



maple leaf  
junior golf tour



***For Immediate Release***

## **Estonia wins Nordic Junior Team Matches and will host in 2018**

**Helsinki, FIN – (September 5, 2017)** – The inaugural Nordic Junior Team Matches between Finland, Sweden, Estonia and Canada were held this past week in Helsinki, Finland, at the Cooke Course at Vierumaki on August 31 and September 1, and LinnaGolf in Hämeenlinna on September 2.

The Canadian players qualified on the Maple Leaf Junior Golf Tour to represent Canada, and were captained by Trent Matson, MJT National Operations Manager. Matson reported that conditions were very difficult during the matches on day one in Vierumaki with rain, wind and water pooling on the greens and fairways. Officials had to squeegee the greens for the players between groups. Canada played Estonia and in the foursome (alternate shot) match, Bennett Ruby of Waterloo, ON, and Brad Moser of Saskatoon, SK, were paired together and lost 3 and 1 when Estonia birdied the 17<sup>th</sup> hole to close the door. In the singles matches, Chris Horton of Calgary, AB, and Brady McKinlay of Lacombe, AB, both lost 4 and 3 in very tough conditions.

On day two, MJT Team Canada started off with foursome matches with Horton and McKinlay winning 1-up against Sweden to get Canada on the board. This was the first win for Canada on this long and difficult golf course. In the singles matches, Moser and Ruby were both defeated on the final few holes, allowing Sweden to edge Canada in the team competition.

The final day was played on arguably the number one-ranked golf course in Finland – LinnaGolf, where the players were treated to a facility that has hosted some of the top European events, with the last being the 2010 European Amateur. Again, a perfect course for Match Play at 7300-7400 yards, but playing even longer than the yardage on the card due to the damp conditions. Ruby halved his match with Finland but had a

good opportunity to win. Horton took his match to the 16<sup>th</sup> hole, while McKinlay and Moser lost on the 15<sup>th</sup> hole.

Estonia picked up points each day to win the overall title and will host the matches next year as the defending Champions. Finland placed second, Sweden third and Canada fourth, and the teams celebrated an incredible life experience with a dinner following play on day three.

“What a brilliant experience, for our junior golfers and for myself as captain and chaperone,” said Matson. “Heartfelt thanks to Juha Skytta and the Finnish Golf Association for being such incredible hosts, and to the Swedish and Estonian Golf Associations for making this the outstanding event that it was. We cannot wait to take part in these matches again.”

MJT Team Canada was outfitted by MJT Official International Events Partner, TuGo. For more information on Tugo, please visit [www.tugo.com](http://www.tugo.com), and on the Maple Leaf Junior Golf Tour, please visit [www.maplejt.com](http://www.maplejt.com).

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**About the MJT:** The non-profit Maple Leaf Junior Golf Tour presented by Boston Pizza is Canada's number one-played Junior Golf Tour as well as the only national junior tour run exclusively by PGA of Canada Professionals and the 'Road to College Golf' in Canada. The organization is presented nationally by Boston Pizza and supported by valued Premier, Tournament and Product Partners. The MJT hosts more than 70 events across Canada, including free Ford Go Golf Junior Clinics, the MJT Mini Tour for 7-12 year olds, the Collegiate Tour for 19-23 year olds, and multi-day events for competitive players aged 11 to 18 which are also qualifiers for international competitions. The program offers annual awards, scholarships, and frequent player incentives to help reward

player's performance and participation throughout each season. MJT alumni include many Professional Tour players and PGA of Canada Professionals, as well as Canadian Amateur, National and Provincial Junior Champions. The MJT aims to develop champions, in golf and in life, promoting the game from grassroots through to provincial, national, university and professional level. For more information on the Maple Leaf Junior Golf Tour, please visit [www.maplejt.com](http://www.maplejt.com)

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