

MEDIA RELEASE



Dueling drivers as top guns square off

20 January 2020

NSW Open champion Josh Younger heads a strong field for Axedale Golf Club's second Pro-Am, to be held on Thursday.

Younger will face stiff competition from the likes of James Nitties, who in last year's Vic Open equalled Mark Calcavecchia's world record of nine consecutive birdies, and Bendigo's own Andrew Martin whose six-under 63 took out last year's title.

Other strong contenders include regular Pro-Am event winner Brady Watt, Queenslander Gavin Fairfax who recently smashed the course record in winning at Wodonga, and winner of two events last year Matthew Millar.

No matter who wins, though, they will struggle to top last year's birdie blitz by Axedale's own Kris Mueck who shot a blistering course record 59 as an amateur.

"We have been fortunate to assemble a star-studded line-up," said club president Allan Andrews, "and if Kris' record is to be threatened this field has the talent to do it."

In total, 57 professionals and 53 amateur sponsors will tee it up for the second Symes Motors BMW Axedale Pro-Am at 10am next Thursday (Eds: 23 January).

Golf lovers will again enjoy a two-course feast with the pros backing up at Neangar Park on the Friday as part of the Ladrokes Pro-Am Series.

"We are thrilled to have Symes Motors BMW on board again," Mr Andrews said. "Last year was an outstanding success and with what we learned on our first outing, this year promises to be even better."

"I urge golf lovers to come out and walk their course beside these top players to see how they go about it. This sort of opportunity does not come around often."

The Axedale course itself will be in excellent shape despite the hot, dry summer. Course superintendent Dylan Knight has taken the opportunity to literally speed up play, with the fairway run giving top value for straight shots and the greens running truly.

“The course held up really well last year,” Mr Andrews said. “We are only a short par 69 and a lot of pundits expected the pros to tear it up, but apart from a few outstanding rounds only seven pros beat par. You just have to be straight and smart or the course will bite you.”

The 18-hole event will be followed by a hole-in-one shootout on a shortened 18th hole.

“We’ve given them a great chance to get it close by putting in a temporary tee at 85 metres for the shootout,” Mr Andrews said.

“But they’ll struggle to match our own members’ feat of producing three holes-in-one on the same day as happened a couple of weeks back.”

Bendigo businesses and individuals snapped up hole sponsorships that entitle them to a rare chance to tee it up with the pros.

“This is Axedale’s chance to showcase the work our grounds staff and volunteers have done to produce a first-class country golf course,” Mr Andrews said.

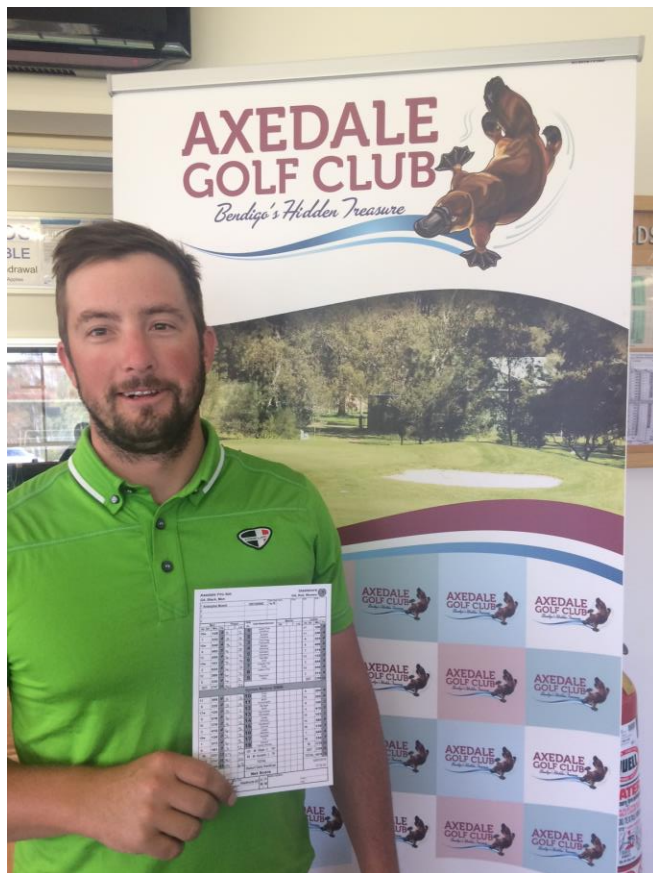
“The cooler weather expected in the week leading up to the event will give us the chance to bring the course up to its best standard. It should make for a great day’s golf.”

Pictures:

1. 2019 winner, Bendigo’s Andrew Martin, accepts his trophy from Symes Motors BMW Marketing Manager Amy Harling.



2. Shoot the lights out – Kris Mueck shot a rare sub-60 round with a blistering 59 in last year's event.



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