Public Course Pennants – Round 2 / Sunday 12 February 2023.

Twenty five degrees with a light southerly… a day heaven-sent for golf, and NAGC’s Division 2 team made the most of it to remain top of the Div2 North ladder with a solid 6-2 win over second-placed Mawson Lakes (5 wins, 2 squared, 1 loss).

Toby Maddern led the charge, enjoying a thumping 8&7 win playing at #6.

Backing him to the hilt were Alice Cho (3&2), Oscar Moss (2&1), Paul Haines (1up) and Frank Kong (1up).

James Abiero played stoically and courageously to square his debut pennants match. Despite his driver failing him and trailing for most of his match, James opted to leave the ‘big dog’ in the kennel and soldier on without it earning a well-deserved and valuable half.

Bob Henley, also trailed for most of his match, until he won the final hole against the experienced Chris Nailer, who is a familiar face on the Metro Vets tour, to deny him the win and square their match.

An unscheduled encounter with the shrubbery on 18 left Atila Koca one hole short despite going the distance.

Having seen off numbers 2 & 4 on the ladder, Anthony Clapp’s team has form and confidence on its side for next week’s match against Playford Lakes at home.

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Despite being last on the ladder after last week’s disappointment at Sandy Creek, our Division 3 team bounced back with a vengeance posting a mighty 7-and-a-half to one-half win over Mawson Lakes, who entered this round top of the ladder.

In this division, handicap matchplay applies.

Bragging rights at the Cho household belong to Dad after this round, with Rory Cho cleaning up 8&6 despite his opponent being a stroke lower on handicap.

Laifong Chong (5&3) and Dee Bennett (4&2) brought all their womens comp matchplay cunning and guile to bear with solid wins; Dee making the most of her 6-stroke advantage, while Laifong gave her opponent a stroke before romping home regardless.

Jason Yap also gave his opponent a one stroke advantage on his way to a fine 3&2 win.

Also making his pennants debut today, Luis Plaza made the most of his 6-stroke advantage and home course knowledge to post a convincing 5&4 win… while his partner, Luis Madriz stepped into the side from the reserve bench to win his match by a resounding 7&5.

At the tail of the field, Ian George at #2 prevailed 2&1… while Tim Haskett was held all square through 18 holes to save Mawson Lakes from the whitewash.

Next sees this side at home to Playford Lakes, who also lost their first round in a competition that is looking remarkably even.

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Our Division 1 team came into this match third on the ladder after last week’s close loss at Sandy Creek, and they may well be ruing this round as the one that got away.

Four-all in the end, with wins to Steve Darch (7&6), Yungbok Kim (2&1), Henry Park (3&1) and Chantha Kong prevailing 3&1 in the marquee match over former NAGC pennants and championship stalwart, Claudio Sequeira.

Dave Renner and Will Phelan took their matches the full distance, with each falling short by a single hole. John Filmalter and Alex Martinson completed the team.

Next week’s round against Regency Park will be critical to their chances of a finals appearance.

Next week also, North Adelaide hosts Playford Lakes in Divisions 2 & 3.

All matches will be played on the NORTH Course from *8am*.

If they’re expecting wide sweeping fairways rolling onto generously ample greens… they might be in for a surprise.

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Thanks to Tom Ryke, Chris Watson, Steve Draper, Jonathan Gravenor, Barry Smith and Brian Acland for their support and to Dave Harrington as match referee.

Extra special thanks with sauce and onions to Nat Potter for working the barbecue with her always-dazzling smile and style.

See you at the North Course next Sunday morning.