

2014

JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP - DAVE PARKINSON SHIELD

MUSWELLBROOK - 16th March 2014

Muswellbrook hosted the 2014 Junior Championship, the first championship event on the District calendar for the year. The course provided a suitable test for the players and included a 9 hole event for cadets, who have yet to experience playing competition events. Seven players, all from the Vintage participated in this event and hats off to that club for fostering the growth of golf in their club. Also included in the field were two juniors from the Lynwood Club in Sydney, just out of Windsor. Both boys loved the experience of playing their first championship event.

The 2014 Junior Champion is Khan Gallagher, who fired a creditable one under par 71, around the testing layout. Khan adds this to his first title, the B Grade championship in 2012, and is sure to be figuring in the big time in the A grade Championships later this year. Khan hails from the Denman Club and whilst their course is out of play for major renovations has based himself at Muswellbrook. Obviously the experience gained from regular play on the Brook, was instrumental to his win.



As there were only 21 entries the trophies were allocated over the field. The scratch winner was Stubbsy Benkovic, also from Muswellbrook, who shot an even par round of 72 to edge out Josh Udbinac from Kurri on 74.

The best nett score for the girls division was Olivia Leathley, with a nett 68. Obviously Olivia has inherited her dad's sporting genes.

Nett winner in the boys division was Josh Fuller, from Muswellbrook on nett 68, edging out Lachlan Vassella from Kurri on nett 69. Visitors to this website will recall that Lachlan was the youngster, who had the chance meeting with Adam Scott in a porta loo at the Australian Open in 2013. His game of golf has been encouraged by that occasion.

Third place in the boys nett was Lewis Howells, another Vintage product who is improving each year. Lewis finished with a nett 70.

Highlight of the championship was the cadet event. The players were let loose on a shortened nine hole course, with many having a boatload of shots, but their enthusiasm was always 100%.

At the end of the day each of the 7 players received a golf ball & tees as a reward.



The District may explore the possibility of promoting more of the cadet events to cater for the beginners, whose enthusiasm knows no bounds.

Hunter River Junior Champion - Dave Parkinson Shield Khan Gallagher (Denman) 71

	NAME	CLUB	SCORE
Scratch Winner	Brady Benkovic	Muswellbrook	72
Scratch Runner Up	Josh Udbinac	Kurri	74
Nett Winner	Josh Fuller	Muswellbrook	68
Nett Runner Up	Lachlan Vassella	Kurri	69
Nett Third	Lewis Howells	The Vintage	70
Girls Winner	Olivia Leathley	The Vintage	68

MIXED AMBROSE CHAMPIONSHIP –

Branxton 18 May, 2014

A full field of 72 players participated in the popular event. A shot gun start was utilised, ensuring a full house at presentation time.

The winning team hailed from the Kurri Club who have had a stranglehold on the Arthur Frame Shield for the past five years, and normally the "Wyper" name is in the mix of the team.

Andrew Wyper & Renae Bean-Wyper teamed up with Kevin & Patsy Fielding to shoot the best scratch score on the day, an 8 under par 62. The team got off to a slow start and only managed 3 under par for the first nine, but notched up a further 5 birdies on the inward nine.

The 1/10, 4/12 & 7/16 holes were the teams gimme holes, recording birdies on both occasions the team played them.

Unlikely scratch runners up were Russell & Tracey Gogerly and Pat & Leanne Rigby who finished one shot behind on 63. The team were assisted by the deadly accurate short game of Leanne who chipped in on several occasions for birdies. Their strong finish of 31 over the inward nine, knocked out a bunch of teams who also finished on 63.

The best handicap score on the day went to the combination team from Denman & Scone of Eric Lockwood, Jake Teague, Sue Wilson & Val Pascoe, who shot a 63 nett 54 to win comfortably by one and a bit ($\frac{3}{8}$) shots. The strength of the round was the par threes, where they birdied 4 of the 6 on the course. The luxury of a combined 9 handicap won the event for the team.

The nett runners up were the Singleton team of Morrissey & Pearce families, who shot 63 nett 55½ to take the minor placing.

TROPHY	NAME	CLUB	SCORE
SCRATCH			
Scratch Winners	Andrew WYPER		
	Kevin FIELDING	Kurri	62
	Renaë BEAN-WYPER		
	Patsy FIELDING		
Scratch R Up	Pat RIGBY		
	Leanne RIGBY	Kurri/Branxton	63
	Russell GOGERLY		
	Tracey GOGERLY		
NETT			
Nett Winners	Errol LOCKWOOD		
	Jake TEAGUE	Denman/Scone	54
	Sue WILSON		
	Val PASCOE		
Nett R Up	R. PEARCE		
	E. PEARCE	Singleton	55 3/8
	B. MORRISSEY		
	L. MORRISSEY		

TWO MAN AMBROSE - KING WARBURTON CUP

Maitland Golf Club 6 July, 2014

A field of 138 players took to the Maitland Golf Course on a brisk morning, with the usual westerly breeze, which on the Beaufort Scale registered as a 9. This will bring a competent golfer to his knees, as it did on the day, with many pairs returning scores way above average.

As always the cream comes to the top, no matter what conditions the event is played in and the dynamic duo of Bateman & Perry zapped the rest of the field to take out the scratch trophy with

a 6 under par round, 65. Tom & Dylan, shot 7 birdies in their round with the only blemish coming on the long second hole, where they had to settle for a bogey.

Runners up were father and son combo of Bryan and Hayden Gulliver, who played their usual down the middle, hit the green in regulation golf to miss out by a stroke, on 66. In all they managed 5 birdies, but no bogeys. Their excruciating fitness regime of running up and down sand hills at Stockton, provided them with the stamina required in the difficult conditions.

Division II scratch winners, Greg Riches teamed with the old fox Mick Sarquis, to fire a one over par round of 72, to win by a comfortable margin of 3 shots. Two opening bogeys, scored whilst they were still defrosting, saw the pair then turn it on, at will, with 15 pars and a birdie (on 10), over the ensuing 16 holes.

Maybe the event should have been changed to a father and son day, with another parent & sibling, in Mark and Dean Lauder (Paterson), taking the minor placing on 75. A countback was required to sort out the winners, but their final 6 holes of the inward nine proved too strong. A bounty of 6 bogeys, offset by two bogeys made up their round.

The Division I handicap winners were another father son combo in Chris & Scott Pryke from Maitland, who put together a creditable round of 3 under par 68. An opening nine of 34, was developing into a spectacular round, when they added a further 3 birdies on the early holes on the back nine. But disaster struck on 17 & 18 when they scrambled to make lucky bogeys, to finish that nine on 34 and a nett total of 62³/₄.

Maitland players dominated the Div I handicap event when Peter Kell and Mick McDonell, finished one shot behind on 63³/₄. A slow start saw a 1 over par 37 for the outward nine, but they kicked up a gear with birdies on 10, 11 and 14, for 3 under on the back nine.

The strong Paterson combo of Mick Thompson and Mick Shanley, used brute force to overcome the strong wind and power to a convincing win in the Division II handicap event. Their winning score of 63 included 3 birdies (one on the 422m second hole) a plethora of pars and bogeys, and two disasterous doubles on 8 and 18.

Second place in Division II nett went to Dusty Lawless and Adam Davies fro Hunter Valley, who combined for a 67³/₄ nett, finishing over 4 shots behind the winners. Three birdies tempered by 7 bogeys provided the final score of 76 less their luxury handicap of 7¹/₄ placed them amongst the money winners.

TROPHY	NAME	CLUB	SCORE
SCRATCH			
Div. 1 Scratch Winners	Dylan Perry	Muswellbrook	65
	Tom Bateman	Aberdeen	
Div. 1 Scratch RU	Hayden Gulliver	Maitland	66c/b
	Bryan Gulliver	Maitland	
Div. 2 Scratch Winners	Greg Riches	Maitland	72
	Michael Sarquis	Maitland	
Div. 2 Scratch RU	Dean Lauder	Paterson	75c/b
	Mark Lauder	Paterson	
NETT			
Div. 1 Nett Winners	Scott Pryke	Maitland	62¾
	Chris Pryke	Maitland	
Div. 1 Nett RU	Peter Kell	Maitland	63¾
	Mick McDonnell	Maitland	
Div. 2 Nett Winners	Mick Shanley	Paterson	63
	Mick Thompson	Paterson	
Div.2 Nett RU	Adam Davies	Hunter Valley	67¾
	Dusty Lawless	Hunter Valley	

MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIP - BEN OWEN CUP

Cypress Lakes Golf Club – 3 August, 2014

Cypress Lakes hosted the event for the third year and turned out a golf course in magnificent condition with slick greens, to provide a real test for the "senior" golfers in the District. Many a sad story was regaled around tables over after golf drinks, the most being about the number of putts taken on the greens. Special thanks to Cypress Lakes for their commitment to the event and the condition in which the course was presented.

Once again Hunter golfers have supported our events in numbers, which is good for the health of golf in our Association.

A good golfer will always rise above the toughness of a golf course, and Bryan Gulliver, is one such person, when he made it two in a row, with a fine 74 off the stick, equal to 32 points, to be

the 2014 Masters Champion. Bryan played consistently for 37 on each nine, made up of two birdies and three bogeys on each nine.

Bryan observes his theory of avoiding the " 6 killer B's" which can bring a player down and affect his mindset on the golf course. His win has now equalled that of his old rival and mate Peter Gibbs, who has also won it twice. Bryan will be shaping up for number three next year in an endeavour to match Ken Roe, who this year was in the picture after 9 holes but collapsed to a disastrous 45 strokes on the way in.

Sweet swinger Greg Wyper, still strikes the ball as well as he did in his youth, was runner up on 30 points edging out the consistent Neil Fayth from Muswellbrook on 29 points.

Handicap winner was a shock to all players, but in reality should be expected due to his intimate knowledge of the course. Former Course Super Merv Hayward, cruised around the course in 42 points to be the overall handicap winner. Playing off a luxury handicap of 36, Merv's course management in avoiding critical hazards, was held in awe by his playing partners.

His only blemish came on the 16th hole, where he recorded his only wipe, which was offset by four pointers on the par 11th & 15th holes.

Gary North, quinnella'd the handicap event for Cypress Lakes, when he returned 41 points to be runner up on a countback. Gary's back nine of twenty one points earned him the runner up trophy, even with a miss on the final hole.

Paterson stalwart, Mark Lauder, broke the Cypress sequence of winners, with a PB of 41 points. Hitting off the 10th tee, the score was accomplished on the front nine, where he scorched around for 26 points after a dismal 15 points on the back nine.

Tim Caban, also from Cypress Lakes, had a nervous wait, checking incoming scores on a regular basis, to find out if he was in the money. Hitting off in the first group, he returned what he thought was a winning score of 38 points, which led for most of the day until he was eventually pushed back into 4th place.

MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIP

		Name	Club	Score
Scratch	Winner	Bryan GULLIVER	Maitland	72/34
	Second	Greg WYPER	Kurri	30
	Third	Neil FAYTH	Muswellbrook	29
		Name	Club	Score
Handicap	Winner	Merv HAYWARD	Cypress Lakes	42
	Second	Gary NORTH	Cypress Lakes	41
	Third	Mark LAUDER	Paterson	41
	Fourth	Tim CABAN	Cypress Lakes	38

SAND GREEN CHAMPIONSHIPS –

Merriwa 10 August, 2014

Local Rob Patterson was crowned the 2014 Sand Green Champion with a winning score of 77. Rob is the honorary Greens Super at Merriwa so had an intimate knowledge of the greens. The club has recently purchased a motorised bunker rate to run over the sand greens, prior to play and has resulted in a marked improvement in the smoothness of the putting surfaces.

Rob played consistent golf (39 -38) for the two nines, and was heading for a PB on his home course, until the nerves set in and finished the round off with a disastrous double bogey on the last hole.

James Smart from Scone, was runner up one stroke behind on 78. James had the added pressure of playing a round of his home club's 4fourball knockout on the day. An outward nine of 41 was a slow start and proved costly when he was able to match it with a 37 on the back nine. In third place Mark Moylan of Branxton with a creditable 82 shots.

Dave Taylor (Merriwa) achieved the extra double of the scratch and handicap events for Merriwa. Dave played solidly for an 82 off the stick for a nett 67 and a winning margin of two shots.

The Murrurundi connection of Dave Bramley & Alan Flanagan took the minor placings with 69 on a countback. The advantage of playing sand greens at their home course proved beneficial.

Special thanks to the lady members for starting the field and providing an excellent afternoon tea for the players. Country hospitality at its best.

		Name	Club	Score
Scratch	Winner	Rob Patterson	Merriwa	77
	Second	James Smart	Scone	78
	Third	Mark Moylan	Branxton	82
		Name	Club	Score
Handicap	Winner	Dave Taylor	Merriwa	67
	Second	Dave Bramley	Murrurundi	69c/b
	Third	Alan Flanagan	Murrurundi	69

DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS

Muswellbrook & Dungog Golf Clubs, 31 August, 2014

A Grade

One of the hottest golfing prospects to come out of the Hunter, Dylan Perry, (Muswellbrook) was crowned the District Champion for a second time, having previously won in 2011 when still in the junior ranks.

Dylan got off to a slow start with an opening bogey followed up by 8 straight pars. He really came alight on the back nine with a barrage of birdies through holes 10 - 13 to sit at 3 under par. A bogey on the 16th tempered the round to finish on 70, two under par, which was sufficient to take the title.

Challenging Dylan was Nathan Waters (Scone) who was cruising at 1 under after 8, but run into major trouble on the 9th with a double bogey 7. Nathan never gave in and 3 birdies over the final 4 holes on the back nine got him to within a stroke. Nathan has accredited his performance due to his current fitness regime of walking, rather than driving.

In third place was Andrew Auld (Vintage), also on 71 but a mix of 3 pars, 3 birdies and 3 bogeys was relegated to third place on a countback. He was amply compensated when his nett 70 was the best nett score in A grade.

Local players Tim Cameron and Scott Collins shared the spoils in the minor handicap prizes, when both returned nett 71's to provide a Muswellbrook quinella. However Tim took the major prize when the countback was applied.

B Grade

The B Grade champion for 2015 is Bill Costello (Vintage) who shot a creditable 81 on the long sodden layout. Teeing off the 10th hole Bill kicked off with an opening birdie, which was quickly offset two holes later. Further bogeys followed on 14, 16 & 17 to finish on 39. On the front nine two double bogeys and 2 bogeys alongside 5 pars saw a total of 42, which earned him the B grade title.

Not to be outdone by his son, Chris Waters (Scone) came in runner up in the B grade scratch finishing two shots back on 83. Chris returned a 39 total for the back nine, but faltered on the front with a 44. Bragging rights around the family dinner table will be equal.

Wayne Cox of Kurri played above his ability to win the handicap trophy on nett 70, from fellow clubman Paul Tannock who was one shot behind on nett 71. Third placed money went to Wayne Cambourne of Maitland who was beaten into that position under the countback rules.

C Grade

A small field of players took to the rural setting that is Dungog golf course to decide the C grade championship. Wayne Threlfo, from Kurri was largely untroubled by the layout except for the 5th hole where he racked up a disastrous eight. He recovered from that and cruised around for rounds of 45 - 42 = 87, to win on a countback from Greg Norris from Stonebridge.

Greg lost the countback when his 9 holes scores were the reverse of Wayne. He had difficulty with the 3rd & 12th holes, when he logged a pair of 7's on the same hole.

The nett winner on the day was Tony Lorriman from Stonebridge with an excellent nett 67, with nines of 43 - 45, less his handicap of 21, for the winning margin of 2 strokes. A triple bogey on the 12th holes did not affect the result.

Steff Gilmartin (Hunter Valley) came in nett runner up with a nett 69. It was his first game on the layout and after an opening 51 on the front nine, improved by 4 strokes, for his score.

Third spot in the nett event was taken by Peter Thomas (Singleton) who finished on 89 nett 71.

TROPHY	NAME	CLUB	SCORE	VALUE
A GRADE				
Scratch Winner	Dylan Perry	The Vintage	70	\$100
Scratch Runner Up	Nathan Waters	Scone	71	\$50
Nett Winner	Andrew Auld	The Vintage	70	\$80
Nett Runner Up	Tim Cameron	Muswellbrook	71	\$50
Nett Third	Scott Collins	Muswellbrook	71	\$30
B GRADE				
Scratch Winner	Bill Costello	The Vintage	81	\$100
Scratch Runner Up	Chris Waters	Scone	83	\$50
Nett Winner	Wayne Cox	Kurri	70	\$80
Nett Runner Up	Paul Tannock	Kurri	71	\$50
Nett Third	Wayne Cambourne	Maitland	71	\$30
C GRADE				
Scratch Winner	Steve Threlfo	Kurri	87 c/b	\$100
Scratch Runner Up	Greg Norris	Stonebridge	87	\$50
Nett Winner	Tony Lorriman	Stonebridge	67	\$80
Nett Runner Up	Steff Gilmartin	Hunter Valley	69	\$50
Nett Third	Peter Thomas	Singleton	71	\$30

AMBROSE FOURS - MCLINTOCK SHIELD

The final District of the golfing year the popular Ambrose Fours was played at Kurri on Sunday 16 November. The day didn't get off to a promising start with cold overcast conditions, with a stiff southerly breeze, followed shortly thereafter with squally showers of rain, decreasing the player comfort to zero. Later in the day the rain clouds moved on to provide some warming sunshine and finally howling westerly winds. Thankfully it was a shotgun start and all teams participating experiencing the varied conditions.

The winning scratch score was returned by the experienced Singleton team of Dan Storey, his little brother Liam, Luke Smith and Rick Janssen. Their score of 11 under 61, provided them a one stroke victory. The boys played balanced golf to return nines of 5 under and 6 under for their score, consistent golf under the varied conditions.

Runners up were the Stonebridge team led by big hitting Josh Knott, his big brother Seth, Scott Ling and Les Cussen, who had a 10 under par 62 to take second place on a countback. Their 31 total for the inward nine edged out another Singleton team led by their club captain Mark Newman, Club vice captain Anthony Fay, former professional Chad Vesper and Russell Richards.

The nett winners was a great result with the boys from the sand greens of Murrurundi taking the honours with a nett 56 $\frac{1}{8}$. Brett Reid captained his team of his cousin Milton Reid, Allan Flanagan and the experienced Ken Thornton to a .625 stroke victory. A luxury handicap of 8 $\frac{7}{8}$ was instrumental to their win.

Nett runners up were Jaime White, Greg Eyb, Garry Hill and Graham Bull from Maitland who started as firm favourites but could only finish on 56 $\frac{3}{4}$ which equates to a 65 off the stick.

Third place went to the renowned McKenzie family from Maitland, who finished on nett 57. The family team of Bob, Don, Adam and George (adopted) were led by District President Bob, who may have taken the advice of his pro partner John Onions at the recent Maitland Pro-am, and changed his pre golf routine.

4 MAN AMBROSE CHAMPIONSHIPS

KURRI - 16 November 2014

TROPHY	NAME	CLUB	SCORE
SCRATCH			
Scratch Winners	Daniel Storey	Singleton	61
	Luke Smith		
	Liam Storey		
	Rick Janssen		
Scratch R Up	Josh Knott	Stonebridge	62
	Seth Knott		
	Scott Ling		
	Les Cussen		

Scratch Third	Mark Newman	Singleton	62
	Anthony Fay		
	Chad Vesper		
	Russell Richards		
NETT			
Nett Winners	Brett Reid	Murrurundi	56 $\frac{1}{8}$
	Allan Flanagan		
	Ken Thornton		
	Milton Reid		
Nett R Up	Jamie White	Maitland	56 $\frac{3}{4}$
	Greg Eyb		
	Garry Hill		
	Graham Bull		
Nett Third	Robert McKenzie	Maitland	57
	Don McKenzie		
	Adam NcKenzie		
	George McKenzie (Millar)		