Sixteen Year-Old Wins Junior Club Championship; Wins Men's Club Championship Days Later

August 29, 2022
Dunany Country Club
Wentworth, QC

Highlights
- First-ever golfer to win Junior Championship and Club Championship in the same year
- Wins record-tying fifth straight Junior Club Championship
- Sets Junior Championship Scoring Record; 2-under over 36 holes
- Eleven days later, wins Men's Club Championship; youngest-ever winner at 16 years, 5 months-old

Guelph, ON junior golfer **Mark McLeod** made history over the weekend as the youngest-ever Men's Club Champion in the 100-year history of his home course, Dunany Country Club in Wentworth, Québec. Aged sixteen years and five months, McLeod started his final round six shots off the lead, but stormed all the way back to hole a birdie putt on the final green to win the title, besting Manuel Côté of Montréal, QC by one stroke. McLeod posted rounds of 79-79-70 for a 54-hole total of 228.

McLeod's Men's Club Championship title comes just 11 days after he put his name into the record books for Dunany Country Club's Junior Championships: McLeod shot 73-69 for a 2-under par 142, the lowest score posted in the tournament's history, and posted the longest-possible winning streak for DCC Juniors, having won five straight Junior Championships from 2018 to 2022, tying Kevin Carter of Montréal, QC, who also achieved the feat.

Tied with Côté with two holes to play in this year's Men's Club Championship, McLeod admits to feeling some pressure: "It was very nerve-wracking. I was waiting for him to make a mistake," he said of Côté, "… but he hits the ball so straight all the time…". A day after the final round, McLeod reflected on his season, and the path to his achievements: "This was my goal. This year I was more consistent. Rules-wise, I played every round like it was the Club Championship."

In the days between his Junior victory and the start of the Men's Club Championships, McLeod found himself two clubs down; broken 6- and 7-irons left a huge gap in his bag right before the tournament he so badly wanted to win. As if in a movie, in stepped Don Sutherland of Montréal, QC, 10-time Dunany Club Champion — and prior to last weekend, the youngest champion in club history, aged 16 years, 8 months when he first won. Sutherland reshafted Mark's 6- and 7-irons in-time for the big tournament. McLeod knew better than to waste that bit of golf magic; after some trouble off the tee on the penultimate hole, he hit the repaired 7-iron from 195 yards blind over trees to 10 feet, and made his par putt. He says that 7-iron was his most important shot of the tournament, and says of Sutherland simply, "He's a legend."

Dunany Club Captain Tracy Wightman marvelled at the teen's dedication and his love of the sport. "After he became Junior Champion for the first time, in 2018," Wightman said, "…he wrote a note on the wall of the Starter's Shack that said 'If anyone wants to play golf, call Mark' with his phone number. That says it all."

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Mark McLeod wins DCC Club Championship, Aug 27, 2022

Mark McLeod gets a hug from his mom Tina as former club champ Don Sutherland looks on.