

Kazuma Kobori Wins Canterbury Young Sportsman of the Year

Each year Sport Canterbury celebrates the outstanding dedication of our region's sports people, coaches, officials, administrators and volunteers. Kazuma Kobori was nominated for the Canterbury Young Sportsman of the Year award for his remarkable achievements in 2019.

Across all categories, the nominees represent the "best of the best" - in their sport, in our community, across New Zealand, and often on top of the world. Kobori was one of 18 nominees vying for the title. He was selected as a finalist along with other nominees from Rugby League, Cricket and Cycling. This year's awards were announced via an online platform where Kobori was announced as the winner of the Canterbury Young Sportsman of the Year award.

The highlight and biggest achievement for Kobori was winning the NZPGA Championship beating top amateur and professional players from around Australasia. He has represented New Zealand in both junior and senior teams. Other successes included winning the North Island U19 Championship and

finishing runner up at the Australian Boys Amateur and NZ Stroke Play Championship. Kobori is incredibly focused on achieving his goals and committed to performing at the highest level.

Kazuma Kobori's 2019 achievements include:

- 2019 NZPGA Champion
- Represented New Zealand at the Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship in China
- Represented New Zealand at the APGC Junior Championship in Japan
- Runner up in the Australian Boys Amateur
- Runner up in the NZ Stroke Play
- North Island U19 Champion
- Canterbury Men's Representative
- Canterbury Men's Golfer of the Year
- South Island Stroke Play Champion
- Canterbury Stroke Play Champion
- Southland Stroke Play Champion

Golf has been at the forefront of both the Canterbury Young Sportsman and Sportswoman awards in recent years with the achievements of Amelia Garvey,



Juliana Hung and now Kazuma Kobori winning these titles for their notable success both nationally and internationally.

It's been a remarkable achievement for these three recipients to have won this award for the past three years, helping to raise the profile of golf in Canterbury.

Sizzling Scoring at Canterbury 4BBB Championship

The temperature was not but the scoring was hot at the 2020 Golf Warehouse Canterbury 4BBB Championship held at Waimairi Beach Golf Club.

One of the best fields ever seen at the tournament did not disappoint and it was testament to the quality of the course preparation that players were able to prosper in the calm but cool conditions. Greenkeeper Andrew Grimes and his team set some challenging pins to try and mitigate the length of the course but because the greens were running pure, the top players were still able to make many putts of length on the undulating greens.

Although a teams championship there were some outstanding individual scores. The men's field was topped by Matt McLean who shot a brilliant nine under 63 with Zach May and Jordon Latter close behind shooting 65. This was matched by Momoka Kobori for the women who also shot 63, closely followed by Amelia Garvey on 64. Momoka shot an astonishing 29 on the front nine.

In the Men's Championship there was a four-way tie for the title at nine under par. It was shared between Jordan Latter and Kris O'Neill, Zach May and Hayato Miya, Matt McLean and Willie Hamilton, and Reid Hilton and Peter Brinsdon. Players scored well on the front nine with the leaders going through the front nine at five and six under par. The back nine proved more challenging, particularly the par three 12th hole where the pin was tucked in a challenging position just over the front bunker. More bogeys than pars were made here.

In the Women's Championship it seemed that Amelia Garvey and Maddie May would be unbeatable and for a long time in the clubhouse after they had finished, their 62 looked like it would street the field. However in the fading light, the last group on the course containing Momoka Kobori and her 11 year old partner Zaria Bourne came in one shot back with a gross 63. In third place were Canterbury Reps Catherine Bell and Olive Tapu with 67.



The event was a great reminder of the depth of golfing talent that has been fostered and exists in Canterbury.

Thanks to Ritchie Bath and his team at the Golf Warehouse for sponsoring the tournament, and a special thanks to Waimairi Beach and their members for hosting the tournament despite the recent challenges of COVID-19.

Canterbury Golf Sponsors



Clearwater Appoints New CEO & GM

Clearwater Golf Club has appointed Luke Taylor (CEO) and Aiden Berry (General Manager) to its management team. Kevin Simcock, Board Chairman, said that to be able to employ two people of the calibre of Luke and Aiden is incredibly exciting for the club and its future.

“Luke’s area of responsibility will cover Management and Leadership, Finance and Governance, Communication, Brand and Profile and relationships with Clearwater Residents Owners Association, Peppers hotel and other key parties.



“Aiden’s focus will be golf centric and include the Course, Member Experience, Club Events and Golf Promotion,” he said. When the club started advertising for a general manager it was in the pre-Covid era. Now the world has changed completely.

“Extensive American research of golf clubs post the Global Financial Crisis showed that the ones that prospered focused on creating value for members and visitors while those that embarked on a cost-cutting exercise either treaded water or

went backwards.

“The board is adopting the former and wants to create greater value for its members while also enhancing considerably the experience at Clearwater.

Aiden, as general manager at neighbouring Pegasus Golf Club, is already well known to many Clearwater members while Luke’s immediate background is in tourism, hospitality and food and beverage.

Sir Bob Charles has also just been named the first patron of the Clearwater Golf Club.

Sir Bob and Lady Verity have been an integral part of the club since the 1990s when Bob first became involved with Clearwater working with the golf course’s designer, John Darby.



“To become Patron of the Clearwater Golf Club is an honour which I am most proud of, particularly, as I was part of the team which built the course some 20 years ago”.

Canterbury Golf Development Day

Canterbury Golf’s recent development day was supported by NZ Golf with the National Performance Coach Jay Carter and High Performance Manager Greg Thorpe travelling to Christchurch. High Performance Sport provider John Quinn also supported the day with a focus on the mental skills needed to perform at a higher level.

Canterbury Golf has provided development opportunities for a large

number of individuals over the years and continues to provide valuable support in this area for younger players that are working through the various phases of the development pathway.

“We are fortunate to have the support of key service providers to help us to deliver a quality programme to players in Canterbury to progress their development” said Canterbury Golf Development Manager Rachel Thow”.



News in Brief

Kazuma Kobori Named in NZ Golf National Academy

New Zealand Golf’s 2020 National Academy has now been named.

The National Academy will be invited to attend 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.

The 2020 National Academy members are:

Carmen Lim (Windross Farm), Vivian Lu (Royal Auckland and Grange), Fiona Xu (Titirangi), Darae Chung (Shandon), Kazuma Kobori (Rangiora), Tyler Wood (Palmerston North), Jared Edwards (Royal Auckland and Grange), Sam Jones (Manaia), Mako Thompson (Maraenui), and Jimmy Hydes (Gulf Harbour), Daniel Hiller (Professional).

Weedons Dominant in Canterbury Central Interclub

The Canterbury Central Interclub Finals Day was held at Ellesmere Golf Club. It was the first occasion officials could recall all three competitions culminating on the same course.

Weedons had another stellar season backing up their success from 2019, again winning the Central Shield, Brownie Cup and Patterson Cup.

Individual trophy winners:
Grant Lethaby Trophy - Central Shield
Bryden Grant (Weedons)
Barkle Cup - Brownie Cup
Shane Chatterton (Weedons)
Keith Vogan Trophy - Peninsula
Jason Blair (Tai Tapu)
Trevor Evans Trophy - Selwyn
Mike Wilson (Lincoln)

The Selwyn vs Peninsula match was won by Selwyn 6-2.

Bottle Lake take out the Double winning Metro A & B

Bottle Lake Golf Club made the most of their opportunity playing in both the finals of the Metro A & Metro B Interclub competition.

The two Bottle Lake Teams looked to repeat history where they won both competitions in 2013/2014.

The Metro A final was a well fought match against Russley, with Bottle Lake narrowly winning 4.5 - 3.5.

The Metro B final was another close battle requiring a playoff to determine the winner. The Bottle Lake team won the title on the second playoff hole.

For the record, in recent times the Metro A & B double has also been achieved by Coringa (2008/09) and Harewood (2001/02 & 2006/07).

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