**2013**

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| **ARTIE MOLLETT SHIELD – HRDHA v CCDGA** |
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| **MORISSETT GOLF CLUB - SUNDAY 28 APRIL, 2013.** |

**YOUNG HUNTER SIDE VICTORIOUS AGAINST CENTRAL COAST**

District Captain Dave Parkinson continued his youth policy for the annual match against Central Coast at Morissett on Sunday 28 April, 2013, and came up trumps again, in a nail biting finish.

The Hunter side snuck home by a single match, 9½ - 8½, in a nail biting finish which sees the Artie Mollett Shield return to the Hunter after a 4 year drought.

Hero for the District was junior Josh Stig. Coming to the last hole, he held a 1up lead. At that stage all other matches were in the clubhouse, and the score was all tied up. Standing on the last tee the pressure was placed fairly on his shoulders, to at worst halve the hole. Showing composure beyond his years, he calmly parred the hole, to halve it with a par and record a much needed win against Logan Salvador.

Overall the juniors halved their division 3 matches apiece. The Muswellbrook connection, Stubbsie Benkovic & Billy Fenton won 2 up & 3/2 to record comfortable victories, whilst Josh Udbinac, Zac Pryor and Oscar Field were all early showers.

The Seniors were the backbone of the match with a 4½ - 1½, win. Leading the way was Brent Watson, who gave former Hunter player Dave "Killer" Morgan a 4/3 lesson. Playing at number two, in his first rep match Andrew Auld returned a square result  in his match, a creditable performance. Josh Knott knocked his approach shot to the 18th green to within 30cms to secure a 1up win.

The remaining matches were the "young guns". Reigning country champion Nathan Waters had a 2/1 win, in a close match, Dylan Perry blitzed his opponent 6/5. After the opening 9 holes Dylan was 7up due to a 5 under par, 30.

Tom Bateman, was seriously unlucky in his match going down by 1 hole.

In the Colts division the Hunter boys won 2 - 1. sMac Dawson carried a football injury into the match and was accordingly butt smacked, to the tune of 6/5 by Jason Butt. Will Barnett went about his golf in his usual quiet manner and recorded a 1up win, He was backed up by Blake Palmer, in his first rep match, winning by a 4/3 margin.

The Masters team of Derek Field, Jeff Harrington & Steve Morse were all soundly beaten. Credit to these players who put their hands up at the 11th hour, when selected players opted to represent their Club in the Masters Pennant series, rather than play for the District.

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|   | **HUNTER** |  | **CENTRAL COAST** |   |
|   | **SENIORS** |   |
|  | **Brent Watson** | **4/3** | **Dave Morgan** |  |   |
|  | **Andrew Auld** | **O** | **Brent Soutar** | **O** |   |
|  | **Josh Knott** | **+1** | **Damien Chambers** |  |   |
|  | **Nathan Waters** | **2/1** | **Dave Willett** |  |   |
|  | **Dylan Perry** | **6/5** | **Craig Wickham** |  |   |
|  | **Tom Bateman** |  | **Ryan Edwards** | **+1** |   |
|   | **COLTS** |   |
|  | **Mac Dawson** |  | **Jason Butt** | **6/5** |   |
|  | **Will Barnett** | **+1** | **Robbie Hogan** |  |   |
|  | **Blake Palmer** | **4/3** | **Reece Oliver** |  |   |
|   | **MASTERS** |   |
|  | **Derek Field** |  | **Steve Eaton** | **4/3** |   |
|  | **Jeff Harrington** |  | **Peter Chatillon** | **6/5** |   |
|  | **Steve Morse** |  | **Trevor Walker** | **6/5** |   |
|   | **JUNIORS** |   |
|  | **Josh Stig** | **+1** | **Logan Salvidor** |  |   |
|  | **Brady Benkovic** | **+2** | **James Dennis** |  |   |
|  | **Josh Udbinac** |  | **Lloyd radcliffe** | **3/2** |   |
|  | **Zac Pryor** |  | **Brandon Biddle** | **5/4** |   |
|  | **Billy Fenton** | **3/2** | **Mitch Ballard** |  |   |
|  | **Oscar Field** |  | **Luke Atherton** | **6/5** |   |
|   | **TOTAL** | **9.5** | **TOTAL** | **8.5** |   |
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**P.R. West Shield HRDGA v Newcastle DGA**

**At Stonebridge 23 July, 2013**

**YOUNG GUNS BRING HOME THE BACON**

The Hunter River rep side recorded a remarkable victory over neighbours Newcastle in their annual match for the Peter West Shield, played at Stonebridge on Sunday 23 June, 2013. After a long dry spell of wins against Newcastle, the Hunter finally overcame Newcastle in 2003, again in 2009 and recorded another win this year. Our strike rate has improved immensely. New President Bob McKenzie is taking the credit, with wins in both of our rep matches this year. A rare feat.

The match was fortunate to be played as all weather forecasts predicted heavy rain for the day. Thankfully all games got through without a drop of rain. The ever improving Stonebridge layout provided a suitable test of ability for the players.

Drama kicked the day off when District Senior Ken Roe pulled out with a strained "heartilage" on the morning. Attempts to bring in a reserve came up empty handed and it appeared one of our ageing officials would have to fill in. (No one was putting their hand up). The saviour appeared when a Newcastle Colt player failed to appear and their was doubt as to whether he would turn up. The draw was adjusted with Newcastle senior player, Tim O'Reilly (a former Hunter protege) sportingly offered to play our Colt and have the result count.

The overall result of 11½ to 5½ on paper makes it appear a whitewash, but with  9 of the 17 matches going to the 18th it was a nailbiting finish.

Our Senior players won their division 4  - 2, with Brent Watson leading the way defeating Mark Ellison 2 & 1. Mark was 2 up at the turn but Brent stormed home with 3 birdies early in the nine and finished with birdie, par, eagle through 15 - 17 to win. Andrew Auld went down 3 & 2 to Brian Carmichael. Andrew led at the turn but consistent golf from Brian saw him skip to a 2 up lead, then finally inserted the sword with a birdie on 16 to close the match.

Josh Knott came up against another Hunter protege in Greg McMillan, who wasn't sure who he was representing, when he turned up in a Newcastle shirt and a Hunter River jumper over it. Turned out they squared their match with very generous concessions of putts on the 18th green. At one stage Josh was 4 down after 5, but fought back strongly. Nathan Waters came back from 2 down after 9 to be all square with 4 to play and then finished it off winning 3 of the last holes for a  2 & 1 victory over Craig Avery.

Dylan Perry was a similar story when he was 3 down with 4 to go and showed great ticker to fight back, against strong man Justin Ely and square his match. John "Barney" Barrett made a return to rep golf with a fine 1 up win over over Mick Albee, when he parred the last to take the match.

In the Colts division  (3 - 0 win) Tom Bateman recorded one of his finest victory, when he accounted for State player Brayden Petersen, 2 & 1. Tom jumped to a 3 up lead by hole 12, but Brayden reduced the lead to 1 hole by 15. A win on 16 provided a 2 up lead, which Tom maintained. The "quiet achiever" Will Barnett recorded another victory, with his clinical short game, when he defeated Steve Slappendel 1 up. Their match was close all the way till Will parred the last two holes for the win.

Our third Colt Blake Palmer won  5 & 3 over Masters player Tim O'Reilly, who held Blake for the first nine, then Blake exploded with 4 under par on the back nine, including an eagle on the 16th. Tim had one under for the nine but was demolished by Blake's birdie barrage.

In the Seniors division a friendly draw was the result. Newcastle's Greg Kent accounted for Derek Field 3 & 2. After 9 Derek held a slender 1 up lead, but birdies on 10 & 12, saw Greg jump to the lead and maintained it.

In a close match Bryan Gulliver fought back by winning a two of the last 3 of holes on the back nine for his 2 & 1 victory over Gary O'Brien.

Once again our Juniors recorded a win for the District 3½ - 2½. Hayden Gulliver came up against a red hot Blake Windred, who put him away 4 & 2, and Joe D'Arcy delivered Josh Stig the same result. District team Captain Brady Benkovic, led the way with 4 & 3 victory over Jye Forrester. Stubbsy was 3 down after 3 but hit form to reduce the lead to 1 down after 9. Win's on holes 10, 11,13, 14 & 16 saw the match finish prematurely.

Josh Udbinac had his match by the throat when he was 5 up with 5 to play, but he underestimated Matt Hales, who refused to lie down and took the final 5 holes for a square result. A well deserved win to Matt and a lesson learnt by Josh. Zac Pryor was never headed in his match against Luke Ferrier, winning 5 & 4. The last match saw Billy Fenton play soundly to defeat Jye Picken 3 & 2.

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|    | **P.R. WEST SHIELD** |   |
|  |   |   |   |   |   |
|   | **HUNTER** |  | **NEWCASTLE** |  |   |
|   | **SENIORS** |   |
|   | **Brent WATSON** | **+2/1** | **Mark ELLISON** |  |   |
|   | **Andrew AULD** |  | **Brian CARMICHAEL** | **+3/2** |   |
|   | **Josh KNOTT** | **SQ** | **Greg McMILLAN** | **SQ** |   |
|   | **Nathan WATERS** | **+2/1** | **Craig AVERY** |  |   |
|   | **Dylan PERRY** | **SQ** | **Justin ELY** | **SQ** |   |
|   | **John BARRETT** | **+1 up** | **Mick ALBEE** |  |   |
|   | **COLTS** |   |
|   | **Tom BATEMAN** | **+2/1** | **Brayden PETERSEN** |  |   |
|   | **Will BARNETT** | **+1 up** | **Steve SLAPPENDEL** |  |   |
|   | **Blake PALMER** | **+5/3** | **Tim O'REILLY** |  |   |
|   | **MASTERS** |   |
|   | **Derek FIELD** |  | **Greg KENT** | **+3/2** |   |
|   | **Bryan GULLIVER** | **+2up** | **Gary O'BRIEN** |  |   |
|   |  |  |  |  |   |
|   | **JUNIORS** |   |
|   | **Hayden GULLIVER** |  | **Blake WINDRED** | **+4/2** |   |
|   | **Josh STIG** |  | **Joe D'ARCY** | **+4/2** |   |
|   | **Brady BENKOVIC** | **+4/3** | **Jye FORRESTER** |  |   |
|   | **Josh UDBINAC** | **SQ** | **Matt HALES** | **SQ** |   |
|   | **Zac PRYOR** | **+5/4** | **Luke FERRIER** |  |   |
|   | **Bill FENTON** | **+3/2** | **Jye PICKEN** |  |   |
|   | **TOTAL** | **11½** | **TOTAL** | **5½** |   |

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**PERRY TAKES COUNTRY TITLE**

**Muswellbrook 2 & 3 November, 2013**



Seventeen year old Dylan Perry, from The Vintage, played immaculate golf to win the Golf NSW Country Championship on his old home track, Muswellbrook over the weekend. Dylan shot 8 under par for a 36 hole total of 136. An opening round of 5 under par 67, followed up with a 3 under 69, included 5 birdies on the front nine, and the balance in pars, on the first day and 6 birdies on Sunday. His only blemishes came on Sunday when he bogeyed the third and doubled the 13th.

The favourite for the tournament Nathan Waters, who has won the previous two years withdrew after two holes due to illness.

Justin Craig from Wollongong came in second on 5 under par 139, whilst Daniel Davies from Shell Harbour edged out locals Will Barnett and Joshua Michael Knott, all three players finishing on 141.

The District entered 6 of our leading juniors to provide experience at the top level, and best of these was Billy "birthday" Fenton on 149.

Dylan's win has secured him a place in the NSW Open to be played at Castle Hill, from the 21- 24 November. No doubt his supporters will be there in droves.



The Hunter River team took out the Bruce Devlin Shield for the country inter district teams event for the second year in a row. The selector went with the same team, which paid off. They may be a year older but the remaining youngsters shifted into another gear when their leading player Nathan Waters pulled out due to illness.

The team of Josh Knott (C) Will Barnett, Tom Bateman, Hayden Gulliver & Dylan Perry, won the event by 4 strokes from The Illawarra team. After the Saturday round Hunter held a commanding 1 stroke lead over Mid North Coast and 11 strokes ahead of Illawarra. The local lads held it together for a second round total of 287, whilst Mid North Coast imploded and Illawarra stormed home to pick up 7 strokes, but sadly it wasn't enough.

Next year the event moves to Parkes for two years. It will be interesting to see how our players fare away from home.

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| GOLF NSW COUNTRY TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP |
|   | **Player** | **Club** | **Round 1** | **Round 2** | **36 Holes** |   |
|  | Will Barnett | Scone | 69 | 72 | 141 |   |
|  | Tom Bateman | Aberdeen | 76 | 74 | 150 |   |
|  | Hayden Gulliver | Maitland | 77 | 75 | 152 |   |
|  | Josh Knott | Stonebridge | 69 | 72 | 141 |   |
|  | Dylan Perry | Muswellbrook | 67 | 69 | 136 |   |
|  | Nathan Waters | Scone | -- | -- | --- |   |
|  |   |   | 281 | 287 | 568 |   |
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**JUNIOR 4 WAY SERIES \_ Col Johnston Shield**

**Shelly Beach 2 – 3 November, 2103**

The future  rep players of Hunter River golf travelled to Shelly Beach (Central Coast) to contest the annual event for the Col Johnston Shield on 2 & 3 November, 2013. The team consisted of Sheldon Harris, Cory Lamb, Nick Neild, Lachlan Vasella, Clayton Small, Jack Rachel & Lewis Howell.

The boys played a round robin of 9 hole individual match play against the Newcastle, Central Coast & Lower North Coast teams, to "blood" them for future representative honours.

Our boys, did not win a match, finishing a creditable fourth, but gained valuable experience from playing against their more experienced opponents.

Congratulations to the Lower North Coast team, who finished clear winners, being undefeated and only losing 3 games and halving one other.

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| **2013 COL JOHNSTON SHIELD** |
| **DGA** | Central Coast | Hunter River | Lower North Coast | Newcastle |
| Central Coast |  | 1½ | 5 | 3 |
| Hunter River | 5½ |  | 5½ | 5 |
| Lower North Coast | 2 | 1½ |  | 0 |
| Newcastle | 4 | 2 | 7 |  |
| **TOTAL** | 2/11½ | 0/5 | 1/17½ | 1/8 |
| **PLACING** | 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 |