

As the players congregated around the clubhouse at Knowle GC before the start of the G&S PGA Medal home assistant Mark Sanders was nowhere to be seen. He had been spotted disappearing off to the distant practice ground in a buggy for some last minute practice which certainly paid off as he handed in the winning score on the day of 68.

For the first time in 2010 the G&S PGA managed to play on two consecutive weeks and the weather although a bit cold to start with was generally good for golf. The greens putted nicely but there was certainly a premium on hitting fairways as the ball was collecting large amounts of mud. Any shot from the rough was made all the more difficult by this fact as some shots seemed to have a mind of their own!

Sanders, out in the final group of the day, was a model of consistency around his home course. Eight pars were marked down on the front nine and they were joined by a birdie after a lengthy putt was holed at the short 8th. More pars were recorded over the opening holes of the inward half before he made his second two of the round at the short 15th. A dropped shot followed at the next due to a 'mud ball' but he got up and down at the final hole for his third birdie of the day which enabled him to be the only player in the field to break par. It was also his third victory in G&S PGA Medals this season.

Second place went to Gareth Bennett (Cirencester) who obviously likes the Knowle layout. He repeated his high finish of last year with a level par round of 69. His haul of 5 birdies would have taken the birdie sweep had he entered and he would have won the event had it not been for a couple of late dropped shots in his round. Third position was claimed by a birdieless Giuseppe Licata whose card of 70 showed 17 pars and a solitary bogey at the 6th. This result did however help him to stay in touch at the top of the Order of Merit especially as George Ryall didn't play due to a Seniors Tour event in Brunei. David Haines finished in joint fourth and with it reclaimed the lead in the Order of Merit by 1 point after a 71. This was also matched by two amateurs, Charlie Cossins (Bath) and Paul Ryder (Filton). Cossins took home the birdie sweep money with 4.

Next week the G&S PGA visit a new venue in Stockwood Vale. Licata has a great chance to move into the lead in the Order of Merit as both Haines and Ryall will be overseas playing in other events.