NBS Waahi Taakaro Golf Club

Waahi Taakaro Golf Club Maitai Masters Newsletter November 1.

Loach Digs Deep to Secure Back-to-Back Maitai Masters Titles

Nelson professional Nick Loach held his nerve down the stretch on Saturday, October 31, edging Rarangi's Paul Silke by a single stroke to defend his Fico Finance Maitai Masters crown in a thrilling 27-hole duel.
Unlike his commanding five-shot romp twelve months ago, Loach had to grind for every inch of victory on an immaculate Waahi Taakaro layout. Carrying the tournament's lowest handicap at +4 among a full field of 64 competitors, the defending champion opened with a steady one-under-par 71 over the first 18 holes. His morning card featured three birdies—including a pivotal conversion on the demanding river-crossing 18th—against two bogeys.

Silke, playing off a 3-handicap, refused to let Loach break away. Matching him shot-for-shot, the Marlborough challenger signed for an even-par 72 with three birdies and three bogeys to stay firmly within striking distance heading into the final nine.

After calm morning conditions, a swirling afternoon breeze added teeth to the course. Loach responded immediately, opening his closing nine with a birdie and picking up two more against a pair of bogeys to post a one-under 35, setting the clubhouse target at 106 (−2).

Silke showed immense grit in response. Despite stumbling with a bogey at the par-3 11th, he rallied with a birdie at the par-3 14th to pile on the pressure. Needing an eagle on the final hole to force a sudden-death playoff, Silke settled for a superb closing birdie and a matching 35, finishing agonizingly short on 107. His stellar play earned him well-deserved consolation as the senior grade net winner with a 103.
Reflecting on the contest, Loach welcomed the stern examination.

"Paul played exceptionally well; it was neck and neck all day," Loach said. "It served as great preparation for the upcoming pro-ams. I was striking the ball cleanly and only missed three or four greens all afternoon, though my short game proved a bit testing."
Praising the host venue, Loach added: "The Waahi Taakaro course just keeps improving year after year. It was a fantastic day out, and I'll definitely be back next year targeting the three-peat."

Home Club Dominance Across the Grades
On a demanding test that rewarded stamina over raw power, Waahi Taakaro members capitalized on local knowledge across the remaining divisions.

- **Intermediate Grade:** Bryce Vincent captured gross honors with an impressive 27-hole tally of 126, eclipsing several lower-handicapped rivals. Clubmate Aron Kotua claimed top net honors with a sharp 105.
- **Junior Grade:** Dual Motueka and Waahi Taakaro member Grant Thorn lifted the gross silverware with a 140, while Dave Huntley led the division's net standings on 108.

Top Prize of the Day (Lowest Overall Net): Junior member Blair Joliffe produced the round of the tournament, pairing a blistering opening net 66 with a composed net 36 to claim the overall net prize with an unbeatable 102.

Tournament Results & Prize List

Senior Grade

- **Gross:** 1st Nick Loach (106), 2nd Steve Schwass (119), 3rd Andy Tasker (120)
- **Net:** 1st Paul Silke (103), 2nd Peter Watson (107), 3rd Karl Clark (108), 4th Nathan Wells (111), 5th Keri Kotua (113), 6th Jarrod Huss (114)

Intermediate Grade

- **Gross:** 1st Bryce Vincent (126), 2nd Jason Lee (135)
- **Net:** 1st Aron Kotua (105), 2nd Richard Pearson (113), 3rd Manu Edmonds (115), 4th Craig Barron (115), 5th Gareth Edwards (115), 6th Mike Williams (116)

Junior Grade

- **Gross:** 1st Grant Thorn (140)
- **Net:** 1st Dave Huntley (108), 2nd Lionel Guyton (109), 3rd Morgan Thorn (110), 4th Mark Clucas (113), 5th Phil Sellers (113), 6th Peter Churchill (115), 7th Ian Archibald (116)

Novelty & Specialty Honors

- **Lowest Overall Net:** Blair Joliffe (102)
- **Twos:** Paul Silke (2), Steve Schwass, Keri Kotua, Barry Rhodes, Andy Tasker, David Monopoli
- **Pitch for Cash:** 1st Phil Tavite, 2nd Paul Silke
- **Closest to the Pin:**
  - Holes 2 / 11: Jayden Elmiger
  - Holes 5 / 14: Ian Hanford
- **Longest Drive:**
  - Senior: Jarrod Huss
  - Intermediate: Craig Barron
  - Junior: Alex Knight
- **Straightest Drive:**

    - Senior: Jet Wongpuan
    - Intermediate: Gareth Edwards
    - Junior: Neil McLaren
- **Country Rover:** Warren Carey

Behind the Magic: A Massive Thank You to Our Club Legends

Rumour has it that 27-hole golf tournaments don't actually run themselves. Between the lost balls, the thirsty hackers, and the inevitable debate over who *actually* had the straightest drive, pulling off a day like the Maitai Masters takes an absolute army.

On behalf of the Management and Golf Committee, we want to tip our visors and raise a hearty glass to the superstars who kept the wheels on the wagon: -

Our Invaluable Sponsors (The Real MVPs)
Without you, we'd be handing out pats on the back instead of silverware.

- **Naming Rights Legends**: A massive shoutout to Scott Dodd and Bruce Yelverton at **Fico Finance**. Thank you for backing us year after year and keeping our flagship event in lights.
- **Platinum Sponsor:** Huge thanks to James Lash and the team at **PlaceMakers** for helping build the foundation of a cracking tournament.
- **Prize Sponsors:** To Tides Hotel Bar & Eatery, Turf Hotel, Ocean Lodge, Prince Albert Hotel, and Sprig & Fern—thank you for giving 64 golfers something genuinely worth fighting for on the back nine (and for soothing a few wounded pride-levels afterwards!).
- And Total Golf

Our Greenkeeping Wizard

- **James Dale:** Producing a course in pristine nick is an art form, and James poured in countless hours to roll out the green carpet for us. Word is, after playing over at Motueka that very afternoon, our humble 9-hole layout didn't just hold its own—its fairways and greens were right up there with the best of them. Take a bow, James; the course was an absolute treat (even when the rough bit back).

The Unsung Tournament Heroes.

- **Tournament Director James Campion** & His Merry Crew: James steered the ship with military precision. Keeping the troops hydrated were Matt Tomczyk and Amy

Austin, piloting the oasis on wheels (a.k.a. the drinks cart) and saving lives out in the afternoon sun.

- **The Course Marshals:** Big thanks to Andrew Craig for hammering in all those novelty prize stakes (and giving us all something unrealistic to aim at), plus eagle-eyed spotters Andy Isle and Lewis Wilson, who saved dozens of golf balls from the river and kept the field moving at a gentlemanly pace.
- **The Sizzle Squad:** Where would we be without the intoxicating aroma of sizzling sausages? A standing ovation to John and Glen Towns, Winton Griggs, and Warren Green on the BBQ tongs. You kept 64 hungry golfers fueled, happy, and remarkably well-behaved.

The Boss Behind the Curtain

- **Heather Carey (Club Manager):** Every smooth event has an engine room, and Heather is ours. Long before the first ball was shanked off the tee, Heather put in tireless hours behind the scenes ensuring every scorecard, rule sheet, schedule, and prize was locked down. If the day looked effortless, it's only because Heather worked her socks off to make sure nothing went sideways.

To everyone who sponsored, volunteered, swung a club, or flipped a snag: thank you for making the Maitai Masters such a rip-roaring success. We couldn't have done it without you!

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Golf Committee – Weekly Internal Competition Dates

Date	Competition Details	Tees/ Time

Monday November 2	Labour Day, Ladies golf	**10am**
Tuesday November 3 9-Hole Field	Tuesday Comp – Irish Stableford	**B9/ 1pm**
Wednesday 28 October 9-Hole Field	Starts back In November	
Thursday November 4 9-Hole Field	Golden Oldies - Irish Stableford	**F9/ 10am**
Saturday October 31 18-Hole Field	Stableford MoD/ Eagles Visit	**10am**
Saturday October 31 9-Hole Field	Stableford	**F9 12am**
Key Dates Saturday November 14	**Waahi Taakaro Prize Giving/ Closing Day Ambrose** ▪ 18-Hole 9am only. Get your teams into Heather ASAP.	

🏌 Celebrate the End of Winter in Style.

Winter Season Finale & Ambrose Tournament & Waahi Taakaro Golf Club Prize-Giving.

⛳ Date: Saturday, 14 November Time: 9:00 AM Shotgun Start

Where: Waahi Taakaro Golf Club Winter is officially going out, and we are sending it off with a bang. It's time to lock in your dream team, grab your mates, and join us for our massive Winter Season Finale Ambrose Tournament. Whether you're out to smash lowest team scores or just there for the laughs, this is the ultimate day to celebrate with fellow members and wrap up the season the right way. Expect plenty of banter, great golf, and a whole lot of fun out on the course.

What's Waiting for You After the Final Putt: -

- **The 2025/26 Prizegiving:** Stick around as we hand out the accolades and celebrate our standout performers for the year.

- **The Fuel:** Enjoy a complimentary sausage and bread (on the house!) to keep your energy up while you kick back and enjoy a well-deserved beverage at the clubhouse. Don't miss out on the club event of the season.

Get your team sorted today, sign up through the pro shop or club channels, and let's make this a season send-off to remember.

See you on the first tee at 9 am sharp! ⛳

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SEE YOU ON THE FIRST TEE AT 9 AM SHARP!

Remembering Adam Candy RIP

It is with profound sadness and heavy hearts that we share the news of the passing of our dear friend and long-time golf shop team member, Adam Candy, who passed away recently following a battle with illness over the past few months.

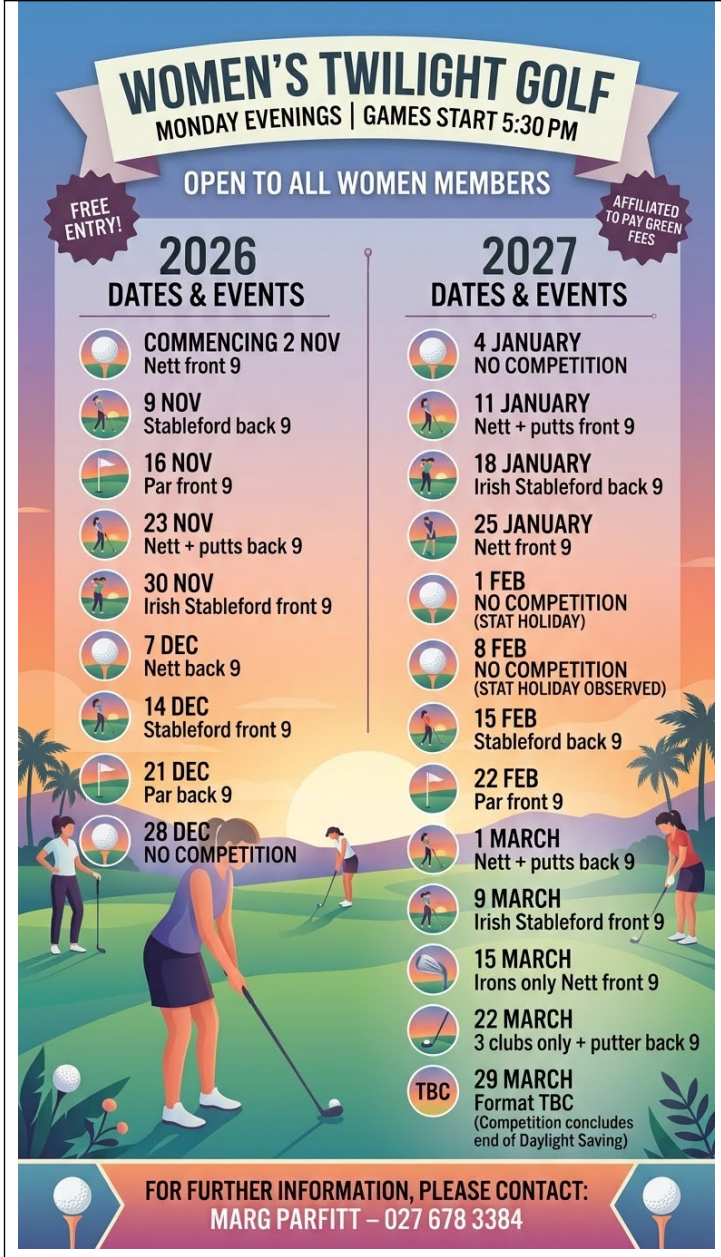
For many years, Adam was a welcoming, familiar, and cherished face in the Waahi Taakaro golf shop. He played an integral part in our club's daily life, greeting members and visitors with a friendly demeanour and building strong connections across our community. His dedication, warmth, and presence around the clubhouse will be deeply missed by us all.

Funeral and Burial Details
For members wishing to attend and pay their respects: -
Date: Wednesday, 28 October 2026
Time: 1:00 PM
Location: Marsden Cemetery, Nelson

All Waahi Taakaro members are warmly welcome to attend.

Our thoughts, prayers, and deepest condolences go out to Adam’s family and loved ones during this difficult time.
Rest in peace, Adam. You will always be a part of the Waahi Taakaro family.

Waahi Taakaro Women’s Twilight Golf



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