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**Cook has the recipe for success at Burnham**

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Burnham and Berrow amateur and Somerset County player Ellis Cook won the Gloucester and Somerset PGA Medal over his home course with a 1 under par round of 70. He headed home another player possessing plenty of local knowledge in the form of Brean's Andrew March who posted 71 to finish as the leading professional.

On a day which couldn't have been more different from the previous G&S PGA visit to the premier Somerset links course back in December the competitors were greeted to a rare calm day. The sun shone as well, making it feel very unlike the second week in January but despite the benign conditions no one managed to tear the course up with some swift greens and tricky pin positions providing the main defence for the Championship course.

Cook was one of the earlier starters and opened with two pars before a birdie at the 3<sup>rd</sup> despite him being well off line from the tee. He also picked up shots at the two par 5's on the outward half to turn in a best of the day 33. He found the homeward run tougher and gave shots back at the 11<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> holes to finish at -1. As he signed his card he didn't expect it to be for his first ever Medal victory with the G&S PGA but it was as no one matched his sub par total for the rest of the day.

The only other player in the field to match the par figure of 71 was former Burnham and Berrow Assistant Andrew March. Almost 4yrs since he ended his 12yr stint at the course he posted a level par score which registered him the maximum 10 points in the Total Triumph Order of Merit. March opened with a birdie 3 but racked up a double bogey at the 2<sup>nd</sup> after finding a treacherous spot in a greenside bunker. Birdies, like Cook, came at the 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> to move him back under par before he dropped shots at the 12<sup>th</sup> and at the short 14<sup>th</sup> after a 3 putt. A lengthy birdie putt dropped at the 16<sup>th</sup> to return him to level par which is where he stayed until the end. The points haul did see him move back into a tie for second place in the Order of Merit but now behind a new leader.

Taking over at the head of the Total Triumph Order of Merit is Cirencester's Gareth Bennett who followed up last weeks win by finishing in a tie for 3<sup>rd</sup> with 3 others on one over par 72. He now holds just over a 3 point lead from March and former leader Ross Langdon level in second. Joining him on 72 was Hambrook's Giuseppe Licata, Filton's Daryl Kelley and another Burnham amateur in the form of David Gregory.

Next week the links theme continues as the G&S PGA move to the western tip of Somerset to tackle the challenge of Minehead and West Somerset GC.