

# **Golf NL**

## **Junior Director Report - 2018**

2018 has been a year of transition and great success with the growth of the game within our province. Junior programs continue to go from strength to strength with significant growth seen in participation numbers at golf clubs around the province. Chris Whalen and myself visited schools around the province during the spring introducing golf to 19,920 elementary school children through their gym classes. A total of 7,203 juniors were involved in our Future Links junior programs & mobile clinics. These figures are up from 2017 which is very encouraging and our focus now is to ensure that school children have access to junior programs and retention of those young golfers is met by clubs with the province.

### Tely Tour

A total of 12 events took place including the Tour Championship. The tour continues to be successful and provides a great environment for competitive players or those learning competitive golf. Participation numbers remain consistent with previous years and although a couple of events saw low numbers we will continue with these events as we see this integral to helping grow the game at all of our member courses. The tour will continue with 12 events in 2019. Congratulations to the winners of each event during the season and to the order of merit winners in their respective divisions...

Paige Allen - Bantam Girls

Taylor Cormier - Junior Girls

Ethan Efford - Juvenile Boys

Ryan MacNeil Lamswood - Junior Boys

Evan Snow - Bantam Boys

### Junior Provincials

The junior provincials were held at Terra Nova Resort during the first week of July, congratulations to the following players for winning their respective divisions...

Matthew Bonnell - Junior

Jack Pelley MacHardy - Bantam

Alex Dolomount - Juvenile

At the conclusion of the event the top 3 boys in the junior division won the right to represent Newfoundland & Labrador at the National Boys championship. Matthew Bonnell, Ryan MacNeil Lamswood and Michael Lamswood did so and played very well, all making the halfway cut, a first for Newfoundland & Labrador!

#### Development Team

2018 has seen a transition in our Provincial Development Team in that the average age is younger than previous years. This is due in part to a number of senior players moving on or being too old to participate. We are excited to have a younger team as they will have the opportunity to be supported and develop through their early competitive years, better preparing them for tournament golf as they reach their full potential as they develop. We are excited about the team moving into 2019 and will have the team confirmed by mid January.

During the summer junior golfers have the opportunity to participate in Future Links Skills Challenges as part of programming supported by Golf Canada & the PGA. Taylor Cormier competed in a Skills Challenge held at Blomidon GC and earned a place in the national finals which was held during the Canadian Open at Glenn Abbey GC in July. Taylor not only won the National final in Ontario but she broke the all time scoring record for the event!

Junior golf is alive and well and as programs continue to grow and evolve we are encouraged by the support from golf clubs around the province as we implement programs and initiatives to support them. One of the biggest areas of growth we are seeing at various clubs is the growth of girls participation within our programs. During 2018 one club had a junior program consisting of 59 juniors with 39 of those being girls, very exciting!

In closing i would like to acknowledge and thank the entire board for their support as we continue to move golf forward within Newfoundland & Labrador. I would also like to thank Greg Hillier for his tireless dedication and leadership of the organisation.

Wayne Allen