim in the unenviable position of having to make his putt to avoid proceeding to the 19th. After studying the putt from all angles he stroked it towards the hole and caught the left edge to drop in for the win, and the Cup. His happy team mates surged onto the green in Ryder Cup fashion to congratulate him.

VINTAGE		BRANXTON	
Steve LEATHLEY Shane WALSH	+ 2/1	Lee HEUSTON Kyle MOUNSER	
Tim LEDGERWOOD Paul FITZSIMMONS	+ 1 up	Darren GILROY Phil CARTER	
Evan GLEDHILL Glen BATTY		Steve ECCLES Gary ANDERSON	+ 5/4
	2		1

C Grade Pennant Final

BERCINI CUP – Branxton v Maitland

at Muswellbrook, Sunday 3 April, 2011



The Branxton C grade side almost caused another upset when they stretched the previously undefeated Maitland side to the limit in the final of the C grade pennants, played at

Muswellbrook. The course was in mint condition for the final and proved a real test for the C graders and the Maitland side were thankful, when Tony Gannon calmly rolled in a 5 foot putt on the 18th green to clinch the Bercini Cup.

In the first match out Phil Oswald & Phil Ryder (Maitland) were up against stalwart Lennie Porter & his youthful partner Ben Phillips (Branxton). The fact that the Maitland players had to spot the Branxton boys 13 shots meant it was going to be a close and interesting match. Throughout the early stages the match see sawed and it wasn't till the middle of the back nine Maitland asserted itself and led by 3 after 15 holes. Branxton lifted to win the last three holes and take the match to sudden death. Ben Phillips made a miraculous par on the 18th after playing his second shot from the right hand side of the 10th fairway, towards the green, then knocked a wedge over the trees onto the green and two putted for a par for the win.

Whilst this was going on the second match between Reg Crick & Gary McPhee (Maitland) against Neil Bird and big hitting Richard Crooks (Branxton) came to an early conclusion when they won comfortably 4 & 2. The handicaps for this match were identical both sides having an 18 & 19 marker, so it basically became a scratch match. Once again the match was close until the back nine when Maitland slipped to a 2 hole lead after the eleventh, increased it at the 15th to 3 up, and extended it further to four up when Gary parred the 16th hole to wrap it up.

All the focus then turned to the final match between Maitland captain Kevin Patterson & his super cool partner Tony Gannon against the Branxton captain and C grade stalwart, Mick Armstrong and Jamie Fairfull.

After 7 holes Kev & Tony were 5 up mainly due to impeccable golf by Tony, only being 3 over par. At this stage it appeared an early shower would be the result. However the Branxton players lifted and kept picking up holes, one by one over the back nine to the point where it was all even after 17 holes. On the 18th hole Tony Gannon had reached the green for 4 and needing to hole a 5 foot putt for the match win and the Bercini Cup, which is an enormous pressure for any golfer let alone a C grader. The Branxton opponents had made a 6 and the putt had to go in or it was sudden death up the first. Tony had the final putt and calmly rammed it into the hole for the win.

Whilst this was happening the first out match had halved the first sudden hole and were moving to the second tee. As the match had been decided 2 - 0 to Maitland, the players were called in and the initial result of a halved match was recorded.

MAITLAND		BRANXTON	
Phil OSWALD	SQ	Len PORTER	SQ
Phil RYDER		Ben PHILLIPS	
Reg CRICK	2	Neil BIRD	
Gary McPHEE		Richard CROOKS	
Tony GANNON	1 Up	Mick ARMSTRONG (c)	
Kev PATTERSON (c)		Jamie FAIRFULL	
	2 1/2		1/2

Junior Pennant Final

Hancock Shield – Branxton v Maitland

at The Vintage, Sunday 20 March, 2011



The underdogs Branxton survived an action packed match to win the 2011 junior pennant (Jack Hancock Shield) defeating red hot favourites Maitland. Throughout the drama packed 18 holes the match see sawed, until it came down to the number 5 players proceeding to the 19th hole. Those officials and spectators observing were enthralled by the quality of the golf.

Special mention should be made of The Vintage who made their course available for the final.

The first match out was the number fives and in that match Jon Lawler (15) found himself 4 down after 4 holes, to Blake Palmer (6), but he never gave up. The match remained close until the closing holes where Blake's driver deserted him and found himself only 1 up with the 18th to play. Jon received a stroke from Blake on the hole and used it to win the hole to finish the match square. They waited anxiously for the results of the remaining 4 matches to see if they had to play sudden death.

Playing at 4 for Maitland's Hayden Gulliver (4) proved too strong for Brendan Bendeich (10) and accounted for him 5 & 4 after being 2 up at the turn.

The next match between Cameron Johanson (9) and Zac Leach (4) was always in favour of Cam after he skipped to an early 3 up lead, stretched it to 4 after 9 holes and didn't allow Zac into the match wrapping it up 3 & 2 on the 16th hole.

The first of the matches played on a scratch basis was a ball tearer. Adrian Chomiszak had the measure of his Maitland counterpart Nick Gulliver for the major part of the 18 holes except for the final few holes. After 9 holes Adrian turned two up. Nick grabbed one back on hole 11 but a magnificent eagle on the par 5 14th restored it back to two. Nick Gulliver then pulled out all stops winning the final three holes to take the match 1 up. The highlight of the holes was a spectacular second shot to the 16th green which finished 6 inches from the hole.

The match between the number ones Isiaih Wolferstan (2) and Kade Hardy (3) was a walkover for Isiaih winning 5 & 4. He turned 4 up, kept the ball in play on the back nine and was never headed.

This evened the matches at two a piece, which sent the number 5's out to the 1st tee to decide their match up the 19th hole. Both players hit the green in regulation, with Blake putting first leaving his ball 3 feet below the hole. Jon putted next and was a bit aggressive with the putt finishing 5 feet from the hole. He sunk the return putt meaning Blake would have to bin his putt to continue to the next hole. Unfortunately his putt took the break and drifted off to the side of the hole, earning Jono the win and Branxton The Hancock Shield for 2011.

For Maitland it was heartbreaking after losing their third final in as many years and all by a 3 - 2 margin. Rumour has it an offer has been made to Wayne Bennett to coach the team next year.

MATCH

 MAITLAND Golf Club BRANXTON Golf Club

at The Vintage on 20/03/2011

	PLAYER	Hcap	Result	PLAYER	Hcap	Result
1	Kade Hardy	3		Isiah Wolferstan	2	5/4
2	Nick Gulliver	4	+1	Adrain Chomiszak	7	
3	Zac Leach	4		Cameron Johanson	9	3/2
4	Hayden Gulliver	4	5/4	Brendan Bendeich	10	
5	Blake Palmer	6		Jon Lawler	15	19th

result BRANXTON defeated MAITLAND by 3/2

Seniors Pennant Final

FRAME CUP – The Vintage v Paterson

at Kurri, Sunday 3 April, 2011

PATERSON TAKE 2011 FRAME CUP IN A BOILOVER



In a dour dogfight Paterson stand in captain Kevin Rudd, masterminded a victory over the favourites The Vintage to convincingly win the Frame Cup. In the absence of regular Captain Peter Griffin, KRudd, masterminded the win with astute selection of his team pairings.

At the nine hole mark Paterson were down by one hole in each match. As the back nine progressed Paterson gradually overcame their low marker opponents, who were overwhelmed by the sheer number of strokes they had to concede.

First out was veteran Roy Bishop with Greg Kellner, up against Don Guthrie and Rod Paech led the way for Patto with a 2 and 1 victory. After the 14th the match was all square, but solid golf by Greg over the next few holes claimed a win for their team.

The number threes for Paterson Robert Cook and Phil Watson accounted for Seve Bruce & Neville Peace cruising to a 3 and 2 win, which clinched the Cup for Royal Patto.

In the remaining match Johnny Walker & KRudd were holding their own against the wily Mick Watson & Bruce Rose, when their match was called off as a result had been decided.

No doubt the victory celebrations will go on long at loud at their watering hole, The Paterson Tavern.

PATERSON		The VINTAGE	
Roy BISHOP Greg KELLNER	+ 2/1	Don GUTHRIE Rod PAECH	
John WALKER Kevin RUDD	SQ	Mick WATSON Bruce ROSE	SQ
Robert COOK Phil WATSON	+ 3/2	Stephen BRUCE Neville PEACE	+ 5/4
	2 1/2		1/2