

## CANBERRA TOUR -- APRIL, 2021

Canberra turned on some delightful weather for our 13<sup>th</sup> return visit to the Nation's Capital.

Long-time 'Hackers' John Killin (58 tours) and Bob Norris (28 tours) jointly claimed the top spot after a monumental battle decided on the final green. Bob led by 5 points going into the last round at Gungahlin Lakes but trailed by 2 points on the final tee but came home the stronger on the last hole to level the scores. The committee decided that they could return to the course for an 'unsupervised' play-off in whatever format they chose in the cold wind which had arrived in the latter part of our round or they could share the money. They chose to share so congratulations to both Bob and John who each claimed their first Tour Championship win. I refuse to place any importance or focus on the NAGA award or the fact that I failed to win a cent on tour and even lost side bets! WTF but, moving on.....

The Gold Team prevailed by 8 points in the end but, going into the last day, the Reds and the Golds were tied on 256 points setting up a great finish while the Green and Blue teams never threatened.

We welcomed two new players in Tony Riordan and Bob Minns who we hope enjoyed themselves enough to put their name forward again. Bad luck for Wally Bergmann (crushed finger at work on the Friday before we went) and Michael Lees and myself (both with back pain issues) perhaps impacting on golfing performance but not the socialising or the overall enjoyment.

The accommodation at the Tradies Club was, as usual, very comfortable and the food at the restaurant and breakfast bar of good quality.

The courses were a bit of a mixed bunch really although most of us know them pretty well. Belconnen on the first day was in very good condition with excellent fairways and, although I thought the greens were a little two paced and didn't always roll out consistently, they were nevertheless quite good. The late tee start didn't turn out to be a problem as the scheduled pennants match was apparently cancelled and we managed to get away a little earlier than expected.

Murrumbidgee was below par as a recent green-keeping accident has destroyed 10 of their greens including the whole front nine. We didn't know about that until told at Belconnen late on Sunday but in the end, we elected to play the back nine twice with 8 good greens and that nine is the least attractive of the two in my view. So, all in all this was a disappointing visit to a course layout I personally quite like, but the fairways and greens we did play were really quite good.

Gungahlin Lakes is a great track and just gets better with good paced rolling greens soft enough to hold a good shot quite well and excellent fairways. The trees continue to grow and bear little resemblance to the plantings we saw when first we visited and are gradually tightening up this excellent layout adding some beautiful contrasting colours to the visual pleasures. As usual a good breeze sprung up as the round progressed and became quite stiff and cold as we battled the more difficult back nine. Their expressed desire when it opened 25 years ago was to become at least the second-best layout in the ACT and I think their goal is nearing achievement. Whatever the score it is a delight to return to this quality golf course.

Another excellent tour which I think everyone enjoyed. The company and camaraderie, the facilities and after-hours relaxation was enough to encourage another visit to Canberra next year. At least I didn't hear of any issues or complaints.

Full results follow;







SKINS																						
Gaugahlin Lakes		BOLE																				
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
Bill Murdoch		2	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	3	2	3	2	1	2	2				
Bob Minns		2	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	3	2	3	2	1	2	2	1	2		
Bob Norris			1	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	1	2	3	1	1	1	2	2	4			
Colin Iles		1		2	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	1	2	1		2	2	2	2			
Grahame Steptoe		4	1	1	2	2	2	1	2	2												
John Killin		2	3	2	3	1	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2		
John Vincent		1	3	2	3	1	2	1	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	3		
Ken Rogers		1	2	1	1	2		4	2	2	2	1	3	2	3	2	2	3	3			
Kieran McGuire		1	2	1	1	2	3	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	3	2	2	2	2	2		
Michael Lees		2	1	2			1	2	1	2	1	2	3	1	1	2	2	3	1	2		
Peter McLoughlin	\$ 9.00	2	2	1	2	2	1	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1		
Ross Nattrass		2	3	1	1	2	1	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Tony Arnold	\$ 184.00	3	1	2	2	2	1	3	3	2	1	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3		
Tony Riordan		1	2	2		1	3	1	2	3	3	1	2	2	1	2	3	1	2			
Trevor Gough		1	3	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		
Wally Bergmann		2	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	1		
Best Score on hole		4	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4		
FROM 10th	Holed	1	3	1	3	1	3	1	2	3	4	3	2	2	2	2	4	1	1	1		
Holes Decided	SKINS																					
16	Value	\$ 0.00					\$ 16.00					\$ 16.00					\$ 80.00					\$ 8.00

	TEAM	TOTAL POINTS	AVERAGE	Slits	1's	2's	3's	4's	5's	SCRATCH SCORES	Points
Bill Murdoch	Gold	91	30.33	8	15	19	10	2		Bill Murdoch	43
Bob Minns	Blue	85	28.33	14	7	22	10	1		Bob Minns	32
Bob Norris	Red	104	34.67	4	13	21	15	1		Bob Norris	36
Colin Iles	Green	90	30.00	8	12	24	10			Colin Iles	52
Grahame Steptoe	Blue	83	27.67	11	12	24	5	2		Grahame Steptoe	38
John Killin	Gold	104	34.67	5	9	26	13	1		John Killin	36
John Vincent	Blue	73	24.33	13	15	20	6			John Vincent	29
Ken Rogers	Green	90	30.00	6	18	19	10	1		Ken Rogers	36
Kieran McGuire	Blue	83	27.67	8	15	25	6			Kieran McGuire	78
Michael Lees	Green	78	26.00	7	20	23	4			Michael Lees	61
Peter McLoughlin	Red	92	30.67	6	12	28	8			Peter McLoughlin	41
Ross Nattrass	Gold	87	29.00	5	24	12	13			Ross Nattrass	58
Tony Arnold	Gold	97	32.33	4	14	25	11			Tony Arnold	73
Tony Riordan	Red	97	32.33	3	17	23	10	1		Tony Riordan	77
Trevor Gough	Green	93	31.00	8	13	22	8	3		Trevor Gough	38
Wally Bergmann	Red	78	26.00	8	20	20	6			Wally Bergmann	48

TOTAL COLLECT	
John Killin	\$ 209.00
Bob Norris	\$ 198.00
Trevor Gough	\$ 152.00
Ross Nattrass	\$ 137.00
Bill Murdoch	\$ 128.00
Grahame Steptoe	\$ 100.00
Tony Arnold	\$ 96.00
Bob Minns	\$ 64.00
Peter McLoughlin	\$ 60.00
Colin Iles	\$ 54.00
Ken Rogers	\$ 46.00
Wally Bergmann	\$ 30.00
Kieran McGuire	\$ 25.00
Tony Riordan	\$ 8.00
John Vincent	\$ -
Michael Lees	\$ -
	\$ 1,307.00