



David Simpson, BIGGA National Champion



Elliott Small, winner of the BIGGA Challenge Cup

Kubota

A CHAMPIONSHIP OF WHICH TO BE PROUD

Dundonald and Kilmarnock Barassie hosted the BIGGA National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and produced one of the finest events ever

October on the west coast of Scotland and what would you expect for your golfing weather? Exactly! Well you will appreciate just how delighted the 80 plus competitors were to be playing the majority of the 36 holes in shirt sleeves.

The 2007 BIGGA National Championship, sponsored by Kubota, basked in sunshine... at least for some of the time and the two venues Dundonald Links and Kilmarnock Barassie witnessed golf to match the conditions with the home nation taking a clean sweep of the major prizes.

David Simpson, a plus 1 handicapper from Crieff Golf Club, emerged as BIGGA's new Champion Golfer with two rounds of 75 to pip another plus 1 handicapper Steve McIntosh, of Torvean Golf Club, by two shots. Steve had fought back after an opening round 78 to post a second round 74. Three handicapper Paul Dolton, of Southfield Golf Club, finished third a further shot back.

The Challenge Trophy for Best Nett was a triumph for the older brigade when BIGGA Past Chairman, Elliott Small, after many years of trying got his hands on the silverware with a two round total of 144 off his still very useful handicap of 12. Elliott shot a gross 82 around Dundonald and followed it up with an 86 around Barassie.

To top off a fine couple of days for the host nation Scotland clinched the Regional Trophy for the first time in many, many years with their eight

best counting scores giving them a healthy advantage over the Midland Region on the 18 hole opening day competition which runs concurrently with the main individual event.

Both golf clubs made BIGGA exceptionally welcome with Ken Seims MG Director of Agronomy for Loch Lomond Golf Club, which owns Dundonald, greeting every player on the opening hole and the catering staff doing a sterling job in keeping the competitors fed and watered.

In the evening at the Championship Dinner held at Barassie, Course Managers, Frank Clarkson, from Dundonald and Brian Finlayson, of Barassie, received the acclaim of their fellow greenkeepers for the condition of both courses and were presented with tankards to commemorate the occasion. Captain Bob Pollock also warmly welcomed BIGGA to his golf club and said how proud they were to show off their course to so many greenkeepers.

Kubota proved wonderful sponsors of the Championship. National Sales Manager David Roberts and Tom Dunlop, who looks after the Scottish area, provided everyone with superb goodie bags containing balls, tees, a pen, towel and hat and the halfway house on the 10th tee of both courses was a welcome sight for all the competitors.

Despite being a winner of both the Blairgowrie and Crieff 36 hole events and being the Perth and Kinross Order of Merit winner and last



year's Team Player of the Year David believes that the BIGGA National Championship is the top event he has won.

"It is a British event and there were a lot of very good golfers playing in it. I was there after Monday's round and started well on Tuesday but I dropped quite a few shots over the last six holes and while I was relieved to have won I was disappointed in the way that I finished," explained 29 year-old David.

"It was the first time that I'd played either course and I thought they were superb. In fact the Scottish Mid-Amateur is being played at Dundonald next year and I'll look forward to going back," he said, adding that he was hoping to defend his title next year. Discussions are currently underway with East Sussex National to play the Championship there.

Elliott, National Chairman in 2000, has played in at least 17 National Championships but this is the first time his name will be engraved on a trophy.

"At last! I think I might just retire now," explained Elliott, while admitting that if it is played again in Scotland or the north of England he might make an exception.

Elliott entered the back nine of the second round feeling he had a chance but an 8, a 7 and a missed two footer at the last left him feeling that he might just miss out. However his scored was enough to win, on a better second round, from overnight leader Francis Kempster, who followed his first round nett 67 with a nett 77.

The best two round score of the week was actually achieved by 1 handicapper, Alex Webster, of Tower Chemicals, who shot rounds of 73 and 75 to win the Associate prize.



BIGGA National Chairman, Billy McMillan, with Frank Clarkson, Course Manager at Dundonald



The winning Scottish region



BIGGA National Chairman, Billy McMillan with Brian Finlayson, Course Manager at Barassie

ROLL OF HONOUR

BIGGA National Champion for the BIGGA Challenge Trophy	David Simpson, Crieff GC, 150
BIGGA Challenge Cup – Best Nett Score	Elliott Small, Life Member, 144 (Better Second Round)
Gross Over 36 Holes	2. Steve McIntosh, Torvean GC, 152 3. Phil Dolton, Southfield GC, 153
Nett over 36 Holes	2. Francis Kempster, Glen Gorse GC, 144 3. Kerr Rowan, Carrick GC, 146

DUNDONALD LINKS

Scratch to 6	Gary Burgess, Grange Park GC, 73
7 to 13	William Craig, Kirriemuir GC, 75
14-24	Frank Stewart, Cookridge Hall GC, 79

BARASSIE

Scratch – 6	Graeme MacDonald, Newark GC, 73
7 to 13	Derek Wilson, Irvine GC, 75 (BIH)
14-24	David Fellows, Cocks Moor Wood GC, 74
Nearest the Pin	Andy Peel, Bull Bay
Longest Drive	Kerr Rowan, Carrick
Associate Prize	Alex Webster, 146

TEAM TROPHY

Winner Scotland Total 601

Elliott Small, Life Member; Kerr Rowan, Carrick GC; Kenny Mitchell, St Andrews Links; William Craig, Kirriemuir GC; David Simpson, Crieff GC; Derek Wilson, Irvine GC; Christy McKenzie, Dunblane GC and Jim MacCormack, Kirriemuir.

Runner Up Midland Total 622

Francis Kempster, Glen Corse GC; Paul Dolton, Southfield GC; Steve Scott, North Warwickshire GC; John Ganley, North Warwickshire GC; Carl Small, Ellesborough GC; Steve Mason, Stocks GC; David Fellows, Cocks Moor Wood GC and Brian Robinson, Belton Woods GC.



BIGGA Chief Executive, John Pemberton, with Dave Roberts, from Kubota