



Championship Pennants 2023

Day 1 19 February @ Putaruru

Team

Murray Gutry

Andy Roche

Lincoln Drent

Jethro Meares

Greg Rosevear

Murray Fraser

Round 1 vs Cambridge

The Waihi team were resplendent in their new Blue Representative shirts as they took on Cambridge in the first round. Gutry and Roche had tight matches and both fell short 2/1. Drent overcame a slow start to play the last 5 holes 2 under to win 1 up. Meares ran into a hot golfer and went down 5/4 while the Champion of Champions turned it on to win 5/4. Rosevear had a tight match and all results were in play going down the last. Unfortunately it became a learning experience and a 1 down loss ensued.

Cambridge 4 Waihi 2

Round 2 vs Pirongia

Gutry cranked it up to set up a strong response from the team with a comfortable 5/4 win. Roche battled hard and earned a Half. Drent improved his form and took a comfortable 4/2 win. Meares stood up to a big early birdie barrage (5) with clutch play to win 17 then holed a 20 footer on 18 to force a gutsy half. Rosevear showed exceptional short game skills to not lose any holes and won 5/4. Fraser secured player of the day honours with more solid golf to secure an easy 4/3 win.

Waihi 5 Pirongia 1

Day 2 5 March @ Tieke

Team

Richard Taitoko**

Harrison Madsen**

Lincoln Drent

Jethro Meares

Greg Rosevear

Murray Fraser

** on debut

Round 3 vs Stewart Alexander

The debutants were sent out first to face the daunting 214m par 3 10th at Tieke. After 3 full swings (pond, river, hay) the team was concerned if Richard had enough golf balls to last the day. He settled down and fought to the end and came up 1 short. Madsen had a tough battle and lost 3/2. Drent and Meares both came out strong and won handily 5/4 and 5/3. Rosevear unfortunately drew the greenkeeper and was soundly beaten. Fraser dug deep and ground out a 1 up win to halve the match.

Waihi 3 Stewart Alexander 3

Round 4 vs Tieke

Local knowledge came out and Waihi was thrashed 5.5 – 0.5. The only good news was Rosevear earning a half after learning the course in the morning.

Day 3 19 March @ Waihi

Team

Darryl Denyer

Andy Roche

Lincoln Drent

Jethro Meares (am) / John Libby (pm)

Greg Rosevear

Murray Fraser

Round 5 vs Putaruru

A tough assignment against the combined strength on Tokoroa, Putaruru & Tirau on home soil. Fortunately play the lie was in effect. Denyer worked hard and won the 18th to secure a crucial half. After 35+ years of pennants the old dog Roche pulled out a new putting grip. The new trick worked a treat and he won 3/2. Drent was in a tight match then grabbed control with an eagle on 12 and followed with 2 more birdies to win 3/1. Meares was worn down by a consistent golfer and lost 4/3. Going down the last all 3 results were in play. Fraser narrowly missed 2 birdie putts on 17 & 18 to lose 1 down. Rosevear had no excuses about not knowing the course and birdied the final 3 holes to win 2 up.

Waihi 3.5 Putaruru 2.5

Round 6 vs Raglan

Another tight tussle saw Denyer complete an excellent comeback with a 3/2 win. Roche, Drent & Libby were blown off the course leaving it up to Rosevear and Fraser to salvage the tie, and salvage they did. Fraser won 16 & 17 to get the lead and made a solid par on 18 to win 1 up. Rosevear played solid golf to win 2/1 and pick up player of the day honours.

Waihi 3 Raglan 3.

With 1 round to go Waihi are in a 5 way tie for 2nd. The final round is against Ngaruawahia and we could end up anywhere between 2nd or 8th. All to play for at Pirongia on April 2.

Lincoln Drent