

Orkney Golf Club played host to the 22nd playing of the popular Lows Open on Saturday, with an entry of over 70 gents taking part. The course was in excellent condition although, as many players found out, the rough is very much to be avoided at all costs!! Weather wise, conditions were favourable starting with a light southerly breeze in bright overhead conditions, although around mid-afternoon, the breeze picked up and moved westerly with some drizzly showers moving in.

This however didn't affect play too badly. Early starter Stuart Kemp set a target in the nett section, with an excellent gross 74 nett 65. Stuart has been playing steadily all season and been very close to picking up silverware on a couple of occasions this year. As it proved to be this time! No one managed to surpass him as he held on for a one shot victory from regular prize winners Bob Adamson on nett 66, Stuart Thompson on 67 and Stromness regular Stewart Moar on 69. As a footnote, apparently Mr Kemp has allegedly joined a small band of golfer's who have managed to shoot their age!! Well played Stuart.

In the gross section, it was Stuart Thompson's 71 which led for some time but eventually was pipped on countback by third place Michael Schinkel and Liam Smart, both also on 71s. Fourth place was scooped up by Stromness Wilson Cup player Andrew Groundwater's 72. But, winning yet another gross trophy, was one of the later starters and Orkney Golf Club's Wilson Cup winning captain, Steven Rendall. His excellent round of 67 gross was the only score under par on the day, which again is an excellent achievement.

Rounding out the prize winners were nearest the pin winners on the 18th in two, Bob Clouston and Sam Rendall, who's second shot was actually in the hole for a two.

Club Captain, Neil Tait, introduced Andrew Bonner who, on behalf of the sponsors Lows, presented the prizes. Despite missing the tournament due to work commitments and, in his own words, "giving everyone else a chance", Neil also thanked everyone who had helped in any way in making the tournament a successful event. Especially Lows for their continued support of the Club.

The previous Wednesday saw 44 members playing in a sweep. Willie Marwick continued his good form finishing third with a nett 67. Neil Tait pipped him on countback with the same score. However, coming in in the last group with a nett 66, was Stuart Thompson who claimed top spot and the sweep prize. Low gross on the day was Michael Schinkel on 68.

This week coming sees the RNLI Open Trophy played for on Wednesday 24th July, as a precursor for the big one on Saturday 27th - the JW Gray and Highland Park 36 hole Open - which takes place at the Orkney Golf Club. At the time of this report being published on Facebook (Sunday evening), there are still a handful of places left. Hopefully we will see those places filled up before we tee off on Saturday.

PD HOOK.

Attached photo - Lows Open prize winners:

Back row Lr: Neil Tait, Liam Smart, Stuart Thompson, Nicola Sutherland, Lynn Shearer.

Mid row Lr: Bob Clouston, Bob Adamson, Stewart Moar, Sandra Shearer, Lorna Brown, Michael Schinkel, Michelle Clouston.

Front Lr: Steven Rendall, Stuart kemp, Andrew Bonner, Sheila Walls, Shona Croy.