



Waahi Taakaro Golf Club Newsletter 20 September.

Waahi Taakaro Golf Club - Nelson award Paul Tunnicliff Life Membership.

He was nominated by John Towns and seconded by Grant Fergusson. He was fully endorsed by the members this morning at the AGM.

The awarding of Life Membership at Waahi Taakaro Golf Club is a fitting tribute to Paul Tunnicliff, whose contribution extends far beyond his achievements on the course. This honour recognises decades of dedicated service, strategic leadership, and an extraordinary volunteer commitment that has sustained the club's facilities, guided its governance, and strengthened its community.

Club Governance: Serving as Club President, Paul provided steady, forward-thinking stewardship. He represented Waahi Taakaro across the wider regional golfing community, managed member relations with integrity, guided executive committee decisions, and championed critical infrastructure enhancements.

National & Regional Recognition: Under his governance and ongoing stewardship, Waahi Taakaro achieved the distinction of being named Club of the Year for two consecutive years, reflecting operational excellence, strong community engagement, and resilient leadership.

Event & Operations Management: Paul consistently spearheaded the delivery of club tournaments, working bees, charitable fundraisers, and social initiatives, cultivating an inclusive and welcoming culture for golfers of all backgrounds and abilities.

Dedicated Service & Course Restoration

While many members simply enjoy the fairways, Paul has devoted countless hours behind the scenes to maintain and protect the course environment.

Hands-On Course Maintenance: Paul has served as an essential partner to the greenkeeping team and volunteer working bees, contributing substantial labour toward course preparation, fairway care, tree management, and the upkeep of core facilities. Especially his beloved holes 7 and 16.

Disaster Recovery & Flood Relief: Following devastating weather events—most notably the major floods of August 2022 and May 2023—Paul led on-the-ground recovery operations. Working alongside greenkeeper Eric Shurson and member volunteers, he invested immense personal time clearing debris, restoring playing surfaces, and designing temporary routing solutions that enabled safe play throughout a demanding 17-month recovery phase.

Capital Infrastructure Delivery: During the installation of the \$1.5 million river bridge opened in early 2024, Paul liaised closely with local council authorities, contractors, and iwi representatives, providing vital logistical support and advocating for the long-term interests of the course.

Competitive Playing Record

Paul's contributions off the course are matched by an accomplished competitive record at Waahi Taakaro and throughout the Nelson district: -

- **Player of the Year (2018, 2019 & 2020):** Produced an outstanding season/s, securing multiple club trophies and earning the club's top individual playing accolade.
- **Champion of Champions (2020):** Represented Waahi Taakaro with distinction, capturing the Intermediate Title at the Champion of Champions tournament in Picton.
- **Shootout Champion (2024):** Demonstrated composure and tactical precision under pressure to claim the annual 9-hole Shootout title.
- **C&F Legal Stroke Champion (2026):** Displayed consistency in demanding conditions to secure another premier strokeplay victory.
- **Holes-in-One:** Carded multiple career aces on his home course, including Hole 2 in 2019 and the 135-metre 14th hole in late 2023.

Enduring Legacy

Paul Tunnicliff embodies the core values of Waahi Taakaro Golf Club—loyalty, visionary leadership, sportsmanship, and an indefatigable volunteer spirit. Whether on the tractor, at the committee table, or competing on the fairways, his contributions have left a lasting imprint on the club's physical landscape and its membership for generations to come.



Golf Results ending 19th September

Saturday delivered a classic mix of standard golf, complete blowouts, and a few outright muggings as the Club Championship quarterfinals got underway. Here is how the drama unfolded.

Intermediate Grade

- **The Giant Killer:** No. 8 seed Andrew Bosselmann pulled off the day's biggest heist, knocking out top seed Gabriel Tijssen 1-up. Gabe roared out of the gates to go 2-up after four, but Andrew channeled his inner ice-man, reeling off three straight holes to lead at the turn. After a back-nine dogfight, Andrew edged ahead on 17 and then survived a truly hideous drive on 18 to scramble a bogey, halve the hole, and seal the upset.
- **The Title Defense Begins:** Defending champ Peter Watson let Graham Eggers play along for five holes before deciding he had places to be. Armed with a razor-sharp wedge and a hot putter, Peter won six of the next eight holes to cruise to a comfortable 6/5 win.
- **The Comeback:** Bryce Vincent (4) and Matt Tomczyk (5) went toe-to-toe starting off No. 7. Matt grabbed the lead with a sweet birdie two on 14, but Bryce saved his absolute best for last dropping a couple of monster putts to win three holes on the bounce for a 2/1 victory.
- **Pending Business:** Jason Lee and Graham Galt deferred their slugfest to Sunday.

Junior A Grade

- **Life Membership Power Surge:** Fresh off being named a Club Life Member at the morning AGM, Paul Tunnicliff celebrated by utterly dismantling Mark Clucas 8/7. Paul jumped out to a 3-up lead early and never let Mark breathe, burying him under a barrage of laser-like irons and pure putts.
- **Doyle Dethroned:** Gareth Edwards (3) put on a fairway-finding clinic to knock off defending champ Brendan Doyle 6/4. Brendan brought the big-hitting firepower, but Gareth brought absolute consistency, leading 3-up at the turn and never looking back.
- **The Veteran Grind:** Richard Pearson (4) and Maurice Woodhouse (5) traded blows for 15 straight holes like two old prizefighters. Deadlocked with three to play, Richard found a hidden sixth gear to grind out a bogey-par finish and a 2/1 win.
- **The Easy Road:** Top seed Harry Ambrose kicked his feet up and enjoyed the bye.

Junior B Grade

- **The Freight Train:** Andrew Craig (2) gave Mick Leggett zero margin for error, powering to an 8/7 win. Mick played right to his handicap, but it didn't matter Andrew was a man possessed, shooting a blistering net 67 and refusing to drop a single hole.
- **The Upset:** Phil Sellers (3) ran into a brick wall named Andrew Dodson (6), who dished out a 9/7 shellbacking. Andrew fired out of the cannon to win the first three holes and capped off his day with a cheeky birdie two on 14.
- **The Leftie Heartbreak:** Lewis Wilson (4) had Jack Denton (5) on the ropes, leading by one on the 15th tee. But Jack threw on the hard hat, winning 15, 16, and 18 with ice-cold bogeys to steal a 2-up win. A net 70 off the blue tees proved Jack is a dangerous man down the stretch.
- **The Easy Road Part II:** Dave Huntley took the top seed's privilege and enjoyed his bye. Stableford & 9-Hole Side Shows

Match of the Day (Blue Tees): - Andy Isle took home top honours with 37 points, firing a day's-best gross 83. Sivina Jacobs-Harawira snatched second on countback over Dave Huntley (34 points)

each). Garth Jameson grabbed Nearest to the Pin on No. 5 (33 points), while Club Prez Grant Fergusson posted a respectable 32.

9-Hole Sprinters: - Mike De Veer left the field in his dust on the front nine. Playing off a 13 handicap, Mike compiled a massive 23 points (gross 44 off the stick). Paul McCrae claimed second with 20 points, followed by Marg Parfitt (19), Barry Rhodes (18), and Andrew Green (17).

Elkington Triumphs in Tuesday Par Competition

Club Results: Tuesday, 15/9/2026

A fantastic field turned out for the Tuesday Par Round competition on September 15th, making for an exciting and highly competitive day on the course.

The format, which directly pits players against the course's par score, saw some stellar performances. Leading the charge and claiming **1st place** with an impressive score of **+4** was Roma Elkington. In a tightly contested battle for the runner-up spots, Rebecca Gibson and Mike de Veer finished tied for **2nd place** with matching scores of **+2**.

Special congratulations go to the following players who also finished 'up' against the course, a notable achievement:

- Mark Sheperd (Score: +3)
- Andrew Dean (+2)
- Rebecca Gibson (+2)
- Mike de Veer (+2)
- Donna Dawson (+1)
- Robert Fergusson (+1)

Our appreciation to everyone who participated and made it a memorable day. It was great to see so many members enjoying the Par format!

Ladies Showcased in Wednesday Stableford F9

Club Results: Wednesday, 16/9/2026

Wednesday's focus shifted to the front nine for a 9-Hole Stableford competition, featuring an all-female field of players keen to test their scoring precision. The Stableford format, rewarding consistent points-gathering on each hole, delivered a day of close scoring.

Claiming the top spot on the podium for **1st place** was Susan Albert, who amassed a leading total of 19 points. Following closely in **2nd place** was Julie Sellers with a solid score of 17 points.

Rounding out the prize winners in **3rd place** was Kathryn K, finishing with 15 points.

The final placings for all participants were as follows:

- **1st:** Susan Albert (19 points)
- **2nd:** Julie Sellers (17 points)
- **3rd:** Kathryn K (15 points)
- **4th:** Lexie Wilson (14 points)
- **5th:** Claire Wynn (13 points)
- **6th:** Sally Quinner (11 points)
- **7th:** Donna Dawson (9 points)

Par Round Challenge Met by Men's F9 Field

Club Results: Thursday, 17/9/2026

Thursday's competition saw another test of skill against the course with a Men's 9-Hole Par Round on the Front 9. In this format, players score a '+1' for bettering par on a hole, a '0' for parring it, and a '-1' for scoring worse.

After a competitive nine holes, top honours and **1st place** went to Roma Elkington, who finished the round with a strong score of **+2**. The next best were tied on even-par, with Richard Pearson and Lloyd Moyle sharing **2nd place** with final scores of **0**.

A full breakdown of the final scores can be seen below:

- **1st:** Roma Elkington (+2)
- **=2nd:** Richard Pearson (0)
- **=2nd:** Lloyd Moyle (0)
- John Dryden (-1)
- Brian Ramsey (-1)
- Neil Howard (-1)
- Dave Huntley (-2)
- Jack Denton (-4)
- Andrew Dean (-5)



Golf Committee – Weekly Internal Competition Dates

1. **Monday (21 Sept)** 9H 'Women's Golf – 10.00am.
2. **Tuesday (22 Sept)** 9-Hole **Irish Stableford B9** Tee-Off (1pm).
3. **Wednesday (23 Sept)** Women's Golf Club Competition **Stableford F9** 9-Hole Pink Ribbon (10am).
4. **Thursday (24 Sept)** Golden Oldies play **Irish Stableford F9** Tee-Off (10am).
5. **Saturday (26 Sept)**
 - Senior Quarterfinals kick off with Pete Green (3) vs. Andy Isle (6), and Keri Kotua (4) taking on Jarrod Huss (5).
 - 18-hole field will tackle a Barkman Trophy and Shootout round off the blues (10am).
 - 9-holers face a front-nine Par round (12noon).

Maitai Masters

We're only a couple of months away from our biggest event of the season — the Maitai Masters, the region's most popular men's 27-hole tournament.

This event fills fast every year, so please register early and arrange payment to secure your spot. Posters and registration forms are available or simply ring the golf shop 03 548 7301 and the staff will take your details. See below.

Register via the golf shop & put date in your diary.

Waahi Taakaro Golf Club
Presents

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MAITAI MASTERS

*Mens 27 Hole
Championship*

31 OCTOBER 2026

Pitch for
CASH

\$300

LIMITED TO THE FIRST 72 PAID PLAYERS

Register Now

by emailing your registration to:
golfshop@waahitaakarogolfclub.co.nz
or call into the Golf Club to register
and pay

Need to know

• ENTRY fee of \$65 includes BBQ,
TWOS and Pitch For CASH
Handicap is limited to 26
3 GRADES

PlaceMakers

Know how. Can do.

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MAITAI MASTERS REGISTRATION

1. Name: _____

2. Handicap Index: _____

3. Membership Number: _____

4. Email Address: _____

5. Phone Number: _____

Waahi Taakaro Golf Club A/C

03-1354-0272446-03

Please enter your NAME and MAITAI as
reference if paying online

Will you be crowned
Maitai Masters
Champion?
2026

Resgister at the pro-
shop by 8.15am
Breifing at 8.40am
Tee off at 9am

PlaceMakers

Saturday

WAAHI TAAKARO GOLF CLUB SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENT SUMMER GOLF COMPETITION

6th NOVEMBER 2026 – 26th MARCH 2027

Weekly 9 hole competition.
Tee off 4.30pm each Friday



- LEARN The Rules, Types of competition, Scoring.
- GAIN A NZ Golf Handicap
- MEET Others who play and make new friends
- Could you be our new 2026/2027 STUDENT CHAMPION?
- Trophy awarded end of season.
- MEMBERS: FREE
- NON MEMBERS: \$12.50 each week you play
- MEMBERSHIP Nov – March 31: \$104
- CLUBS AVAILABLE TO HIRE: \$5.00

REGISTER INTEREST:

- PHONE/EMAIL GOLF SHOP: 03 548 7301
- golfshop@waahitaakarogolfclub.co.nz

SUPPORT FROM:

- Nick Loach
AA PGA Professional – Coach
- Ian Hanford –
Eagles Life Member
- Harry Ambrose Golf

CONTACT HEATHER: 027 252 5662 or email golfshop@waahitaakarogolfclub.co.nz

