

Northland claim Championship title

Teams from Mangawhai and Northland Golf Clubs contested the final of the Championship Pennant competition at Bay of Islands Kerikeri Golf Club on Sunday 24 May 2015.

The teams in playing order:

Northland:

1. Julian Fowler
2. Iain Power
3. Gary Whimp
4. Michael Macdonald

Mangawhai:

1. Scott Wightman
2. Lee Newman
3. Gene Wintle
4. Alan Madigan

Recent rain made the course heavy underfoot and the blustery south-westerly made conditions testing for the players.

The two round robin matches between the sides were both evenly contested with Mangawhai going in as slight favourites having claimed a narrow win and a draw earlier in the season.

In the morning reverse singles Northland got their noses in front with a 2.5 to 1.5 lead after wins to Power, Macdonald and a half to Fowler with Madigan (win) and Newman (half) grabbing the points for Mangawhai.

The afternoon saw the first two matches between the 3's and 4's all over by the 13th hole; the matches being split one each way meant it was left to the numbers 1 and 2 to battle it out for the title.

Holding the smallest of advantage through 14 holes, the Northlanders held their nerve and finished the stronger of the two sides. By the end of the 16th both Northland players held a dormie up lead, a decisive margin that Mangawhai could not overcome, at which point the match was conceded.



From left to right: Gary Whimp, Julian Fowler, Michael Macdonald, Iain Power

Congratulations to the Northland team of Julian Fowler, Iain Power, Gary Whimp and Michael Macdonald for taking the win. It is believed to be the first time that Northland has held this title.

Congratulations to all players for their sporting participation through the year, and thanks to the host clubs for their hospitality.