

## GOLF

# Ellis starts as he means to continue

By LYNDSEY HEWISON

Norfolk professional Ian Ellis is back on top in East Anglian golf with a fine win in the first major tournament of the season.

The Weston Park player put on an excellent display of wet weather golf for a one-shot win in the H R Owen Classic at Woolston Manor Golf and Country Club. He was six-under par for the 36-hole competition.

It was the sixth time the 34-year-old, sun-tanned from a winter job on the Fred Olsen cruise ships in the Caribbean, has won a PGA East Region order of merit event.

It helps to wipe out memories of last year – when he had his worst year in the region since turning pro – and sets him on course for his 2007 targets.

“I’ve got a feeling that I’m going to have a really good year – and this is a great start to the season,” said Ellis. “I’m over the moon.” His aim is to win the region’s order of merit, which he last held in 2000 and has been runner-up in 2001, 2003 and 2005.

Ellis started with a two-under-par 70 when he was pleased with his ball striking, but felt let down by his putting.

“I had four birdies, but I missed a couple of six-foot birdie putts and a three-foot putt for an eagle.

“I spent the evening on the putting

## LEADING SCORES

**138:** I Ellis (Weston Park) 70 68 (£2,000), **139:** L Eggleston (Orsett) 69 70 (£1,330), **140:** P Simpson (Beadlow Manor) 71 69 (£750), **141:** R Gray (Thorndon Park) 73 68 (£600), **142:** S Brown (Orton Meadows) 74 68, J Fryatt (Thorpe Hall) 69 73 (£488).

## Other scores included

**143:** A George (Ely City) 72 71, **147:** A Collison (Bungay) 76 71, N Lythgoe (Royal Norwich) 74 73, **155:** P Mayoh (King’s Lynn) 77 78, **156:** M Allen (Eaton) 74 82, **157:** S Cubitt (Land of Golf, Diss) 79 78, R Pudney (Royal Cromer) 79 78.

green and found something I thought it would try. In the second round I holed a 10-footer on the first and thought here we go!”

His second round 68 was a superb score in the worst of the wet weather.

“It was sideways rain,” said Ellis, who had five birdies, including two in the last four holes.

It kept him just clear of Luke Eggleston of Orsett, who staged a strong challenge with birdies on the 16th and 17th holes. He had a 20-footer on the last to force a play-off, but was unable to convert his birdie chance.

“I knew Luke was knocking it close and I thought I had to make birdie at the last to put it out of the reach,” said Ellis. “When I chipped and putted for par I thought it might not be enough – but thankfully it was.”



Picture: STEVE ADAMS

IN FORM: Ian Ellis was in the money after winning the H R Owen Classic at Woolston Manor Golf and Country Club.

## Mitchell turns on the style at Weston

Suffolk’s Neil Mitchell staged a successful raid over the border to win the latest Norfolk PGA pro-am at Weston Park with a three-under-par 69.

It was wet and windy but nothing could knock Mitchell off course as he notched up six birdies – five of them on the front nine: one, three, four, six and nine.

He set them up with a series of accurate shots into the greens and, during his purple patch, faced nothing longer than a 10-foot putt.

Mitchell, who started on the 10th, was the only player to break par and he was four shots clear of the three players who tied for second place. He and his group of amateurs also tied for the team prize – but lost out on countback to the group led by Tony Varney from The Norfolk.

This is Mitchell’s second success at Weston Park and, not surprisingly, he says: “I love the course!”

It was here that he won the Millennium Trophy last year, the biannual event contested by Norfolk and Suffolk professionals. Mitchell was the first Suffolk player to capture this prize.

This win was his second from two starts so far this season. Mitchell, who combines his tournament play with his work as a postman, also won the recent PGA east Region pro-am at Highgate with a one-under 68.

This pro-am was the first of three sponsored by Insight Financial Services, with a 54-hole prize for the overall winner. The other two events are at Royal Norwich and Sprowston Manor.

**Results:** Professionals: 69 Neil Mitchell (Bury Driving Range), 73 Mike Jubb (Sheringham), Ian Ellis (Weston Park), Tony Varney (The Norfolk), 74 Gary Forder (Sheringham), Mark Allen (Eaton), Gary Potter (unattached), Peter Bower (Bawburgh). Best trainee: Gary Forder. Nearest the pin: Simon Lister. Longest drive: Alex Scott

**Teams:** 135 (nine-under par) Tony Varney with Les Varney, Jeff Smith & Craig Hepple; Neil Mitchell with Peter Ford, John Edwards & Graham Mawe. 137 Ian Ellis with Gary Stangoe, Howard Barber & Ian Thompson. 139 Mike Jubb with Chris Ellison, Jon Groom & Andy Horn.

**Order of Merit:** Ian Ellis (Weston Park) 40 pts, Tony Varney (The Norfolk) 29, Neil Lythgoe (Royal Norwich) 25, Mike Jubb (Sheringham) 25, Alan Hemsley (Richmond Park) 21, Lee Patterson (Royal Cromer) 17, Gary Potter (unatt) 17, Gary Forder (Sheringham) 17, Peter Bower (Bawburgh) 16, Ryan Pudney (Royal Cromer) 10, Mark Allen (Eaton) 10.

## County season gets off to an encouraging start

It rained, it poured – but nothing could dampen the spirits of the Norfolk men’s teams as they teed up a great start to their Anglian League campaign.

Norfolk beat Northamptonshire 6½-5½ at Hunstanton while the second team halved 6-6 away at Collingtree Park.

“It was brilliant, a good, positive start to the year,” said new county captain Kevin Pratt.

Meanwhile, James Ollington took charge as second team captain for the first time and he remarked: “It’s got us off to a good start. Anything away from home is good.”

The first team shared the morning foursomes and then romped away in the individual event, taking their 4½ points from the first five singles. Simon Clark (Great Yarmouth & Caister), Dan Henderson (Royal Norwich) and Simon Peckford all had

## MATCH DETAILS

## Norfolk I 6½ Northants I 5½

**Foursomes:** David Marshall & Simon Clark beat Adam Myers & Tony Lord 2/1. Dan Henderson & Simon Peckford lost to Graham Bott & Matt Bird 4/3. Kevin Pratt & Stuart Ballingall beat Ryan Evans & Mark Bazeley 3/2. Chase Davis & Gary Stangoe lost to Neil Connolly & Matt Bearman 2/1.

**Singles:** Clark beat Myers 6/4. Marshall halved with Evans. Henderson beat Lord 5/4. Ballingall beat Bott 1 up. Peckford beat Bazeley 4/3. Pratt lost to Bird 2 down. Stangoe lost to Bearman 7/6. Davis lost to Connolly 1 down.

## Norfolk II 6 Northants II 6

**Foursomes:** James Ollington & Stephen Chick lost to A Izzard & A Lilly 2/1. Simon Locke & Alex Beckett beat R Brown & J Chamberlain 3/2. Bruce McQuade & Nick Paling beat A Lindsay & A Myers 4/3. James Palmer & Mark King lost to R Connolly & R McIlwain 4/3.

**Singles:** Locke beat Lilley 3/2. Ollington lost to Chamberlain 3/2. Chick beat Izzard 4/2. King lost to Myers 1 down. McQuade lost to Brown 4/2. Palmer beat Lindsay 2/1. Beckett lost to McIlwain 2/1. Paling beat Connolly 1 up.

very good wins, while David Marshall and Stuart Ballingall both showed their fighting qualities.

Marshall (Barnham Broom) came back from two down to halve his match and Ballingall (Dunston Hall) won the last two holes to finish one up.

The first team escaped the rain in the morning, but were soaked in the

afternoon – when Hunstanton secretary Bob Carrick had to sweep the 17th green to allow play to continue.

However, the second team were drenched all day.

“It was horrendous, a monsoon,” said Ollington. “Everyone said it was the worst rain they had played in.”

They, too, halved the foursomes, but

the overall outcome of the match depended on the final pair.

Royal Norwich’s Nick Paling held his nerve to clinch the half for this team. He was two up with three to play, lost the 16th, but halved the last two holes to come in one up.

He was one of two team members to scores maximum points, alongside Simon Locke, also of Royal Norwich.

Norfolk are in action again this weekend in the Eastern Counties’ Foursomes at Seacroft.

The team is: Kevin Pratt (capt, Costessey Park), Stuart Ballingall (Dunston Hall), Austin Brydon (Royal Norwich), Simon Clark (Great Yarmouth & Caister), Chase Davis (Costessey Park), Dan Henderson (Royal Norwich), David Marshall (Barnham Broom), Scott Nichols (Royal Norwich), James Ollington (Costessey Park), Simon Peckford (Thetford).

## CLUB GOLF ROUND-UP

## NLPGA League, Division One:

**Thetford beat Royal Norwich 5-2:** Mrs J Cane beat Won Miss S Martin 2 and 1, Mrs J Warton lost to Mrs N Wylie 6 and 4, Mrs A McHarg lost to Mrs N Clarke 2 down. Mrs A Braybrooke beat Mrs I Cuppins 2 and 1, Mrs G Burdett beat Mrs J Clare 2 up. Miss C Thompson beat Mrs S Heeles 3 and 2, Mrs M Horsburgh beat Mrs P Wimmer 2 and 1. **Eaton beat The Norfolk 6-1:** Miss E Lowery-Gold beat Mrs A Gillings 6 and 4, Mrs E Zandvoort beat Mrs S Hooker 5 and 4, Mrs J Innes beat Mrs A S-Moll 1 up, Mrs C Gillham beat Miss S Watts 1 up, Mrs M Seppings beat Mrs J Seppings 4 and 3, Mrs A Stanley beat Mrs H Gill 2 up, Mrs R Bates lost to Mrs C Tufts 3 and 2.

## Division Two

**Sheringham beat Bawburgh 5-2:** Mrs B Royce beat Mrs M Gamble 3 and 1, Mrs A Whittington beat Mrs G Hardy 3 and 1, Mrs M Arnold beat Mrs J Worthington 5 and 3, Mrs S Wynne beat Ms D Savidge 3 and 1, Mrs L Tucker lost to Mrs B Mace 2 and 1, Mrs S Rump lost to Ms T Reynolds 4 and 2, Mrs C Jeffreys beat Mrs B Wardley 7 and 6.

## Division Three

**Dereham beat Barnham Broom II 4.5-2.5:** Mrs P Kaye beat Mrs C Cooke 5 and 4, Mrs C Harrison beat Mrs A Kerridge 3 and 2, Mrs H Burrage beat Mrs A Sayers 2 and 1, Mrs E Bench lost to Ms S Brooks-Morgan 3 and 2, Mrs J Bray lost to Mrs J Cullum 5 and 3, Mrs M Wingate halved with Mrs A Carey, Mrs J Bizley beat Mrs J Meadows 4 and 3.

## Division Five

**Mundesley lost to Swaffham 4-3:** Mrs C Bray beat J Proctor 1 up, Mrs V Spinks beat Mrs C Hicks 5 and 4, Mrs V Rush lost to A Bayes 2 and 1, Mrs M Maclean lost to S Turner 4 and 3, Mrs P Jackman lost to J Kirman 3 and 2, Mrs M Johns beat M Blake 3 and 2, Mrs S Symmons lost to M Ikin 2 and 1.

**Royal Cromer II beat Costessey Park 5-2:** Mrs M Nicholls beat Ms A Sibley 2 and 1, Mrs W Wright beat Mrs S Glenn 2up, Mrs D Prewer beat Mrs S Boast 4 and 2, Mrs M Baxter lost to Mrs S Fage 4 and 2, Mrs L Bartman lost to Mrs J Daly 3 and 2, Mrs G Storey beat Mrs M Hughes 2 up, Mrs C Bolam beat Mrs P Bartrum 1 up.

## Division Six

**King’s Lynn II 6.5, Caldecott Hall 0.5:** Mrs S Hindell beat Mrs J Hannant 5 and 4, Mrs D Eagles beat Miss J Hodds 1 up, Mrs J Collinson beat Miss V Hill 3 and 1, Mrs M Higgins beat Mrs E Banham 3 and 2, Mrs P Simpson beat Ms B Nash 5 and 3, Mrs H Marsters beat Mrs D Williams 3 and 2, Mrs R Eayres halved with Mrs P Holliday. **Dunston Hall 4.5, The Norfolk II 2.5:** Ms S Pleasance beat L Fowler 2 and 1, Mrs S Henderson beat Mrs A Jones 5 and 4, Mrs P Frost lost to Mrs E Dann 1 down, Mrs J Munday beat Mrs K Barlow 2 up, Mrs J Watson halved with Mrs J Cooper, Mrs L Love lost to Mrs J Hoskin 3 and 1, Mrs S Cubitt beat Mrs W Shadrack 4 and 3.

## NLPGA Scratch League Division One

**Thetford 1 Costessey Park 2:** Joanne Cane beat Sue Fage 6 and 4, Two Thetford players disqualified as played out of handicap order.

## Thetford

**Junior Team Challenge:** 172 pts Norfolk Schools Golf Association team, 169 Cullington Cup team,

## 165 The Captains team.

**Aspirants Shield:** Tim Dinan 45 pts. Martin Hunter 39 pts. Jeremy Rhodes 38 pts.

**Douglas Bader Cup (Mixed Greensomes**

**Stableford):** Chris and Liz Taylor 46 pts, Peter and Beryl King 45 pts, Mike and Diane McBride 41 pts.

**Mixed Open:** Roger and Sue Butler

(Wellingborough) 44 pts, Malcolm & Sheila

Hardingham (Swaffham) 40 pts, Alan Fisher & Lin

Smith (Rodway Hill, Bourne) 39 pts.

**Longest drive prize** went to Malcolm and Sheila

Hardingham and the nearest the pin was won by

Reg & Lucy Hole of Great Yarmouth & Caister.

## Thetford Ladies

**Sutherland Vase:** 1 Joanne Cane 39, 2 Jean Elliot 38, 3 Sue Burman 37.

**Hearts and Flowers:** 1 Pam Ellis 14 (41), 2 Sandra Gordon 14 (36), 3 Olive Hambling 14 (23).

## The Norfolk Ladies

**May Medal, Division One:** J Seppings 90-17-73, A Savory-Moll 90-15-75, L Fowler 96-19-77. **Division**

**Two:** J Harby 102-28-74, P Ferrier 113-33-80, K



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