

Canterbury Club Golf Forum a Success

The PowerTurf Canterbury Club Golf Forum "Managing Your Club's Future" was held at Clearwater Golf Club on Sunday 5 May with 80 participants from local clubs and guests from throughout New Zealand attending. This included staff and volunteer leaders from 23 Canterbury Golf Clubs, the Canterbury Golf Executive Committee, New Zealand Golf staff CEO Dean Murphy, Sector Relationship Manager Carl Fenton and Waikato/Bay of Plenty Regional Support Manager Mark Webb; Tasman and Aorangi Golf reps, the entire Golf Managers Association of NZ Board including Executive Officer Des Topp and President Chris Davies from Remuera Golf Club; guest speaker Todd Heller – founder of Heller Tasty Ltd, and our own Sir Bob Charles.

Specialist Sport MC Stephen Gee from Auckland kept proceedings fun and interactive as well as informative. The meaty issues of maximising club profitability, effective governance relationships, using technology to drive your club, and club sustainability were digested and discussed. Each session was led by a four-person panel of experts who stimulated thinking by giving their insights into the topic at hand.

After lunch keynote speaker Todd Heller gave an engaging address about his life from a humble butcher shop in New Brighton to growing a multi-million dollar global business. He also provided anecdotes about his golfing experiences including going to this year's Masters at Augusta and being immersed in the Tigermania, and playing with Seve Ballesteros in the St Clair Classic many years ago.

Sir Bob Charles fully participated in group discussions throughout the day and gave valuable insights about his input into the new rules for golf, and his crusade to make golf courses shorter so that more people will play the game.

The last session of the day was on club sustainability. Most thought that the discussion would be on club mergers and amalgamations. However this was tempered somewhat when panel expert Carl Fenton spoke about New Zealand Golf's work in researching and analysing what golf facilities would best serve each region. This approach will lead to adapting current facilities to cater for market needs rather than necessarily closing or merging them. Instead the main discussion was about green fee levels; the consensus being that overall green fees were too low in the region, making it less attractive for casual golfers to joins clubs based on the price of green

fees versus membership. NZ Golf CEO Dean Murphy offered a useful guide for clubs in that their green fee should be a twelfth of their annual subscription. This is based on the premise that a green player who plays more than once a month would be better off joining a club. A quick calculation by club reps revealed that many green fees are too low if we are to encourage people to join clubs based on price.

The parting question was "where to from here?". MC Stephen Gee got each participant to write on a piece of paper three actions points and then seal that in an envelope, with a commitment from Canterbury Golf to open those envelopes at a later date, contact the participant, and see how they are they getting on with implementation of their action points.

Canterbury Golf will also be looking to hold a Club Manager's Meeting in June to debrief the forum and further discuss issues that arose.

The day went by quickly and ended with reflection and conversation over a drink in the Members Lounge.

Survey results indicated that the forum was well received with 7% saying it was very good, 71% saying it was excellent, and 22% saying it was outstanding. Further, 100% of participants said they would very likely or definitely recommend attending another forum.

A huge thanks must go to principal sponsor PowerTurf, associate sponsors GMANZ and Asahi, host Cleawater Golf Club, and co-organisers Andrew Bell and Neville Bamford.



Israel Dagg Confirmed as Guest Speaker for Annual Awards Dinner

The Canterbury Golf Annual Awards Dinner is being held on Friday 21 June for the first time at Christchurch Golf Club in their newly built club house. Features of the evening include the awarding of five Canterbury Golf Service Awards and two Distinguished Service Awards, celebrating the achievement of the Women's Masters Team winning the NZ Women's Masters tournament, and the success of players during the year.

MC Phil McGoldrick will do a Q & A with rugby great and NZ Golf Ambassador Israel Dagg that should reveal some interesting rugby and golfing stories. We look forward to another great night with the golfing community.

Tickets includes a 3 course dinner, table wine and entertainment, \$75 per adult or \$50 for a junior (U18). Please contact your club or Canterbury Golf to book your tickets.



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Interclub

May has seen a number of men's and women's interclub finals played.

Presidents Grade

At the end of the penultimate round of the Presidents Grade interclub both Templeton and Coringa were top of the table on points with Templeton slightly ahead on games and Harewood a point behind in third. With the top two teams playing each other in the final round, it was always going to be a tough match and so it proved with Templeton beating Coringa 5.5-2.5 to finish first on 20 points. Harewood edged past Coringa as a result of their 6-2 win over Hagley to claim second on 19 points with Coringa finishing third a further point back.

Women's Interclub

Russley made it back-to-back wins in the 18 Hole final. It was a tight finish with Clearwater taking the top seed to the wire with the match locked up at 3 games all against Russley. It took a sudden death play-off for Russley to secure a nail-biting finish with Jane Kim holing a ten-foot putt for the win.

The 36 Hole Silver final was also a real cliff-hanger until the last hole of the day. Waitikiri and Clearwater were tied after the morning foursomes until Waitikiri pushed home the advantage in the afternoon winning the singles to post a 3.5-2.5 win for the team and their second 36 Hole Silver title in the past three years.

Tai Tapu proved too strong in the 36 Hole Open final with a dominant result making it four titles in succession for the club over Weedons 4.5-1.5 games. Pegasus won their first Weekend Interclub title in a closely fought battle against Bottle Lake 2.5-1.5 games.

9 Hole Interclub

The 9 hole interclub final was an all North Canterbury affair between Rangiora 2 and Amberley. The Rangiora team finished strongly over Amberley to take the title by 75-65 stableford points.

Russley Win Back-to-Back National Women's Teams District Title

The Women's National Club Teams District Championship was played at the Waimairi Beach Golf Golf involving 104 competitors from 26 Canterbury clubs.

The results were very close with just eight shots separating the top ten teams. First place was even closer with Lincoln's Jan Latham, Judy Campbell, Lois Anderson and Liz Birdling and Russley's Robyn Cruse, Mihee Woo, Shera Kant and Denise Forbes finishing locked together on a combined team best ball net of 125. Russley won on a countback, making it back-to-back victories for the club in the event. Avondale finished third on 127, Rawhiti fourth on 128 with Weedons 5th on 129, pipping hosts Waimairi Beach on a countback.

Clearwater's Virginia Faass made it a day to remember achieving her first hole in one at the 8th hole.



The victorious Russley team of Mihee Woo, Shera Kant, Denise Forbes and Robyn Cruse.

News in Brief

Canterbury Golf Staff and Executive Enjoy Club Visits

General Manager Grant Lewis and Canterbury Golf Executive Members continued to visit many golf clubs in May. This included visits to Tai Tapu, Hagley and Everglades; with a visit to Kaiapoi scheduled in June. By the end of June Canterbury Golf will have reached its target of visiting over half of Canterbury clubs since Spring last year.

Canterbury North Enjoy Win over Nelson

North Canterbury players enjoyed their annual match against Nelson played at Hanmer Springs Golf Club with the course in superb condition.

The seniors and intermediate teams enjoyed the match played over three rounds which included Foursomes, Singles and Reverse Singles. The North Canterbury Seniors were very strong winning 14.5 of the possible 16 points. Nelson took the bragging rights in the Intermediate section winning 16-6 games.

Rounds Played in Canterbury Increase By 13%

While 2018 proved to be one of the wettest-ever years on record, a warmer and dryer start to 2019 has been a contributing factor to a 13% increase in rounds played so far this year in the Canterbury region.

This positive trend can be attributed to a jump in rounds by both club members and visiting golfers.

Of the 37 clubs in Canterbury with rounds played data on the Dotgolf system, 28 clubs have experienced an increase in rounds played with Avondale, Hagley, Weedons and Kaituna in particular recording increases upwards of 40%.



Canterbury Players Selected for NZ Golf National Academy

New Zealand Golf's 2019 National Academy has now been named with a number of players gaining reselection along with some of New Zealand's rising young talents being included.

The incumbent members who have been reselected include Daniel Hillier (Manor Park), Luke Brown (The Pines), Matt Mclean (Harewood), Kerry Mountcastle (Masterton), Caryn Khoo (Pakuranga), Juliana Hung (Russley) and Brittny Dryland (Titirangi).

The newly selected members include Kazuma Kobori (Rangiora), Carmen Lim (Windross Farm) and Vivian Lu (Royal Auckland and Grange) making the step up after a superb 12 months.

This group of players will be invited to attend NZ Golf Training camps, will have access to New Zealand Golf's national services provider network to assist with their programme development and may be provided opportunities to compete internationally.

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