

Winter Shootout Report: 2025

The drama for this year's shootout started the day before the scheduled tee off, with a 4-man chip off required to determine the final 2 qualifying spots in the line-up. This pre-cursor to the main event occurred immediately after the Men's Closing day competition and created much hilarity in the watching crowd.

Damien Dunlop was first up and launched into a magnificent chip that virtually assured him a place in the next day's proceedings. Big Bad Bryce Bevin (BBBB) was next and produced one of the most bizarre chips ever seen, double hitting the ball and finishing at least 30 meters from the target and green. After consulting with the rule book, it was determined to allow this pathetic attempt to stand. Next up was one of the best chippers in the club, Frank Van Hattum. Unfortunately, his attempt was even worse than BBBB and he was eliminated. Last up was John Tretheway, who was heard earlier saying that everyone still to chip should have their back turned so as not to get any advantage. It certainly did not help him (that he could watch) as his attempt was a monumental duff that travelled less than a metre towards the pin. Unbelievably, Bryce qualified for the finals as the best of the last 3 very average chips.

So, to the next day and just when you thought things couldn't get any stranger, 1 of the finalists failed to show up and was eliminated. Apparently, he FORGOT! As a result, the whole group travelled to the 2nd tee, all breathing a sigh of relief that there was no "walk of shame" this year.

As is tradition, the top qualifier, David (Taff) Morris was first to hit and everyone else followed safely. Big Dave Campbell thought his day was going to come to a premature end when he visited the fern next to the 3rd tee, for 2, and had to take a penalty drop. Damien Dunlop, the hero from yesterday's proceedings, dually helped by hacking his way up the hole and was eliminated with a nett 6. Dave's sigh of relief could be heard back in the clubhouse.

Hole 3 saw even more drama, with Mark Tommo hitting his ball so far out of bounds, that the cattle 3 paddocks over were under threat. Despite this he

posted a nett 5 to be in a chip off with 2 others. His chip was a good one but in a copy of yesterdays antics the other 2 (Taff and Alex Stansfield) both duffed theirs. Alex was eliminated as his duff was worse than Taff's.

Hole 4 saw Paul Morgan's demise after 3 putting for a 7, nett 6.

Ian (Muff) Diver didn't take advantage of his low centre of gravity going down 5 and carded a nett 7 which meant he could relax in Al's cart.

On to hole 6 and the first of the 5 man chip off's. After considerable consultation by referees, Dave Lockton and Andy Roche, a generous position was determined behind the bunker at the back of the green. Jethro hit first and made a nice job of his, followed by (Deadly) Darryll Denyer to within 3 meters. Next was Neil McDermid who promptly duffed into the bunker. Followed by Wayno Brierly who followed suit, although his rolled back behind Neil's, leaving just (Axel) Mike Rose to complete the torture. After explaining to everyone within earshot that wearing his wife's underwear was going to help with his short game, he calmly hit his chip to within 2 metres. Wayno gone.

Hole 7 required a chip off again, lost by top qualifier Taff who was heard to be mumbling about 'big guys wandering around behind the hole'.

Hole 8 was another chip off between Big Dave, Peter Bramble, Eddie Evans and Jethro Meares. Pete, looking very nervous by this stage wasn't up to it and was eliminated.

Hole 9 saw an uncharacteristic series of poor shots from the implacable Eddie Evens and when he reported a nett 6, he was gone.

Hole 10 saw a pair of very average chips between Big Al Cochrane, and Big Mark Tomsett. Neither chip was very big, and Tommo was eliminated.

Hole 11 saw a 3 way chip off from a position over by the 18th green, which saw Al's day come to an end and he was able to join Muff in the beer cart.

Hole 12 saw the spandex finally becoming too tight for Axel and he was a gone burger in another 5 way chip off. After explain to the ever-increasing crowd, that "cross dressing and drugs, shouldn't be underestimated" he graciously departed to an awaiting golf cart.

Neil McDermid bit the dust on 13 after spending the whole day, by his own admission, “packing himself” and gratefully accepted his envelope after carding a nett 5.

David C was eliminated next on 14 after playing a good shot from “Campbells Gultch” before hacking into the bunker and carding a nett 6.

A tricky chip off ensued on hole 15 between Deadly, BBBB and Chris Spiers from off the front of the Women’s 16th tee. Chris was eliminated after failing to reach the green although everyone was interested to see if Bryce could produce another ‘double hit’.

Hole 16 and only four players left, Deadly, BBBB, Jethro and the Wiley Charles Gurr. Jethro drove into the plantation and required a blinder to get out, which he delivered. Deadly was unlucky to finish behind the tree on the right near the top of the fairway. After hitting the tree and then chopping his next one, he was gone after carding a 6. Charles and BBBB calmly tapped their way along the fairway and used their shots wisely to stay in the fight alongside Jethro.

Jethro’s luck ran out on 17 after he 3 putted and the other 2 again used their shots decidedly.

In one of the most non-dramatic final hole play offs ever seen, Bryce and Charles both teed off straight down the middle although Charles held a distinct distance advantage over his opponent.

Bryce, calmly hit his 2nd to within 45 metres of the green and Charles hit his to within 5 metres, both men obviously relying on their chipping game.

And so it was, Bryce leaving himself an 8-metre putt with Charles slightly closer at 6 metres. Both players narrowly missing, finishing with nett 4’s. So to a deciding chip off.

The irony was not lost on anyone that Big Bad Bryce Bevin could make 2 chip offs in 2 days on 18 and come out victorious. Charles Gurr was a worthy runner-up

The 2025 deserved shootout Champion: Bryce Bevin