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Birdie Blitz from March at Minehead

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Gloucester and Somerset PGA Secretary Andrew March produced a stunning barrage of birdies as he took victory in the latest G&S PGA Medal at Minehead. He carded no less than 8 birdies and an eagle in his 7 under par score which was 6 better than the rest of the field. His victory also saw the Brean Professional move to the top of the Total Triumph Order of Merit for the first time.

A good sized field made the long trip to West Somerset to tackle the links course which they found to be in excellent condition with fast and true links greens. A light breeze blowing at the start increased during the round to test the players on their homeward run but again the mild temperatures were very unlike what you would expect for mid January.

March has been in excellent form this season and one of the reasons for this must be his new found confidence on the greens thanks to acquiring a belly putter. He used this to good effect again and coupled with some accurate iron play a low score was always likely. Failing to birdie the easy 1st at Minehead didn't give any indication of what was to follow as he then proceeded to birdie the next seven holes on the bounce. Most of the birdies came thanks to excellent putts but the two at the 4th was courtesy of a chip in from right of the green. Turning for home he added another birdie at the 13th (after holing from off the green) and two holes later found the par 4 15th from the tee. The tricky downhill putt yet again found the bottom of the hole and March stood at an amazing 10 under par for his round. Thoughts of 59 crept into his head but any chances of that happening were removed after he made a mess of the 16th racking up a double bogey. Another shot went at the 17th before a closing par saw him sign for a career low round of 65 and his second win of the year, although it was his first outright. March's only mistake of the day was failing to enter the birdie sweep so he didn't top up his winnings further.

Second place was shared by the consistent Somerset amateur Ashley Mansell and Hambrook's Giuseppe Licata. Licata continued his amazing run in which he has finished in the points in his last 29 G&S PGA Medals despite suffering from a back injury after he fell out of his loft last Friday. Mansell carded six birdies in his round and shared the Birdie sweep with fourth placed Ross Langdon who shot 72 including 6 gains.

It is all change at the top of the Total Triumph Order of Merit as March now takes over the leadership as previous leader Gareth Bennett dropped three places to 4th after a poor day. Langdon now sits in second just ahead of Licata and the leading four seem to be making a breakaway from the rest of the players. Almost 15 points now separates 4th and 5th spots as we reach the midway point of the season.

Next week the action takes place on Thursday as the final event in the 'links swing' takes place at Weston Super Mare GC. Following the Medal the G&S Pro's will hold their AGM.