

Golf news by Norman Butel

50th Anniversary Open sponsored by Bellerive Trust

After all the doubts, due the Covid 19 pandemic, of whether the Alderney Open or the Alderney Seniors Open would ever take place the events happened as a joint competition weekend and was a fantastic success, especially as it is Alderney Golf Club's 50th anniversary year.

This year the Open was once again sponsored by Bellerive Trust and the Seniors Open sponsored by local businesses, Braye Chippy, Tickled Pink Builders, The Georgian House, and Grand Site Developments. Without such generosity from these businesses the events would be very difficult to hold, and a big thank you to all.

A total of 84 players took part this year with two thirds of the field coming from Guernsey, some flying over and some by boat.

The first day saw some very good scores in, the best by Kevin Buckley, recording a 57 nett, with previous winner Dante Walker 5 shots behind on 62 nett, with father James Walker lying in third spot on 63 nett. A total of twenty players recorded scores under 70 which was very good golf indeed. The course looked fantastic and the conditions for the weekend were generally fine with a cross wind on both days, and some tight pin positions for the players to contend with.

During the day, once players had finished their rounds, a superb rolling buffet was served, catered for by Helen Cunningham and partner Jim and enjoyed by all

The 35 players that failed to make the cut for the second day which was 72 nett and ties, played a nine hole stableford competition early on Sunday morning, with everyone in with a chance of winning one of the three prizes.

This was won by Norman Butel, scoring 18 stableford points with Paddy Burland runner up and Martin Edwards in third place. The players qualifying for the second round medal, started once the last of the stableford players had teed off with the leading group teeing off at about 11am.

As the day progressed, scores started to be entered on the score board, with Gary Maurice putting himself in the frame with a superb 62 nett to put him on 133 nett for the competition.

With all the players in, it was Kevin Buckley who had kept his nerve and recorded another great round of 63 nett to win the Open by a massive 12 shots.

Sean Connelly was runner up on 132 nett with Gary Maurice in third place on 133 nett.

The Seniors Open was won by Colin Thompson on 136 nett, with George Capazario runner up on 137 nett and Bobby Lapidus in third spot on 138 nett.

This year there was also a Super Seniors section for the over 65's, this was won by

Colin Cummings on 140 nett with Peter Cunningham runner up on 141 nett and Chris Hodgson in third place on 143 nett. The prize for the Best 36 gross score went to the youngest player in the field, Ollie Chedhomme, who is 15 years old and plays off 2 handicap.

Ollie, who had never played the course before this weekend, has been playing golf for eight years and recently won the La Grande Mare Club Championship.

Ollie said that he really enjoyed the course and found it quite challenging and would be back again next year.

At the presentation, John Rodgers, Captain of Alderney Golf Club, welcomed everyone and said what a great weekend we have had.

He thanked Helen and Jim for the superb catering, Tina Walden and the bar helpers for their non-stop work and attention over the weekend, Ann Hodgson for being starter on both days and keeping every thing running smoothly, Herma Hays, Lady Captain, for her ball spotting devotion, Martin Edwards and Phil Hatcher for dealing with the score cards and to the Greens Committee, headed by Rick Flatres, together with the green keepers Christian and Justin for presenting the course so well, after which he introduced Wayne Bertrand, Managing Director of Bellerive Trust. Wayne thanked Alderney Golf Club for their hospitality over the weekend and said that he has had a long association with Alderney and that together with Stenham, the group employs over 40 local staff, making them the islands biggest employer. Wayne then presented the Open and stableford prizes.



Alderney Open winner Kevin Buckley receives his prize from Wayne Bertrand, Managing Director of Bellerive Trust.



Left - Super Senior Open winner Colin Cummings. Right - Stableford winner Norman Butel, receiving his prize from Wayne Bertrand.



Colin Thompson, Alderney Senior Open winner receiving his prize from Alderney Golf Club Secretary, Tim Odoire



Ollie Chedhomme youngest player in the Open and winner of the Best 36 hole gross score receives his prize from Wayne Bertrand

With it being the 50th Anniversary of Alderney Golf Club there were many other prizes, including the longest drive on both days, both being won by Mick Le Gallic, nearest the pin on Day one went to Dante Walker and on Day two to Alan Winstanley as well as Division I and II prizes for both days.

Peter Cunningham was invited to say a few words on how Alderney Golf Club came to fruition, and how a number of islanders, headed by (Jacko) George E. G. Jackson got together turning the area into a nine hole course, which in the early days was really rough with cattle free to roam everywhere.

The course was meant to be opened by the Lieutenant Governor at the time but he was unable to be present on the day, so the duty fell to Tim Odoire's father, Group Captain Teddy Odoire to hit the opening shot which happened to end up in the car park, much to everyone's amusement, but never-the-less the club was born and over the years subtle changes have turned it into the course it is today, much more open but still a very challenging course.

All the winners of the three main categories rang the bell and bought everyone in the bar a drink.

During the weekend, a raffle, an extra bonus ball and an auction all helped to boost the clubs finances in this difficult year and a big thanks must go to Sam Chadwick MBE for organising the extra bonus ball and raffle. A great weekend was enjoyed by all!