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ASSOCIATION

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Pairs Championship shared

05/12/12

The final G&S PGA event of 2012 was the annual Pairs Championship at Burnham and Berrow Golf Club and two pairs ended the year on a winning note. Filton Golf Club ended up with two shares of the winnings as Club Pro Daryl Kelley and his Assistant Tom Duke both featured in the leading duos although not together. Kelley partnered Bristol Golf Centre Professional Giuseppe Licata whilst Duke teamed up with Cirencester Assistant Ryan Dix to both shoot 64 and win by a stroke.

The Channel Course at Burnham was bathed in winter sunshine which was a far cry from the stormy weather the players had experienced 12 months earlier. A cool wind was blowing making the links course a true test for the 14 pairs who made the journey to the North Somerset coast. The course is a nine hole 18 tee affair and as usual the front nine was played in the Scramble format and the second circuit as a Betterball.

The youthful pairing of Dix and Duke raced out of the blocks with birdies at the opening two holes played against the wind and added another birdie at the par 5 4th hole. Playing downwind in a scramble format should have probably seen them add to this score before they reached the turn but the only change was negative with a dropped shot at the short 8th hole. Heading back out they again impressively picked up a shot at the long par 4 11th and also again at the par 5 13th but did give one back in between. They made no mistake on the downwind stretch the second time around as Dix made an eagle 2 at the 15th before Duke exacted revenge for the earlier bogey with a two at the 17th. The 6 under par total was good enough to give them the clubhouse lead for most of the day until the final group returned. In this group were defending Champions Ed Goodwin and Rod Hibbitt who were expected to fare well as they have been in top form so far this Winter but it was their playing partners of Kelley and Licata who matched the winning score. Their card was an excellent bogey free affair with 3 birdies being collected by the experienced duo on each half. In the Scramble format their gains were made at the 1st, 5th and 6th whilst the 13th, 16th and 17th were birdied as a Betterball pairing. Tom Motley & Ross Langdon, Laurie Canter & Johnny Grace and George Morgan & G&S PGA Captain Kevin Pitts made up the three pairs tied for 3rd on 65.

Thanks go to Burnham & Berrow Golf Club for allowing the G&S PGA to play the event yet again at what has become its traditional home of their challenging Channel Course and they look forward to being back in 2013. The G&S PGA now take a Christmas break before resuming the race for the Total Triumph Order of Merit on January 9th at Minchinhampton Old Course near Stroud.