

Alliance Update

Leicestershire and Rutland Golf Alliance meetings have continued throughout the last few weeks and will do so until the annual Christmas/New Year break – weather permitting, of course, at this time of the winter. Indeed one tournament has fallen victim to the weather so far.

But interest has been high, reflected in some big fields. There were no fewer than 137 amateurs and professionals in action at Scraftoft at the end of October – the last event before the clocks changed.

Competition is always close for all the awards at stake each week too.

Craig Shave (Whetstone) won the pro medal at Longcliffe with his 2-under-par-70 card, when Matthew Cort (Rothley Park) was one behind, second, with a tie on 72 for a share of third between no fewer than 5 local professionals – home club man David Mee, Bob Larratt (Kibworth) Clive Fromant (Rutland County), Matt Whelband (Charnwood Golf Centre) and Ed Martin (Willesley Park).

Larratt and Mick Brooks (Glen Gorse) with their 65 card were first overall from 2 more pro/am pairings. Lutterworth's Lee Chalinor and Keith Jones were 2nd.after a tie on 67, decided on Alliance rule, with Scraftoft's Simon Wood and Graham Bright, third. Amateurs John Mair (Forest Hill) and Keith Tripp (Lingdale) one shot further back on 68 ended fourth.

Whelband and Raj Meherban (Kilworth Springs) also carded 68 and won the pro/am section prize, when John Hardwick (Rothley Park) and Graham Cross (Kirby Muxloe), also with 68, were the am/am prizewinners.

There was a double success for Cort at the next Alliance meeting – at Cosby GC. He shot 5-under-66 – his round included 6 birdies – to be well clear of his competitors. Shave on 72 was second, with Dan Bailey (Lutterworth), Mee and Whelband, all on 74 tied third in the pro medal.

Cort and Western Park amateur Jamie Voss were first overall with their 64 return, followed by 3 more pro/am lineups. Wayne Cooper (Longcliffe) and his partner Peter Black were 2nd.after a tie on 66 with Birstall's Ross Bradshaw and Alan Calvert, third.

Shave and Mick Treacy (Cosby) one back on 67 were fourth.

The pro/am section was led by Willesley Park's Ed Martin and Mike Hatton on 67, and the am/am by Hardwick and Meherban with their 68 card.

Cort won again when he scored 5-under-65 at Scraftoft a week later, with 7 birdies on his card. But Bryn Morris was tight behind with 66, 2nd, from Dan Bailey and Ian Lyner (The Leicestershire) both with 68 rounds.

The Alliance Gardner Stock Trophy was awarded here - for am/am winners from the same club and went to Graham Cross and Mick Graham of Kirby Muxloe GC. They picked up 42 points in the Stableford event.

But overall winners were Mark Frankham (Lutterworth) and Julian Harris (Glen Gorse) with 48 pts. Pro Richard Hughes (Forest Hill) and Matt Rollins with 45 were 2nd; Morris and Barry Gisbourne 44, 3rd, and another pro/am pair Neil Curtis (Melton Mowbray) and Rothley Park amateur Rob Brechin 43 pts.in fourth.

Home pro Simon Wood and Keith Springham with 42 pts.won the pro/am prize.

Matthew Cort was in the winner's-circle again the following week at Kirby Muxloe, when there was a mixed greensome medal, this time with Rothley Park amateur Sam Haynes, a 29 handicapper. They were first with 65.4 from runners-up Lutterworth's Tony Rogers and Wendy Boneham with their 67.4 card.

Cort was playing mixed golf for the first time for as long as he could remember. Clearly his greensome medal "tactics" worked out well with a highlight an eagle 2 at the 5th – their 14th - after they had started at the 10th.hole of the course. They took Cort's drive and his partner sank the 4 ft.putt.

Pro/am section prizewinners were Kieran Thomas and Alison Freeman of Ullesthorpe Court with Lutterworth's Allan Simmonds and Sue Barks heading the am/am section awards.

The meeting set for Melton Mowbray the following week was called off early that day because of the risks from the high winds and rain, despite the course itself being playable.