

FERRIS KEEPS HIS COOL TO TAKE SUMMER OPEN

The 2009 Griffin Coal Summer Open proved to be an outstanding success with a big field doing battle with the course and the elements at the Collie Golf Club last weekend. 178 men and 49 Associates from 37 clubs contested the two day Stableford event.

The winner of the men's 36 hole nett competition was popular local Rob 'Wizza' Ferris with a total of 81 points. 'Wizza,' who has only recently returned to golf after a lay off, handled the pressure of taking a slender lead into the second day in style, adding 40 points to his Saturday score of 41 to take the major prize by a healthy margin.

Dave Brown from Sun City posted a two round total of 76 early in the day. Brown was one of only a few visitors who were able to handle the glassy greens, holding on to second position after a number of others in contention wilted in the afternoon heat. Paul Aramini with 75 points and Troy Sheppard 74 points made it three out of the top four for local golfers.

The Associates section was dominated by visitors, with the 36 hole nett winner being Rochelle Donovan from the West Aviat club, who had two steady rounds totalling 72 points. Andrea Riggir supplied the quinella for the travellers with a score of 70, followed by Margaret Pike from Collie on 69 points.

The winner of the men's gross event was Greg Bell with a score of 59 points. Bell started the weekend in spectacular fashion with a hole in one in the Friday fourball, his second of the year. Bell was then the only single figure golfer to match his handicap on both days, posting a well deserved win. Adam McGill, the last entrant taken, fired the best round of the weekend on Sunday with 75 off the stick but had to settle for second, edging out Leon Moran on countback on a total of 57 points each. In The Associates gross competition, Shirley Van Der Bruggen from Melville Glades tallied 45 points for a clear win over Gosnells golfer Fran Harris.

Local golfers made up most of the 18 hole winners in the men's event. Saturday awards went to Bruce Miller, Tom Chappell and Leon Moran with Sunday trophies going to Denis Cocker, whose 42 points was the best round of the tournament, Mat Harker, and lastly Gary Ellix from Mandurah.

WAGC's Lee Hunter made good use of her previous local knowledge to pick up the Saturday nett for the Associates with 40 points. Helen McAullay from Cottesloe won the Gross. Sunday trophies went to Deb Van Vollenstee and Judy Pemberton from AGC.

The Summer Open was preceded on Friday by the traditional Bushwalker's fourball.

Troy Sheppard, who had a stellar weekend, teamed with Mark Suggest to edge out playing partners Colin Naysmith and Steven Ireland on a count back, with both pairings scoring 48 points apiece. 'Big Col' provided his own highlight to go with Greg Bell's hole in one by having an eagle three on the first hole.

Visiting golfers bolstered the field to a very healthy 156 between the men's and Associates players. Ed Riley and Peter Gray made it an all local top three, winning a count back for third over Wanneroo pair Kevin Ball and Gary Robins. Both pairings had 46 points. Alan Kent and Rob Ferris, Clayton Flynn and Greg Martin as well as Alf Sanford and Frank Battista had 45 points each to continue the local domination.

The Associates played an individual Stableford with Bridgestone's Dianne Smith taking victory with 40 points. Rhonda McGill was second with 39 points followed by Kaye Farquhar and Robin Bull from Gosnells on 36 points.

Ian Tweedie got over the line in Scroungers last week, edging out Bruce Roberts to win with 20 points. Mark Malatesta and Darren Morfitt were next on 19 points.

Ed Riley scored 30 points to win the 14 hole Veterans competition. Phil Warburton on 29 and the trio of Des Hebb, Neil McDonald and Bryan Simpson on 28 points made up the top five.

Trevor McCormick won Leisure Day on a count back from Ray Cooper with 38 points being the tying score. Jim Larsen was third on 37 points.

This week will be an 18 hole Stableford event for the Keith Martin trophy. Scroungers is on today, Leisure Day, Veterans and Sunday 9 Hole competitions to be played as usual.