

Landyn Edwards is hoping he can fly the flag for his hometown when he competes against seasoned athletes at the inaugural Tompkins Wake New Zealand Speedgolf Open.

The unique event is being held at Rotorua Golf Club, Arikikapakapa, on February 21-22.

Twenty-five people have registered to take part in the event, including Edwards, who is one of two Rotorua locals in the line-up.

The Rotorua amateur golfer won the Danny Lee Springfield Open in 2012 and 2014 and will be competing against seasoned athletes including Olympic 1500m silver medallist Nick Willis.

As well as competing against Willis, Edwards will be facing off against elite athletes from across the country, who have national titles under their belts, including Richard Olsen (Otago), Ben Ruthe (Bay of Plenty) and Tom Osborne (Auckland).

Edwards said despite never playing speedgolf before, he was looking forward to the challenge.

“I hope to do Rotorua proud,” he said.

“I’ve heard speedgolf is quite difficult but I’m looking for a bit of a challenge and I’m willing to give it a crack.”

Jason Cameron, from the Destination Rotorua events team, said he was excited about Rotorua hosting the first Tompkins Wake NZ Speedgolf Open at one of the most scenic and unique golf courses in the world.

He said it was encouraging there were golfers from around New Zealand and overseas coming to Rotorua to compete in the event.

Up for grabs is \$3000 in prizes and giveaways including the Tompkins Wake Hole in One on the Run Challenge.

Mr Cameron said the event was open to spectators and encouraged Rotorua residents and visitors alike to head to the golf course to check out the action.

“There’s a lot of intrigue as to who is going to win – will it be an athlete or a golfer of note? Can Nick Willis reproduce the form that placed him 13th in the Speedgolf World Champs in 2013 to win the NZ title?”

SCHEDULE (Can run as a factbox/sidebar)

Saturday 21 February

1pm Tompkins Wake NZ Speedgolf Open qualifying commences

5pm Qualifying concludes, results tallying, Happy Hour at Golf Club, and update of leaderboard for finals by 6pm

7pm Rotorua Open & NZ Speedgolf Open Dinner featuring guest speakers Ian Kirkpatrick (former All Black Captain 1972-74) and Nick Willis at the Holiday Inn. Tickets are \$35 per person and available from the Rotorua Golf Club on a first come, first served basis.

Sunday 22 February

9am Developmental final commences

12pm Top flight final commences

2.30pm Tompkins Wake NZ Speedgolf concludes, results tallying

3.30pm Awards ceremony at Rotorua Golf Club