

Meet Our 2026 Junior Champion



Zone 4 Junior Coordinator Greg Moody and Ryan Gibbens with the Ed Lex Trophy

On his way to an easy victory, Ryan Gibbens defied some (though not all) of what we thought we knew about getting good at golf.

Our Junior championship was won this year by a 15-year-old, and it wasn't close.

Ryan Gibbens of Seymour Golf and Country Club coasted through the 36 holes played at Bowen Island Golf Club and Capilano Golf and Country Club at two under par, four strokes better than three players tied at two over. Moreover, it was his first time playing Capilano, and he had never previously played the back tees at Bowen Island.

There are some other surprising aspects to the victory. The Grade 10 student didn't pick up the game till Covid forced him to curtail most of his many other sports, albeit temporarily. And while he did join Seymour as a junior member shortly afterward, he

has taken advantage of minimal instruction along the way. So, what's his secret? "I practice 40 to 45 hours a week," he says.

Gibbens has been a force in various junior tours for years, but this year he eased into our 10-date tour, with only one strong showing in the first five events. Then he top-tenned with successively higher finishes in each of the three tournaments leading up to the championship.

There, it was his irons and putters that provided the magic, the latter a surprise, at least to him. "My irons are a strength," he says. "The putter is not."

On our team at the provincial Junior Championship, beginning on June 29 at Nk'mip Canyon in Osoyoos, Gibbens will be joined by Luke Van Alstine and Aiden Liu, who placed second and third on the season-long Order of Merit, behind Gibbens. We wish them well.