

IN BRIEF

Notable scalp for county champion

Norfolk's Rebecca Heeles scored an impressive win over Midland girls' champion Katie Burman at Pavenham Park, Bedfordshire. Rebecca, 15, is the Norfolk junior champion and was playing top in the county girls' match against Bedfordshire. She plays off eight, while Katie Burman is a three handicapper – but Rebecca triumphed by 5/3 in the scratch match. Amber Ratcliffe scored Norfolk's other point, holding on well over the closing holes to defeat her opponent on the 17th. The Norfolk girls' second team won their foursomes match 2-1.

Norfolk 2 Bedfordshire 4: Rebecca Heeles (hcp 8, Royal Norwich) beat Katie Burman (3) 5/3; Jennifer Hide (11, Royal Norwich) lost to Megan Birdsey (6) 7/6; Lulu Humberston (16, Dereham) lost to Georgia Testa (12) 4/3; Hannah Groom (16, Swaffham) lost to Rebecca Samuels (13) 5/4; Amber Ratcliffe (18, Royal Cromer) beat Molly Thorne (16) 2 up; Ruby Plume (25, Sprowston Manor) lost to Amber Hunt (21) 5/4.

Norfolk II 2 Bedfordshire II 1: Emily Anthony (Barnham Broom) and Jade Morris (Costessey Park) rec 6, lost to Fiona Cooper & Vanessa Jay 7/5; Laura Gathercole (King's Lynn) and Ellie Judd (Eaton) rec 3, beat Sophie Hillier & Victoria Walley 2/1; Juliet Fenton (King's Lynn) and Rachel Hide (Royal Norwich) rec 5, beat Elena Tizzard & Kim Jones 7/6.

New secretary is set to take charge

Norfolk's new county secretary David Horsburgh, will be on official duty at this weekend's County Foursomes at Hunstanton. It's the first time he's been in charge of a men's county event – but he is no stranger to either golf in Norfolk or to top level competition. He brings extensive experience to his new post. Horsburgh, the vice-captain at Thetford, has been Norfolk junior secretary for the past six years. For most of that time he has been a member of the English Golf Union's tournament panel, assisting and refereeing at national events. In addition, he is chairman of the English Schools Golf Association and is its championship referee. And he manages to maintain a 10 handicap and to represent his club in Barnard and Cullington matches. Horsburgh's enthusiasm for golf is shared by his wife, Margo, a past ladies' captain at Thetford. She is also a member of the EGU tournament panel, she's secretary of the ESGA and of the Norfolk Schools Golf Association.

Impressive start for trophy holders

King's Lynn began their defence of the Kenneth Smith Trophy – the junior inter-club knock-out – with a 6 up away win over Dunston Hall.

Other first round results (home clubs first): Gt Yarmouth & Caister lost to Barnham Broom 11 down. Eaton w/o Middleton Hall. Bawburgh beat Richmond Park 2 up. Wensum Valley beat Ryston Park 5 up. Fakenham beat Swaffham 7 up. Weston Park lost to Royal Cromer 2 down.

Second round draw, to be played on May 18 (home clubs first): Royal Norwich v Mundesley, Fakenham v The Norfolk, Hunstanton v Barnham Broom, Dereham v Wensum Valley, Royal Cromer v Sprowston Manor, King's Lynn v Costessey Park, Sheringham v Bawburgh, Eaton v Thetford.

New restaurant is open for business

Thetford's refurbished restaurant was officially opened by the club's longest serving captain, Keith Eldred, and longest serving ladies' captain Mac Lloyd.

GOLF

Norfolk the setting for tour opener

The PGA EuroPro season tees off next Wednesday at Wensum Valley – and there's plenty of Norfolk interest in the field of 150 players.

Among the hopefuls bidding for the first prize of £12,000 will be Ian Ellis of Weston Park, Neil Lythgoe of Royal Norwich – and new professional Chase Davis from Wensum Valley. Meanwhile, Weston Park's Danny Chapman is hoping to move from first reserve into the field.

Ellis and Lythgoe are long-established talents. Ellis won the 2007 PGA East Region and Norfolk orders of merit while Lythgoe is the reigning Norfolk Open champion.

Davis, meanwhile, has swapped life at the forefront of Norfolk amateur golf for professional ranks. He came through his first test last week when he made the cut at the EuroPro final qualifying school and secured his card for the season.

Now, he faces the challenge of his first professional tournament.

"It will be a bit of a different experience to what I'm used to," he said. "I'm looking forward to it."

Davis, who is working hard in the gym, will have his father, Garry, on the bag for the tournament.

Ellis is also looking forward to the event – and the opportunity to return to competitive golf. He has been suffering from back problems and

By LYNDSEY HEWISON

has played only two competitive rounds since November.

Those were at the start of this week and his back held up well. His absence from the scene has sharpened his appetite for competition and he commented: "I am so keen to practice and play."

Lythgoe moves into the event fresh from a win at the championship meeting of the Thetford winter pro series and another at Royal Norwich's spring alliance meeting.

"I'm really looking forward to playing a 54-hole tournament – I just hope I can keep scoring as well as I have been," he said.

Danny Chapman reached the Europro Tour's final qualifying school – by virtue of finishing second at the pre-qualifier – but failed to make the cut for the third day. However, he expects to get a good number of starts – and is hoping to begin his season at Wensum Valley.

The Europro Tour 54-hole tournament starts on Wednesday. Competitors play 18 holes on each day with a cut after 36 holes. Spectators are welcome and admission is free.

On Tuesday, there will be a pro-am when the 27 amateur teams will include six Wensum Valley juniors.



GREAT SCOT: Norfolk youngster Stuart Ballingall.

Ballingall making his mark up north

Norfolk's Stuart Ballingall has been stringing together a series of performances designed to attract the attention of the Scottish selectors.

His efforts appear to be paying off because he has been invited to join a Scottish U18 training camp in Ireland in June. Now, the 17-year-old is keeping his fingers crossed for a place in one of the national junior teams.

Ballingall, who leaves junior ranks at the end of this season, said: "I'm really pleased with the way everything is going and hopefully I will get a call-up."

He's currently ranked sixth on the Scottish boys' order of merit and if he maintains that form he must be in the reckoning.

He's started this season with a host



BIG CHALLENGE: Chase Davis will be playing in his first professional tournament when the EuroPro Tour comes to Wensum Valley next week.

They are being rewarded by owner Basil Todd for their support for the club. They are: Tomi Hewkin, Sam Lambert and Danny Stopp; Joe Barrett, Sam Meakin and Sam Stopp.

■ Norfolk's Andrew Marshall hit back from a nightmare run of holes to make the cut in his second Challenge Tour event of the season, the AGF Allianz Open at Cotes d'Armor Bretagne in France. The

Dereham professional, who had opened up with an excellent 68 on Wednesday, dropped five shots in five holes on the front nine, including two double bogeys. But he was one under for the remainder of his round to post a 75 for a three over total.

Thetford's Lawrence Dodd was one shot better off after rounds of 73 and 69.

of impressive results. "It's good to start the year off well – I don't normally start playing well until about July!" he remarked.

Ballingall has just finished sixth in the prestigious Peter McEvoy Trophy at Copt Heath – the season's curtain raiser for the major boys' events

The Dunston Hall player was one shot off the lead with a round to go but slipped back after a nightmare start on the last day. "I started bogey, double bogey, bogey – four over after three holes. It was a bit late to get back after that but I played well for the rest of the round and finished well." In fact, he played the remaining 15 holes in one-under par.

Earlier, he put in a fine

performance in the Scottish boys' championship where he reached the last 16 from a starting field of 256 – and was beaten only by the eventual winner. "At least I lost to the winner," said Ballingall.

He's also played in two events on the Scottish Golf Union's boys' tour and notched up third place in one.

Ballingall is targeting top amateur events as he chases his dream – but his schedule also includes Norfolk tournaments. He has already successfully defended his Norfolk schools' title, becoming the only player to score three consecutive wins in the event. This weekend he's teaming up with Dunston Hall colleague Stephen Chick to play in the County Foursomes at Hunstanton.

LOCAL GOLF SCORES

Norfolk Lady Golf Captains' Society

Spring Meeting: Mrs L Allen & Mrs G Winn 44 pts, Mrs B Royce & Mrs B Warren 40 pts; Mrs V Canham & Mrs J Chatten 38 pts; Mrs H Lawrie & Mrs A Carey 37 pts; Mrs D Clark & Mrs M Johns 36 pts; Mrs H Gill & Mrs A Ewer 35 pts; Mrs S Steventon & Mrs D Savidge 34 pts.

Weston Park Ladies

Medal Winners' Shield: 1 Maureen Lelievre net 69, Val Judd net 74.

Scratch: Suzanna Bunting gross 88

Stableford Winners' Shield: 1 Alex Pinter 33 pts, 2 Sheila Kingsley 30 pts.

Easter Cup: 1 Val Chapman 43 pts, 2 Maureen Lelievre 37 pts.

Sullivan Cup: 1 Cilla Mitchell 31, 2 Carol Sullivan 30.

Coronation Foursomes: 1 Val Chapman and Jackie

Davies 33 pts.

Charity Foursomes: 1 Jane Hood and Dauphine Mitchell 34 pts.

Mini Medal: 1 Carol Sullivan.

March Stableford: Div 1: Carol Sullivan 35 pts, Div 2: Jane Johnson 32 pts, Margaret Briggs 32 pts, Div 3: Janet King 40 pts.

Weekend Stableford: Div 1: Maureen Lelievre 39 pts, Div 2: Christina Mitchell 31 pts, Div 3: Rosy Bowyer 20.

Thetford

English Blind Golf Association: Frank Benn 40 points, Jon Congdon 39 points ocb, Jeremy Rhodes 39 points.

Ladies Monthly Medal: Division One: Margaret Fisher 89-15-74, Jane Warton 89-14-75, Ann Bayes 96-14-75. Division Two: Jessica Redford 106-31-75, Jean Elliott 111-35-76 ocb, Julia Leeson 101-25-76.

Phillips Cup: Margaret Fisher 89-15-74, Jessica Redford 106-31-75, ocb, Jane Warton 89-14-75.

Eaton

Eaton Vets 3 Bungay 3 at Bungay: Donald Pheysey & John Cryer won 3 & 1 against Mike Kudar & Rob Holmes; John Murrow & Rod Steward won 6 & 5 against Robyn Hipperson & Barry Pardue; Peter Clough & John Gale won 3 & 2 against Norman Wharton & Tony Geschke; Roger Mayhew & Barry Brooks lost 1 down to Mike Prior & Alan Scholes; Mike Longe & Mike Botwright lost 6 & 4 to Peter Mitchell & Richard Coles; Mike Hart & Trevor Seadon lost 4 & 3 to Rob Meli & Malcolm Johnson.

Eaton Vets 3 Gorleston Vets 3 at Eaton.

Eaton Vets 5 Sheringham Vets 1 at Sheringham: Donald Pheysey & Russell Warnes lost 2 down to Ken

Potts & Philip Hutchinson; Mike Kett & Bob Buckley won 8 & 7 against Terry Penrose and Martin Harrington; Alan Wilson & Ivan Locke won 2 & 1 against Keith Holt & Eric Craske; Peter Clough & Donald Holdgate won 2 up against David Rivett & Tom Henshaw; Paul Shubrook & Martin Wicks won 3 & 2 against Glyn Burland & Alan Fenton; Alan Nichols & Mike Hart won 1 up against Eric Bannister & John Steward.

Eaton Ladies

Results of the spring event first rounds cups: Silver Division: 1 Shelagh Hoggan 74 nett, 2 Karen Young 74 nett, 3 Margaret Defoe 75 nett. Bronze A: 1 Louise Hastings nett 68, 2 Carol Riseborough nett 69, 3 Veronica Christie nett 73. Bronze B: 1 Sue Morris nett 71, 2 Jan Gibbs nett 73, 3 Doreen Young nett 76.

Countdown to the Range...

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90 Balls for the price of 60!

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