

Flexi Lease Canterbury Women's Team Finish 6th at NZ Interprovincial

The Flexi Lease Canterbury Women's Team were amongst the top teams in New Zealand again this year. The team headed into the 2019 NZ Women's Interprovincial with four players from last year's line-up along with two players also on debut. Former Canterbury No.1 Juliana Hung recently joined the professional ranks while Catherine Bell was a late withdrawal from the team. This opened the door for Melissa Newburn to move into the playing line-up with 14 year old Jasmine Clancy gaining the valuable experience of travelling with the team in the reserve position.

Maddie May at 15 years of age stepped up to the number one position showing she was ready for the challenge to compete against the country's best players. Amy Weng was elevated to number two after playing at number five in 2018 and had an impressive week finishing unbeaten through six rounds. Hillary O'Connor took on the added responsibility to captain the team, providing the strength and experience in the number three position also finishing with an unbeaten record. Olive Tapu played at number four providing great depth and experience to the lower order, with Melissa Newburn leading the team away each round in the number five position.

Canterbury's campaign started against a tough Bay of Plenty side with the matches going down to the wire, but it went the way of Bay of Plenty 3.5-1.5 games. The Canterbury team rebounded to then post a dominant 4.5 - 0.5 win over Tasman. Canterbury displayed dominant performances against Waikato and Northland to secure a 4-1 win and a 5-0 respectively.



The team are pictured from left Amy Weng, Hillary O'Connor, Melissa Newburn, Olive Tapu, Maddie May and Jasmine Clancy.

Canterbury knew they would have a tough battle against North Harbour in the final round robin match. "We know that they're a very good and very young team", said Canterbury Captain Hillary O'Connor. The team pushed all the way to try and secure the hotly contested semi-final berth, but North Harbour won the match narrowly 3-2.

It was a strong performance by the team overall who finished sixth. Auckland continued their dominance by etching their name for a fourth consecutive time on the trophy matching the men's teams win at the NZ Men's Interprovincial.

Canterbury Match Up Against China Junior Team

Canterbury's top junior players had the opportunity to test themselves against the China Junior Team that made the trip to Christchurch to compete at the second New Zealand-China Junior Golf Competition played at the Pegasus Golf & Sports Club.

Following the first event, which was held in China in March 2019, Pegasus Golf Club was scheduled to host the return fixture which allowed a team of six girls and six boys to compete in this top international event. One of the objectives for the event was to help establish communication channels between the two countries for golf as well as initiating future training and coaching programmes at Pegasus Golf & Sports Club.

The event was played over two rounds with players teaming up for the 4BBB in round one, followed by the singles matches in round two. China won overall, with many of matches being decided in the closing holes. "We are grateful that the Canterbury girls and boys team had the opportunity to compete in this event at Pegasus" said Canterbury Golf Development Manager Rachel Thow. "It's important our players are able to develop their skills and experience by playing these types of events".



The Canterbury team are pictured from left Amy Weng, Yoyo Fu, Deanna Matthews, Jasmine Clancy, Maddie May, Estelle Lin, Cooper Moore, Yuki Miya, Hayato Miya, Seb May, Lachie Mackay, Zach May and Jayden Moore (Manager).

The event was made possible through the event sponsors Crimson, Sports & Education Corporation the China Hangzhou Sports Bureau.

Initiatives Delivered to Grow Participation for Golf

"How can I get started in golf", this is a question we are often asked at Canterbury Golf. For many people that are new to the game it can be challenging to find the right opportunities. Canterbury Golf are always looking to provide ways to introduce new participants to golf, some of the recent opportunities we have provided include community events, womens events and learn and play programmes for young people.

At the recent Celebrate Bishopdale community event over 500 people tried golf using our SNAG Inflatable driving range, it's lots of fun for all ages to hit the velcro targets and offers a great introduction to golf.

A new initiative has been the pilot of a She Loves Golf Sixes series which was delivered over four weeks at Tai Tapu Golf Club. This event attracted 28 women that were newer to golf, to get involved with the opportunity to play up to six holes from the purple tees and meet new friends.

Learn & Play programmes have been delivered to provide a pathway for young people to get started with golf, learning the fundamental skills through fun games combined with on-course play.

Continued and regular experiences are the key to growing participation.



Canterbury Golf Sponsors



"Why Fund Golf?"

Carl Fenton, Sector Relationship Manager for New Zealand Golf is about to release a very important document for clubs and districts going to sponsors and funders for financial support. It is called "Why Fund Golf?" and provides comprehensive research and statistics about the value of golf and why it should be supported.

The opening introduction "The Picture of Golf" says it all:

"Golf is the largest adult-based participation sport in New Zealand with over 500,000 people engaged in the game at grass roots level. With 385 golf clubs and close to 115 other golf facilities the impact and visibility of golf is substantial. The game is in a strong period of growth, traditional membership is stable and casual play is rapidly increasing. The future for golf and golf's partners is an exciting one. The growth of golf means an increase in the scale of positive impact through golf. That impact can be seen through greater social cohesion, positive health and well being outcomes, strong economic impact and growing environmental and sustainability outcomes. By partnering with golf, you support this positive change. Golf is truly a game for all and provides a platform to enrich the lives of those engaged as well as local communities. As a



supporter of golf you are helping to drive these outcomes and are highly visible as part of the social fabric that is grassroots sport in New Zealand."

The document provides a seven page snapshot of the value of golf as a sport, recreation, and pastime. We look forward to the public release of the document in the New Year.

Canterbury Age Group Championships

Zach May (Russley) led the 36 hole Canterbury Age Group Championships after signing for 67 in the morning, he continued his hot form in the afternoon finishing with a three under par 70 to etch his name on the Canterbury U19 Championship trophy. Jake Hosking (Kaiapoi) finished runner up with Edward Dickinson (Rangiora) taking out the 36 hole net.

In the girls field, it was Amy Weng (Russley) who had the lead after the morning round, shooting a two under par 71 to hold a four shot lead over the defending title holder Maddie May (Russley). May remained patient in the afternoon, with three birdies on the front 9 she found herself just one shot back from Weng. May had a steady back 9 to finish one under par for the round to win back-to-back titles. Weedon's member Deanna Matthews won the 36 hole net on 150.

Hayden Lam (Everglades) won the Canterbury U16 Boys title with two consistent rounds of 79, with Seb May (Russley) finishing runner up. Joseph Hall (Weedons) won the net on 146. Etienne Collier (Avondale) performed at his best to win the Canterbury U13 Boys title from Phong Nguyen (Russley). Lochie Horne (Russley) playing in his first 36 hole event won the net.

The Russley team of Maddie May, Zach May, Seb May and Anika Park won the teams gross competition while the Russley U13 team of James Walker, Yash Naicker and Lochie Horne won the net teams competition.

Scoring was very good in the 18 hole section with Jesse Mercer (Christchurch) winning the girls stableford on 38 points and Louis Edwards (Avondale) winning the boys with 34 points on a countback.



Avondale Win Promotion to Woodward Cup

The Woodward Cup Promotion/Relegation match was played between Coringa who were fighting to retain their status in Woodward Cup and Avondale who earned the right to challenge for a place in next year's competition, after winning this year's Blank Cup. Both the winners of the Canterbury North Kaikoura Cup and Canterbury Central Shield declined the offer to compete.

It was Avondale that came out firing and continued their great form this season proving too consistent for Coringa with a combined team gross stableford total of 242 while Coringa scored 225 points. Avondale had strength throughout their team with six of their eight players scoring 30 or more points. Avondale can now look forward to the 2020 Woodward Cup with confidence, and the opportunity to match themselves against the other top golfers in Canterbury.

Canterbury Stroke Play

Entries are open for the Canterbury Stroke Play which will be hosted by Harewood Golf Club 8-9 February 2020. The 54 hole event will have five Championship titles, Open Women, Open Men, Women's Masters, Men's Masters and U19 Men.

The event is set to attract a strong field again, as the event continues as part of the House of Travel Tour which combines the Southland Stroke Play (18-19 Jan) and the Otago Stroke Play (25-26 Jan). Over \$3000 is awarded in travel vouchers for the best 9 round score for the men's and women's events.

The Canterbury Stroke Play will also form the qualifying seedings for the Men's Open, Men's Masters and Women's Open sections at the Canterbury Match Play.



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