



Picture: ROSS KINNAIRD, GETTY IMAGES

In-form Ellis extends his strong lead

There's no stopping Weston Park's Ian Ellis. The in-form professional has just chalked up another win with a six-under par 64 at Bawburgh.

It equalled the course record, gave him a four stroke victory in the latest Norfolk PGA pro-am and extended his runaway lead in the order of merit.

Ellis, who soon heads off to the second stage of European Tour qualifying, is aiming to top the table and complete a double. He's already sealed the PGA East Region order of merit.

"I really enjoyed it," said Ellis, who hit 17 greens in regulation and had just one bogey, on the par three 6th. He amply compensated with birdies on the 3rd, 7th, 9th, 12th, 14th, 17th and 18th.

"It was just one of those rounds when it all seemed simple," said Ellis. "I hit the ball great and I didn't have to scramble on any hole."

He had felt optimistic going into the event, which came just after the PGA play-offs at Holinwell. There, the top 21 players from the country's seven regions competed for a host of starts in the 2008 season and Ellis, who was fourth overall, has bagged four in Challenge Tour events.

"I had a good feeling before this event. I had hit lots of good irons at Holinwell and I knew I would do okay," said Ellis.

This was his fourth win in Norfolk this season and he adds it to four second places and a third.

Results

Professionals: 64 Ian Ellis (Weston Park), 68 Gary Forder (Sheringham), Neil Lythgoe (Royal Norwich), 69 Caroline Grady (Dunston Hall), 70 Sam Cubitt (Land of Golf, Diss).

Teams: 121 (19-under) Caroline Grady (Dunston Hall) with R Reynolds, T Devlin, R Bennett, 132 Ian Ellis (Weston Park) with N Paling, D Cossey, D Scrivener. 132, Neil Lythgoe (Royal Norwich) with D. Grady, B. Collishaw, R Maidstone, 132 Gary Forder (Sheringham) with B Richmond, J Hudson, D Burrell.

Norfolk PGA order of merit. Latest leading standings (prizes are awarded for the first six places): 101 pts Ian Ellis (Weston Park), 55 Neil Lythgoe (Royal Norwich), 41 Lee Patterson (Royal Cromer), 34 Alan Hemsley (Richmond Park), 32 Tony Varney (The Norfolk), 30 Mark Allen (Eaton), Paul Mayoh (King's Lynn), 29 Mike Jubb (Sheringham), 27 Gary Forder (Sheringham) Peter Bower (Bawburgh), 26 Ryan Pudney (Royal Cromer).

GOLF

Day of glory for King's Lynn trio

King's Lynn teenagers Bradley Harris, Kit Holmes and Luke Johnson have brought national glory to Norfolk by winning the English Junior Champion Club Tournament.

On a glorious sunny day at Spalding in Lincolnshire the King's Lynn lads came up on the rails to steal the title from a trio of Suffolk rivals. They compiled a 36-hole aggregate of 154 stableford points to win by three from Stoke by Nayland and by five from overnight leaders Welwyn Garden City, from Hertfordshire.

"I'm very proud of my team," said Chris Johnson, the King's Lynn junior organiser. "I didn't think players with low handicaps would win this event because if you look at the result from the last five years it's been the mid and high handicappers that have come through." Luke Johnson and Holmes were both playing off two, while Harris was a seven-

handicapper.

Johnson went on: "But when we were only two points behind overnight I fancied our chances because I was confident of the boys' abilities. "I also felt this splendid course suited us with its raised greens that made chipping and putting tricky.

"This win will be a big boost to the club and keeps it going in the right direction.

"We have a strong junior base as well as a strong girls' base and it shows how much good work has been put in."

King's Lynn were two points behind after the first round, when Johnson scored 31, Harris 37 and Holmes 39. Their team score of 76 (the best two scores from three) put them in joint second place overnight.

On the second day, the King's Lynn youngsters were out in the last three groups on the course, following Welwyn who added another 71 for 149; and Stoke by Nayland who



CHAMPIONS: From left, Luke Johnson, Kit Holmes and Bradley Harris of King's Lynn.

Picture: © Tom Ward/EGU

set the target at 151. But the fight was far from over.

Luke Johnson, the East Region U16 champion, came in with another 31 and Holmes added 38 to give a hint of the success to come.

At that stage King's Lynn were six points off the target and Harris, their last man out in the

final game on the course, needed to score at least 38 points to see his side to the title.

Reports from the course said he was under par but it wasn't until he produced his card with 40 magnificent points from a gross 74 that King's Lynn knew they were home and dry.

"I didn't have a clue what

we needed but I knew it was going to be close," said the 15-year-old. In the end it wasn't that close but the Norfolk boys could begin to celebrate.

King's Lynn had qualified to represent Norfolk in the tournament when their team won the county's Kenneth Smith Trophy for the a record sixth time.

A sweet finish after duo win trophy the hard way

Costessey Park's Kevin Pratt and Stuart Tough are the toast of Norfolk after they won the final of the Daily Mail Foursomes at Marriott Forest of Arden in Warwickshire.

The three-handicappers came through to claim the title from an initial entry of pairs from about 3,000 clubs.

"It's superb, brilliant," said Pratt, who is Norfolk county captain. "But it was hard work!"

In the two-day session, which brought together the remaining 16 teams in the nationwide knock-out competition, Pratt and Tough were twice taken into extra time and sealed their victory in the final only on the 18th green.

They started with an easy win. Their first round opponents from Neath, who were receiving 10 shots, were six down after 10 holes and conceded the match.

The quarter-final was against a plus-three handicapper from Cosby, Leicestershire and his son who played off nine. Pratt and Tough were two down with four to play but fought back to all square and won on the second extra hole.

In the semi-final they met the City of Belfast, gave four shots,

By LYNDSEY HEWISON

and were again two down with four to play. Birdies at the par three 15th and 18th brought them back to all square and they won through with a par on the first extra hole.

In the final they conceded two shots to a pair from Addington Palace in Surrey. The Norfolk pair were up or all square for the outward half but their opponents birdied the 11th to go one up and then won the 13th with a shot to take a two-hole advantage.

"Then we had a solid finish, we parred in, won the last four holes - and managed to do it," said Pratt.

It's a particularly sweet result for Tough, a former Norfolk handicap champion, who has been suffering from knee trouble and considering hanging up his clubs. "Thirty-six holes a day is a bit of an effort and I've been popping pills for the last couple of days - but apparently now I can't give up."

He added: "I'm standing here with a class of Champagne and life is pretty sweet at the moment!"



PRIZE GUYS: Stuart Tough, left, and Kevin Pratt with their trophy.

Picture: SUBMITTED

RESULTS

Bawburgh Golf Club (Ladies)

Charity Stableford
Division One: Mrs Pat Dorrington 24-35-24.2; Mrs Janet Worthington 17-33-17.2; Mrs Mary Gamble 16-29-15.9; Jo Barnard 19-26-19.5; Margaret Bell 21-26-21.5.
Division Two: Mrs Sandie Hammond 28-37-27.3 (overall winner); Mrs Brenda Mitchell 32-34-31.7; Mrs Betty Wardley 27-31-27.5

(acb); Ms Annie Langstaff 26-31-26.3 (acb); Mrs Maureen May 29-30-29.4.

October Medal

Division One: Mrs Pat Dorrington 95-24=71-23.4; Margaret Bell 98-22=76-21.5 (acb); Jo Barnard 96-20=76-21.5 (acb); Mrs Janet Worthington 94-17=77-17.3; Mrs Brenda Mace 101-21=80, 21.4.
Division Two: Mrs Maureen May 105-

29=76-29.4 (acb); Mrs Brenda Mitchell 108-32=76-31.7 (acb); Mrs Phon Green 103-26=77-25.7; Ms Annie Langstaff 108-26=82-26.3.

Caldecott Hall Golf Club

October Stableford: 1 Mr D Inyang 42 pts, 2 Mr B Harrison 39, 3 Mr P Ogden 36.
October Medal: 1 Mr P Ogden 67, 2 Mr B

Harrison 70, 3 Mr S Shand 72, Mr S Blake 72ocb.

Seniors Pairs: Stableford Aggregate — 1 Mr G Chapman and Mr K Snowling 69, 2 Mr B Beer and Mr P Morris 67, 3 Mr J Wheeler and Mr R Scriggson 59.

Middleton Hall Golf Club — Seniors Section
Seniors Three Club and Putter: Winners:

Division One R Page 39 pts, runner-up B Franklin 39.

Division Two: Winner A Dewitt 41, runner-up D Emmerson 38.

Seniors October Medal: Division One: Winner T Read 71ocb, runner-up P O'Regan 71;

Division Two: Seniors Medal Winners Trophy: Winner D Hawkes.

Seniors Autumn Chalice: Winners R Burton and R Nuttall 71, 2 runners-up T Read and D McCollm 74.

Great Yarmouth and Caister GC Ladies' Section
ELGA Trust Competition: Miss J Rose 38 points
October Medal and Autumn Cups