Faced with the challenge of two of the finest inland courses in England, BIGGA’s best golfers rose to the challenge, and the scores they posted over The Berkshire’s illustrious Blue and Red courses were extremely impressive.

To illustrate, one handicapper John McLoughlin, of Grange Park Golf Club, in Liverpool, had to reload on the 1st on day one, had a treacherous par-3 and ran up a 5, though he played the next 17 holes in five under par for a superb 68.

Despite playing the Red Course in a very respectable four over par 76 his 144 total was only good enough for third overall.

Eventual winner, Paul Frith, thought he had too much to do when a third of the way round on the second day. He was one over par playing with John, who was one under at the time.

“I reckoned I was around six shots behind but had a strong back nine, as I'd had on the opening day, and John started to drop a few shots and I just made it,” said Paul, who was Leicestershire County Captain from 1998-2001.

The scratch man who played off +2 for around six years had previously won a host of events in the Midland area including a stellar year in ‘93 when he won the County Championship, Amateur Championship, and County Open in a field which included pros but he sees his latest win as one of his best.

“There was a very good field with some low handicappers in it and being a National title it means a lot to me,” said Paul who just edged +2 man, Laurie Tremlett, on a card play-off.

Paul was familiar with the two courses having played in The Berkshire Trophy about five or six times.

“Spectacular surroundings inspired the players in the 2010 BIGGA National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse.”

“Twill be the cut every time and my best finish was 11th,” he said.

“T would hope to come back and defend the title next year at West Lancs Golf Club. I’ve not played the course before but I’ve heard some good reports about it.

John McPherson had more reason than most to celebrate the biggest win of his golfing career when he lifted the BIGGA Challenge Cup for Best Nett.

Twelve months before he had been competing well at Burnham and Berrow Golf Club but fell foul of a scorecard error and was disqualified from the overall event.

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Paul Frith, Challenge Trophy Winner
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and unfortunately he hadn’t noticed when he came to sign his card. “That was very disappointing but made me all the more hungry to do well this year at The Berkshire,” explained 16 handicapper John, who works at Richmond Golf Club. “I drove really well on the first round and then it was my putting that was great on the second,” said John, who shot nett rounds of 67 and 68.

John moved south two and a half years ago having worked, and learned his golf, at Callander Golf Club, in Perthshire. “I’ve paid my own entry fee both last year and this and I’ll be looking to defend my title next year. It’s a wonderful event - I really enjoyed it,” he said.

John finished three shots clear of 5 handicapper, Ed Ainsworth, who works at Richmond Golf Club. “I drove really well on the first round and then it was my putting that was great on the second,” said John, who shot nett rounds of 67 and 68.

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