

Less than a month ago Filton Professional Daryl Kelley was in hospital having an important operation on his ear but he has made a swift recovery and showed he is back to his best by claiming the Gloucester and Somerset PGA strokeplay title for the first time at Enmore Park. He was the only player in the field to break par in both rounds as he returned a two round total of 138, 4 under par.

After a long settled spell of weather Mother Nature must have sensed the G&S Pro's were in town as steady rain fell from the skies for most of the day. Some might say it was appropriate as it rounded off a winter season which has been dominated by the inclement weather. Even with the rain the course at Enmore was in superb order and held up well in the conditions. Many players were sampling the venue for the first time and they were impressed with what they saw.

Kelley was one of those players and he had no problem finding the best way around. He opened his morning round with a blistering run of scoring which include five 3's in his opening 7 holes. One of these 3's was an eagle at the par five 6th after an excellent 5 iron approach finished less than a foot away from the pin. Straight driving was the key to his low score but his only poor drive of the morning hit a tree at the 17th leading to a lost ball and a double bogey being marked down. A birdie at the closing hole repaired some of the damage and was good enough to give him the clubhouse lead. His effort was matched by Order of Merit leader Mark Sanders who posted 6 birdies including two at the final two holes in his 68. These two players held a four stroke advantage at the halfway stage over the rest of the field.

The rain had eased slightly for the early part of the second round and players produced a feast of low scoring. Almost half of the players beat par on the second circuit with the best score of the day coming from George Ryall. He breezed around in just 66 strokes after lunch to put some pressure on the leading pair. His card was bogey free and all his birdies were made in his final 12 holes. Kelley was the first of the leaders to finish his round and although taking two strokes more than his first effort still broke par. His final shot was a delicate chip onto the sloping 18th green which found its way to the bottom of the cup for a closing eagle 3. He could now only sit back and wait to see what Sanders would do. As Order of Merit Leader Sanders was in the final group alongside Giuseppe Licata and they had a close battle going for that title all afternoon. Sanders made a birdie at the last but that was only for a 72 so Kelley was declared the Champion. *(Daryl is pictured below receiving the Trophy from Chairman David Haines)*



Sanders shared second with Ryall ahead of Giuseppe Licata on 141. Also on that total was Oake Manor's Anton Thompson who followed a morning 72 with an impressive 69 after lunch. David Haines was 6th on level par 142.

The Gloucester and Somerset PGA would like to thank Enmore Park Golf Club and all their staff for allowing them to host the Championship there and for their hospitality on the day. They look forward to returning to the excellent venue in the future.