

Kazuma Kobori Wins NZPGA Championship

17-year-old amateur Kazuma Kobori has won the SEC NZ PGA Championship to claim his first victory on the PGA Tour of Australia.

In a dominant performance at his home course, the Pegasus Golf and Sports Club member maintained his overnight lead to win by four shots from New Zealand's David Smail with rounds of 67, 65, 66 and 69 for a tournament total of 21-under.

"It feels incredible," said an ecstatic Kobori. "It hasn't actually sunk in yet but I think it will later on. I didn't miss too many greens today."

"I missed a few but on the front-9 I played really solid. I missed a green on 3 but I played really solid golf until 8, then went 2-under through the turn and kept it going."

Consistency was key for Kobori who, after pre-qualifying for the event on Monday, recorded only two bogeys throughout the tournament.

However it wasn't until midway through the back-9 on Sunday that the amateur realised he was about to win against a field of seasoned professionals.

"I saw the leaderboard on 14, I didn't know it was there I just accidentally looked at it, saw that I had a four shot lead at that point and I thought that was pretty sweet." "I just kept

playing my own game and then it was all good."

Joining the strong crowd following the leading group was Kobori's father, a close friend and PGA Pro Peter Giles who he first worked with when starting golf at 10 years old.

"It feels amazing especially with all of the people out there with all of the support I got it feels incredible," added Kobori.

In addition to winning the NZ PGA Championship trophy, Kobori was also honoured as the leading New Zealander with the Sir Bob Charles Trophy.

Finishing runner-up at the SEC NZ PGA Championship was New Zealand's David Smail, completing the tournament with rounds of 68, 66, 70 and 67 to finish on 17-under.

"I started off not feeling that confident, towards the end yesterday I started hitting some pretty bad shots so I was just trying to keep it in play," said Smail who as the highest placed professional takes home the first place prize money of NZD \$17,555.



Applauding Kobori for the win, Smail says he has what it takes to go far having seen him in action against his own son.

"I have seen him play. My son is playing a lot with Kazuma, so I've seen plenty of his play over the last few years to know that he's a real talent. He's done fantastic this week so it's good for the future," added Smail.

Kobori Continues Top Form at NZ Stroke Play

Kazuma Kobori almost backed up his incredible win at the NZPGA Championship pushing all the way to the 72nd hole of the NZ Stroke Play only to be beaten by Northland's Luke Brown who created a memory of a lifetime finishing with an eagle two on the 72nd hole to win the New Zealand Stroke Play Championship at the Christchurch Golf Club.

Kobori started two shots clear heading into the final day of play, but Brown showed he was up for the challenge and built himself a three shot lead with three to play. However, bogies on 16 and 17 coupled with a clutch birdie from Kobori added immense pressure as they entered the drivable par four 18th tied for the lead.

Kobori was text book down the last setting himself up with an uphill birdie chance which he impressively made forcing Brown to convert his 20 foot eagle putt to take the title

Brown collected himself to then produce

the perfect drive and leave himself 20 feet for eagle to take home the title in front of a packed clubhouse. The scenes that were produced today wouldn't have been possible without the class of Kobori who after winning the NZPGA Championship two weeks ago is in the form of his life.

Although he finished just short, this was still a great week for the 17-year-old who continues to build an impressive resume.

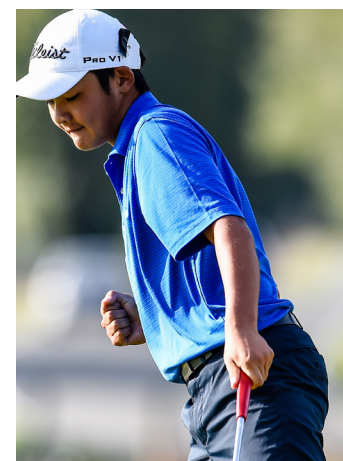
Matt McLean took out third place along with Hiroki Miya (4th), Nic Kay (7th-) and Reid Hilton (10th-) rounding out the top 10.

Auckland's Carmen Lim claimed a breakthrough victory at the 2019 New Zealand Stroke Play Championship in style by a monstrous seven-shots at the Christchurch Golf Club.

Lim has completed a near-perfect week with rounds of 72, 70, 69 and 69 (par 74) to enter the winners circle after many years of

threatening at the top level.

Both Catherine Bell and defending champion Juliana Hung finished in the top 10 for the women's field.



Canterbury Golf Sponsors



Steady Climb Back for Coringa Golf Club

Canterbury Golf General Manager Grant Lewis was recently invited to meet with the Board of Coringa Golf Club to discuss local issues in golf and how the club was going. With a reinvigoration of the Board led by Chair Richard Kingsbury, the club is optimistic about their future realising however there is still a long way to go. With the golf course now back in top condition and a gradual improvement in the club's financial situation, the Board are looking to bring the membership back up, get more green fee players on course, and improve the vibe and culture in the club. They realise the need to

maximise the use of their facility to generate more income, and to be careful about cutting costs to the extent it may compromise the quality of their offering to members and the public. The club has a proud history with its heyday probably back in the 70's and 80's when it was rated one of the top courses in New Zealand based on its length and course quality. This sense of history and passion can still be found in the membership and a Board that has the skills and experience to continue improving the club.

Canterbury Club Golf Forum

Over 40 people have registered already for the upcoming PowerTurf Canterbury Golf Club Forum being held at Clearwater on Sunday 5 May. The district club forum, a first in New Zealand, has taken on national interest and will be attended by several NZ Golf Staff, the entire Golf Managers Association of NZ Board, and representatives from Aorangi and Tasman Golf. As well as guest speaker Todd Heller, session panelists

include NZ Golf Board Member Mike Howard, AUT Sports Management Professor Leslie Ferkins, NZ Golf Sector Relationship Manager Carl Fenton, and several local GM's and GMANZ Board Members. A programme will be sent shortly to those registered as well as a quick two question survey that will assist with tailoring the programme content to local issues and questions.

Finalists for Canterbury Sports Awards Announced

The ORIX NZ 2019 Canterbury Sports Awards iconic celebration of sporting achievements, honours our region's outstanding athletes, coaches, officials and administrators. This year Canterbury Golf nominated Juliana Hung for Junior Sportswomen of the Year and the Flexi Lease Canterbury Women's Team for Canterbury Team of the Year for achievements from 2018.

Juliana Hung had a great 2018 with highlights including representing New Zealand at the Queen Sirikit Cup and winning the NZ Stroke Play title which has recognised Juliana as one of five finalist in the Canterbury Young Sportswoman of the Year category. Juliana 2018 achievements include representing New Zealand at the Women's Queen Sirikit Cup, Asia Pacific Amateur, The Junior Open in Scotland, the Junior World Cup in Japan and at the Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires. Juliana also represented Canterbury at the NZ Toro Interregionals and in the Canterbury U19

Team at the Girls Interprovincial. During 2018 she also won the New Zealand Stroke Play, South Island U19 Championship, Canterbury Stroke Play and Aorangi Stroke Play and was one of three recipients to be awarded the Lydia Ko Scholarship.

Whilst the Flexi Lease Canterbury Women's Team was not selected as a finalist for the Canterbury Team of the Year they are recognised as a nominee for this award after finishing runners up at the NZ Interregionals.



News in Brief

Futures Canterbury Selwyn Hub Continues to Grow

The Futures Canterbury Selwyn Hub membership has continued to grow with new members joining weekly. The hub currently has 68 junior and parent members who have been regularly enjoying the programme on offer.

The programme over the past month has included 9 hole individual and team events played from the new purple tee markers, which are a key feature of the hub. The purple course is not only rated for handicap but also provides an opportunity for those newer to the game to enjoy playing from shorter tees.

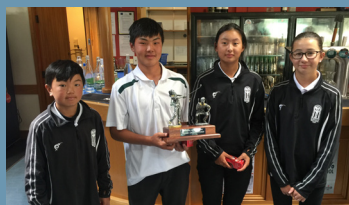
The Selwyn Hub has run several taster coaching opportunities to encourage new people to come and give golf a go. The introduction of five after school programmes at different venues has attracted over 31 young golfers to develop their skills over a six week programme.

Burnside High Win Canterbury Secondary Schools Championship

Burnside High etched their names back onto the trophy in 2019 at the Canterbury Secondary School Championships. The team is pictured below from left Yuki Miya, Hayato Miya, Amy Weng and Jasmine Clancy won the gross title with the three lowest scores counting to the team total of 225.

Christchurch Boys High School's team of Ben Burgess, Kan Shin, Ed Dickinson and Tiaki Ogilvie were nine shots back on 234. St Andrew's College team of Hayden Lam, Mika MacDonald, Seb May and Reuben Smith were third on 245.

Individual honours for Best Individual Gross was won by Maddie May (Rangi Ruru Girls School) and the best individual net was won by Tiaki Ogilvie.



Men's Metro A & B Semi Finalist Decided

After completion of the Metro A & B round robin competition, the semi-finalist have been found.

The semi-finals will be played at Avondale Golf Club on 7 April at 12pm.

Metro A Semi Finalists
Waimairi Beach
Templeton
Harewood
Russley

Metro B Semi Finalists
Russley
Harewood
McLeans Island
Templeton

Canterbury Golf Supporters

