

CANBERRA – 14-16 APRIL, 2024

Despite the less than positive weather forecast in the week before we left for the nation’s capital, there has been no better tour than this year from a weather perspective.

Canberra turned it on and presented her best possible face – fine, sunny, about 22 degrees each day and no wind. Just perfect and for those of you who didn’t put your name in, you missed a truly memorable long weekend. Although we only had 8 starters, it was well worth the time and effort and the company and conviviality was every bit as good as we have come to expect on Hackers Tours.

Congratulations to [Michael Lees](#) who won his 2nd Tour Championship with an average of 33 for the three rounds and the [Red Team](#) prevailed easily in the end.

We started at Burns Golf Club (in Belconnen) on Sunday where we played in the comp and found the course to be in excellent condition with well grassed and maintained fairways and greens which, although a bit slow having been cored just 6 days prior, rolled reasonably well although the condition of the actual holes was very poor. The carts were also old and in poor condition. Apart from the tree in the middle of the 1st fairway and the electricity tower providing an unfair obstacle on the 2nd hole, this is an interesting and quite challenging layout with some par 4’s playing very long uphill. All in all a good experience but the day’s average of 28.6 seemed a bit ordinary.

Monday we teed off at Queanbeyan and were completely baffled by the greens as I’m sure we’ve been on prior visits. They were fast but tricky and I’d like to think our struggle was mostly caused by having played on the slow cored greens the day before rather than any lack of ability but maybe not. The course was in excellent condition but our average score of 26.5 reflected the trouble we had. Interestingly the club house was closed as it apparently is every Monday now.

The final day at Gold Creek was a revelation as regards the course. Over the years we have played few courses in condition as good as Gold Creek was this week and probably none better, which means it is up there with those we have played on the sand belt and Mornington Peninsula. The greens were like lightning and as fast as I have played anywhere I think and the ball rolled out to such excessive lengths putting became a nightmare. This is not a criticism of the greens; they were true and hard but just so slippery and I heard two reports of putts having rolled so far they actually left the green. The day’s average however was 27.8 and would have been much lower had it not been for the superb 38 points recorded by Michael Lees.

Full results as follows;

CANBERRA April, 2024				HACA POINTS	
RED 346.0		BLUE 317.0		Michael Lees	106.50
Michael Lees	99	Colin Iles	88	Colin Iles	92.00
Cary Thompson	84	John Vincent	81	Cary Thompson	89.00
Trevor Porter	84	John Killin	78	John Vincent	87.00
Trevor Gough	79	Brad Thompson	70	Trevor Porter	83.00
				Trevor Gough	82.50
				John Killin	80.00
				Brad Thompson	76.00

Championship			Eclectic			Secret 18 Holes			SCRATCH		
1	Michael Lees	99 33.00	1	John Vincent	46	1	Colin Iles	19	1	Michael Lees	68
2	Colin Iles	88 29.33	2	Michael Lees	46	2	Trevor Porter	17	2	Colin Iles	47
3	Cary Thompson	84 28.00	3	Cary Thompson	45	3	Trevor Gough	15	3	John Vincent	47
4	Trevor Porter	84 28.00	4	Colin Iles	42	4	Cary Thompson	14	4	Cary Thompson	42
5	John Vincent	81 27.00	5	Trevor Gough	41	5	John Killin	14	5	Brad Thompson	27
6	Trevor Gough	79 26.33	6	Trevor Porter	39	6	John Vincent	14	6	Trevor Gough	24
7	John Killin	78 26.00	7	Brad Thompson	38	7	Brad Thompson	13	7	Trevor Porter	23
8	Brad Thompson	70 23.33	8	John Killin	38	8	Michael Lees	12	8	John Killin	13

