

Aorangi Junior Golf



December
Newsletter



Family Team Golf

Summer Series

As 2018 nears an end, I am encouraged with the results achieved this year surrounding beginners to junior golf and the numbers now playing the game on a regular basis.

Through the course of 2018 with Team & Family golf there have been 6 events held in Ashburton and 16 events in the Sth Canterbury area for total of 370 junior participations & 129 parent participations. For me the interesting statistic is the high percentage of the parent participations, 80%, who are either new to the game, or would normally only play a couple of games of golf per year.

Since the introduction of Family Golf back in June that has now seen 6 of these events held in Sth Canterbury & 2 in Ashburton, parent participation has steadily grown to a point where Family Golf has now evolved to a regular monthly event. Once I have had a chance to fully review & discuss the outcomes from Family / Team Golf for 2018, my intention is to see how we can build on this success & develop further into 2019.

"Purple Course"

A golf course can be an intimidating environment for those who are new to golf with course lengths that exceed the abilities of the most adult beginners and young people as well as many senior golfers. There is more enjoyment and less frustration associated with the game when players can reach the green in a reasonable number of shots. This can be achieved by golf clubs offering a forward tee option to vary the golf experience for players, young & old.



With many regulation 18-hole courses struggling to connect with a customer base in societal flux, a shorter "Purple Course" alternative makes the game faster and more rewarding for a range of golfers.

Over the last month there has been a lot of work going on behind the scenes at the Timaru & Fairlie GC's getting their "Purple Course" installed & operational, with Fairlie having their course operational in time for our final 2018 Family Golf event held on the first Sunday of December.

Our final Family Golf event at Fairlie GC welcomed 27 children & 21 parents to the course for what was a very entertaining & fun day. As it was a Xmas themed event the array of bright & colourful costumes just added to the positive mood of the day. Xmas music, golf carts decorated like Xmas trees, BBQ and refreshments were all the go and the kids just loved it. This was also the first event to be held on the Purple Course, and after the prize giving, we had a chipping & putting competition for the kids, and this was so much fun. Cannot wait for 2019 to start this all over again.

On that note, I would like to thank all the clubs that have hosted my events through 2018, The Cairns GC, Ashburton GC, Timaru GC, Pleasant Point GC, Geraldine GC & Fairlie GC. I know parents and children alike have enjoyed the experience of playing on different courses and the welcome received from the club members that have engaged with the wider group. Your support in hosting these events has been pivotal to the growth of our wonderful game, and more importantly you have provided a pathway to club golf for our next generation of golfers, both junior & the older generation, who are new to the game.





To my wonderful group of parents & children, you guys have been an absolute inspiration and it has been great to watch you all grow into your game this year. Each event always threw up a new challenge and I hope you all have taken onboard your new learnings to improve your game, and we can do it all again in 2019.

The back end of January 2019 will be the start date for another round of Family & Team Golf for Timaru & Ashburton. The recently postponed Ashburton Junior Open will also be confirmed in a few weeks for February 2019, details to follow soon.

Wishing you all a safe & happy Xmas and I look forward to seeing you in 2019.

Malcolm Wood
CGM Aorangi Golf

