

George Ryall warmed up for his return to the European Seniors Tour next week with a victory in the Gloucester and Somerset PGA Pro Am at Cleeve Hill. He was the only Professional to beat par on a tough day on the course set high above Cheltenham. A strong wind is common at the venue and it certainly made scoring tough for many players but Ryall typically ground out a score.

Ryall started with the only birdie of the day at the par five 1st hole but eventually gave the shot back at the ninth. He immediately responded by picking up shots at the short par four 10th and then again at the 12th hole to move to 2 under par. He did drop a shot at the 17th but this was still good enough for a 3 stroke victory for him over home professional Dave Finch. Finch played a steady round and a birdie two at the 16th was crucial as this moved him one clear of Midland Region Professional Dan Clee who took 3rd spot on 75. Four players shared fourth place on 77. Home professionals Matt Evans and Russ Berry were joined by Gareth Bennett and James Latham on that score.

In the team event Dave Finch made it a successful day for him as he guided home the winners in convincing fashion as they posted a score of 13 under the card. Andy Creswell, Mark Joines and Derek Johns made up Finch's team with Creswell being the star of the show on the homeward nine after contributing no less than 5 nett birdies to the cause. Second place went to a team led by Rich Ballard. Ballard's individual round was spoilt by a disaster at the 2nd hole but he put that behind him to help his team of Steve Powell, John Buckle and Paul Devlin to a 9 under par score. This only just gave them second place after a countback was required and this went down to the very last hole. The unlucky team who had to settle for third were the longest travellers of the day consisting of Minehead professional George Hampshire and amateurs Gordon Whalley, Neil Mossman and Paul Coleman.

Thanks go to Cleeve Hill Golf Club for staging the event and also to David Haines who expertly ran the event on the day on behalf of the PGA at short notice.