

GOLF

Matchplay win helps lift the gloom for Ellis

Weston Park's Ian Ellis has just won the Norfolk professionals' matchplay championship for the fourth time.

He took the title at Eaton, beating Royal Norwich's Neil Lythgoe in the semi-finals and then defeating Gary Potter, of the Links Country Park. Potter earlier beat Tony Varney of The Norfolk.

Ellis had an impressive run through the knockout. In each of his first two rounds, against Mike Jubb of Sheringham and Alan Hemsley of Richmond Park, he lost just one hole.

He didn't concede a hole to Lythgoe, getting to four up after eight and then halving the remaining holes until he won 4/3.

"I hoped to do the same in the final but I lost two holes to Gary. However, it's not bad to only lose four holes in four matches," said Ellis.

He closed out the match with a two-putt birdie on the par five 16th for a 3/2 scoreline. "It's always nice to win," said Ellis, who is sponsored by Thetford-based Advance Technology and by Accident Exchange.

The win is a bright spot in a year which Ellis otherwise describes as disappointing. His usual form has been missing in key

By LYNDSEY HEWISON

events, such as the BMW Championship at Wentworth and three Challenge Tour dates.

"It's been a strange year. I shot 10 consecutive rounds over par - and then had a five-under par score.

"Writing my blog on my website has been a bit like writing my obituary at times," he joked.

However, on the plus side, Ellis has made five cuts from eight Europro Tour events and he's comfortably inside the top ten in the PGA East Region order of merit.

"You're always learning in this game and I'll just move forward to next year," said Ellis.

Keep up to date with Ellis's progress on his website: www.ellzycgolf.co.uk

Norfolk PGA Dingles Toyota order of merit, Latest leading standings after eight rounds: 47 pts Neil Lythgoe (Royal Norwich), 37 Michael Few (Weston Park), 36 Tony Varney (The Norfolk), 25 Ian Ellis (Weston Park), 19½ Lee Patterson (Royal Cromer), 16½ Alan Hemsley (Richmond Park), Gary Potter (Links Country Park), 15 Mark Allen (Eaton), 9 Paul Mayoh (King's Lynn), 7 Gary Forder (Sheringham).



Picture: EDP LIBRARY

IMPRESSIVE: Weston Park's Ian Ellis.

Marathon is child's play for Carl

Marathon man! Dunston Hall golfer Carl Bailey played 108 holes on his course to raise more than £2,000 for the Norfolk & Norwich NHS University Hospital's neo-natal unit.

The 29-year-old teed off at 5.30am and completed his sixth and final round at 5.15pm - just under 12 hours later.

He undertook the marathon to thank the team at the neo-natal unit for their care for his baby. Carl and wife Lisa's son, Tyler, was born a month prematurely on May 22, weighing 4lb 13oz. Tyler spent 10 days in the neo-natal unit and now weighs 10lb. Carl said: "The team at the neo-natal unit did a fantastic job for Tyler. They rely on fundraising to help with their equipment, so I thought that I would thank them for caring for Tyler by doing a sponsored event. I have been a member at Dunston Hall for a year and decided that 100 holes in a day would be a great challenge."

His neo natal unit fund will remain open for the next month. Donations can be made online at www.justgiving.com/golfingforbabies. Carl Bailey's clothing was sponsored by Optic Night Club and D-FLEKT, a company that makes goalkeeping gloves, run by Carl's friend Thomas Nicholls. Mr Nicholls is also a DJ at Optic and arranged a bucket collection in aid of Carl Bailey's fund.

Picture: SUBMITTED



SAYING THANKS: Carl Bailey with baby son Tyler at the end of the golfing challenge.

Finals day sees pursuit for silverware

Thetford Golf Club's annual finals weekend took place recently, with those members who had progressed to the finals throughout the season making one more effort to pick up the relevant silverware. The weekend kicked off on Friday, September 5, with Andrew Walls and Norman Dickson playing in extremely poor weather contesting the Cock Pheasant Plate; Norman eventually winning by 3 and 1.

Saturday saw Simon Peckford and Mervyn Brain contesting the Cowan and Oliver (36 hole matchplay).

Simon's experience gained at county level proved a deciding factor and he ran out winner by 12 and 11. David Daniels and David Boom contested the Cock Pheasant Trophy, with David Daniels continuing his recent good form by taking the Trophy by 4 and 2. The Krumine Trophy went to Chris Davis by 4 and 3 over Darren Lewitt. Saturday was completed with the Ladies Handicap Cup final between Janice Fossey and Cinnie Thompson. Janice, who has had two wins, a second and third in various

competitions throughout the year maintained her good form, winning 3 and 1.

Sunday saw only one of the three finals scheduled taking place, the Roy Lawrence Trophy was held with Shaun Langham and Bob Taylor filling the winners' slot. The junior final between Oliver Chapman and Liam Farnham was postponed; however the Keith Coasters (Mixed) did survive with Julia Leeson and Vic Holman defeating husband and wife team Roger and Vera Squirrell by 3 and 2.

Results

Ladies RNL Stableford: On September 9 Chris Edgar took first place with 37 points from Marie Barnett 33 and Ann Engwell with 32.

Men's RAFA Competition, September 13: Winner John Barton 39 pts, 2 Terry Smith 38 ocb, 3 John Baldwin 38.

The Men's Open Competition took place on September 14 over 36 holes: Scratch Prize: 1 Adam Morris (5 Lakes) 148, 2 Will Boniface (5 Lakes) 152. Handicap prize: 1 Mathew Somerville (5 Lakes) 157, 2 Alan Brown (Thetford) 148, 3 Peter Boag (Bourne) 149, 4 Angus Keech (Eaton) 150. Best am score Brian Benjamin (Orsett) 78-6-72. Best pm score Matt Crawley (Stockbrook Manor) 76-5-71.

Nearest the pin on the 1st - am Ian Parry (Colchester), pm: Paul Boag (Bourne). Longest drive on the 18th - am: Will Boniface (5 Lakes), pm: Shaun Ayles (Waldringfield).

Playing for hospices

Dunston Hall seniors held their annual charity day in support of the East Anglian Children's Hospices. More than 80 players took part, despite rain, and an initial cheque for £1,500 was presented to Danielle Clarke of EACH. This will be followed by a

further amount of around £1,000 once all sponsorship monies are in. The picture shows John Love, Dunston Hall seniors captain, left, presenting the cheque to Danielle Clarke of EACH with Frank Allen, right, who was one of the main organisers.



Picture: SUBMITTED

RESULTS

43 pts (stableford), 2 Henry Evans, 3 Liam Upton. Blue course winners, Alex Robinson 36 pts.

Fakenham Golf Club Ladies Section Captains Day: Silver R Conyers, J Clements, M Burgis. Bronze N Cotton, A Wells, V Griffiths. Nearest the pin J O'Brien. Longest Drive R Conyers. **Club Championship:** Best Nett L Hannant. Best Gross J Robotham

August Stableford: Silver V Cunningham 35 pts M Rose 30. Bronze N Cotton 34 M Rose 32.

Golden Jubilee Trophy awarded to the lowest nett score over 29 handicap N Cotton

RCGC Veterans v Barnham Broom (at

Barnham Broom) Result: RCGC Veterans 1, Barnham Broom 5. Stan Blackman and Fred May lost 3 and 2 to David Williams and Derek Garner; Ken Besley and Jim Adams lost 2 and 1 to John Collier and Len Allan, Tony Cook and Frank Coleman won 1 up against Mike Kirby and Martin Wanger, Peter Gagg and Fred Margrove lost 4 and 2 to Colin Brindred and David Sell, Alan Hill and Richard Wood lost 2 down to Peter Fiddy and Barry Rivers, Richard Mould and Alan Shannon lost 1 down to Brian Stone and Jack Neill.

Royal Cromer Veterans Autumn Texas Scramble: 1st Alan Sandell, Alan Hester and Reg Harris 60.67 net, 2nd Peter Storey, David Witham and Alan Drew 63.33, 3rd Chris Gething, Mike

Reynolds and John Lines 64.17. Nearest the pin 9th: Alan Hill.

Norfolk Ladies County Golf Association Gillieson Cup semi-finals: Sheringham beat Fakenham (at Sheringham) by 2-1. Scores: M Arnold and P Parsonson lost to V Cunningham and L Hannant by 2 holes; L Tucker and S Wynne beat M Burgis and C Drewery by 2/1; S Goodley and A Hill beat J Robotham and S Irons by 1 hole. **Thetford beat Feltwell (at Thetford) by 2-1.** Scores: J Cane and h Clarke lost to J Trollope and C Fuller by 4/3; P Hudson and A McHarg beat W Puttock and B Filby by 1 hole; J Wanton an S Burman beat V Enderby and B Stevenson by 2 holes. The final will be played at Royal West Norfolk on Friday, October 10.

Middleton Hall Golf Club (Senior's Section) Monday Stableford Division One: 1 Barry Sprunt 40 points, 2 Tim Boldero 39. **Division Two:** 1 Alan Croose 42, 2 David Hawkes 38. **The Peter Ryder Cup, Ladies vs Men's Seniors Four Ball Betterball:** Middleton Ladies and the Men's Seniors Section competed in the annual fourball betterball matchplay competition on Tuesday. After a keenly contested battle with some very close scores the Senior Men were the winners, beating the Ladies six games to five with two games halved. **Captain's Cup - Singles Summer Matchplay Knockout Competition winner:** Margaret Doubleday



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