

Leicestershire & Rutland Golf Union

This is an important year for county amateur golf, being the centenary of the Leicestershire and Rutland Golf Union. The occasion has been celebrated with a week of tournaments this summer, and 2010 champions have a special cachet with their Centenary Year titles.

But as officials look back at this historic anniversary, it is also an appropriate time to focus on the future.

This has been highlighted with 2 of the main county championships won by young golfers, who can look forward to many years in the game.

Michael Reed (Birstall) became county amateur champion at Hinckley, just a few days before his 20th.birthday and Greg Eason (Kirby Muxloe) was just 18 when he won the county match-play at Charnwood Forest when he beat 15-year-old Jack Merry (Birstall) in the final, which saw the pair in action over the county's oldest course.

Reed had 73-67-140 – a 2-under- par total - at Hinckley to win by two from Jake Amos (Kilworth Springs) after two 71's for 142 – level par.

In the match-play semi-finals Reed went out to his younger clubmate Merry by 1-hole, while Eason beat Steve Thomas (Hinckley) by 6 and 5 and in the final Eason was a 3 and 1 winner. Eason went on to play for England in the boys' Home Internationals and is now on a golf scholarship in the USA.

But just before he left Eason tied runner-up with two more amateurs in The Leicestershire Fox, won by Shaun Corby (Whetstone) with his 69-70-139 – 1-under-par total. Eason and Nottinghamshire's Sam Maltby both had 72-68 and shared 140 with Matthew Bolton (Cosby) after two 70 cards.

But, of course, there is continuing Anglian League action for the county men's first and second teams, with the last of the fixtures coming in early September. These matches are played home and away in alternate years. There is a 5-match series. The firsts have seen the title elude them now for too long, as rivals Lincolnshire have enjoyed a dominant spell.

Now with one series of games to be completed when the sides are up against Cambridgeshire the county firsts have just 3 pts.so far, but the county seconds are top of their table after 4 fixtures and success at Cambridgeshire could see them become titleholders.

In their last matches the firsts lost 7.5-4.5 against Lincolnshire at Rothley Park, which saw the visitors retain their title, but the seconds won away 8-4 at Stoke Rochford to put them into a strong position going into their final 2010 Anglian League game.

Leicestershire Golfer Magazine Course Reviews.



View from the 4th Green at Charnwood forest Golf Club.

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