

Leicestershire & Rutland PGA Update

There have been PGA Midland tournaments at two local clubs. An Order of Merit event – the Midland Open – supported by the Mark Group – was played at Birstall GC over 2-days with a pro/am format, including team awards on each day with overall winners too.

Simon Lilly (Wellingborough), a familiar “face” in county events was the leading professional after a stirring finale with the county’s Matthew Cort, a former amateur member of the host club.

Lilly had led at halfway with his opening 8-under-par-62, with Cort two strokes behind at that point, second, and Matt Morris (Walmley), who has been enjoying a good season throughout the region, on 65, third.

In his 62, Lilly had an eagle – at the 2nd – and went out in 4-under-31, and in his second 9, he birdied 4-holes, including the last. Cort had 6 birdies.

They played alongside each other on day 1 and again on the second, when Cort, who covered the first 9-holes in 32 drew level with, then passed Lilly. But Cort had a tricky last 4-holes to fall behind his fellow pro, after trees created problems for him. This left Lilly the winner on 6-under-134 after a 72 second round, with Cort who had 71 tied on 135 with Mark Smith (Maywood), whose 63 on day 2 saw him emerge from the pack. Morris with 136 ended fourth.

Overall pro/am winners were Cort and Mick Brooks on 60-64-124 – 16-under-par.

Another county pro Jason Powell (Hinckley) with amateur Adam Dewfield on 125 were runners-up.

The opening day produced a 4-way team tie on 60, headed by pros Lilly, Powell, Cort and Nick Soto (Northants Co), and it was Smith with his amateur on day 2 who took the honours after their 10-under-60 return.

Overall the whole championship, played at Birstall for the first time, revived after not being staged last season, proved to be a huge success, including attracting interest from Sky tv cameras.

The other regional tournament in the county was at The Luffenham Heath and it was Mark Smith who was the pro winner there with a 5-under-65 card. He also led the winning team on 127 when Powell on 128 with his amateurs was second.

There was a tie on 66 between Lilly and Paul Wesselingh (Kedleston Park) behind Smith in the pro medal, with Ian Walley (Shirland) 67, and Cort 68 fifth.



Winter 4 Ball deal £100 includes a 2 course hot meal of the day or a Birstall Big Brekkie!

1st October - 31st March - enquiries and bookings sue@birstallgolfclub.co.uk or 0116 2674322