

Boyd Austin (Thaxted Park) recorded his first SA Senior Order of Merit win on Monday 29 April.

The Vines of Reynella, in the foothills, south of Adelaide, was the venue for the sixth round of the South Australian series. Given that all SA courses have been effected by drought conditions, The Vines was in very good condition with the greens being absolutely superb but “tricky” with slopes both going with and contra to the surrounding topography – a lot of head scratching from those visiting.

The weather was 24 degrees, sunny with virtually no wind – a perfect autumn day for good scoring for some !

This is the second season for this event and the host club did well with a field of some 71 “hopefuls”. Austin’s 75 gave him a comfortable three-shot margin over Mike Jefferies with Ken Parker (Kooyonga) another shot back but further consolidating his lead in the John Beaumont trophy. John Zantvoort (Aston Hills) also returned a 79.

Super Seniors saw the smooth swinging Eric Lane (The Grange) add another victory from local Lawrie McLaughlin (backing up his performance from last year) and the consistent Mike Richards upholding Tea Tree Gully’s “honour” and his lead in the Tony Mazzone trophy.

Nett results went, as is common, to locals – Senior Nett winner went to Gary Roberts (72) – Boyd Austin had 68 but already had the Gross prize – Jefferies, Zantvoort and Mike Gibbie (The Vines) all had 73’s.

In Super Seniors, David Squire (70) ; Roy Trottmann (71) – Lane and McLaughlin also had good Nett scores (72); maintaining the local dominance - Paul Sutcliffe and George Cleland (74).

Former Manager and long-time Club stalwart, Sutcliffe, came under notice for losing both control and the whereabouts of his electric buggy which managed to “escape” across a number of fairways pursued by witnesses but not the owner whilst Paul putted out in happy ignorance

In a “first” for a normal club round of the SA Senior Order of Merit, The Vines also ran an event for ladies with for four participants – three from the host club and one visitor from the neighbouring Flagstaff Hill.

Jan Windows (97) shot the best round and Lena Battensby (75) took out the Nett. Hopefully a precedent to be followed by others.

