

Elmburn Trophy – Saturday, 23 January 2021

On Saturday afternoon in very warm temperatures and strong winds 64 players from the Elmwood Park and Burnside Clubs stepped on to the fast and true Orchard Green to play for the Elmburn Trophy in the annual friendly interclub event. All games were keenly contested but Burnside got away to a flier in the first round of eight 9-end games losing only one match. A drink on the run revitalised the Elmwood Park side as the second round was drawn 4 games apiece with only a 2 point differential. Four Burnside fours, skipped by Scott Greenland, Neil Andersen, Debbie Ho and David Crombie won both games but every player on both sides contributed to a competitive, enjoyable and good spirited contest. Final Result; Burnside 11 games 158 points: Elmwood Park 5 games 107 points

The trophy was presented 50 years ago in 1971 and this was the 42nd playing of the event. Elmwood Park has 20 victories to their credit while Burnside, after today's contest, now has 21. For the statisticians among you the 1996 encounter was drawn. The 2022 event will be hosted by Elmwood Park who will be keen to regain this sought after trophy next year.

Saturday was a very busy day at Burnside with our two Watson Shield teams hosting teams from the Lincoln Club and the Papanui Club in the morning. At the same time on the Davie green, the quarter and semi finals of the Centre's Women's Under Five Singles Championship featured four of our members; Ange Mitchell, Jude Main, Tracy Wilkinson and Lyn Martin. Lyn lost her quarter final 20-21 as the other three progressed to the semi finals. Jude outlasted Tracy in the difficult conditions and will meet Ange, who was successful in her semi final, in the final on the Centre's Finals' Day at Burnside next Saturday. Meanwhile on the third green section play in the Club's Women's Triples Championship continued.

In the afternoon, in addition to the Elmburn Trophy, 36 players took part in the Festival Bowls event of the day. Despite AJ van Hasselt's urgings that "the wind is your friend" many would have come to the conclusion that the "wind was rather the winner on the day". Three games of 2-bowl triples were played with four players successful in winning three games. Johnny Rowe won first prize followed by John Switalla, Lindsay Hodder and Linda Burr. Six others won prizes. The third green was graced with a Women's Triples Championship game and catch up Men's Pairs and Singles Championship matches. Seating was at a premium upstairs afterwards!

Saturday's events were bookended by the monthly, Friday half day Medley Mixed Fours tournament with 18 teams in hot temperatures and cross winds and Monday's Women's Open Triples tournament. This very successful event attracted 42 entries (126 players) on a thankfully comparatively calm and 25 degree day. Add in three corporate bowls evenings and a Rotary Club night in the four day period so a quiet Sunday was an oasis in the storm.

Kudos to all those members who contribute to make events like these happen. Thank you!