

GOLF

Ellis moves up a gear to bag European place

By LYNDSEY HEWISON

PGA East region order of merit winner Ian Ellis has bagged himself four starts on next season's European Challenge Tour.

The Weston Park player claimed his place in events in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland when he finished fourth in this week's PGA Play-offs at Notts Golf Club.

The 36-hole event was contested by the top three players from each of the PGA's seven regions, who were competing for a number of European and Challenge Tour starts.

Ellis was disappointed to finish outside the top two, who won the European Tour starts, but he had previously secured a place in next year's flagship event, the BMW Championship – and he now has the added compensation of the Challenge Tour starts.

"These are all big events and I'll definitely be playing in them – unless I win my card for the main Tour," said Ellis, who has reached the second stage of the qualifying process.

He was level par for the play-offs, with rounds of 73 and 71, despite struggling with his driving. "I didn't hit the ball well off the tee – and the golf course was so demanding, 7,200 yards long with fairways lined by gorse and heather. My driving was the main thing which cost me.

"But I've taken lots of positives from this. It was great to play under pressure.

"I thoroughly enjoyed the tournament, with 21 good players, and it's good to know I'm the fourth-ranked PGA pro in the UK.

"It will stand me in good stead with phase two qualifying for the European Tour coming up next month."

Ellis has also been on good form on the local circuit, scoring a one-



BIG EVENTS: Ian Ellis in action in the play-offs.

Picture: ROSS KINNAIRD, GETTY IMAGES

shot win in the Norfolk PGA's 54-hole strokeplay championship. It's the second time he has won this title.

Ellis birdied the 11th, 14th and 15th holes in the final round at Caldecott Hall to get to seven-under par and overtake Norfolk Open champion Neil Lythgoe.

The event, sponsored by the eight Norfolk Links golf clubs and Howards estate agents, was extremely competitive, with the lead regularly changing hands throughout the three rounds.

Sheringham's Gary Forder set the early pace, returning a four-

under 69 in the first round, which was played in pro-am format. Notably, he used only his irons to achieve his score and was two shots clear of the field.

After the second round Lythgoe had pushed to the top of the leaderboard, with Ellis and Weston Park head professional Michael Few poised just one shot behind him.

Caldecott Hall professional Mark Tungate also moved into the reckoning with an excellent second round 68 and was just one shot further back.

With nine holes of the final

round left to play Lythgoe continued to hold the advantage, but Ellis moved up a gear with some fine iron play.

Results

Professionals

212 Ian Ellis (Weston Park) 73, 70, 69, 213 Neil Lythgoe (Royal Norwich) 72, 70, 71, 218 Michael Few (Weston Park) 72, 71, 75; Mark Tungate (Caldecott Hall) 76, 68, 74, 219 Lee Patterson (Royal Cromer) 71, 75, 73, 223 Gary Potter (Links Country Park) 77, 73, 73.

Pro-am

131 (15-under) Michael Few (Weston Park) with Let Cuppens, Howard Barber and Graham Moorhouse, 133 Lee Patterson (Royal Cromer) with Oliver Denton, John Doe and Joseph Thwaites, 138 Oliver Barnes (Dunston Hall) with Chris Doe, Arthur Tillsley and Ady Ewing on 138.



IN THE SWING: A taster session at Great Yarmouth & Caister.

Women get a taste for new sport

New women golfers are preparing to get into the swing after a successful taster session at Great Yarmouth & Caister.

And there's another chance for women and girls to try the sport on Saturday, October 27, at Costessey Park Golf Club, Norwich.

Free coaching sessions with PGA professional Andrew Young will take place from 1-5pm. No equipment is necessary. Women can just turn up or telephone 01603 746333 to book a time.

At Great Yarmouth & Caister, ladies' president Freda Roberson reports definite interest from a number of the women who were given introductory free coaching at the club. The practice ground sessions were followed by tea and chat in the clubhouse when newcomers to the game had a chance to ask questions of ladies' committee members.

"We didn't know what to expect," said Freda. "But we think there are four women who will definitely take up the game, which is very pleasing."

The women and girls who attended the coaching session are being offered discounted lessons by Great Yarmouth & Caister professional Martyn Clarke.

The session was part of a pilot scheme being run by the Norfolk ladies with the backing of a £400 grant from the English Ladies' Golf Association. This support is part of ELGA's mission of Driving Women's Golf which aims to increase the numbers of women and girls golfers.

Marshall must go low just to make the cut

Andrew Marshall will have to go well under par today just to make the cut at the Portugal Masters in Vilamoura after opening with a disappointing 72.

An up and down round containing five birdies and five bogeys left him on level par, but due to the excellent scoring conditions par for the day was a good deal lower than that, with the Dereham professional finishing up joint 93rd in a field of 126. Marshall will need to be around the 68 mark today to stand a chance

of boosting his last-ditch bid to retain his European Tour card.

Should he fail to make the cut he will need to finish near the top of the field in next week's Majorca Open to retain full playing privileges for next season.

German rookie Martin Kaymer equalled the lowest round of the European Tour season with a spectacular 11-under-par 61 to open up a three shot lead at the top.

The Dusseldorf golfer finished with five successive birdies to take

an early three-stroke lead. After turning in 32, Kaymer roared home in just 29 strokes – finishing just one outside the all-time Tour record.

Argentina's Daniel Vancsik and Swede Martin Erlandsson were in joint second place after 64s – while Retief Goosen shared third place on 65 with Gregory Bourdy and Lee Westwood. Justin Rose's hopes of the top-two finish to take over the Order of Merit lead from Ernie Els were not looking good after posting a opening round of 69.

RESULTS

Leading first round scores in the Portugal Masters, Vilamoura:

61 Martin Kaymer (Ger)
64 Daniel Vancsik (Arg), Martin Erlandsson (Swe)
65 Retief Goosen (Rsa), Gregory Bourdy (Fra), Lee Westwood
66 Francesco Molinari (Ita), Steve Webster, Charl Schwartzel (Rsa), Nick Dougherty, Andrew McLardy (Rsa), Alvaro Quiros (Spa), Sam Walker, Jean-Francois Lucquin (Fra), Ariel Canete (Arg), Emanuele Canonica (Ita), Fredrik Andersson Hed (Swe)

67 Shiv Kapur (Ind), Jarmo Sandelin (Swe), Pelle Edberg (Swe), Rafael Echenique (Arg), David Frost (Rsa), Peter Lawrie, Mads Vibe-Hastrup (Den), Peter Hedblom (Swe), Brett Rumford (Aus), Robert Karlsson (Swe), Phillip Archer, James Hepworth, Terry Price (Aus), Sam Little, Barry Lane
68 Ross Fisher, James Kingston (Rsa), Oliver Wilson, Per-Ulrik Johansson (Swe), Raphael Jacquelin (Fra), Gary Murphy, Alexander Noren (Swe), Paul Lawrie, Alastair Forsyth, Bradley Dredge, Thomas Levett (Fra)
69 Robert Jan Drensen (Ned), Damien

McGrane, Peter Hanson (Swe), Jose-Filipe Lima (Por), Stephen Dodd, Alessandro Tadini (Ita), Justin Rose (Rsa), Santiago Luna (Spa), Pablo Martin (Spa), Miles Tunnicliff, Richard Bland, Mattias Eliasson (Swe), Peter Gustafsson (Swe), Carl Suneson (Spa), Stephen Gallacher, Andres Romero (Arg), Paul McGinley

Thetford Hanworth Trophy: Winner J Rhodes 95-27-68, 2nd J O'Rourke 100-28-72, 3rd M Rumsey 93-20-73

Norfolk Golf County Juniors

EDP Foursomes (Half combined handicap – maximum 18) Monday, October 22 – Barnham Broom Golf Club (Hill Course) Starting times 9.54 Stuart Ballingall/Stephen Chick (Dunston Hall), Luke Johnson/Kit Holmes (King's Lynn), 10.02 Chris Boshier/Calum Slowther (Royal West Norfolk/Royal Norwich), James McBride/James Phillips (Thetford), 10.10 Daniel Russell/Tom Covell (Ryton Park), James Lawrence/Ryan Page (The Norfolk/Sheringham), 10.18 Matthew Alden/Jamie Smith (Barnham Broom), Chris Humberston/Seb Humberston (Dereham), 10.26 Christos Fellas/Alex Fellas (Gt Yarmouth & Caister), Luke Fray/William Lambert

(Sprowston Manor) 10.34 Rebecca Heeles/Tom Clements (Royal Norwich), Jonathan Spinks/Adam Morley (Ryton Park), 10.42 Jake Anema/Ben Kinder (The Norfolk), Ben Rawthorne/Paul Savage (Bawburgh), 10.50 Adam Lewarne/Jack Yule (Middleton Hall), Lewis Gregory/Dominic North (Sheringham), 10.58 Simon Stevens/Nathan Hudson (Dunston Hall), Jamie Moxon/Calum Trimble (Barnham Broom), 11.06 Ben Kirkpatrick/Tristan Read (Dunston Hall/Bawburgh), Bradley Wright/Jacob McClay (Swaffham), 11.14 Kane Sawyer/Aaron Stuttard (Sprowston

Manor), Daniel Burridge/Oliver Chapman (Thetford), 11.22 Ryan Atkins/William Collins Gt Yarmouth & Caister, Harry Walker/Ben Smith (Mundesley), 11.30 Peter Murphy/Jamie Collyer (Mundesley), Guy Metcalf/Hume/Jake Metcalf (Costessey Park), 11.38 Franklyn Plume/Ruby Plume (Sprowston Manor), Michael Skipper/George Morris (Eaton), 11.46 Matthew Goss/Joe Goss (King's Lynn), Chris Bacon/Josh Hall (Sheringham), 11.54 Aaron Tillet/James Tinsley (Barnham Broom), Laura Gathercole/Ed Cottingham (King's Lynn), 12.02 William Farley/Robert Wilkinson (Richmond Park), Liam Upton/Albert Perez-Christopher (Mundesley)

Seniors October Stableford: Winner DJ Carlin 38 pts ocb, 2nd HP Reid 38, 3rd HL Hamm 37. Super Senior J Crowther 34 pts.

October Mid Week Medal: Winner C White 84-15-69 2nd E Cole 87-17 -70 3rd O Lloyd 86-14-72.

Daily Mail Foursomes 2008 Qualifying Competition: Winners Brain and M Aho 80-7.5-72.5 2nd, D Sutton and D Ball 82-9.5-72.5, 3rd S Burridge and T Devlin 85-9.5-75.5.

Dereham Ladies September Stableford: Div 1 Mitzi Barnes

34pts, Julie Bray 34 ocb, Jane Bizley 33; Div 2 Pat Bloomfield 36 pts, Heather Clements 35, Margaret Myhill 33

Ladies Presidents Prize: Div 1 Jill Trudgill 37 pts, Carole Harrison 37 ocb, Maggie Wingate 36; Div 2 Helen Howe 37, Penny Humberston 34, Gio Day 33

Sept Medal: Div 1 Jill Trudgill 93-26-67, Pam Kaye 85-15-70, Jane Bizley 92-19-73 Div 2 Helen Howe 104-28-76 Jane Dunsire 107-30-77 Maria Fox 107-30-77 ocb.

Autumn Cup: Heather Clements 98-28-70 Carole Harrison 86-15-71 Jane Bizley 94-19-75.

De Chair Cup Summer Knockout: Winner Helen Burrage Runner-up Jane Bizley

Norfolk Lady Golf Captains' Society autumn meeting: Mrs S Harrison & Mrs L Kirk 37 pts, Mrs J Johnson & Mrs J Hoskin 35, Mrs B Warren & Mrs E Sawas 35, Mrs C Hicks & Mrs A Payne 33, Mrs M Jennings & Mrs L Matthews 33, Mrs C Tufts & Mrs J Daly 31, Mrs D Cursons & Mrs R Tuffen 30.

