

Macedon Ranges Junior Tournament

This week's 1st Macedon Ranges Junior Tournament (MRJT) attracted a large number of low markers, with almost half the field of 30 off single figure handicaps, and it was expected that the event would be a tightly fought affair.

The first round at Woodend saw the competitors play in mixed age groups. A good number of parents and friends accompanied the players around the picturesque course. Many golfers were at or slightly below par when thunder heralded the arrival of a very violent storm. At 2.50 pm play was suspended. The organising committee inspected the course at 3.30 pm, 4.00 pm and again at 4.30 pm before deciding to call the event to a halt; the continual rain and lightning had made it unsafe to play. After much discussion it was

decided to make the 1st round of the MRJT a six-hole event as all groups had played those holes. At the end of Day one James Cooper (3 Sanctuary Lakes), Daniel Wright (4 Romsey) Connor Whelan (8 Woodend), Mathew Wilson (5 Huntingdale) Thomas Perkins (5 Gisborne) and Daniel Nugent (11 Trentham) were at the top of the leader board. Winners on the day were;

18 & Under – Stroke – James Cooper	Handicap – Thomas Perkins.
16 & Under – Stroke – Sam Mitchell	Handicap - Connor Whelan
14 & Under – Stroke – Thammasack Bouahom (S/Lakes)	Handicap – Seamus Whelan (W/end)

Round two was held at Romsey and after a good lunch the competitors played in age groups. Following the heavy rain on Saturday the course was damp and some of the greens were quite wet so relief was given through the green. The tight fairways and small greens made every player work hard for a good score. The day was slightly overcast but the rain held off and there was some good scoring. Top markers James Cooper (3) shot two over par and Daniel Wright (4) shot three over. The Romsey leg of the tournament was also the 4th Romsey Junior Tournament; The Gary Watts Shield. Winners on the day were;

18 & Under – Stroke – James Cooper,	Handicap – Jarryd McGill (L/field)
16 & Under - Stroke – Daniel Wright	Handicap - Mathew Wilson
14 & Under - Stroke – Seamus Whelan	Handicap – Hugh Parks ((L/field)
Gary Watts Shield – James Cooper	

Round three, at Lancefield saw the groups organised according to their scores. Players met at 9.00 am for a 9.30 am hit off. The sky was slightly overcast but it looked as if the weather might hold however at 11.40 am heavy rain began to fall, play was restarted at 12.20 pm. Leaders James Cooper Daniel Wright and Sam Mitchell (5, Huntingdale) were off in the first group and whilst all players struck the ball well James soon picked up a lead of three shots lead before Daniel pegged him back with some good attacking golf. Both

players bogied the 9th hole to leave them one over for the day, giving James the lead for the overall trophy. Daniel played a great back nine quickly picking up two shots but James was able to hold him off and win the first Macedon Ranges Junior Tournament. Mathew Wilson played another good round to easily hold off the field to win the Chris Gaunt Cup and become the 1st Macedon Ranges Junior Championship handicap winner. Winners on the day were

18 & Under – Stroke – James Cooper,	Handicap – Jarryd McGill
16 & Under - Stroke – Brad Kimivets (W/end)	Handicap – Daniel Nugent
14 & Under - Stroke – Thammasack Bouahom	Handicap – Seamus Whelan
MRJT Champion – James Cooper	
MRJT Handicap Winner (Chris Gaunt Cup) – Mathew Wilson (Port Arlington)	

Trophies were presented by the organising committee, Tony Lakey (Romsey), John Rebbechi (Lancefield), Beau Warrener (Woodend) and Peter McLaughlin, the president of Lancefield Golf Club

By the end of the tournament a great camaraderie had developed amongst the players; the event was characterised by the good-natured support and ribbing and much laughter out on the courses and in the clubrooms. Once again the organising committee would like to thank the three golf clubs for their support; each day the players, and parents/friends were treated to a wonderful meal and friendly clubrooms. The courses held up well after the heavy rain and hail providing all players with many challenging situations. All competitors and parents/friends were both impressed by the success of the 1st round of a new competition and how well the three clubs involved had run their rounds of the event.

The Macedon Ranges Junior Tournament will again be held, at the same three clubs over, Labour Day weekend in 2011