

2013

District Junior Championship - Dave Parkinson Shield - Scone 10 March, 2013

A small field participated in the annual junior championship hosted by Scone Golf Club on Sunday 10 March, 2013. Only 29 juniors supported the event, which is a real concern for the future of golf in our district.

This takes nothing away from a well earned win by Oscar Field of Scone with a fine 75 off the stick. Playing off a 7 handicap, Oscar, a quite unassuming junior, played above his ability to become the 2013 Junior Champion. With 6 holes to play he was even with the card, and was heading for a clear cut win. Nerves may have set in and he dropped 3 shots in those holes, but survived the countback to take the title, of which he can be proud. His win has earned him a spot in the Baker Trinder team to go to Moree at the end of the month.



Runners up were Zac Pryor (Kurri) & Hayden Gulliver (Maitland), who also finished on 75, 3 over par. Zac had his chance for a win, but a disastrous double bogey on his second last hole, saw him fall into the three way tie. At that stage he had played consistent par golf and his only blemish was a solitary bogey. Hayden, playing off a scratch handicap, was red hot favourite, but problems with the blade, resulted in dropped shots.

In the Boys under 15 division, Morgan Bowie from Kurri returned a creditable 77 off the stick to win the scratch, whilst rising start Corey Lamb (oops) from Branxton, won the nett with his score of 66. Five shots back was Jack Rachel from The Vintage.

Two girls participated and the best nett score was Tori Threlfo, from Belmont was the winner, on nett 74.

Boys 16 - 17 year division, saw Zac Pryor take the scratch trophy, with his 75. Tom Etheridge from Maitland was the nett winner, with a creditable nett 71. Hayden Gulliver with a 75 nett received the nett runner up trophy.

The ball comp went down to 79 on a countback.

DAVE PARKINSON SHIELD

Hunter River Champion **OSCAR FIELD (Scone) 75 countback**

JUNIORS 15 and under	NAME	CLUB	SCORE
Scratch	Morgan Bowie	Kurri	77
Nett	Corey Lamb	Branxton	66
Nett2nd	Jack Rachel	The VinTage	71

JUNIORS 16 and 17	NAME	CLUB	SCORE
Scratch	Zac Pryor	Kurri	75
Nett	Tom Etheridge	Maitland	71
Nett2nd	Hayden Gulliver	Maitland	75

GIRLS

	Tori Trelfo	Belmont	74

MIXED AMBROSE CHAMPIONSHIP –FRAME SHIELD

Sunday 19 MAY, 2013

The popular Mixed Ambrose Championship for the Arthur Frame Shield, was conducted at Kurri on Sunday 19 May, 2013, in near perfect conditions. The speed of the greens provided a real test of a golfers putting ability & nerve.

Three teams vied for top spot, when they all returned a scratch score of 63 hits or 9 under par. The winning team came up trumps with a 6 under par 30 for the back nine, whilst the other two teams who figured in the finish could only manage 4 under par.

The first team out on the course, Troy & Anthony Lucas ably assisted by Tricia Wyper & Sue Ford led from start to finish to take the first place trophy. The early wind chill saw them get away to a slow start , registering only 3 birdies on the first nine. They came alive on the inward nine, opening with 3 birdies, and followed it up with further birdies on holes 14, 17 & 18, for 6 under and the winning 18 holes score of 63.

Runners up featured more of the Wyper clan, in Jeff and Chad Cresswell, Lynn Hill and Sue O'Brien (nee Wyper), who were the final group to hit off the first tee. Their nine hole break up was 31 - 32, which included an eagle 3 on the 505 metre par 5 9th hole. Probably had something to do with Chad's booming drives.

Melita Watson was finally able to collar her son Brett and team up with another "big gun" Dave Condran and Amanda Byrnes to enter a formidable team. Unfortunately they could only manage 2 birdies over the last 6 holes, which saw them relegated to third position and out of the prizelist.

In the handicap winners list, two old wiseheads teamed up with two young talented prospects and took the money. It was great to see Grant Turner and Steve Leathley invite Olivia Leathley (15yrs) and Laura Bodycote (13yrs) (all from The Vintage) to play in the event for experience. The fact their handicaps were 41 & 40 had little to do with the decision. The team shot a 5 under par 67 nett 55¾ to win the handicap trophy. Their inward nine (front nine) featured 4 birdies which saw them clear winners. Congratulations to The Vintage Club on their junior development programme.

Runners up from Denman were Doug Thrift, John McCormick, Jan George and Kath McCormick, who finished on 58 3/8. The team played to their ability, to finish with 5 birdies, which were spoilt by bogeys on holes 7 & 13. The District appreciates the support of the distant small clubs who make an effort to support our events.

The all important ball comp went down to 59¾.

TROPHY	NAME	CLUB	SCORE
SCRATCH			
Winners	Troy Lucas		
	Anthony Lucas	Kurri	63
	Sue Ford		
	Tricia Wyper		
Scratch R /U	Jeff Wyper		
	Chad Cresswell	Kurri	63
	Lyn Hill		
	Sue O'Brien		
NETT			
Nett Winners	Steve Leathley		
	Grant Turner	Vintage	55¾
	Olivia Leathley		
	Laura Bodycote		
Nett R Up	Doug Thrift		
	John McCormick	Denman	583/8
	Jan George		
	Kath McCormick		

SAND GREENS CHAMPIONSHIPS

MURRURUNDI 16 JUNE, 2013

Following the wash out of the scheduled Sand Green's championship, the event was staged a fortnight later. A smaller field of 36 players participated, with 12 withdrawals due to unavailability following the deferral. Thanks to the Murrurundi team for presenting their course in an impeccable condition and the lady members who provided a warming cup of soup and sandwich at the half way mark and supper after the round.

Craig Tuckwell from Muswellbrook is the 2013 Champion when he shot two over par 70 to win by 2 strokes from previous winner Andrew Wyper, who could only manage a 72. Andrew's brother Jeffrey came in third in the scratch division finishing a further 4 shots back.

The handicap trophies were closely contested with a prize winners finishing on 67, necessitating the use of the countback to separate the winners.

Brett Reid , came up in first place, with local knowledge instrumental in his win. Runner up was the Denman stalwart Max Holz, who edged out another local Crackers Avard.

		Name	Club	Score
Scratch	Winner	Brett Reid	Murrurundi	70
	Second	Andrew Wyper	Kurri	72
	Third	Jeff Wyper	Kurri	76
		Name	Club	Score
Handicap	Winner	Brett Reid	Murrurundi	
	Second	Max Holz	Denman	
	Third	Craig Avard	Murrurundi	

MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIP – Ben Owen Cup

Cypress Lakes – 2 August, 2013

GULLIVER TOUGHS OUT A WINNING ROUND TO TAKE BEN OWEN CUP

Cold windy conditions, a testing layout and slick greens greeted the 110 "old timers" who participated in the 2013 Masters Championship, hosted by the Cypress Lakes Club. To speed up play and ensure player enjoyment is at a maximum, the event was played as a stableford.

Maitland's Bryan Gulliver emulated his mentor & playing partner Peter Gibbs, who was the defending champion, to tough out a winning round in the event. Gibbs had all intentions to repeat his 2012 win, but fell apart under the pressure of not being able to match Bryan's steady golf. Bryan, stuck to his game plan, playing percentage golf to complete his winning round with 31 stableford points. An ordinary front nine included 5 bogeys and one birdie, but two bogeys and one birdie on the back nine, was sufficient to take the Ben Owen Cup.

Bryan is in the unique position of being the first player to hold the District A grade title (2012) and the Masters title.

Runner up was Kurri's Greg Wyper, who is on the comeback trail after a prolonged spell. His 28 stableford points was sufficient to win second money in the scratch event.

The best nett score was returned by Cypress member Keith Van Laarhoven, with a creditable 37 points, playing off his luxury 29 handicap. Keith went beserk on the front nine amassing 24 points, but the rot then began to set in, with 3 misses and 2 one pointers, for his winning total.

Runner up was Steve Bergin, (Cypress Lakes), who's knowledge of the course was instrumental in attaining his tally of 35 points. A miss and 2 one pointers on the outward nine, saw him with

16 points after which he was able to lift his game and come home with 19 points, to be the runner up, sneaking home by one point.

Cypress Lakes committed to holding this event for three years and 2014 will be the final year of that commitment. The district is indebted to Cypress Lakes and Merv Hayward, for their commitment. Next year the it is intended to have a shotgun start, so that all players will finish at the same time.

		Name	Club	Score
Scratch	Winner	Bryan Gulliver	Maitland	31 pts
	Second	Greg WYPER	Kurri	28 pts
		Brian NEWLANDS	Vintage	27 pts
		Name	Club	Score
Handicap	Winner	Keith Van Laarhoven	Cypress Lakes	37 pts
	Second	Steve BERGIN	Cypress Lakes	35 pts
	Third	John GRAYSON	Kurri	34 pts
	Fourth	Steve BROWN	Maitland	34pts

DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS – 25 August, 2013

HAYDEN GULLIVER FOLLOWS IN FATHERS FOOTSTEPS

A record field of 179 golfers participated in the 2013 District Championships staged at Stonebridge & Singleton on Sunday 25 August, 2103. After a week of consistent westerly winds the breeze abated and the day was perfect for golf.

A Grade - Stonebridge

Junior Hayden Gulliver is the 2013 District Champion, keeping the family name on the Cup after dad Bryan couldn't repeat his 2012 effort. Sparra shot a two under par 70 on the Stonebridge layout and maintained his form from the Regional Championships the weekend before where he was runner up to Will Barnett in the junior division. Highlight of his round was an eagle 2 on the par 4 tenth hole followed up with birdies on the three par 5's. A bogey finish on the last saw a score of 4 under for the inward nine. A rigorous training routine of running up and down the sandhills in the big bunker at Stockton has him at his peak of fitness.

Michael "Fluff Jnr" Clark was runner up, after the countback was applied to separate him & clubmate John "Barney" Barrett, both finished on 74 hits. An inward nine of 35, which included a double bogey on the 11th hole, provided the win when Barney could only manage 37 strokes.

Maitland old timer Wayne Clements, a prolific performer in District events, won the A grade nett score with meritorious 69. His short game must have been on song to fire a 79 off the bat. Wayne has graduated to the A grade ranks after winning two District B grade titles in prior years. Wayne will be keen to now reduce his handicap down to the single figure ranks.

Chad Vesper (Vintage) edged out Peter Henderson (Cypress Lakes) on nett 72 for the minor handicap placings.

B Grade - Singleton

B grade witnessed a champion score by Singleton local Mark Foster who fired a 78 off the stick to win the title. His round of 9 over par will see his name added to the cup, along side his grandfather Jim Crossley, who won it in 1962. Mark is proud of his achievement, as Jim was a stalwart throughout the Valley clubs.

Runner up was Ian Humphrey from Kurri, who had it shot to pieces with his 81 until latecomer Mark submitted his card. Two doubles and a triple bogey on the front nine proved costly.

Junior Lewis Howell from the Vintage won the handicap trophy on nett 68. A slow start of 46 shots on the front nine was boosted by a 3 over par 38 on the back nine to clinch the win by a single stroke.

Steve "Fluff Snr" Clark emulated his son's performance in A grade when he came in runner up in the handicap division on nett 69. Pint sized Steve just plugged away down the middle steering clear of any trouble to edge out Dusty Lawless from the Hunter Valley Golf Club. Dusty will be ruing a costly quadruple bogey on the third hole.

C Grade - Stonebridge

The effervescent Jeff Gardiner (Kurri) pulled a round out of his hat, when he only took 87 strokes to tour the Stonebridge layout and hold aloft the C grade championship cup. The only blemish on his card was a quadruple bogey on the par 3 twelfth hole, where he came to grief on the slick green. Jeff must have felt lonely on the dais as the remainder of the winners all hailed from the Vintage Club.

Steve Hughes was the runner up in the scratch event finishing 3 strokes back on 90. The countback was required to separate Steve from Kev Coleman & Tom Hannah who also had 90 strokes but had too many on the back nine.

The best nett score was Peter Bailey, who had 88 hits for a nett 68. Nines of 43 - 45 was sufficient to finish two strokes clear of Steve Murray and once again Tom Hannah, who both finished on 70 nett.

MONTHLY MEDAL PLAYOFF

Eight winners of the July Club Monthly Medal winners, sponsored by the District participated in the play off to find the overall winner, which was run in conjunction with the championships.

Alan Latham from Cypress Lakes was declared the winner with a nett 74 around the Stonebridge layout. Alan is now \$100 better off for his final win.

TROPHY	NAME	CLUB	SCORE
A GRADE	Stonebridge		
scratch 1	Hayden Gulliver	Maitland	70

scratch 2	Michael "Fluff Jnr" Clark	Stonebridge	74 cb
nett 1	Wayne Clements	Maitland	69
nett 2	Chad Vesper	The Vintage	72
nett 3	Peter Henderson	Cypress Lakes	72
B GRADE	Singleton		
scratch 1	Mark Foster	Singleton	78
scratch 2	Ian Humphrey	Kurri	81
nett 1	Lewis Howell	The Vintage	68
nett 2	Steve "Fluff" Clark	Stonebridge	69
nett 3	Dusty Lawless	Hunter Valley	70
C GRADE	Stonebridge		
scratch 1	Jeff Gardiner	Kurri	87
scratch 2	Steven Hughes	The Vintage	90cb
nett 1	Peter Bailey	The Vintage	68
nett 2	Steve Murray	The Vintage	70
nett 3	Tom Hannah	The Vintage	70

AMBROSE FOURS - McLintock Shield

Muswellbrook Golf Club – 17 November, 2013

A 100% attendance rate was very pleasing for the final event for what has been a very successful year of District events. Patronage has been on the up and hopefully will continue next year.

The winners of the 2013 Ambrose Fours were the Stonebridge team of Barney Barrett, Matt Hopley, Mick Ervin and Strop Rutherford. Their mixture of maturity, brute strength, all rounder and luxury handicap was the mix needed to win the event. The boys finished 14 under par on the tough Muswellbrook layout, scoring 4 pars and 14 birdies. Their big gun was Hoppy who reduced the length of the course to that of a putt putt layout, for his ecstatic partners. For example on the 324 metre par 4 16th, the group in front, made up of senior district officials were playing their second shots from the front right hand bunker, when his balled rolled into the bunker off the tee. It appears it was his day as he was able to consistently send the ball to its intended address.

Scratch runners up also benefited from a big hitter in sMac Dawson, who partnered with his dad Stuart, Kyle Blinco and greenkeeper Ricky Munday, to finish two shots back on 60. Their card was also unblemished, scoring 1 eagle (15th) 10 birdies and 7 pars. 28 hits on the backnine gave them the edge in a countback for the second spot.

The handicap winners of Gary Hill, Neil Ingham, David Mudd & Graham Bull, cleaned up once again with a score of 54½. This team from Maitland, have featured regularly in ambrose and fourball events, and have continued their red hot form, even with massive handicap reductions.

Runners up in the nett score were the Vintage team of Grant Turner, Matt Farley, Neville Peace & Brad Barwick, who were knocked out of second place in the scratch event, but made up for it with an even nett 55.

TROPHY	NAME	CLUB	SCORE
SCRATCH			
Scratch Winners	John BARRETT		
	Matt HOPLEY	Stonebridge	58
	Mick ERVIN		
	Russell RUTHERFORD		
Scratch R Up	Kyle BLINCO		
	Mac Dawson	Muswellbrook/Scone	60
	Stuart DAWSON		
	Ricky MUNDAY		
NETT			
Nett Winners	Gary HILL		
	Neil INGHAM	Maitland	54
	David MUDD		
	Graham BULL		
Nett R Up	Grant TURNER		
	Matt FARLEY	The Vintage	55
	Neville PEACE		
	Brad BARWICK		