

Last September the annual G&S PGA Farrington Pro Am was washed out by the weather so a re-staging date was required. This was planned for the first Friday in April of 2009 with the hope of better weather but this time the fog intervened and meant a delayed start. In the end it added up to a 3 hour delay but thanks to the co-operation of all the teams and some quick thinking by the officials the 18 holes were completed as planned.

G&S PGA official Jill Goble along with Farrington Director of Golf decided a two tee start was the only way to get the 32 teams around the course in time before darkness and this was eventually achieved with some time to spare. Play got underway at 12noon as the sunshine broke through the cloud leaving a perfect afternoon for golf on a course in superb condition for the time of year.

Mike Watson (Wessex Golf Centre) is a regular visitor to this event and not for the first time he returned back to Dorset with the winners cheque in his pocket. He is recognized as a course specialist and this time needed just 66 strokes to negotiate the Somerset venue. Starting from the 10<sup>th</sup> he moved under par with a birdie at the 11<sup>th</sup> hole and followed that with a run of pars to the turn. His score rapidly improved with 3 birdies in the next four holes before adding two more at the par 5 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> holes. This added up to a bogey free round of 66 and it gave him a one stroke victory over Giuseppe Licata (Hambrook DR). Licata was another to start on the back nine and covered his first nine holes in 33 strokes with birdies coming at the 11<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. A double bogey at the tricky 3<sup>rd</sup> hole threatened to spoil his round but he immediately hit back with a birdie at the next. He, like Watson, gained a shot at the 7<sup>th</sup> before closing his round with an eagle 3 at the 9<sup>th</sup> to sign for a 67. Third place was shared by Andrew Sherborne (Kendleshire) and Lee Wood (Gloucester G&CC) on 70 ahead of George Ryall (Players Club) on 72. 73 was the most popular score of the day with no less than 7 players tying for the final cheque.

One of those players returning a 73 did have the consolation of bringing home the winning team though. Brean professional Andrew March teamed up with local Farrington members Rob Lane, Mike Jones and Shane Phelps to hand in an impressive team score of 127, 17 under par. The amateurs all played steadily using their shots well as they picked up birdies and eagles at regular intervals on the front nine holes. Their final score was also assisted by 4 birdies and an eagle from March along the way. They wobbled slightly on the back nine but a couple of crucial putts were holed by Lane to keep the score moving in the right direction. This turned out to be good enough by one shot to edge out the team led by Mike Watson. He joined up with Steve Coles, Andy Coles and Paul Cummings to return a 16 under par score which in turn was one better than David Morgan's team in third.

Despite the problems of this event it was enjoyed by all and it is hoped that the 2009 staging of the event at the end of August will be less problematic. The G&S PGA would like to thank Farrington G&CC for their assistance in running this event and look forward to many more Pro Ams at the venue in the future.

## **Scores**

### **Pro Individual**

- 66 Mike Watson (Wessex Golf Centre)
- 67 Giuseppe Licata (Hambrook DR)
- 70 Lee Wood (Gloucester G&CC), Andrew Sherborne (Kendleshire)
- 72 George Ryall (Players Club)
- 73 David Morgan (Woodspring), Matt Dearden (Vale G&CC), Barry Austin (Downes Crediton), Adrian Bishop (Wells), Andrew March (Brean), Ed Goodwin (Cirencester), Trevor Jones (Hambrook DR)

### **Team**

- 127 Andrew March (Brean) with Rob Lane, Mike Jones and Shane Phelps.
- 128 Mike Watson (Wessex Golf Centre) with Steve Coles, Andy Coles and Paul Cummings.
- 129 David Morgan (Woodspring) with John Morgan, L Rogers and R Morgan
- 130 Lee Wood (Gloucester G&CC) with L Callow, D Hillington and A Shanks
- 131 Giuseppe Licata (Hambrook DR) with B Knight, Bill Bingham and B Newton