

Holland, the cream that rose to the top.

.....Keenan the slightly aged cream that rose to just under the top,

By Dennis Fuller 10-04-2010

Many golfers exceeded their handicaps at Emerald Golf Club last Saturday with Bouncer Holland (17) and Jack Keenan (34) heading the push for victory with 42 points apiece. When all things countback had been considered Holland had the win in his pocket and the B Grade spoils as well.

Keenan's 42 points saw him atop the Grade list while Ken Hill's (12) 31 points was the best of a very disappointing A Grade effort.

Many golfers played well including Alan Ecclestone and Mark Starick 39 points, Peter Jones 38 while M Coe and Steve Town came in with 37.

Barry Cook continued his dominance of nearest the pin on the 4th, Dave Hunt the 7th, Dennis Fuller the 12th, Dave Jennings 13 and Brendan White won the pro pin on the 18th with a magnificent shot.

Dave MacKay won the Café Marte cappuccinos for being nearest the pin after two shots on the 10th and Ecclestone was the master of all on the 17th.

An epic battle was fought out in the ladies' comp by two players from way out of town. By play's end, Margaret Lobban from St Andrews, Scotland outlasted Lyn Bennett from Peregrine Springs Golf Club in Queensland. Lobban's 42 points was just good enough to beat Bennett's 41.

Two golfers drew in the C Grade championship. Con Whitlock and Brian McCoy had to face each other over 18 holes to decide who had the bragging rights. They went at it head to head like two bulls and after the dust from that type of encounter had died down, Whitlock stood atop the winner's rostrum with the smug look of a winner.

Wednesday's Obsessively Flavoured Golf (OFG) using OFG handicaps was won by Brett Isherwood (24) with 40 points from Ben Balfour (18) on 39.

The OFG championship is two weeks into the four week playoff and Isherwood is standing head and shoulders above the pack with 23 points with Mick Petrie is second place on 18. There are an eager group barking at their heels on 17 but Isherwood is looking the goods so far.

The veteran's pennant team played Mt Martha at Emerald last Wednesday and went down to the visitors. Graeme Fergus, playing as the emergency, won 4/3, Graeme Fergus (emergency won 4/3), Peter Clowes won 2/1, Ken Hill ended square, Leigh Morison was square, Brett Isherwood lost 2/1 and President

Jeff Marsh lost 4/3.

The handicap pennant team played Eastern Sward at Eastern Sward. Geoff Isherwood and, Steve Town won, Ross Martin tied, Bouncer Holland, Dean Shannon, Peter Clowes and Martin Yeats lost, So, in the end, Emerald lost 5 points to 9.

One game of the next round of the 4BBB was played with Paul Farmer and Wayne Degering beating Dave Hunt and Ian Scott 2 up. Many of these games will be played next Saturday as the normal comp is a par event and about as interesting as a golfer describing each shot in his last round. Not an unknown phenomenon .. but not at our club, of course.

It seems that we will get used to the new handicapping system and few changed much at all. It will be interesting to see what types of changes occur and how frustrated Excalibur will get when he has to keep the sword in the scabbard.

My goodness it caused a scatter when Riley Rabbit came past the Tuck Shop with 36 points. There had been an error in Golf Link and after Excal produced the list Rabbit dropped from 36 to 27. Mind you, the Widdle Wascal still managed 37 points. His OFG handicap will be 21 when he plays next school holidays and judging by his current rate of improvement, he will play to it and better. Good going Riley Stevens.

All those players who aspire to or who once had their handicaps to 13 or lower, please go right ahead as the list of two in A Grade, while most selective, is just a tad small. Old Silversails, Bobbie, is quite willing to add his expertise to any golfer who has excessive available money and a desire to get better... like Conwack. The balance for his meritorious win in the championship will show up as a substantial claimable deduction on his 2010-2011 tax return.