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Canterbury Women Impress at NZ Interprovincials

The Flexi Lease Canterbury Women's Team have had a superb week competing at the highest level at the NZ Toro Interprovincials played at Sherwood Park Golf Club. The Canterbury Team quietly went about their business throughout the week accumulating five team points and winning 23 games from a possible 30 during round robin play to finish top of their division.

The team were positive about their chances against North Harbour in the semi final. Olive Tapu and Juliana Hung had solid wins with Catherine Bell halving her match with Vaha Fapiano to go into a sudden death playoff. Off the tee Bell finished in the fairway bunker but managed to advance her ball to the side of the green. With both players off the green Bell chipped first to a foot range leaving Fapiano with work to do to secure her par. The par putt just missed giving Canterbury the win to head into the final to play against defending champions Auckland.

The Canterbury Women had a quick turnaround before teeing it up in the match against Auckland. Early in the matches it was very tight with neither team going clear. Auckland's Siyi Keh delivered the first blow with a dominant performance finishing three under the card against Maddie May. With the late withdrawal of Hillary O'Connor, May was elevated to the playing five proving she has a bright future with three wins on debut. Jessica Crosbie, also on debut, had a solid tournament and will relish from the experience. Auckland's Caryn Khoo beat Jessica Crosbie 5/4 in the final.

Catherine Bell captained the winning team in 2015 and knew what was needed for this young developing team. She led by example with five wins and a half for the tournament. The final against Brittney Dryland was a closely fought battle with Bell fighting back from 2 down early in the match to be all square through 13 holes before Dryland went par, birdie to take a 2 up lead and finish 3/2.

Olive Tapu showed her strength on debut playing at number 2 in the team with six wins. Tapu fought hard in her match against Auckland's Caryn Khoo to come back from three down through 15 holes to stay in the match before Khoo won 2/1.

Hung relished the opportunity to step into the number one position with Amelia Garvey unavailable for selection, recording seven wins from the eight matches including wins in the semi final against NZ Amateur Champion Silvia Brunotti and NZ Amateur Runner up Rose Zheng in the final 4/3.

Every member of the team played an important role during the week achieving valuable games that contributed to the overall success of the team's performance. It was also great to be able to provide the playing reserve Amy Weng with an opportunity to play during the round robin where she won her match against Otago's Sumin Kang.

Congratulations to the Canterbury Women's Team finishing runners up at the NZ Toro Interprovincials, an amazing achievement. Special thanks go to the Managers of the team Kate Turner and Elisha Crosbie who have provided valuable support and experience to the team having both played at this level in recent years.



President's Secretaries Day

The annual President's and Secretaries Day fixture brought together club representatives, Canterbury Golf Life Members and volunteer management for the annual event held at Russley Golf Club. Canterbury Golf President Steve Kilpatrick won the Presidents Trophy with 39 stableford points on countback from Ellesmere's President Bill Whelan. Tai Tapu Golf Club Secretary John Rogers won the Secretaries Salver with 41 points from Russley's Scott Dew.

The Teams competition was won by John Rogers and Brian Moriarty (Tai Tapu), Stu Loe and Peter Parish (Scargill) on 123 points from Sally Mene and Mene Mene (Rawhiti), Jan Ruston and Warren Houghton (Weedons) on 119 points. Third on 118 was Anne McKenna and Neville Bamford (Harewood), Neil Robertson and Margaret Robertson (NZ Eagles) on countback.



Canterbury Age Group Championships

A field of 60 juniors competed in the Canterbury Age Group Championships and Teams Event played over 36 holes at the Clearwater Golf Club. It was impressive to see seven players under the age of 12 not only sustaining the full 36 holes but also with excellent scoring. Eight year old Ethan Lam (Everglades) played exceptional golf to win the Golf Foundation Cup for the best net score for girls and boys under 13 with net rounds of 67 and



64. What is equally as remarkable is that this was won on a countback from 12 year old Weedons member Joseph Hall, great scoring from two talented up and coming juniors.

Hiroki Miya set the pace in the mornings round with a four under 68 from the blue tees with Dominic Brett Kelly only one shot back. Miya played steady golf in the afternoon to record a second sub par round of 71 to win the title from Brett Kelly by six shots. In the Under 16 section it was younger brother Hayato Miya who stole the show, after starting with a round of 81, Miya found his form in the afternoon to equal his older brother's score of 71 to win the title from Tiaki Ogilvie (155) and Mitchell Berry (156).

Not to be out done by his older brothers Yuki Miya had a good day with rounds of 80 and 82 from the white tees to win by the Under 13 section from Hayden Lam by six shots. Kaiapoi's Amelia Garvey won the Under 19 section in a closely fought contest with Juliana Hung who finished just one shot back. The Salver for the best Girls net was won by Jasmine Clancy with net scores of 66 and 68.

The Canterbury Teams Championship saw 12 teams representing eight clubs with the best three scores counting from the four person team. The Russley team of Hiroki Miya, Ben Baker, Dominic Brett Kelly and Hayato Miya won Gross Team title. The Everglades team of Hugo Reid, Kyle Manson, Hayden Lam and Ethan Lam won the Net Teams title by six shots from the Weedons Team of Nathan Hall, Joseph Hall, Deanna Matthews and Jack Ryder.



Large Field for Womens Christmas Tournament

A field of 82 players participated in the Canterbury Women's Christmas Tournament held at the Waitikiri Golf Club. It was pleasing to have such a good entry including players from Ashburton and North Canterbury. With the temperature at 30 degrees, Waitikiri's green fairways and trees offered some relief and players coped well in the conditions. Rachel Eder (left) from Clearwater revelled in the conditions to return a sizzling one over par 75 to win Grade 1 and receive the Heather Harvey Salver. Grade 2 Gross and the CDLGA Salver was won by Sharon Brazier (right) of Waitikiri with a 94. The prize winners were treated to a prize table of hams and other Christmas goodies.



Canterbury Men Narrowly Miss Semi Final Berth

The Fenix Canterbury Men's Team have narrowly missed out on a semi final position at the NZ Men's Toro Interregionals by half a point.

The opening round for Canterbury saw the team drawn to play North Harbour which was always going to be a challenge, the Canterbury team fought hard but finished with a 4-1 loss. North Harbour went on to finish top of the table in division two and went through unbeaten to win the New Zealand Interprovincial title.

The Canterbury Team had solid wins against Taranaki, Poverty Bay and Southland but suffered a second loss to Hawkes Bay. With still the opportunity to make the semi final the team unfortunately finished with a draw against 2016 runners up Otago which left the Canterbury Team half a point out of the semi final allowing Hawkes Bay a lifeline after having a bye in the final round to still make it through.

Briefs

Press Media Coverage in Decline

Over the last couple of years it has become increasingly difficult to gain local coverage of golf in The Press newspaper. This is despite Canterbury Golf staff going out of their way to communicate with sports reporting staff, and providing full information and images for events and tournaments.

We have been told that Fairfax Media (owners of The Press) have restructured their staff several times and changed their policy about coverage of local sport. This has been confirmed recently by a local reporter. To quote:

"Just for your information there has been pretty massive changes in Fairfax/Stuff sport, which will impact heavily on local golf and sport. Eleven regional sport reporters have been disestablished, starting next week, and the company want to focus on 'major national sports stories' moving forward.....that's the vision and priority for the company.....Losing that many reporters, we won't be able to cover everything we've previously done."

This information has been distributed to inform the golfing community of the current situation. We have been receiving feedback in the office from time-to-time expressing disappointment in coverage of certain tournaments and players, with the inference that Canterbury Golf "aren't doing enough".

You can be assured that Canterbury Golf will continue to be proactive in trying to promote golf through The Press (and other media) despite this setback. We encourage all keen followers of local golf to continue checking our website and Facebook pages for the latest news.

Weedons Return to Woodward Cup

Weedons will return to Woodward Cup in 2018 after winning the Woodward Cup Promotion / Relegation match against Clearwater. It was an excellent team result for Weedons who were 13 points ahead of Clearwater after 9 holes with all players contributing well to give them a final total gross stableford score of 221 and a very commanding 23 point advantage over Clearwater by the end of the match.

Canterbury Players Selected for Australian Event

New Zealand Golf have named a squads to compete at the Australian Master of the Amateurs (AMOTA) to be played in early January.

A squad of six New Zealanders will tee it up from January 9 to play the 2018 AMOTA. The players travelling to the East course at the famed Royal Melbourne Golf Club are Daniel Hillier, Luke Brown, Mark Hutson, Kerry Mountcastle, Matt Mclean and Tom Parker.

For the first time in history, the AMOTA will introduce a women's event with Juliana Hung receiving an invite into the field. Hung will be looking to take her Toro Interprovincial form into the new year after ending the week with seven wins and just one loss for Canterbury.

Clearwater Repeat Success at World Golf Awards

For the third year in a row, Clearwater Golf Club was confirmed as NZ's Best Golf Course at the 2017 World Golf Awards ceremony held in Spain. The World Golf Awards serve to celebrate and reward excellence in golf tourism, world-class courses and golf destinations. Golf tourism constitutes a vital segment in the global travel and tourism marketplace.