

## 2012 FINALS JUNIOR PENNANTS REPORT

A near picture perfect day at The Pines Golf Course for the Finals of the 2012 Junior Pennants Competition – an early frost followed by a sunny calm day couldn't have been better to decide the winners.

Bay of Islands Kerikeri and Whangarei Girls played off for third and fourth place. Misfortune befell "The Bay" with two of their team unavailable (one due to a football injury the day before; the other sick). Team managers for Whangarei Girls were happy to allow a substitute and Taimana Ngakuru, always happy to come along at short notice, played in No 3 position – and won! Taylor Gill and Jodi Macalister fought out the No 1 spot with Taylor coming home with the win. Adam Brierley had to play in the No 2 spot and found the going a bit hard against Soktaera Sean.

The end result being a drawn match and a sudden death play-off for the No 1's. Both teed off the Par 3 first – Jodi's ball landing to the far right of the green (the pin was on the left) and Taylor, while right of the pin had a shorter putt. Jodi putted up close to the hole – Taylor not so close and unfortunately for him, missed on his next shot – not so the Northern Wairoa star junior girl – in it went to secure the Whangarei Girls Team 3<sup>rd</sup> spot.

The Hikurangi Hornets were no match for Wellsford on the day with wins to Jamie Thomas, Aaron Mist and Daniel Boyd. Only young Wirihana Williams came through for "Hika" with a win against Matthew Thomas. However, when it came to support from their home club – the "Hornets" had it in the bag – looking out as their players finished on 18<sup>th</sup> – there must have been at least a dozen red and black shirts – great to see such strong support – well done Hikurangi.

Final results were:

Wellsford	10 points – Junior Pennants Winners
Hikurangi Hornets	6 points – Junior Pennants Runners Up
Whangarei Girls	8 points – Junior Pennants 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Getters
Bay of Islands	8 points – Junior Pennants 4 <sup>th</sup> Place Getters

The new Junior Pennants Season will start again in February following a review of the format and some possible changes to the rules in an effort to encourage more of our better juniors to stay in this competition and get the number of teams participating back up to the numbers enjoyed in recent years. From 13 teams last year, there were only seven this year – the aim is to get back to having two divisions to keep travel to a minimum for players and parents.

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