



Club Championship weekend, 9 and 10 September 2023

Preamble.

For a number of years now, the Walker Cup, and the Club Championship competition have been held on the same weekend.

The Walker Cup is a Stableford competition over 18 holes for club members with an exact handicap of 22.0 or above.

The Club Championship is a stroke-play competition over 54 holes, open to all members, playing off only yellow tees, against scratch i.e. gross scores are counted. In principle, the club's leading player participating should win.

Following approval at the EGC AGM of 2022, a medal stroke play element was added in parallel to the Championship to allow for handicap adjustment, i.e. net scores are counted over the three rounds. The intention was to encourage more members to participate in the Championship given that, whatever the playing handicap, three rounds played at or near one's handicap could make you a winner!

This year the weather was blisteringly hot, around 30 degrees, with full sunshine and with a high humidity making the conditions pretty tough. Thankfully the course was in excellent condition. Also the reeds were recently cut and the sprinkler system maintained.

The Walker Cup.

The Walker Cup was played on the ESTEC course in parallel with the first round of the Club Championship on Saturday, 9 September.

Regrettably as few as eleven players participated in the competition with tee times spread over the day.

Some good scores were posted with three players, Gijs, Joe and Stephen tied with 36 Stableford points but the clear winner was Paul with an excellent 40 points.

Gijs had decided to play in both the Walker Cup and the Championship and with his score he was suitably encouraged to go forward to the Sunday rounds.

Player	Stb
Paul McManamon	40
Gijs Tan	36
Joseph Pereira	36
Stephen Durrant	36
Clare Bingham	34
Robert Jansen	34
Anna Grethe Hjortnaes	32
Kjeld Hjortnaes	31
Garry Gould	30
Willem Borst	28
Giuseppe Racca	22

Scores back 9 adjusted

The Club Championship.

Sixteen members had signed up for the Club Championship to play on the Saturday. Of these unfortunately Ben (72/57), Mary (75/64) and Ton (75/59) were unable to continue on Sunday leaving thirteen in the competition.

The scores for the three rounds are shown in the table below.

Andrew and Erik headed the leader board after the Saturday round with scores of 65, both 7 over par.

In round two, Erik scored a magnificent 62 just 4 over par. Gijs played the second round on Sunday morning but at lunchtime he decided to abandon the third due to the weather conditions. Well done for competing Gijs.

In round three, David had the best round with 65, a great turn-around from his well below par second round score. Unfortunately, Erik had a tough time in round three to leave Vincent, who had played the three rounds quite consistently, the winner of the Club Championship by one stroke from Erik, who was one stroke ahead of Alexander in third.

Player	R1	R2	R3	Total
Vincent Regis	67	65	68	200
Erik van Ginkel	65	62	74	201
Alexander Foing	68	68	66	202
Alex Jeanes	73	66	68	207
Andrew Murrell	65	74	73	212
Nico Dettmann	70	71	75	216
Rafael Lucas Rodriguez	73	71	74	218
David Binns	75	86	65	226
Klaus Ludwig	74	72	83	229
Domenico Mignolo	77	76	81	234
Emmanuel Sabourin	76	82	76	234
Filippo Pinna	89	78	92	259

Gross Scores

The Medal Strokeplay Trophy.

As noted in the Preamble, the gross scores in each round were handicap adjusted to yield the net scores. A player's handicap was maintained as before the first round through each round.

The handicap adjusted scores are given below. The figures in red indicate net par or better.

With a fantastic first round of 50 net (44 Stableford points), Andrew was able to hold off strong challenges from both Alexander and Alex in the second and third rounds. All three played net par (174) or better over the three rounds of the competition.

The average score over all players for the first two rounds was ~60.5. This fell to ~62.5 for the third round. The sign of exhaustion?

Player	Hcp	Str	R1	R2	R3	Total
Andrew Murrell	16.1	15	50	59	58	167
Alexander Foing	11.3	10	58	58	56	172
Alex Jeanes	12.4	11	62	55	57	174
Erik van Ginkel	7.3	7	58	55	67	180
Klaus Ludwig	17.9	16	58	56	67	181
Vincent Regis	6.9	6	61	59	62	182
Nico Dettmann	12.1	11	59	60	64	183
Domenico Mignolo	18	16	61	60	65	186
Rafael Lucas Rodriguez	9.5	9	64	62	65	191
Emmanuel Sabourin	15.1	14	62	68	62	192
David Binns	11.1	10	65	76	55	196
Filippo Pinna	21.9	20	69	58	72	199

Average	13.3	12.1	60.6	60.5	62.5	184
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Net Scores

Postscript.

In my memory of the last ~20 years of the EGC Club Championship this was probably the most grueling temperature wise.

The overall participation was pretty low compared with years where the cut was around 80 strokes (gross) to make it to the second round with a field of 27 players. However here we see the steady drop in the club membership numbers and the commensurate drop in numbers participating in competitions as exemplified in the 'Monthlies', 'Seasonals' etc. Clearly the same is true with the Walker Cup for Cat 2 players.

Whether the introduction of the Medal Stroke play had any influence on overall participation is a moot point but at least it gave higher handicappers a reward for their efforts over the three rounds. Let's see if we get a bigger response from more Cat 1 players next year.

A word about the trophies. The former trophy for the highest placed lady in the Club Championship has been replaced by one in the name of Nely Borst, a club member of many years standing and Lady Captain in 2007, who passed away earlier this year. The winner was Mary Gillies.

The Medal Strokeplay trophy, which I've donated to the club, is an old cup first awarded in 1913 and won outright by my father in 1931; not for golf by the way.

Following the final round on Sunday, presentations were made in ESCAPE as seen in the photos.

In the absence of Garry, our thanks to Vincent for organizing the flights and managing Proware.



Brian Taylor, 12 September 2023