

WEEL REELS IN SUMMER CUP

Five Years ago, the ladies at Lakes Entrance Golf Club had had enough of the trivial nine hole competition that they used to play over summer. They regarded it as anachronistic and paternalistic. They eyed with envy the 100-plus men's fields over summer and wondered why, in this day and age, they couldn't get in on the action.

So they approached their committee, who duly went to new pro Jason Mulligan and negotiated a New Deal that involved his sponsoring and promoting the event. In the summer of 2008, the Summer Cup was launched. It would be an eighteen holer every Wednesday, and the lady's whose best three rounds over the period of the Cup would be declared the winner.

Last Wednesday was Welcome Back Day, officially the opening of the new season. Traditionally, the ladies would fire the first shots of their new season with yet another nine holer, and then retire for a nip and a natter. Last week was a bit different: it would be an eighteen hole Canadian. The scoring was pretty ordinary, with no pair actually bettering CCR. However, the long-established team of Di Dickson and Di Barelli yet again proved their prowess by winning the event, albeit on count back from Nadine Martin and Jenny Kesper. Both teams scored a regulation 36 points. Jan Kennedy and Jeanette Dellar shot 34, and balls were actually paid out to 30 points – in a Canadian!

But the 50 ladies who hit off last Wednesday had really come to hear the announcement of the winner of the Summer Cup. They all had their money on the ladies whom this scribe had nominated in last week's column as hot favourites. Needless to say, none of those ladies got up, which just serves to prove the point that many are making: that he doesn't know what he's talking about!

In the end, it was the popular Summer Cup captain, Apola Weel who won the trophy - by a mere one stableford point – over three rounds – from handicapper, Anita Bertram. The clubhouse erupted. The bubbly flowed. Apola glowed with pride and excitement.

It's been a very big week for Lakes Entrance Golf Club, and not just for the declaration of the Summer Cup winner. Friday golf returned to the Club after some years of absence. Last week, no less than 40 golfers turned out, and enjoyed the nine holes, meal and indoor activities in the clubhouse. Why wouldn't they? Where else can you get all of this for just \$10?

It's also been a been a big week for some of the club's golfers as well. Word came through that on the Australia Day Weekend, Brenda and John O'Callaghan had flown the flag for their club at Tocumwal's own Summer Cup, and done so with much panache. On Saturday, John had won C Grade with 36 points, and not to be outdone, Brenda went out on Sunday and won B Grade with a 73 nett.

Then on Thursday, the men golfers really went on a scoring spree. Bruce Coulton led the way with a plus 6, Graeme Smith (+4) continued his run of fine form with a victory in B Grade, while promising junior Michael McKenna enjoyed his last day of school vacation by also shooting a +4. Veterans Rex Mockett and Wayne Dellar sizzled with +4s, while Terry Polwarth waved the flag for A Graders with an impressive +3.

New president Les Beattie continues to lead from the front, both on and off the course: his club is in its healthiest financial state for many years, its management has rarely been more professional, the

clubhouse functions centre is zinging - and his golfing continues apace. He shot a +2, as did Ron Murray, Trevor Renfree and Ron Brymer, while DTL balls were only paid out to those who had bettered CCR.

But the spree stopped two days later, despite the summer weather continuing apace. Somebody forgot, though, to tell Allen Lawson, who hit off in the first group and whose 42 stablefords for the day was never challenged. Terry Martin won A Grade with five points less, Igor Malejew shot 38 to win B Grade, while Garry Wallis (38) and Graham Wells (37) were the only other golfers to better CCR in a field of 78.

The ladies fared little better, although Marg Ellis and Pam Wallis would beg to differ: Marg beat Pam on a count back with 37 points, Nola Mathews scored a regulation 36, and the next best in a field of 31 was Brenda Wall's 33.

The Summer Cup has been played, some of it, it should be noted, in atrocious wintry conditions. Friday night comps are back, and the club's faring well. Long may summer continue!