

ANNUAL REPORT

2024



**GOLF
NOVA SCOTIA**

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

CATHERINE
BEATON, PRESIDENT

Teamwork is the cornerstone of any successful organization. It is the collective effort of dedicated individuals that propels an organization towards its goals and milestones. In the context of Golf Nova Scotia (GNS), the success achieved in 2024 stands as a testament to the hard work and dedication of staff, volunteers, clubs, sponsors, suppliers, and, most importantly, the members.



Membership at GNS plays a pivotal role in fostering success. Whether members engage in casual rounds with friends, participate in club leagues, join fun scrambles, or compete in tournaments, their support is crucial. This support enables GNS to promote golf across Nova Scotia at all levels, from grassroots programs like First Tee and Adaptive golf to junior invitational tours, provincial tournaments, and even sending teams to national championships. Such involvement might just nurture the next professional golfer on the Tour!

In 2024, GNS boasted a strong membership base with 54 member courses, approximately 17,400 members, and over 400,000 scores posted. The junior invitational tour saw numerous stops and continues to grow, and GNS is now poised to host another national championship in 2025, underscoring the successful year golf in Nova Scotia had in 2024. GNS executed a highly successful 2024 provincial tournament season along with many non-competitive initiatives.

You may notice some changes at Golf NS for the 2025 season. Stepping away from the Executive Director position is Jason Lohnes. We thank him for the positive changes he has made for the association and extend our best wishes to him in his future endeavors. We welcome Morgan Wren who will be replacing Sara Wilson as Technical Director and is excited to be part of the team. Our Tournament and Marketing Director continues to be Kaydem Al-Samawi, whose commitment to the sport has been unwavering. And finally we welcome back Sara Wilson as she steps up into the role of Executive Director.

As my term as President comes to an end, I am honored to hand over the privilege to Kent Rodgers. I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Board of Directors for their endless support and dedication. Their volunteer efforts and belief in our shared goal of "Golf for All" have been instrumental in our achievements. A special farewell goes to board member Lori Dithurbide, who will now be dedicating her volunteer time to Golf Canada. She has been a true asset to both organizations and we thank her for her contributions.

Lastly, to everyone who supports golf in any capacity and shares the belief in "Golf for All," I express my deepest gratitude for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your President these past year two years.

Together, through teamwork and collective effort, we continue to drive the success of Golf Nova Scotia, making it a vibrant and inclusive community for all who love the game.

INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

SARA WILSON,
INTERIM EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR



2024 was another busy golf season for the Association and golf courses around the province. 2024, saw strong and stable numbers in golf memberships, public players accounts and overall participation. Golf Nova Scotia benefitted from a restructuring that saw Kaydem Al-Samawi transition into the new full-time role of Marketing and Tournament Director. Summer intern students Jordyn and Andrew joined our team and made positive impacts to the tournaments and programs. Under Kaydem's supervision it didn't take them long to get familiar with the demands of tournament season and together they delivered a full calendar of professional Provincial Championships. Planning is well underway to set the bar higher and elevate the players' experience at our 2025 competitions.

In 2024, Golf Nova Scotia sent a full complement of players to Nationals at every age group to compete against the country's very best. Congratulations to all who earned team and quota spots in our Provincial Championships. You proudly represented our Province with great play and sportsmanship. A special mention to Brett McKinnon for his steady play and strong 5th place finish at the Canadian Mid-Amateur Championships. Nova Scotians had another reason to celebrate as Digby's Myles Creighton qualified for his first year on the Korn Ferry Tour. We are excited to see where 2025 takes him.

The Junior Invitational Tour saw continued growth in 2024. There are now over 300 juniors playing on this introductory golf tour! This tour grew from 12 hosts sites to 18 in just its second year. This program has been well received by member clubs; families and the juniors are benefitting from making friends from every corner of this province.

The development of our juniors continued to be supported by our winter development program that provides expert coaching, fitness, nutrition, and mental performance. Athletes from this program are having success at local, national and international events. Coach mentorship, training and development continues to be a cornerstone of the program to ensure we have trained coaches and experts supporting programs around the province. The winter session will wrap up next week with a 2 Day Spring Training Camp. Looking ahead to Canada Games 2025 in Saint John's Newfoundland, selection events will see an increased level of competition.

Come Try it Girls Programs were rolled out around the province in collaboration with First Tee Atlantic. These free introductory learning sessions paired mentor girl coaches with new players. It was fantastic to see our Provincial junior golfers helping inspire the next generation of players. 80 girls were introduced to the game at 3 events in 2024.

The association has always been supported by strong volunteers. Whether they are trained rules officials, tournament organizers, course raters, board and committee members. Strong volunteer recruitment over the past few seasons has allowed for the growth of the game around the province. The dedicated work of Golf Nova Scotia Committees and staff continues to develop programs, roll out policies and continue to contribute to a safe sporting environment and the vision of Golf for All.

The Association looks forward to connecting with member clubs, players, industry partners and stakeholders to ensure we have a strong golf community that strives to make golf the sport of choice.

2024 OPERATIONS TEAM



Executive Director
Jason Lohnes



Technical Director
Sara Wilson



Marketing & Tournament Director
Kaydem Al-Samawi



Summer Intern
Jordan Wolfer



Summer Intern
Andrew Cash

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT

SHARI GAGNON, CHAIR



The HR Committee met on Jan. 27th.

An Exit Interview was conducted with Sara Wilson on Feb. 28th.

Jason posted several ads for a new Technical Director through Golf Nova Scotia, PGA Canada, SIRC (The Sport Information Centre), Golf Canada.

Kathy Powers and Geoff Baker were part of the hiring committee for the Technical Director position along with Janice Cogle from Sport NS. 3 candidates were interviewed on Mar. 10, 11th. Morgan Wren was the successful candidate. The BOD voted to offer her a one-year contract. Morgan's start date is April 7th.

Jordyn Wolfer (Summer Intern) has requested to return for another season.

Bruce Smith HR Committee member will head up 2 Respiratory Disability Scholarships of \$1000 to 2 worthy candidates in 2025.

Due to the departure of Jason Lohnes as Executive Director. Sara Wilson has agreed to stay on as Interim Executive Director. The BOD directors voted to offer Sara Wilson the position. A letter of offer was signed on March 31st. The term ends Dec. 31st.



SPORT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

KATHY POWERS, CHAIR



Another exciting, and productive, year with Sport Development in our province. A huge thanks to Sara Wilson, for her continued dedication throughout this past season. Thanks too, to the GNS staff, the member clubs, the supporting Pros, coaches and many volunteers that help make the programs successful.

Sport Development Highlights

- Canada Games 2025 selection criteria were finalized. The process was set up to ensure GNS would be sending our best golfers, at the time, to the Canada Games.
- Girls Come Try It Golf Program was a huge success. It is a priority within the organization to promote and encourage females to participate in the game of golf. We once again partnered with First Tee which is a great asset.
- The Coach Mentorship and the Online Coaching Network Programs are growing but we would still like to see more PGA Professionals become involved so that we can make the coaching and training available province-wide. Sara Wilson accompanied both the girls and boy junior teams to Nationals as a coach. Players and parents were thankful for the support that was provided at these events. It also served as a unique coaching/mentoring experience to connect with National coaches across the country.
- The Winter Development Camp has grown each year. This year the golfers had the Trackman system available to them which gave them access to stats and information to improve their games. They received technical instruction, mental performance training, as well as fitness training and nutrition advice.
- The Talent ID Camp was again held at Ken-Wo Golf & Country Club. There were 17 participants learning key development concepts and data collection.
- Provincial Junior Skills Challenge was held at Links at Brunello GC. Thirty golfers attended, what we later learned would be the last challenge, as Golf Canada ended the program.
- The Junior Invitational Tour has been one of our greatest achievements. The tour has grown each year and there will be an exciting 22 events in 2025. What a wonderful opportunity for the junior golfers in this province. This year, the awards presentation will take place at the final event, which will be held at River Oaks Golf Club on September 14th



HERITAGE COMMITTEE REPORT

GEOFF BAKER,
CHAIR

Incredible progress has been made by the Heritage Committee over the past 18 months. Golf Nova Scotia's massive historical collection has been stabilized through full digitization and is currently being organized and labelled.

The Committee has agreed upon a 3-year long strategy to curate the collection: Over the coming 6 months, the collection, labelling and organization will be completed. This represents over 30 000 files, including photos, columns, articles, statistics, ephemera, publications, and reports.



Once the current collection is completed, we will have established a framework with which future Golf NS stewards can add to and secure our future history.

Golf NS staff and Heritage Committee members continue their call to the membership to obtain more Nova Scotia golf history to be included in the collection to ensure completeness. There are definite holes in our collection, which we hope to fill through the collective contributions of golfers from every corner of the province. IE – 'The Golf News' issues prior to 2005.

The collection will be fully searchable and organized chronologically.

All golf clubs, past and present, will have their own separate collections from which members can discover and celebrate their unique club history.

Once the collection is fully curated, it will be shared with the world via our website.

The 100th Anniversary of the Association will officially be in 2030. Over the next 4 years, the Heritage Committee will be extremely busy in preparation of this important milestone and (pending Board approval) hopes to host a large gala event celebrating our collective history in a meaningful way.



STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

AL MUNROE,
CHAIR

We are about 50% complete on the Sport NS-aided process of reviewing our current Plan and have completed two surveys involving the GNS Board. While Survey 1 was fully participated, 2 was a bit more technical and the Board struggled to answer it fully.

The incoming Executive Director and President were briefed on the status of the review on 10 April and an update it will be presented to the Board post AGM 17 April.



AMATEUR COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

PATRICK JACKSON,
CHAIR



Action Items Completed 2024/2025:

1. Optimization of NSGA tournament schedule for 2025:
 - Distributing events over a wider timeframe to reduce staff and volunteer fatigue, including moving the Men's Amateur to the last weekend of June.
 - Modifying the schedule to align with Golf Canada's updated schedule for Championships
 - Adjusting the schedule to ensure appropriate time between provincial events and their corresponding national events
 - Adjusting the schedule to minimize conflict with club events as much as possible
2. Reviewed tournament player surveys & continued work on tournament manual
3. Securing host courses for the 2025 tournament season
4. Added five registrations for out-of-province players for the Nova Scotia Men's Amateur.
5. Awarding headcovers for the Women's Super Senior, Women's Super Senior Plus and Women's Mid-Master divisions.
6. Awarding standard headcovers (no year on headcover) for the winners of the Women's Bronze Championship.
7. Met on multiple occasions to address competitor feedback and came to unanimous decisions as a committee on how to move forward
8. Finalized the committee's terms of reference
9. Increased entry fees to those of neighbouring provinces.
10. Looking forward:
 - Evaluate the potential reinstatement of Family Classic, taking into account staff fatigue and other relevant factors.
 - Work on implementing a long-range schedule for NSGA tournaments
 - Evaluate funding for Nova Scotia team players at nationals.
 - Continue to do player surveys to improve the championship experience and tournament manuals

Chair Comments:

2024 was another busy tournament season for our staff and volunteers. Entries were very healthy for our events. As always, most of our events were forced into the month of July. We always appreciate our staff and volunteers, but especially during this period.

A huge thanks to all our 2024 and host clubs. Our events would not have been possible without our member clubs. We appreciate clubs and their members sacrificing their courses to host events. We are in good shape for hosts in 2025 and hope to soon get back to more of a long-range schedule like we used to have with an equitable geographical spread.

We hope to see you out at our events and look forward to enjoying a fantastic tournament season together.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION & ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE REPORT

JILL MACDONALD,
CHAIR



We continue to be dedicated to creating opportunities in order to welcome “everyone” to be part of the sport of golf in Nova Scotia. We are working to make golf more accessible and diverse. Thank you to our Committee members: Matt Numer, Patrick Johnson, Darren Toliver, Rick Goodman and Bruce Smith. Our technical director Sara Wilson played a big role in getting our program off the ground.

Adaptive Golf

The concept of diversity, equity and inclusion in golf has historically focused on race and gender. However, there is a large population of Nova Scotians living with physical, cognitive, sensory and age-related challenges. These individuals deserve to be included in the game of golf in order to maintain or improve their quality of life. In our mission to empower golfers living with disabilities, we held our first 6 Week Play and Learn Adaptive Golf Clinic. Rosevale Golf Course in West Hants hosted us from early June until early August, on Tuesday evenings for 2 hours. As the golfers played the short Par 3 course, our Coaches and Golf Pros joined the groups to provide golf instruction as they played. Our Coaches worked with the athletes on adapting their swing techniques, made equipment modifications, provided resources and equipment specific to each individual golfers’ needs and made sure that everything about the game was accessible. Our Clinic will run again this season from May to July with a combination of clinics at a Golf Simulator and at Rosevale Golf Course. We continue to get interest from golfers living with disabilities for this event and our participants numbers are growing every year. Golf Canada has been very supportive of our initiative and will be supporting us again this year through the Community Grant Fund.

Golf With Pride NS

Golf With Pride initiatives with Golf Nova Scotia are in the early stages. 3 sessions were held over the winter at Simulators. The plan going forward is to book outings at various courses monthly, after the initial spring sessions. Athletes will be sent a survey of what day/times work best. Google accounts associated with GWP, a Facebook group, and mailing lists have been set up.

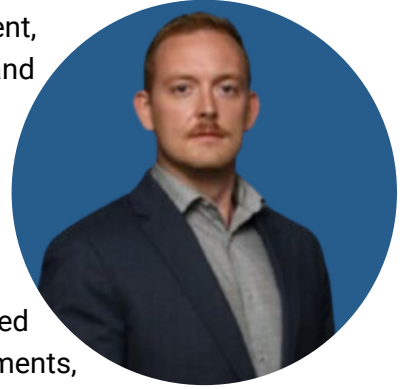
FINANCE REPORT

MITCHELL COADY,
VP OF FINANCE

Financial operations and changes:

The Association continues to make changes to internal processes to become for efficient, organized and up to date with current technologies available to allow the Association and its staff and volunteers to spend more time where it matters, growing the game of Golf in NS for all.

This includes a big push in becoming fully cloud based in our accounting with continued improvements to our financial reporting utilizing tools QuickBooks Online has available. We have switched to a program called DEXT, which is a program integrated with QuickBooks to help organize and store all supporting bank statements, visa statements, receipts and other supporting documents which is then used to support the transaction in Quickbooks. We have made changes our banking processes, which includes moving away from cheques as much as possible as these are inefficient and out dated. We have switched to E-transfers and EFT payments, which are more efficient and safer as they require approval from two individuals to send payment, which includes a member of the executive.



We are continually looking at our internal processes to help make things easier for our members and member clubs, which will include providing timely invoicing and statements, and improvements to our Accounts Payable process to ensure our member clubs and volunteers are being reimbursed in a timely manner. We are also looking at changes to our Gift Card and redemption process to eliminate the manual process, however this is in the early stages.

Appointment of the 2024 auditor:

Golf NS has appointed Shupe & Company as the auditor for the 2024 year-end, which is expected to begin in the coming weeks after the AGM.

2023 Financial Statements:

The 2023 financial statements are currently in draft and have been approved by the executive with some small changes coming which have been communicated with the auditor Shupe and Company and are awaiting final drafts, which will be approved by the Board of Directors and published to the Golf NS website for all members to view shortly after the AGM.

2023 Statement of operations:

The Association had another successful year, finishing the year with a deficiency of revenues over expenses of \$8,679, which is ~\$40k less than our budgeted figures, however the Association is making investments into Golf in Nova Scotia and its operations to set itself up for success in future years.

Membership Revenues were slightly less than expected, with a decrease of \$17k from our budgeted figure due to slightly less membership activations. Grants and Sponsorship revenues are within our budgeted figures of \$130k, however this has decreased from 2022 as there were roughly ~40k in one time funding grants provided by Golf Canada & Sport NS that were not applicable to the 2023 years and onward.

Golf NS had a very successful year with Tournaments seeing a significant rise in the number participants in 2023, which we hope to continue into future years. A slight increase in the Tournament entry fees has helped reduced our deficiency revenues from Tournaments to \$41k, down from \$47k in 2022.

Additionally, the Association made the following expenditures which has impacted the deficiency of revenues over expenses:

- ~\$9,500 was used to purchase new clothing and apparel to be given to our volunteers as a thank you for all their continued support;
- ~\$10,000 was paid in professional fees to provide bookkeeping support to the Association due to the loss of our salaried bookkeeper in 2022. This also provides the Association with another level of segregation and review in our bookkeeping process.
- ~\$9,200 required for course rating due to a significant increase in the number of courses requiring rating in 2023

To help offset the expenditures above, the Association has moved its office to the Sport Nova Scotia building in downtown Halifax, this has reduced our rental expense by ~12,000 in during 2023 and will save \$14,800/year in future years.

2023 Statement of financial position:

Golf NS maintains a healthy cash position at the end of 2023 with 143k in cash, net of \$290k in Golf Canada dues payable. Additionally, the Association has \$125k invested into low risk, marketable securities, as a reserve for any unexpected expenditures that would negatively impact Golf in NS. The securities have a market value of \$131,505 as of 2023.

Accounts receivable increase significantly, sitting at \$222,418 in 2023 vs 2022. This the result of a large series of invoicing to member clubs prior to year-end, however there are some issues with collections from some member clubs. The Association will be increasing its focus on collections in the 2025 year in an effort to maintain cash flows and continue supporting Golf in NS.

RULES COMMITTEE REPORT

KENT RODGER,
CHAIR

Committee Members

Kent Rodgers (Chair), Sheila Crummell, Ruth Christian, Blehr MacKinley, John Lothian



The 2024 tournament season was much kinder than the previous year weather wise. Weather delays were minimal and all events ran very smooth from a referee standpoint.

A number of new referee joined our ranks in 2024 and have made an immediate contribution to our program. This has enabled us to lighten the load on our long standing volunteers.

Two of our referees retired at the end of the 2024 season. Bill Twaddle has been a long time referee and excellent mentor to numerous of our newer referees. Ernie Muise has served Golf Nova Scotia in numerous roles over many decades, including as President of the Association in 2015-16.

My thanks to both of these gentlemen for their service and support.. My thanks to my fellow committee members, Bheir MacKinley, John Lothian, Mike McKenzie and David Potter.



HANDICAP & COURSE RATING COMMITTEE REPORT

ROB PRESCOT,
CHAIR



Committee Members

Robert Prescott (Chair), David Bolton (2nd Chair), Dave Potter, Donnie Rowe, Jill MacDonald, Catherine Beaton (Ex Officio), Sara Wilson

The World Handicap system is now well established and is in its second edition as of January 17, 2024. Golf Canada has developed an agreement form for all golf courses in Canada outlining what member clubs can expect from Golf Canada and Golf NS.

2024 - 2025 in review

Handicap:

Handicap Committee Tool Kits were distributed by Golf NS staff during the summer. Training is being provided through Golf Canada in March and April. Information was provided to staff in March for dispersal to Member Clubs. It is an important resource for clubs to use with their Handicap Committees.

Course Rating:

Our rating team continued growing this past season with 7 new raters coming out and working with us this year. The year saw many new challenges with respect to rating, with the addition of new courses, more onsite visits and rating rule changes coming into effect at the beginning of the season.

Each full course requires 2 days on site:

- First day is used for pre-rating which includes mapping the course using a GPS data logger which saves Points of Interest (PoI) These are used to confirm elevations and distances in conjunction with Google Earth Pro. Usually accomplished with teams of 2, but new raters are encouraged to attend a few of these dates during the year to enhance their training
- Second day is used for on-course measurements of 10 associated obstacles used in the rating process. Usually accomplished with two teams of 3 or 4 members with each team rating the front or back nine.

After the on-site rating work is finished, the data collected by the teams is transcribed into a Macro enhanced Excel spreadsheet (created by Darrell Peters out of Ontario) called an Automated Form 1. This AF1 is used to create the results data, then this data is transcribed into the World Handicap System website to establish the course rating and slope. A stroke allocation index is generated which we send to the course as a suggested HDCP dataset to be used on scorecards. The course is encouraged to use this index, but if they wish to generate their own index based on local data they have gathered, we will override the generated index and install their requested index in its place. Reports are generated for each rating and sent to the course for review and acceptance.

Training:

Live training for Team Leaders was conducted in Moncton NB in October. Presentations by Golf Canada training staff and working with raters from other provinces led to some new planned training experiences for this season.

In January, a one-day presentation for introducing the Course Rating process was provided to about 75 guests from the 4 Atlantic provinces. This introductory level presentation was also used as a refresher for our existing team members and was followed in February by a 3-week intensive training program for Team Leaders and more experienced Raters.

Example golf holes were created and then used as the basis for breaking down the Course Rating System Guide and Manual. Emphasis was placed on ensuring that Team Leaders understood the application of the adjustments for each Rating factor and were able to translate the data into the Form1 that would be used to create a rating value for each hole. Team Leaders were provided examples of Par 3, 4, and 5 holes and were then instructed to rate them for Male or Female golfers. The sessions also included quizzes that utilized the manual and guide to answer the questions. These quizzes and example questions were then distributed to the other Team members to use as training aids and refreshers for the upcoming season.

The 4 Atlantic Provincial Golf Association Course Rating teams will be gathering in April at the Links at Brunello for a two-day session to provide on-site training and experience with the Automated Form 1 (AF1) data collection and Course Rating tool. The AF1 will be used by all four associations this year for rating courses; Golf NS has been using this for the past 3 years and it has proven itself to be an effective tool for rating. This training session will draw raters from all four provinces and should prove to be a valuable training experience.

Courses:

In 2024 there were 8 courses planned, 5 on the mainland and 3 in Cape Breton. During the season we were approached to evaluate the new 9 holes at Fox Harb'r and rate a forward tee set at Grandview, as well as new holes or layouts on other courses.

Courses Planned for 2025:

Course Region Rating Date

The Links at Brunello HRM Apr 12/13
KenWo Annapolis Valley May
Brookfield Central May
River Oaks Central May
Hartlen Point HRM Jun
Fox Hollow Central Jun
Clare Golf Club Western Aug
Digby Pines Western Aug
Osprey Ridge South Shore Sep

GOLF NS 2024 CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE

JUNE 8-9 - GOLF NS MEN'S FOUR-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP - BERWICK HEIGHTS GC & PARAGON GCC

JULY 2-4 - GOLF NS BOYS/GIRLS JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP PRESENTED BY JLR HALIFAX - CLARE GCC

JULY 5-7 - GOLF NS MEN'S AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP - AMHERST GC

JULY 19-21 - GOLF NS WOMEN'S PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP - EDEN G&CC

JULY 26-28 - GOLF NS MEN'S MID-AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP - RIVER HILLS GCC

AUG 7-9 - GOLF NS #GOLFBEATTIESTRONG MEN'S SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP - ABERCROMBIE CC

AUG. 20 - GOLF NS WOMEN'S PINEHURST CHAMPIONSHIP - AVON VALLEY GCC

AUG. 27 - GOLF NS WOMEN'S BRONZE CHAMPIONSHIP - FORTVIEW GC

SEP. 17-18 - GOLF NS MEN'S SENIOR FOUR-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP - DIGBY PINES



GOLF NS 2024 PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONS

Women's Amateur Champion:

Haley Baker

Men's Amateur Champion:

Brett McKinnon

Women's Mid-Amateur Champion:

McKenzie Rice

Men's Mid-Amateur Champion:

Brett McKinnon

Women's Mid-Master Champion:

Erin Musgrave

Men's Mid-Master Champion:

Glenn Robinson

Women's Senior Champion:

Karla Wilms

Women's Super Senior Champion:

Debbie Arsenault

Women's Super Senior Plus Champion:

Jill Rafuse

Men's Senior Champion:

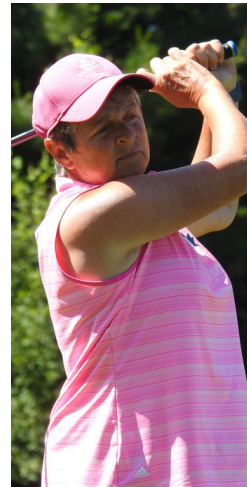
Jeff Hovell

Men's Super-Senior Champion:

Paul Batchelor

U19 Girls Champion:

Annika Parkash



GOLF NS 2024 CHAMPIONS CONT'D

U13 Girl's Champion:

Lila Bishop

U13 Boy's Champion:

Charlie Stewart

U17 / U15 Girls Champion:

Claira Frizzell

U15/U17/U19 Boy's Champion:

Cole Stewart



Women's Pinehurst:

Mireille Lewis & Heather Hines

Women's Bronze:

Kerri Pothier, Lynn Doucette,
Janie Cameron, Donna Barrett



Senior 4-Ball: Co-Champions

Jeff Hovell & Rob Collins

Men's 4-Ball:

Brett McKinnon & Jamie Sweet





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