

Picture: COLIN FINCH



A BIG HIT: Youngster Amber Ratcliffe prepares to tee off at Royal Cromer where she has just claimed her first ace.

Ellis back in form to clinch home win

Royal Norwich's Ian Ellis left the field trailing in his wake when he scored a four-under-par 68 on his home course to win the latest Norfolk Alliance meeting by five shots.

He notched up five birdies and made only one mistake during his round – a three-putt on the fourth for a bogey five.

His putter behaved impeccably on the sixth, however, when he holed from 70 feet for a birdie three.

He had a two on the short ninth, drove the downhill par-four 13th to set up another birdie, and on the next he holed another huge putt, this time of 40 feet, to get to three-under. A final birdie on the long 17th took his score to four under.

"I played well, but although I had two monster putts I didn't chip and putt very well," said Ellis. "My putting has been very average all year and it's something to work on over the winter."

Ellis is enjoying a good run of form at the moment, but overall is disappointed with his season.

"It's probably my worst season as a pro, certainly as far as the PGA East region is concerned, where I finished 45th in the order of merit."

However, he's prepared to be patient because he is working on long-term goals with Sprowston Manor professional Guy Ireson – and is very satisfied with the progress of his ball striking.

Ellis also has the ample compensation of knowing that whatever golf may bring he has his baby son to go home to. Young George is just seven months old and his very proud father remarked: "He has certainly made up for the golfing year."

Royal Norwich captain Eric Brown played in the event as a guest of the Alliance and presented the prizes. The next meeting is on Thursday at Thetford.

Results – professionals: 68 Ian Ellis (Royal Norwich). 73 Gary Potter (unatt). 74 Neil Lythgoe (Royal Norwich).

Betterball stableford: 41 pts Ian Ellis & Mike Kirkham (Royal Norwich); David Futter & Thain Hacon (Gt Yarmouth & Caister), 40 Trevor Cave & John Plane (Eaton/Gt Yarmouth & Caister); Caroline Grady & Randy Reynolds (Dunston Hall/Fakenham); Lee Patterson & Steve Warren (Royal Cromer). 39 Richard Tidy & David Briggs (Dunston Hall/Mundesley).

GOLF: 11-year-old thought to be youngest player to hole in one at Royal Cromer

Amber writes name into record books

Eleven-year-old Amber Ratcliffe has just scored her first hole in one – and written her name straight into the record books at Royal Cromer.

She's thought to be the youngest player ever to have an ace at the 118-year-old golf club and the first girl member to achieve the feat.

Amber played her super shot with a three-wood on the 150-yard 13th hole during the annual veterans' and juniors' Texas scramble.

"She's over the moon," said her father, Byron. "When she found the ball was in the hole she was jumping around. The vets ran across to congratulate her – and I think they were jumping around too!"

He added: "It's made a very keen young golfer even keener."

Amber became a golf club member in February and quickly got her first handicap of 36. She soon reduced that to 34 and is now due another handicap cut after scoring 40 stableford points

By LINDSEY HEWISON

in the Norfolk girls' autumn meeting at Dereham.

She's following fast in the footsteps of her 14-year-old brother, Ryan, who plays off five and is a regular member of the Norfolk junior teams.

Her father added: "She's so keen it isn't true. She would absolutely live on the golf course."

■ Barnham Broom's Emily Anthony scored an impressive 41 points to win the Norfolk girls' Autumn Shield at Dereham.

The 13-year-old was just one point clear of Amber Ratcliffe.

Third place went to Louise Gathercole (Richmond Park), who beat Alex Hacking (Sprowston Manor) on countback after they both scored 36 points.

Among the competitors were six girls who were playing their first qualifying county competition since achieving their handicaps this summer.

The autumn meeting also

included a nine-hole greensome for girls without handicaps, who played with an adult partner. The entry included four girls from King's Lynn – who won all four prizes.

They were – first: Beth Holmes and Jonathan Holmes; second: Rachel Drohan and John Drohan; third: Juliet Fenton and David Fenton; fourth: Laura Gathercole and Andy Gathercole.

The event also attracted three newcomers to Norfolk girls' golf.

They were Gemma Dunnell of Weston Park together with Tara Davis and Megan Mann of Barnham Broom.

Earlier this summer Megan, at the age of five, was a runner-up in the Wee Wonders grand final at St Andrews.

Ros Wilkinson, who chairs Norfolk's junior committee, paid particular tribute to Dereham Golf Club, who agreed to a short-notice change of date for this event to avoid a clash with the Midland girls' matchplay final, in which Norfolk competed.

Picture: SUBMITTED



SHIELD WINNER: Emily Anthony.

TONIGHT'S YARMOUTH GREYHOUNDS

7.30 (462m) A5 365 Tullinawood Spark •••Wiseman 29.19 616 Aegean Spirit •••••Barnard 29.17 254 Tiptree Madonna (M) ••Cross 29.51 425 Ballycondon Liz (W) •••Brown 28.93 66T Ingas Express (W) •••Howes 29.23 TTT King Johns Mate (W) •Green 29.31 Selection: King Johns Mate.	643 Oghill Tip ••••••••Bailey 29.61 546 Paxhome Jewel (M) •••Elvin 29.84 152 Ace Lightning (M) •••Mackerell 29.67 415 Crostwick Vesta (W) ••Springall 29.64 434 Basket Case (W) •••••Samuels 29.50 Selection: Basket Case.	T56 Bryanvale Beauty •••••Everett 29.15 631 Sun Silk Special (M) ••Kemp 29.14 554 Goulane Flyer (W) ••Brown 29.27 231 Coaster Jo (W) •••••Samuels 29.08 Selection: Goulane Flyer.	364 Sky Fury (W) ••••••••Cross 28.95 TTT Rosies Delight (W) •••••Edge 29.15 353 Dark Storm (W) •••••Kemp 29.12 Selection: Damiens Thunder.	9.15 (462m) A3 445 Biltan Max ••••••••Skeggs 29.18 T22 Rackethall Pip •••••Wilson 28.93 432 Bandicoot Kiki •••••Saunders 28.98 242 Enigmasson (M) •••••Hunter 28.93 616 Rehill Jay Jay (W) •••••Elvin 28.90 143 Garig Abu (W) •••••Kemp 28.93 Selection: Enigmasson.	313 Tritowers (M) ••••••••Craske 28.95 331 Bodell Bepe (W) •••••Kemp 28.67 Selection: Bodell Bepe.	9.45 (462m) A1 521 King Jordan ••••••••Green 28.57 241 Puckabelle ••••••••Appleton 28.62 234 Bryanval Dame ••••••••Everett 28.77 446 Dralion (M) ••••••••Hunter 28.83 T14 Sportmans Spear (M) ••Watts 28.68 513 Tournament Time (W) •Craske 28.74 Selection: King Jordan	10.00 (462m) A2 436 Go Quiet ••••••••••Crowe 29.05 612 Bepe Noir ••••••••••Amphlett 28.92 T31 Supa Hero (M) •••••Saunders 28.91 133 Shy Basil (M) ••••••••Mills 28.79 616 Beanies Black (M) •••••Bothway 28.88 134 Colleens Silver (W) •••White 28.89	Selection: Go Quiet. 10.15 (462m) A1 633 Sooty Shane ••••••••Craske 28.83 111 Bevic Hero ••••••••Skeggs 28.75 621 Jackie Princess ••••••••White 28.85 542 Burrow Cool (M) •••••Pleasants 28.68 236 Rackethall Flash (W) ••Wilson 28.74 156 Zoe Come On (W) •••••Appleton 28.56 Selection: Zoe Come On	10.30 (462m) A4 461 Pop Perry ••••••••Craske 29.30 TT4 Glanmor Rebe ••••••••Skeggs 29.18 311 Ballydaniel Toll ••••••••Wilson 29.30 TT5 Joint Account (M) •••••Howes 29.00 TT6 Timmies Lass (M) •••••Edge 29.26 414 Foxtail Fernando (W) ••Barnard 29.28 Selection: Joint Account
7.45 (462m) AB) TT3 Imagine This ••••••••Mackerell 29.63 212 Pagan Princess •••••Craske 29.60 523 Crostwick Wolf •••••Springall 29.82 TTT Harts Hill Vieri (M) •••••Barrett 29.90 364 Telford Trinity (W) •••••Samuels 30.11 626 Broken Record (W) •••••Mills 29.52 Selection: Pagan Princess.	8.15 (462m) A6 341 Cloncunny Lark ••••••••French 29.39 672 Biltom Maisie ••••••••Gittens 29.33 672 Hartwood Jewel (M) ••Craske 29.50 231 Knowsie Devil (M) •••••Penny 29.22 T15 Astuto Volpino (W) •••••Samuels 29.42 144 Willy Nilly (W) •••••Ellis 29.16 Selection: Knowsie Devil.	8.45 (462m) A5 231 Maxamillion ••••••••Samuels 29.11 TTT Biltan Tinka ••••••••Skeggs 29.04 423 Whelpleys Blondy (M) •Green 29.28 122 Knowsie Copper (M) ••Hunter 29.09 133 Pulling Strings (W) •••Cross 28.99 335 Westend Aggie (W) •••Barnard 29.12 Selection: Knowsie Copper.	9.00 (462m) A4 341 Lukes Okee ••••••••Ellis 29.09 222 Damiens Thunder •••••Appleton 29.02 143 Jackys Customer •••••Crowe 28.96	9.30 (462m) A2 T64 Laurens Patch ••••••••Brown 28.75 162 White Frost ••••••••Hunter 28.82 624 Alison's Concorde •••••Pleasants 28.98 356 Bryanvale Honcho (M) ••Everett 28.90	10.00 (462m) A2 436 Go Quiet ••••••••••Crowe 29.05 612 Bepe Noir ••••••••••Amphlett 28.92 T31 Supa Hero (M) •••••Saunders 28.91 133 Shy Basil (M) ••••••••Mills 28.79 616 Beanies Black (M) •••••Bothway 28.88 134 Colleens Silver (W) •••White 28.89	Selection: Go Quiet. 10.15 (462m) A1 633 Sooty Shane ••••••••Craske 28.83 111 Bevic Hero ••••~•••Skeggs 28.75 621 Jackie Princess ••••••••White 28.85 542 Burrow Cool (M) •••••Pleasants 28.68 236 Rackethall Flash (W) ••Wilson 28.74 156 Zoe Come On (W) •••••Appleton 28.56 Selection: Zoe Come On	10.30 (462m) A4 461 Pop Perry ••••~•••Craske 29.30 TT4 Glanmor Rebe ••••~•••Skeggs 29.18 311 Ballydaniel Toll ••••~•••Wilson 29.30 TT5 Joint Account (M) ••••~•••Howes 29.00 TT6 Timmies Lass (M) ••••~•••Edge 29.26 414 Foxtail Fernando (W) ••~••Barnard 29.28 Selection: Joint Account		
8.00 (462m) A7 TTT Bryanvale Toyah •••••Perkins 29.42	8.30 (462m) A3 511 Cachem Susie ••••••••Ballard 29.31 561 Pe Ce Come On ••••••••Appleton 28.96								