



Canterbury Boys – NZ Interprovincial team

It was a week to remember for our Canterbury Boys team in October with the team and Girls taking home the gold at the 2025 Boys NZ Interprovincial tournament.

The results are particularly pleasing reflection of the long-term work Canterbury Golf has been undertaking with it's Talent Development programme with all members of this teams being part of this programme, many of which for several years.

For the Boys, this was the first time Canterbury has lifted the trophy since 2017, breaking a run of "ever so close" previous tournament performances. Played in a slightly different format to previous years with the addition of extra teams, teams competed against opponents in their respective pools, playing a total of 6 matches plus a BYE. The boys started against one of those new opponents, coming up against a Tasman side on debut. The top of the south team proved quite a handful, but the team managed to pull through with a 4-2 win. Later that afternoon the team observed their scheduled BYE.

Onto the Wednesday morning where we came up against Harbour Golf, which in a dominant performance saw the team prevail 6-0. Onto the afternoon, we then faced Manawatau/Wanganui and although seemingly having the game under control for large periods, the boys came a bit unstuck in a couple of the closing matches to eventually finish with a 3-3 tie. Onto the 36-hole Thursday we went with the team looking to put that previous day's afternoon hiccup behind them as they took on unbeaten Taranaki. Unfortunately, the game had a similar feeling of déjà vu with the match seemingly going in our favour before again some late turnarounds resulting in another 3-3 draw. Thankfully with several other upset results from other tournament contenders also occurring the boys knew that if they could get a decent result against defending champions Wellington in the afternoon, they could still be in it. The team duly delivered overcoming the men from the capital 4-2, keeping the hopes alive.

Following that result, the table saw 3 teams in Waikato, Canterbury, and Taranaki all tied on 8 match points, but with Taranaki holding a 0.5 lead on individual wins. With Canterbury taking on Waikato on Friday's final day and Taranaki playing Harbour, we knew a big result was required to have any chance. Thankfully, the boys came out firing jumping out to an early lead across most matches. Likewise, Taranaki also started strong, leading in all but 2 of their matches. As the final 9 played out the Canterbury boys rallied to win 5 of their matches, meanwhile Harbour Golf battled hard and managed to claim a win and half meaning Taranaki were left with 4.5 points from the game, meaning unbelievably both Canterbury and Taranaki finished with 10 match points and 25 individual points, as such the third table divider condition was required which went to game margins. Thankfully, Canterbury comfortably held the advantage in that with their 97 versus Taranaki's 79, and as such were confirmed as tournament champions, concluding a tense final day! All Canterbury players performed admirably throughout, however the efforts of James Mordaunt on debut at this level for Canterbury stood out as we won all his games, and was awarded the Player of the Tournament accolade.