

GOLF

Long wait over for Ellis

Picture: NICK BUTCHER

Ian Ellis admitted it was worth the wait after finally landing his first Norfolk Open title yesterday at Costessey Park.

Ellis survived a strong challenge from playing partner and home youngster Matthew Bacon to triumph by a stroke after shooting a 73 and then matching Bacon's morning best tournament round of 67 to post a 140 total.

Bacon blew his chances of forcing a play-off with a costly three putt on the last in the blustery conditions but had the consolation of claiming the leading amateur prize.

Ellis savoured his landmark triumph after a series of near misses in one of the most prestigious events in the Norfolk golfing calendar.

"It seems to have taken forever," he said. "I've played this event since, probably 1993, so that is 17 years which makes it all the sweeter. I've lost a couple of play-offs down the years and by the odd stroke here or there. Stuart Ballingall beat me in a play-off three years ago but I was the leading pro so I won the prize money on that occasion but this is great."

"I won the Norfolk amateur in 1996 at Thetford and I've won the Norfolk pros a few times but to win this title and the amateur are the two big things in the county. It's great to finally have the full set and I'd love to try and retain it again next year."

Ellis responded superbly after Bacon's opening 67 left his six shots adrift at half way.

"I was three over and he was three under but I had a bad round, or rather a bad finish," said Ellis.

"I finished double bogey, bogey but I felt I'd played a lot better than my score. The afternoon round could've been a hell of a lot better than 67. It was pretty windy but it didn't really faze me. You just had to play the shots."

By PADDY DAVITT

"Matt three putted the last from about 15 or so feet and at the time we didn't know that was the situation but I still knew if I holed my short putt I had a chance to beat him. Having come so close down the years and never done it you know even with that small putt you can't take anything for granted. It was only from a foot or so but there were guys out on the course like Neil Lythgoe and Michael Few who are capable of shooting low."

Ellis backed the valiant Bacon to come back even stronger.

"He's a very good player who has a lot of guts about him," said Ellis. "He didn't play as well in the afternoon or at least didn't putt as well but he is a very, very good prospect. Watching him you can see he is very steady and not frightened."

Former Royal Norwich junior Ellis is hoping his inaugural Norfolk Open success can kick start his own winter campaign.

"It's been a pretty bland season," he said. "I'm sixth in the Eastern Order of Merit which is okay for some but not for me. I'm not particularly happy with that so far which makes this one definitely the highlight of the year. It would have been nice to win it with a really decent score but the conditions weren't conducive to that."

"We're just approaching the winter season for the Norfolk PGA so hopefully I can do something and catch up with the leaders because I missed five or six pro-ams at the start of the year. I need to push forward."

Bacon, who finished one shot clear of Barnham Broom professional Matthew Green, had the consolation of lifting the Craske Memorial Trophy for best aggregate total in the Norfolk Amateur and Open Championships (437).



CHAMPION AT LAST: Ian Ellis sizes up a putt at Costessey Park.

- Top 10 (professionals unless stated)**
140 Ian Ellis 70 67
141 (a) Matthew Bacon (Costessey Park) 67 74
142 Matthew Green (Barnham Broom) 72 70
143 Michael Few (Weston Park) 71 72
144 Neil Lythgoe (Royal Norwich) 72 72
145 Alex Beckett (Eaton) 76 69; Chase Davis (Costessey Park) 74 71
146 Craig Butler (Royal Norwich) 70 76
147 (a) Tom Clements (Royal Norwich) 79 68, (a) Aaron Bullock (Caldecott Hall) 76 71

RESULTS

Golf
County President's Day, Royal Cromer
85 pts Tracey Williamson (Royal Cromer) with Barbara Warren, Ellen Kerr & Rita Bridgeman (Eaton).
84 Nickie Clarke (Royal Norwich) with Liz Dann, Joan Cooper & Wendy Shadrack (The Norfolk); Sammy Martin (Royal Norwich) with Caroline Collett, Janet Lake & Sue Lettington (Links Country Park/Royal Cromer).
83 Amber Ratcliffe (Royal Cromer) with Christine Howes, Jenny Chessell & Irene Shell (Middleton Hall).
80 Ann Fletcher (Ryston Park) with Linda Love, Sue Hill & Jane Watson (Dunston Hall); Iet Cuppens (Royal Norwich) with Rosie Sutterby, Ann Bayes & Maureen Flack (Richmond Park).
79 Jane Johnson (Hunstanton) with Pat Bland, Dawn Middleton & Liz Wallace (Royal Norwich).
Ryston Park Ladies
August Stableford: Anna Denny 41, Mary Gudgeon 40, Liz Hackett 39, Christine Cotterell 38. Ladies & Juniors, Tiffany Mills & James Barrett 35 ocb Val Mellish & Adam Morley 35.
Doris Ball Rose Bowl: Trish McManus 83-12-71, Francine Gaunt 99-25-74, Patsy Russell 100-26-74.
Lady President's Day: Div 1 Trish McManus 38, Div 2 Pam Brooke 45.
Dereham
 The club has just completed its celebrations of its 75th anniversary which included a black-tie ball – in a marquee on the first tee – and a week of golfing events. The annual am-af, organised by Barrie Ellis and Dick Wingate, was followed by a barbecue. Next came a seniors' closed event, then a special Texas scramble for ten teams of juniors. The ladies played an anniversary team stableford, members took part in a yellow-ball competition, and professional Neil Aitleshook organised a summer alliance. The junior open attracted an excellent entry and the week ended with an anniversary stableford won by Colin Russell, Helen Burrage and junior William Cross.
Ryston Park
August Bank Holiday Stableford: D Rider 39 pts, R Cvjetich 38, M Brown 38, S Norris, N Crouch 38, B Parker 38, R Emery 37, A Fisher 36, J M Rice 36, A Davis 36, M Grove 35, S Horton 35, A Ward 35, R Sloper 35.
August Stableford: G Warren 42, J Emmerson 39, I Mallett 39, R Emery 39, R Marriott 38, D Carter 38, R Simpson 37, A Bragg 37, D Woods 37, M Grove 37, N Rudkin 37, A Fisher 36, J M Rice 36, N Crouch 35.
Diss
Diss Seniors beat Southwold Seniors 4.5-1.5: C Wyler (Capt) & G Beaujeux halved with K May & J Cavill, P Montgomery & R Adinnall beat T Seago & B Lavender, 1 up; R Allison & D King beat M Clark & B Holder 5 & 3; J Piper & B Moore beat A Davies & T Warth 1 up; B Fryer & B Langmead beat C Swan & C Smith 5 & 4; T O'Shaughnessy & C

Castle lost to B Studd & R Blythe 1 down.
Norfolk LPGA Gillieson Cup, third round
Weston Park beat Caldecott Hall (at Weston Park) by 2 matches to 1: G Adams and K Parsons beat B Nash and C Nicker (recd 7 shots) by 3/2, R Wilkinson and H Smith lost to H Bullard and P Holliday (recd 8 shots) by 1 up, M Lelievre and V Chapman beat M Davies and E Banham (recd 5 shots) by 2 up. **The Norfolk beat Dunston Hall (at the Norfolk) by 2 matches to 1:** Jenny Sheppard and S Hosking (recd 4 shots) beat S Hill and A Ashcroft by 6/4, S Spooner and I Dann beat S Cubitt and J Watson (recd 1 shot) by 5/4, Jane Sheppard and A Gillings lost to S Pleasance and P Frost by 2/1. **Dereham beat Felwell (at Dereham) by 3 matches to 0:** P Kaye and H Burrage beat J Trollope and C Fuller (recd 5 shots) by 6/5, C Harrison and E Bench beat S Smyth and W Puttock (recd 3 shots) by 3/2, J Bizley and J Trudgill beat D Bunting and B Stevenson (recd 7 shots) by 4/3. **Middleton Hall beat Eaton (at Middleton Hall) by 3 matches to 0:** C Field and C Woolley (recd 15 shots) beat K Young and E Davies by 3/2, I Shell and P Ballinger (recd 6 shots) beat J Innes and A Stanley by 1 up, B Teal and N Lake (recd 3 shots) beat S Fulcher and E Judd by 7/6.
The Norfolk Ladies
August Medal: Division One: Sue Hosking 91-17-74, Sarah Watts 86-11-75, Cindy Tufts 92-16-76. Division Two: Maxine Hadden-Philo 105-35-70, Janice Harby 102-28-74, Sheila Hussey 106-32-74.
Janice Harby Closed Meeting: 1 Sarah Watts, 2 Christine Head, 3 Wendy Shadrack.
Medal: Helen Gammage 107-33-74, Linda Sheppard 106-30-76ocb, Lynn Sunnook 95-19-76.
9 Hole Stableford: Jane Sheppard 21-11ocb, Cindy Tufts 21-16, Jenny Sheppard 20-20.
August Stableford: Division One: Sarah Watts 39-10, Jane Sheppard 36-11, Lynn Sunnook 34-18. Division Two: Linda Sheppard 39-30, Wendy Shadrack 38-25ocb, Sheila Gregory 38-30.
Royal Cromer
Royal Cromer Veterans beat Caldecott Hall Veterans 5-1 at Royal Cromer: Alan Sandell and Fred May won 3 and 1 against Peter Morris and Dave Juler. Ken Besley and Derek Williams won 3 and 2 against Peter Harman and Frank Hayes. Ken Warden and Alan Drew won 6 and 5 against Alan Read and Joe Allan. Stan Blackman and Mervyn Sutton won 4 and 3 against Mel Juler and Paul Rowlands. Harold Brown and Richard Baldwin lost 2 down to Ray Lands and George Ford. Keith Maley and Brian Ferguson won 7 and 5 against Adrian Holliday and Dave Oaks.
Eaton Ladies
Closed Meeting: Division 1, 1 Shelagh Hoggan, 2 Rosemary Bates, 3 Eleanor Judd, Division 2, 1 Kay Bailey, 2 Rita Bridgeman, 3 Linda Page, Division 3, 1 Jade Morris, 2 Penny Pledger, 3 Angela Waters.
Closed Meeting: Silver, 1 Eleanor Judd, 2 Judy Henderson, Bronze, 1 Louise Hastings, 2 Catherine

Jeffries.
Championship: Club Champion, Debbie Ogaard-Nielsen.
Cancer Relief Medal: Division 1, 1 Jenny Tyler, 2, Shelagh Hoggan, 3 Julia Amey. Division 2, 1 Christine Gallagher, Linda Clough, Celia Pheysy. Division 3, 1 Angela Waters, Christine Wright, Jan Knowler.
Bamburgh Ladies
Club Championship over two days: 1 Jane Rumball (15) 89 & 88, 2 Brenda Mace (21) 94 & 95, Net: 1 Kelly Whaleybelly (28) 75 & 64, 2 Phon Green (24) 76 & 69.
August Medal: Div 1, 1 Jane Johnson 92 (22) 70, 2 Charlotte Hatch (J) 94 (22) 72, Div 2, 1 Heidi Treble 97 (25) 72, 2 Sandy Dean 107 (33) 74.

Racing
Epsom Downs
1.20 — 1 Gold Fix (S Hitchcott) 16-1, 2 Timelord (IRE) 12-1, 3 Mountrath 12-1. 3-1 Fav Keen Bidder. 7 ran. 1/4, nk, 1/4, M R Channon.
1.50 — 1 Shaavey (R Winston) 10-11 Fav, 2 Shabak Hom 14-1, 3 Gordon Flash 14-1. 6 ran. 2 1/4, 3 1/4, 11. M P Tregoning. Non Runner: Danehill Intellect.
3.25 — 1 Hi Shinko (T G McLaughlin) 9-4 Fav, 2 Midnight Fantasy 13-2, 3 Silent Hero 7-2. 7 ran. 1 1/4, 3 1/4, B R Millman.
4.00 — 1 Idle Power (J Fanning) 12-1, 2 We Have A Dream 11-4, 3 My Kingdom 11-8 Fav. 7 ran. shd, 3/4, 3 1/4, J R Boyle. Non Runners: Filligree, Zowington.
4.35 — 1 Spirit of Adjisa (R Winston) 7-1, 2 Air Maze 11-4 Jt Fav, 3 Bramalea 22-1. 11-4 Jt Fav Dice. 9 ran. 4l, 1/4, 1/4, Pat Eddery. Non Runners: Mace Cigan, Sounds Of Jupiter.
5.10 — 1 Ogre (A Hefferman) 4-1, 2 Free Tussy (ARG) 10-1, 3 By Command 4-1, 3-1 Fav Penang Cintz. 7 ran. 2 1/4, nk, 1/4, P D Evans. Non Runner: Colangnik. Placepot: £1,171.80.
Redcar
2.00 — 1 William Morgan (T Hamilton) 11-2 Jt Fav, 2 Edward Whympre 20-1, 3 High Rolling 20-1, 4 Gold Story 28-1. 11-2 Jt Fav Suzi's A Smartlady. 17 ran.
4 1/4, nk, R A Fahey. Non Runner: Stanley Bridge.
2.30 — 1 Durhan Express (P Makin) 9-4 Fav, 2 Bronze Beau 7-2, 3 Clever Molly 12-1. 12 ran. 1/4, 1/4, M Dods. NR: Bombay Mist, Jack Luey, Ravenfield.
3.05 — 1 Hotham (G Bartley) 9-1, 2 Avouture 6-1, 3 Luminous Gold 6-1. 4-1 Fav Inter Vision. 9 ran. 3/4, 1 1/4, N Wilson. Non Runners: John Keats, Minturno.
3.40 — 1 Collateral Damage (D Allan) 11-4 Fav, 2 Celtic Change 17-2, 3 Reel Budd Star 14-1. 12 ran. 1 1/4, shd, T D Easterby. Non Runner: Spirit Of A Nation.
4.15 — 1 Equiline (Paul Eddery) 11-4, 2 Miss Frangipani 5-4 Fav, 3 Halcyon Dancer 16-1. 13 ran. 11, 8l, B W Hills. Non Runner: Fatal Attraction.
4.50 — 1 Simple Jim (S De Sousa) 10-1, 2 Outland 10-3 Fav, 3 Fenners 8-1. 10 ran. hd, 1 1/4, J Hetherington. Non Runners: Harcas, The Quiet Genius.
5.20 — 1 Carnivore (D Heslop) 13-2, 2 Viva Volta 11-

1, 3 Silly Gilly 6-1 Fav, 4 Finsbury 20-1. 19 ran. 2l, 3/4, T D Barron. Placepot: £86.90.
Salisbury
1.40 — 1 Miss Mojito (N Alison) 10-1, 2 Gallego 12-1, 3 Ailsa Craig 13-2. 15-8 Fav Flying Silks. 10 ran. hd, 7l, 1 1/4, J W Hills. Non Runner: Diamond Twister.
2.10 — 1 Raine's Cross (Luke Morris) 5-4 Fav, 2 Dancng David 13-2, 3 First Cat 4-1. 6 ran. 1/4, 5l, 1/4, P Winkworth.
2.40 — 1 Kithonia (P Queally) 15-8 Fav, 2 Lady Slippers 33-1, 3 Blue Sparkle 28-1. 16 ran. 2 1/4, shd, hd, H R A Cecil. NR: Dylanesque, Napoleons Mistress.
3.15 — 1 Pipette (L Keniry) 7-1, 2 Faithful One (IRE) 25-1, 3 Golden Aria 5-2 Fav. 17 ran. 1 1/4, 3/4, shd. A M Balding. Non Runner: Contredanse.
3.50 — 1 Shamandar (M Hills) 9-4, 2 Sweet Sonnet 16-1, 3 Queen's Grace 25-1. 15-8 Fav Conniption (IRE). 7 ran. 3/4, 1/4, 1/4, W J Haggas. Non Runners: Kurtanella, Roodle, Seeking Dubai, Theladyinquestion.
4.25 — 1 Tropical Paradise (Ashley Morgan) 7-1, 2 Enact 11-4 Fav, 3 Silver Games 4-1. 9 ran. nk, 1l, nk, P Winkworth. Non Runners: Carcinetto, Photographic.
5.00 — 1 Triple Dream (J Dean) 9-4 Fav, 2 Brandywell Fox 8-1, 3 Compton Classic 9-2. 8 ran. 1l, 1l, 1 1/4, J M Bradley. NR: Even Bolder, Green Lagonda, Northern Empire.
5.35 — 1 The Betchworth Kid (Hayley Turner) 4-1, 2 Basatitio 10-1, 3 Free Agent 11-1. 13-8 Fav Covert Ambition. 6 ran. ns, nk, 1/4, M L W Bell. Placepot: £46.40.
Wolverhampton
Metal Guru (R Kennemore) 12-1, 2 Cayman Fox 3-1, 3 Thoughtsofstar 14-1. 13-8 Fav Lithaam. 10 ran. hd, 1 1/4, R Hollinshead. Non Runners: Bertrband, Mayoman, Monsieur Reynard.
6.20 — 1 Waveband (R Ffrench) 10-11 Fav, 2 Listillo 16-1, 3 Night Trade 25-1. 13 ran. 1 1/4, 1 1/4, M Johnston.
6.50 — 1 Bertie Southstreet (D Holland) 6-1, 2 Royal Envoy 12-1, 3 Chief Red Cloud 10-1. 7-2 Fav Yankee Storm. 13 ran. 1/4, 1 1/4, Karen George.
7.20 — 1 Stef And Stello (L Jones) 9-1, 2 Zaffure 9-4 Fav, 3 High Resolution 13-2. 12 ran. 2l, 1 1/4, G A Butler.
7.50 — 1 Luc Jordan (D Holland) 7-2, 2 Aspro Mavro 11-10 Fav, 3 Classically 11-2. 13 ran. 3/4, 3 1/4, L M Cumani.
8.20 — 1 Leahurst (D Holland) 5-4 Fav, 2 Castles In The Air 5-1, 3 Free Agent Tim 7-1. 10 ran. 2 1/4, 3 1/4, Nosedo. Non Runners: Novellen Lad, Soccerjackpot.
8.50 — 1 King's Song (P Hanagan) 11-4 Fav, 2 Veron 7-2, 3 Silver Print 9-2. 8 ran. nk, nk, Sir Michael Stoute.
9.20 — 1 Valid Point (S Donohoe) 8-11 Fav, 2 King's Icon 9-2, 3 Strike Force 6-1. 13 ran. 1 1/4, 2 1/4, Sir Mark Prescott. Placepot: £77.60.

IN BRIEF

Norfolk's link to an historic landmark



Norfolk's oldest golf club, Great Yarmouth & Caister, has just played its part in an historic occasion designed to remember the 400th anniversary of Royal Blackheath. The anniversary celebrations took place last year and involved the creation of an inaugural invitation foursomes for 20 clubs which has just been played. Gt Yarmouth & Caister were on the guest list thanks to their longstanding connections with the London club. Caister was represented by (from left) club champion Terry Norman, captain Mike Devlin, president Richard Masterson and county champion Simon Clark. The team being photographed with the "Great Yarmouth Bowl", a gift to Royal Blackheath in 1900 from Yarmouth members, which is still contested.

Ladies preparing for senior service

The first Norfolk ladies' senior team has been selected and will play its inaugural match against the Norfolk men's seniors at Weston Park on Wednesday. The team is: Jo Ashmore (Barnham Broom), Alex Cowie (Barnham Broom), Jill Innes (Eaton), Jean Johnson (capt, Hunstanton), Sadie Lines (Royal Norwich), Sue Meadows (Hunstanton), Cheryl Sanders (Hunstanton), Eppie Zandvoort (Eaton). Reserve, Judy Henderson (Eaton).

Youngsters battle against elements

Norfolk's Tom Clements and Amber Ratcliffe battled well through strong winds and driving rain at the North of England U16 championships. Clements, from Royal Norwich, led the championship at the halfway stage but slipped back into a share of fourth place after the worsening weather took its toll over the last two rounds. Ratcliffe, from Royal Norwich, was runner-up in the girls' U14 section.

Boys struggle to make an impact

Norfolk were last in the South East boys' foursomes at Thetford. The event was won by Surrey, followed by Sussex; Hampshire, Herts; Kent; Suffolk; Berks Bucks & Oxon, Bedfordshire; Norfolk. The Norfolk team was: Matthew Bacon (Costessey Park), Charlie Bright (Royal Cromer), Aaron Bullock (Caldecott Hall), Lewis Gregory (Sheringham), Kit Holmes (King's Lynn), Ryan Page (Bamburgh), Jon Spinks (Ryston Park).

Line-up for Carrick Cup semi-finals

The semi-finals of the Carrick Cup, the Norfolk ladies' inter-club scratch foursomes knockout, are: Sprowston Manor (home) v Royal Norwich and Royal Cromer (home) v Dunston Hall.