

Golf of the highest standard



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



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.

"I made the cut every time and my best finish was 11th," he said.

"I would hope to come back and defend the title next year at West Lincs 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 over-all event.

His playing partner had marked him down for a 4 at the 8th when he'd actually taken 5



ABOVE: From left to right, Nick Darking, John McPherson, Paul Frith and Colin Hood. LEFT: John McLoughlin. BELOW: Laurie Tremlett

"There was a very good field with some low handicappers in it and being a National title it means a lot to me"

Paul Frith, Challenge Trophy Winner







LEFT: Darren Mitchell receives the BIGGA Challenge Bowl. ABOVE: The Berkshire Course Manager, Ian Morrison, with Paul Worster

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 certainly be looking to defend my title next year. It really is a wonderful event and I really enjoy playing in it," he said.

John finished three shots clear of 5 handicapper, Ed Ainsworth, who followed up a solid nett 72 on the

"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"
John McPherson, Challenge Cup Winner

opening day with a spectacular nett 66 on the second.

Paul Davey was third with a nett 142.

Alistair Higgs clinched the Day 2 Stableford with 39 points and Darren Mitchell, won the Affiliate Prize.

The Regional Cup, played for on the opening day was won by the South East with a score of 274.

The event was well supported by sponsors Kubota and Charterhouse with Colin Hood, from the former, and Nick Darking and Richard Heywood, from the latter, on hand

to offer support to the players.

Another feature of this year's Championship was the opportunity to win a £20,000 Mini Clubman car, courtesy of Rigby Taylor.

The car was on offer for a hole-in-one at one hole on each of the two days but unfortunately, despite some gallant efforts no-one drove off in it.

BIGGA would like to thank Kubota and Charterhouse for their title sponsorship as well as hole sponsors – Toro, Burden's Golf and Turf, Pinseeker, Irritech, Tacit, Irrigation Control and Headland Amenity.

National Championship Results

BIGGA CHALLENGE TROPHY (Best Gross)

1. Paul Frith, 143 (Card Play-off)
2. Laurie Tremlett, 143
3. John McLoughlin 144

BIGGA CHALLENGE CUP (Best Nett)

1. John McPherson (16) 167-135
2. Ed Ainsworth (5) 148-138
3. Paul Davey (4) 150-142

BIGGA CHALLENGE PLATE (Day 2 Stableford)

Alistair Higgs, 39 pts

BIGGA CHALLENGE BOWL (Affiliate Prize)

Darren Mitchell, 158.

BIGGA REGIONAL CUP (Day 1 Four Best Regional Nett Scores)

1. South East, 274 – John McPherson, Nick Brewster, Antony Kirwan and Simon Wells
2. Northern, 289 – John McLoughlin, Ed Ainsworth, Christopher Hardwick and Rhys Butler

DAILY HANDICAP PRIZES

Day 1

- +2-5 Nick Brewster
- 6-12 Antony Kirwan
- 13-24 Simon Wells

Day 2

- +2-5 John Keenaghan
- 6-12 Steve Gunner
- 13-24 Stewart Rogers

SPECIAL PRIZES

Day 1

Nearest the Pin

Gary Burgess

Longest Drive

Andrew De Welt

Day 2

Nearest the Pin

Tim Morgan

Longest Drive

David Simpson

The Hole-in-One Prize of a Mini Clubman car sponsored by Rigby Taylor on the Blue Course (10th hole) and Red Course (16th hole) went unclaimed.