

CNZ Third 16 GC Invitation Tournament. 18-20 November 2022 in Christchurch

Venue Fendalton Park Croquet Club.

For various reasons, the 16 players were reduced to 10 who could play, and so the tournament went ahead. Because of the weather forecast, players were advised to come prepared for anything from wind, rain, snow and sunshine. As one player responded: "Ok, I'll bring my rain jacket and bikini". (Could have been a secret weapon!)

The tournament was scheduled to be played over three days with two 13 point round robins and six games each day. 10 players arrived on the Friday morning, eager to play, but with threatening clouds overhead. The lawns were looking good thanks to our lovely groundsman and the players went out



for the first round. Not too long into the game and the heavens opened.

There was so much rain and puddles on the lawns that after one 13 point game, play was suspended. Weather predictions were consulted and yes, after an hour, the rain eased. Our intrepid grounds man used a squeegee to move the puddles and by mid-day the players could continue with the tournament



Because heavy rain was predicted for the Sat and therefore no play possible, the manager decided to convert to a single round robin of 19 point games. Players accepted this and we managed to play a further 3 rounds on the Friday afternoon of 19 point games.



Play on Saturday was cancelled as there was continuous heavy rain from early Sat morning to Sat afternoon and the lawns were like swimming pools.

Play resumed at a later starting time on the Sunday morning to allow lawns to drain and the groundsman to squeegee lawns where needed. The last 5 rounds of 19 point games were able to be played and the tournament ended late afternoon.



Players are to be commended for their patience and good sportsmanship and there was a great atmosphere throughout the tournament. Thanks must go to Tony O'Donnell for being the referee over the two days; to the ladies from Fendalton Park who supplied a lovely morning and afternoon tea; to our grounds man Mike Dawson for his great effort in getting the hoops and lawns organized.

There was fierce competition amongst the players over the two days and it was down to the last couple of rounds to determine the winner. Congratulations to the winner Kevin Freeth (Blenheim) for winning 8 out of the 9 games. Runner up was John Borner (St Martins)



Kevin Freeth with the Geoff Young Trophy and manager Vilna Gough-Jones