

# Wellington Golf Incorporated

## News

### TWINS

The Spearman-Burn twins Peter and Tom continue to pile on the credits for their CV's with Peter winning the South Island Amateur at Terrace Downs after a superb finish to the tournament with a six-under score on the last day. The event had been dominated particularly on the second day by the gale-force winds but Peter had a great last two days to record an impressive win. Wellington player's scores were as follows:

|                                 |             |     |                   |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-----|-------------------|
| Peter Spearman-Burn (Miramar)   | 71 81 70 66 | 288 | 1 <sup>st</sup>   |
| Chan Young Chung (Shandon)      | 72 74 78 73 | 297 | 5 <sup>th=</sup>  |
| Tom Spearman-Burn (Miramar)     | 76 84 71 70 | 301 | 11 <sup>th</sup>  |
| James Betts (Paraparaumu Beach) | 69 78 79 79 | 305 | 15 <sup>th=</sup> |
| Jonny Dittmer (Shandon)         | 79 76 81 73 | 309 | 23 <sup>rd</sup>  |
| Marc Jennings (Shandon)         | 77 81 81 80 | 319 | 38 <sup>th=</sup> |
| Tim Borren (Paraparaumu Beach)  | 80 83 80 79 | 322 | 42 <sup>nd=</sup> |

Current New Zealand Amateur Champion Thomas Spearman-Burn, added more silverware to the home cabinet when he finished as the leading amateur at the Michael Hill New Zealand Open. His win meant he was the winner of the Bledisloe Cup. An opening round of two under par 70 was an excellent start; however an erratic 77 followed leaving Thomas 4 shots adrift of the cut line. Only four amateurs received a start in the event with Thomas the best performed.

### WELLINGTON CONTINUE TO WIN NATIONAL TROPHIES

The year 2008 will be well remembered for the success of Wellington men's teams and individuals, with success at all levels. The winning continued at Taupo in January's national Under 23 Teams Championship when the young team of Ben Campbell, James Betts, Chan Young Chung, Thomas Spearman-Burn and Peter Spearman-Burn cleared out to win by seven strokes. While this group remains amateurs, Wellington can field the same team for the next three years, a very positive sign for the future.

### NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The new Wellington Golf Incorporated is established, and the next year will be interesting times as programmes are reviewed with the aim to be more efficient. At the recent AGM of the new body the following Board members were elected:

President : Patrick FitzGerald

Vice Presidents : Jill Timmins and Terry Bastion

Directors : Lesley Askew, John Brooky, John Cooper and Vera Hughes

## **DISAPPOINTING SBS TOURNAMENT**

It was a disappointed Wellington team that returned from Invercargill having completed a weekend to forget, in the SBS Invitational. The team of Thomas Spearman-Burn, James Betts, Chan Young Chung, Richard Pegg and Adam Church finished in 12<sup>th</sup> place in an event won by North Harbour. Sadly each player performed below their best, and in a team competition such as the SBS you need two or three team members in good form. We look forward to redemption in 2010.

## **MARTINBOROUGH TRIAL RESULTS**

Vera Hughes has been a real catalyst behind a group of young women that are starting to turn heads in Wellington Womens Golf. Six players aged between 12 and 16 make up a small team that Vera has been assisting with their development. Her encouragement and support over the last two years was rewarded when the girls dominated the first trial event, recently held at Martinborough. Manor Park's Julianne Alvarez, only 12 years of age, won the trial, with Wainuiomata's Amy Austin (14) two shots behind. The leading scores were:

|     |                  |    |    |
|-----|------------------|----|----|
| 149 | Julianne Alvarez | 71 | 78 |
| 151 | Amy Austin       | 79 | 72 |
| 153 | Alanah Braybrook |    |    |
| 154 | Barbara Parreno  |    |    |



## **2008 - What a Year!**

**2008 has been a year to remember for all the right reasons, on and off the golf courses.**

**Interclub Miramar and Shandon dominated the elite 36-hole Interclub season again this year with quality performances throughout the season in the Otaki Cup won by Miramar and Duncan Cup won by Shandon. In the extensive 18-hole Interclub programme the spoils were shared over the 10 divisions by both smaller and larger Clubs with many of the grade winners only being determined in the last of the 10 rounds. In the junior Watt Cup competitions it was great to note the reemergence of Featherston and Titahi as forces in junior golf and to have Masterton confirm their preminent position.**

**Provincial events The Freyberg Masters team deservedly lead the way this year after an excrutiatingly close run in 2007. The senior team also had a good**

year but just lost in the final of the Interprovincials as they had done last year to round off a frustratingly year. In other matches Wellington had sound wins in the annual fixtures against Manawatu/Wanganui and Hawke's Bay and a fine win in the Shand Cup quadrangular; less impressive were the close losses to Auckland and in the quadrangular prior to the Interprovincials. As a contrast the age-group representatives were unbeaten in their matches in 2008 and in most matches were really unchallenged to win their contests comfortably.

**District events** Sam Bastion and Peter Grace had outstanding wins in the District Strokeplay and Matchplay Championships whilst Chan Young Chung was too good for the strong field in the Under-23 Strokeplay Championships. The latter event was notable for the inclusion for the first time of an elite group of young women.

**Individual performances** 2008 was a unique year for Wellington as local players totally dominated the week of the NZ Amateur held at Paraparaumu Beach in April. Sean Kells and Shaun Richards started the winning performances off with a special win in the Foursomes on their home course followed up by fellow club member James Betts winning the Strokeplay Championship in an exciting playoff. To cap off the week Miramar players won the O'Rorke vase for the best team and then Tom Spearman-Burn from that Club had a triumphant win in the Amateur Matchplay Championship. That would have been a great year but 'wait there's more' as Ben Campbell won the national Under-23 Strokeplay Championship and the Arran Baddeley tournament in China, Peter Spearman-Burn won the North Island Under-19 and Chan Young Chung won the South Island Under-19 event. Any survey of individual performances in 2008 would not be complete without acknowledging the former Junior Golf Development Manager and Wellington Junior Academy Manager Mark Brown whose wins in the Sail Open and Johnnie Walker event made this a breakthrough year for him.

**Junior Golf and Academy** The continued support of our sponsors Srixon Sports and the Pelorus Trust have allowed the 2007/2008 Academy to exceed even our expectations. To have former and current Academy players performing with such distinction as individuals and as part of Wellington and NZ teams has shown the benefit of the academy programme and reinforces why this District can look forward with confidence. The extension of the SchoolsGolf and Junior Plus programmes has also allowed a growing band of youngsters to improve their skills at golf which can only be of advantage to the Clubs and to the District.

**Administration** This year has signaled a significant shift in the administration of golf in the District with the long-awaited amalgamation of the men's and women's controlling bodies to take place in 2009. Under the guidance of the Amalgamation Action Group and with the cooperation of the member Clubs amalgamation will allow an increased efficiency of all aspects of golf in the District.

**Community effort** This year Wellington Golf Association promoted and ran a charity golf tournament to benefit the Wellington Free Ambulance – this was an

**outstanding success thanks to the support from our Clubs and the local business community.**



## **Wellington Players to the Fore NZ Amateur**

Wellington players dominated results at the recently completed event held at the Paraparaumu Beach Golf Club links course.

### **Foursomes Championship**

Sean Kells and Shaun Richards from Paraparaumu Beach GC dominated the foursomes

event which traditionally starts the week of the Amateur. After a worthy start with a four-under par 67 to lead the field by two shots at lunchtime the local pair produced a brilliant 63 to win by 7 shots. Their remarkable afternoon round included 5 birdies and 2

eagles and cemented the win for the host Club.

### **Strokeplay Championships**

Nineteen year-old James Betts also from the host Club maintained the local dominance in

the Amateur when he prevailed in the Strokeplay by winning a play-off against more experienced opponents after a tie at the end of the traditional 72 holes format. Other Wellington players performed well to finish in the top 32 and also qualify for the matchplay segment of the event. Within that representation it was great to note that 4 current and 2 past members of the Srixon Wellington Junior Golf Academy were represented in the final 32 qualifiers for the Matchplay.

Scores of Wellington players:

James Betts 72 67 72 68 279 1=

Andrew Green 74 67 70 69 280 4=

Sean Kells 68 74 68 71 281 7=

Peter Spearman-Burn 70 68 71 72 282 9=

Perry Hayman 77 69 70 66 282 9=

Michael Schofield 71 69 72 72 284 13=

Tho. Spearman-Burn 72 71 70 73 286 20=

Chan Young Chung 74 70 73 70 287 25

Malcolm Gullery 66 73 73 76 288 26=

Jeff Tuoro 77 72 72 68 289 29=  
Adam Church 76 68 76 69 290 31=  
James Donnelly 77 72 72 69 290 31=

### **NZ Amateur Championship (Matchplay)**

Thomas Spearman-Burn from Miramar Golf Club, just eighteen years old, held his nerve

and his form to deservedly take out the prestigious Amateur title and produce an outstanding and historic Championship for the District with Wellington players winning

all 3 titles at stake. After qualifying 20<sup>th</sup> and having recovered from a recent shoulder injury Thomas beat the experienced national representative Kevin Smith in the final 4/2.

Other Wellington players to make it past the first round were Sean Kells, Michael Schofield and Adam Church who were all beaten in the second round and 2006 Amateur

Champion Andrew Green who was beaten in the quarter-final.

### **South Island Under-19 Championship**

Shandon Golf Club's Chan Young Chung, member of the Srixon Wellington Junior Golf

Academy, played the Timaru Golf Club course at Levels in a three round total of 2 under

par to take out the overall Championship along with the Under 15 title. Chan won the Under 13 title in 2006.

### **2008 Wairarapa Open**

The local contingent of 4 Wairarapa Age-group players fought out the latter stages of the

event which because of torrential rain was reduced to a 54-hole Championship.

New Zealand Age-group representative player 16 year-old Ben Campbell beat his Masterton team mate Michael Schofield at the 3<sup>rd</sup> extra hole in a sudden death playoff after they had tied at 9 under par 204. Only 3 shots further adrift was Jeff Tuoro of Masterton GC and the only other player to equal or better par Harry Bateman, also from

Masterton GC. This was a great result for the youngsters from the Landsdowne course all of whom are members of the Srixon Wellington Junior Golf Academy which continues a marvelous run for the Academy in 2008.

To date in 2008 the Academy has registered top finishes at the following events:

NZ Under 23 Strokeplay Ben Campbell 1<sup>st</sup>

Michael Schofield 4<sup>th</sup>

North Island U-19 Ben Campbell 2<sup>nd</sup>

(won by former member of Academy Peter Spearman-Burn)

Otago Strokeplay Michael Schofield 1<sup>st</sup>

Miramar Open James Betts 1<sup>st</sup>

NZ Strokeplay James Betts 1<sup>st</sup>

NZ Amateur won by former Academy member Thomas Spearman-Burn

# Junior Golf News



## Tournament Results

Over the last few weeks some of Wellington's best young players have been prominent in a number of international and national events.

Among them have been:

### NZ Under-23 Teams Championship, Taupo GC

#### Teams

|                 |      |                                  |
|-----------------|------|----------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | 1155 | Waikato 281, 292, 288, 294       |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 1170 | North Harbour 289, 292, 298, 291 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 1172 | Wellington 286, 297, 197, 292    |

#### Individual

|                   |     |   |
|-------------------|-----|---|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> = | 285 | Peter Spearman-Burn (Miramar) 68 72 71 74 |
|                   | 285 | Ben Campbell (Masterton) 71 72 74 68      |

### NZ Under-23 Championships, Hastings GC

|                    |     |   |
|--------------------|-----|---|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>    | 286 | Ben Campbell 72 70 71 73                  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup>    | 291 | Michael Schofield (Masterton) 71 76 74 70 |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> = | 296 | Peter Spearman-Burn 72 72 74 78           |

### North Island Under-19 Championships, Hamilton GC

|                    |     |                                     |
|--------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>    | 210 | Peter Spearman-Burn 70 70 70        |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> =  | 214 | Ben Campbell 72 72 70               |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> = | 221 | Harry Bateman (Masterton) 74 76 71  |
| 14 <sup>th</sup>   | 222 | Chan Young Chung (Shandon) 74 70 78 |

All of these players are past or present members of the Wellington Srixon Junior Golf Academy. Well done guys.

## 2007 Junior Orders of Merit

In the last of the 2007 Order of Merit events, the Wainuiomata Junior Open which had been postponed from October, the winners of the Tom Caithness Cups for the leading individuals in the Girls and Boys Order of Merits were decided.

The winners for 2007 are

**Amy Austin (Wainuiomata) who also won the inaugural trophy event in 2006, and Harry Bateman (Masterton). Well done to both of you.**

## **2008 Junior Orders of Merit**

**Check out the latest Orders of Merit for the year which include the Michael Campbell Classic, the recent National Age-group events and the Featherston Junior Open. The Orders of Merit can be found on this Website under 'Events and Results'.**

## **Wellington Srixon Junior Golf Academy**

**The squad held its latest Academy Day at Hutt Golf Club under the tutelage of new Academy Manager Phil Aickin. Subjects covered on the day were a session on the Rules of Golf including questions of particular relevance to tournament play, competitive putting drills and measurement of 'carry yardages'. The latter distances are vital for a good understanding of appropriate club selections during competition rounds.**



### **New appointment**

Wellington Golf is pleased to announce that former Eisenhower player and long time golf administrator Phil Aickin will join the team as the Association's Junior Golf Development Manager.

Phil was a NZ representative from 1979-1990 which included selection in three Eisenhower teams. He is a two time winner of the North Island Amateur, is the only player to have finished leading amateur in the NZ Open three years running, finished runner up in both the NZ and Australian Amateurs and won the NSW Medal.

In 1993, following a working career in a retail business, Phil joined NZ Golf as high performance manager. Following the death of mentor Grant Clements, he spent a short period as CEO, but preferred to be more closely involved with the playing of the game and spent his last years at NZ Golf as Operations Manager.

Phil's passion for the game is unquestioned, taking an interest in the games heritage while also very keen to ensure the future of the game both in playing numbers and also success at the highest level. His skills will be invaluable for the game in the Wellington District. He will have a direct role with the Srixon Junior Golf Academy, with Schools Golf and with the continuation of the coaching programmes at Clubs through the Junior Plus scheme and the Regional Development Coaching ("levy") scheme.

While the role with Wellington Golf will be a priority, Phil will continue to develop projects in other areas of the game, including GTNZ, the Greg Turner initiative formed to assist NZ's next champions.

## **2008 Interclub**

At a recent meeting called by the WGA representatives from the 16 Clubs that have entered teams in the 36-hole Interclub competitions met to consider changes to the format of the 2008 competition.

A thorough discussion took place where all Clubs had the opportunity to give their views on a number of options that were promoted to the meeting. Among options considered were changing the number of players in a team, changing the number of teams in a division and whether the use of a 'neutral' venue was either desired or necessary. At the end of that discussion the Club representatives were asked to indicate their view of the format that should be used in 2008.

By a clear majority the Clubs wished to maintain the format that was used in 2007. For 2008 then the format will continue with Divisions 1 and 2 involving 7 teams each (using neutral venues) and Division 3 involving 4 teams who play a round robin on a 'home and away' basis.

### **Thomas Alexander Caithness (Tom) 1932 – 2007**

**Former President of Wellington Golf Association Tom Caithness passed away only a few days after falling and breaking his leg whilst watching a Duncan Cup match. The funeral was attended by about 600 people and appropriately held at Shandon Golf Club of which Tom had been a member for 52 years, President 1992 to 1996 and which had made him a Life Member in 1988.**

**Tom joined the WGA as a member of the Executive in 1990 having committed himself to serving as a golfing administrator with a particular enthusiasm for**

**supporting young golfers. His passion for the game and especially his desire to support Age-group and Senior Interclub and Provincial events was well-known by anyone familiar with golf in the Wellington area. His parochial support of Shandon and Wellington teams was never any inhibition for Tom to acknowledge excellence or good sportsmanship by any player.**

**Within the WGA Tom served on the Executive Committee from 1990 to 1997 and from 2000 until his death, on the Junior subcommittee as Convenor from 1990 to 1996, on the Selection subcommittee from 1991 to 1996, on the Finance subcommittee from 2002 to 2006, as Vice-President from 2002 to 2003 and as President from 2003 to 2006.**

**Tom will be sadly missed by his many golfing friends both in administration and the playing side of golf and for his passionate support for and association with so many young players that he befriended over the years.**

## Regional Development (“Levy”) Coaching

The Association is about to resume on our levy coaching programme for 07/08. Being our inaugural year in 2006/2007 the trial based on the Kapiti area during the September school holidays was then used across the region commencing during the Xmas holiday break. The total programme did not conclude until the August/September school holidays but was widely regarded as being excellent value and certainly worth pursuing. For this current year the programme has seen only minor changes to encourage all Clubs and their junior members to take full advantage of the scheme

Briefly the programme consists:

Each adult male golf club member has been levied \$2-00

The funds (\$16,000) have been reallocated back to the clubs in the form of professional coaching based on the amount of money raised

The region has been split into geographical cells of approx 4 clubs per cell

Participants are selected by the relevant golf clubs

Each participant will undertake 5 sessions of 2 hrs per session in groups of 10

The coaching will be undertaken by the local professional.

Training content will reinforce the fundamentals of the game including grip, posture, alignment, swing basics, short game, putting, bunkers etc

The training is available to all juniors, both genders, with selection being at the Club's discretion.

Initial meetings with the clubs have been very positive with all clubs indicating they will be able to fill their allocations. Attempts will be made to ensure groups undertaking training will be of similar skill levels.

For more details please contact your Club Junior Convenor who will be aware of the programme and its intentions.