

Canterbury Golf Celebrates Successes at Annual Awards Dinner

The 2019 Canterbury Golf Annual Awards Dinner was hosted for the first time at Christchurch Golf Club with 140 club members, sponsors, invited guests, and Canterbury Golf personnel and stakeholders.



MC Phil McGoldrick did a fantastic job throughout the evening which included golfing anecdotes and humour. It was announced early that guest speaker Israel Dagg was not able to make the awards due to commitments with the Super 15 quarter-final between the Crusaders and Highlanders. However as it turned out, the "melting pot" segment that replaced his address was very well received.

The first awards were for the Eagles Promising Junior Girl and Boy of the Year. Canterbury Eagles President Neil Robertson presented the awards to Deanna Matthews from Weedons and Lachie Mackay from Waimairi Beach.

Rachel Thow then conducted an interview with the Canterbury Women's Masters Team that won the NZ Championship at Nelson Golf Club for the first time in 18 years. Manager Debbie Scott provided interesting insights into the team game plan and how they encouraged each other to produce their best performances during the week of the tournament.

After entree Canterbury Golf Services Awards were presented to Canterbury Women's Rep Catherine Bell (Christchurch), Canterbury Masters Rep Andrew Dufton (Russley), Kate Turner (Waimairi Beach) for her service as a Canterbury Senior and Masters Rep and involved in rep management, and Mel Brew & Robyn Gillespie for their years of service as women's rep selectors. The current President and Immediate Past President then received Distinguished Service Awards. Steve Kilpatrick and Peter MacDonald were recognised for their service in many volunteer management roles over the last 15 years.

New Zealand and Canterbury Rep Juliana Hung was recognised for winning the 2019 Canterbury Outstanding Young Sportswoman of the Year. Jon Derry from Sport Canterbury spoke about the intensive process to select the winner of this award from many high achieving candidates and what an accolade it was for Canterbury Golf to win the award two years in a row after Amelia Garvey also won it in 2018. Canterbury Masters Rep Aaron Forsyth (Waitikiri) won the Fenix Golf Ambassador of the Year Award. Aaron was recognised for his conduct on and off the golf course, and also for giving up a week of his time to caddy and support the Men's Toro Interprovincial Team at Clearwater.

When the Golfer of the Year Awards were started it soon became apparent that they would be dominated by two people. Kazuma Kobori (Rangiora) won the Vardon Trophy (best stroke average), Junior Golfer of the Year, and Golfer of the Year awards. Similarly Juliana Hung (Russley) won the Liz Douglas Trophy, Junior Golfer of the Year,

and Women's Golfer of the Year awards. Juliana was not on hand to receive her awards as she was playing golf in Taiwan. However her coach Peter Davis ably stepped in and told the audience what Juliana was up too. Kazuma was on hand and the audience enjoyed reliving his historic NZPGA win and talking to him about his amazing year.

The replacement "melting pot" segment proved to be a highlight of the evening. It started with a short message from Israel Dagg apologising for his absence and wishing the audience well. Then Lamb & Hayward CEO Stephen Parkyn captivated the audience speaking about his own golfing journey, and Lamb & Hayward's support for Canterbury Golf and other community organisations. There was a sombre moment when Steve talked about the company dealing with the 51 shooting victims, but funny anecdotes throughout using his trademark dry sense of humour ensured the audience were well entertained. New Zealand Golf Chair Michael Smith spoke about the national golfing scene and what New Zealand Golf were doing to develop the game. The insights into the use of the Dot Golf handicapping system internationally was particularly interesting. The segment finished with Amelia Garvey's achievement in recently reaching the final of the British Amateur. This included tournament footage, words from Amelia herself while still in the UK, and an interview with her first coach Tom Whitaker from the Kaiapoi Golf Club.

Canterbury hosted both the Men's and Women's Toro Interprovincials in 2018. Interviews were conducted with Team Captains Catherine Bell and Andrew Green about the tournaments and the teams stellar achievements placing second and third respectively.

The evening finished with the Administrator and Volunteer of the Year Awards. Avondale's General Manager Richard Sinclair received the Administrator Award for efforts over the past 12 months on the back of their clubhouse rebuild that has seen membership numbers, casual player patronage, and clubhouse revenue increase. Richard spoke about the need for club's to embrace their culture and identity, and ensure that the use of their facilities are being maximised. A stunned Ian Knowler won the Volunteer of the Year Award following his tireless volunteer efforts assisting the green keeper at Weedons Golf Club. Regularly putting in 40 hours a week, a humble and clearly moved Ian accepted the award on behalf of all volunteers at his club.

Canterbury Golf President Steve Kilpatrick closed the evening with a short address about Canterbury Golf activities.

A huge thanks must go to Christchurch Golf Club. High praise has been received about the food, service and venue. Thanks also to evening sponsors Golf Warehouse, Riccarton Park Golf Complex, The Elmwood Trading Company and Fenix.



Sir Bob Charles is pictured with Canterbury Men's Golfer of the Year Kazuma Kobori

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Top Scoring at Canterbury 4BBB Championship

The Russley Golf Club provided a great venue for the Riccarton Park Golf Complex Canterbury 4BBB Championship. With no wind there was some good scoring but the challenging Russley layout still played tough for many players.

The men's championship was won by the Templeton pairing of Sam Purdon and Ryan Bellamy who combined for a seven under par 65. They beat the pairings of Nic Kay and Nick Franzmann, and Josh Roche and Reid Hilton by one shot. Roche and Hilton were hot early and were six under through eight holes, but could not add to their score in the remaining 12 holes, with Hilton missing an eight foot

birdie putt on 18 to tie the championship. Fourth place, five further shots back were Kerry Branson and Forde Hanson, and defending champions Brett Turner and Steve Bell.

The women's championship was won by Maddie May and Jasmine Clancy with a gross score of 67. They beat Amy Weng and Anika Park by one shot.

The net results saw Michael McAuley and Owen Burgess win the men's Div 1 net, Estelle Lin and Alisia Ren the women's net, and Steve Weng and Leon Yee win the men's Div 2 net.



Canterbury Club Managers Discuss Green Fee Price Structure

Following on from the success of the Canterbury Golf Club Forum on 5 May, a Club Manager's Meeting was held at Avondale Golf Club on 20 June.

Under a new approach, Canterbury Golf invited a small group of Club Managers to discuss one issue – how club's set their green fee prices. The goal of the meeting was to have some robust and meaningful discussion, improve the knowledge base of those attending and enable some critical thinking about the decision making process for setting of green fee prices. By the end of the meeting Managers were left with plenty to ponder based on the shared experiences and methodology discussed.

There was general agreement that many club green fees prices were set based on competitive pressure from other clubs and the "fear factor" of demand being dictated by price. There was little apparent use of qualitative measures and simple analysis methods by clubs that would help them assess what their green fee price should be, and make an informed decision from there. It was thought that overall green fee prices did need to increase in the region to improve the value proposition of being a member, but the biggest barrier was the historical expectation of low green fee prices in Canterbury.

Canterbury will continue to work with a smaller group with the next meeting in July set to review discussion from the June meeting, and also focus on the issue of General Manager v President/Chair v Board relationships, and the governance versus operational dilemma.

In time Canterbury Golf will take the learnings from this group out to a wider audience, and look to create Club Management groups in the rural regions of the district.

News in Brief

Christchurch Win Men's Gross Champion of Champions Title

The Canterbury Golf Men's Champion of Champions event attracted 67 current club champions to play at Waitikiri Golf Club. The course was in great order for the day, in particular the greens receiving players approval.

Team Gross Stableford
1st - Christchurch 82 pts (pictured below)
2nd - Waitikiri 74 pts

Team Net Stableford
1st - Russley 103 pts
2nd - Hagley 100 pts



Three in a Row for Weedons with Patterson Cup Win

The Canterbury Central Patterson Cup Final was an all Weedons affair with Weedons Red playing Weedons Black.

The Weedons Red team of, from left Dave Stubbs, Richard Poulsen, Glenn Hames, Mike Methven, Chris Hay and Dave Butts won the Patterson Cup 4-2, making it the third successive year and Weedons Black won the Smart Cup for runner-up.

The match was extremely close and a bit tense with five of the six matches being decided on the 18th green. In what is believed to be a first in Canterbury Central Golf, two teams from the same club contested the Patterson Cup Final.



Christchurch Win Junior Interclub Final

The Junior Interclub Matchplay Final proved to be a great match played in great spirit between the Christchurch and Russley Blue teams at Templeton Golf Club.

All matches were very tight with the last two being decided on the 17th & 18th holes and the final could have gone either way. In the end the Christchurch team of, from left Maadi Kirikiri, Anika Park, Mika MacDonald and Korban Turnbull defeated Russley Blue's Phong Nguyen, Cooper Moore, Ethan Lam and Yash Naicker 3-1.



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