



South Staffordshire Golf Club News

Summer 2009

Close Shave as Craig Wins PTS Invitational

Monster putt wins play-off at South Staffs

Craig Shave won the PTS Invitational at South Staffordshire with possibly the longest and probably the most significant putt of his career, and with the added pressure of being in front of the Sky TV cameras.

That the 30-foot putt came on the first play-off hole against the defending champion Paul Wesselingh and the Midlands Order of Merit leader Lee Clarke merely added to the drama.

It took an eternity to drop and then Shave had to wait for a few agonising moments as Clarke attempted an equally long putt to force another play-off hole. It stayed above ground and the Whetstone professional breathed a sigh of relief – the title was his!

"It was nice to sink that putt," said Shave. "At the end of my round [before the play-off] I had been nervous over a four-footer so to make that one to win was special."

Shave, who finished on six-under-par 207 with rounds of 70, 67 and 70, admitted to playing steady if unspectacular golf over three days of competition on an uncompromising South Staffordshire course.

He teed up on the last hole seven under par for the tournament but his drive landed under a sapling fir tree and in rabbit scrapings. Sweet relief came from a PGA official who awarded him a free drop.

"I hit a good tee shot, but it didn't draw and kicked right behind a tree. But I got a lucky rabbit scrape. I hit a good wedge but didn't get the bounce and then had a tricky little chip shot over the bunker and an awkward four-footer for the win.

"To be fair, I was shaking a little bit over that one."

He missed it, carding a bogey, but it was enough for a place in the three-way play-off which he played to perfection.

"I was lucky to get a second go at it, honestly."

Lee Clarke, the Beeston Fields pro, was philosophical in defeat, conceding "you can't win them all". Having arrived at the play-off hole with identical scores to Shave, it was just a putt too far on the last.

"Craig deserved to win with that putt. It was superb," he added.

Mark Moulard (Nailcote Hall Hotel) who, like Wesselingh, is a veteran of the European Tour and now has his eye on joining the seniors, had to settle for fourth place after narrowly failing to force his way into a the play-off.

The 48-year-old played some exemplary golf until the 177-yard, par three 15th hole where he tugged his tee shot left and took double bogey.

Looking out of contention he needed some magic which he duly got on the 16th – a 492-yard, par five – where he found the green in two and required



just one putt for an eagle. A birdie on either of the remaining holes would have kept him in it but it wasn't to be.

Eddie Vernon, from Burton-on-Trent, closed with a level par 71 for a four-under-par total of 209 and outright fifth spot.

Former Ryder Cup player David Gilford (Trentham Park), who along with Wesselingh (Kedleston Park) and Moulard proved the wise old heads could still run with the young bucks, finished tied sixth alongside Hinckley's Jason Powell on three-under with Cameron Clark (Moor Hall) trailing home a shot further back.



South Staffs professionals Shaun Ball and Steve Carter came 19th and 25th respectively out of a field of 84.

This is the fourth year in succession that South Staffs have hosted the 3-day PGA Midlands Region Order of Merit Event.

PTS Invitational Leaderboard:

207 (-6) Craig Shave (Whetstone GC); Paul Wesselingh (Kedleston Park GC); Lee Clarke (Beeston Fields GC); **208** (-5) Mark Moulard (Nailcote Hall Hotel, G&CC); **209** (-4) Eddie Vernon (Burton-on-Trent); **210** (-3) David Gilford (Trentham Park GC); Jason Powell (Hinckley GC).

PTS Invitational Pro-Am Leaderboard:

128 (-14) Mathew Morris (Stourbridge GC); Daniel Taylor (Swingers Golf Centre); Cameron Clark (Moor Hall GC); **129** (-13) David Gilford (Trentham Park GC); Lee Clarke (Beeston Fields GC); **130** (-12) Steve Carter (South Staffs GC); Adam Mason Sandwell Pines GC).

Craig Shave plays his second to the 18th after taking a free drop.

CAPTAIN'S DAY

A beautiful summer's day greeted a full field for Captain's Day on Saturday 13th June along with an interesting format – a Betterball Stableford Competition with 4 Power Play holes, where the harder of the two pin positions on the 3rd, 5th, 17th & 18th holes offered double points.

There were some 'very interesting' pin positions to test the nerves and some pairs fared far better than others as the range of scores suggested.

In the evening 140 Members enjoyed a 'Mamma Mia Night' and danced the night away to an ABBA tribute band – ABBA Now!



The picture shows Captain Phil Jennings congratulating Simon Cartwright after his and Duncan Lampitt's winning score of 58pts which included only 9 putts on the back nine!

Winners: Simon Cartwright & Duncan Lampitt 58pts
2nd: Nick Cheeswright & Nick Stroudley 54pts
3rd: David Richmond & Gary Campbell 52pts



Fabulous Baker Boy

Peter Baker, a veteran of Ryder Cups, Open Championships and European Tour events is happily ensconced as Director of Golf at South Staffordshire Golf Club these days and his comfort was obvious when he won the CHN Pro-Am on 27th July.

Baker, a stalwart of the 1993 Ryder Cup side that narrowly lost 13-15 to the United States at The Belfry - he won three points out of four, including a singles victory over Corey Pavin - shot a five-under-par 66 to "comfortably" beat Kedleston Park's Paul Wesselingh.

Baker, who broke par on his opening hole, fired seven birdies, including all of South Staffordshire's par fives, finishing with a flourish when he picked up three shots in the last five holes.

Wesselingh, a contemporary of Baker's on the Tour, was subdued by comparison, carding three birdies and a bogey for his 69 but it was enough to take second spot on his own a shot ahead of Scott Emery, of Woodhall Spa.

Baker Secures Credit Suisse Double

5th July 2009

South Staffs Golf Club Director of Golf and former Ryder Cup player Peter Baker made history repeat itself when he won the Credit Suisse Challenge for the second time.

Two years ago at Wylihof Golf Club in Luterbach, Switzerland, Baker won the title with a final round of 67, and the same score again carried the 41 year old Englishman to a one stroke victory over Austrian Florian Praegant. Baker becomes the first player to win the event twice and the first player over the age of 40 to win on the Challenge Tour since he himself won on his 40th birthday in 2007.

It was a close run battle with Praegant challenging all the way but Baker managed to keep his nose in front with birdies on the 15th and 17th before holing a crucial 12ft par putt on the last to deny his playing partner. Baker's winning total of 18 under par 274 earned him €22,400 (£18,985) and lifted him from 31st to tenth on the Challenge Tour Rankings. Baker, who used a third round 66 as the platform for his successful title surge in 2007, repeated that score this time around to be tied at the top of the leaderboard going into the final round.

"It was a tough day and Florian was very strong, especially on the back nine," said Baker, who played in The 1993 Ryder Cup at The Belfry. "But I hung in there and it came right down to the last shot."

"Although the conditions were very different from when I won here in 2007, you can't beat good memories of winning" said the three-time European Tour champion. "It was very wet two years ago, but the course here seems to suit my game."

"It was quite tired coming into the week as this was my fourth week in a row and I just decided to put everything into the week," he said. "This course seems to suit me. I played fantastic for the first two days but couldn't hole a putt and but then over the weekend, while the game wasn't so good, the putts dropped. It's a strange game sometimes."

Baker's victory two years ago proved the springboard to a return to The European Tour as he went on to claim a second title and finish 12th in the Rankings. Two years on the goal is exactly the same, to have another crack at the big time and secure his 24th year on Tour.

An eagle three on the fourth and birdie on the seventh set Baker on his way but Praegant hit back with birdies at the tenth, 12th and 13th. Both players birdie the 14th before Baker pulled clear with his birdies on the 15th and 17th and ultimately Praegant's five foot birdie putt on the last for a final round of 67 and 17 under par total of 275 was not quite enough.

Baker, a three-time winner on The European Tour, flew straight to Scotland and to Glasgow - Gailies Links, where he successfully managed to secure one of the 12 spots available through Local Final Qualifying with two rounds of 69 for a 4 under total of 138 for a place in the 138th Open Championship at Turnberry.

Baker on Tour

Since victory in Switzerland, Peter sadly missed the cut by two shots in the Open Championship at Turnberry after rounds of 74 and 72, and tied for 4th place in the Challenge Tour event the Scottish Hydro Challenge at Macdonald Spey Valley GC, Aviemore, Scotland.

Prior to the success in Switzerland, Peter's results on the Challenge Tour include tied for 3rd place in the Challenge of Ireland at the Champions Club, Moyvalley Hotel and Country Club, tied 28th in the Saint Omer Open in France and tied 34th at Bastad Sweden.

CHN Leaderboard

66 (-5) Peter Baker (South Staffordshire GC).

69 (-2) Paul Wesselingh (Kedleston Park GC).

70 (-1) Scott Emery (Woodhall Spa GC).

CHN Pro-Am Leaderboard

133 (-9) Steve Carter (South Staffordshire GC).

134 (-8) Andrew Stokes (Lea Marston H&GC).



South Staffs Head Professional

As from the 1st November 2009, Peter Baker will cease duties as Director of Golf at SSGC to become Head Professional at the Club and take over the running of the Club Shop. Peter will also be taking over the buggy hire, club and battery store facility.

The shop will be stocked with leading brands at competitive prices and Peter is looking forward to giving top quality service and professional advice to both the Members and visitors to the club.

The lower floor area at the back of the shop will house a swing clinic incorporating all the latest technology - so no excuses for not improving your game as indoor lessons will soon be available!

Peter will also be offering a club fitting, re-gripping and repair facility and, for next season for a limited period, will offer all Members a free 'MOT and Club Assessment'.

Peter has some great ideas for improving the practice and teaching facilities at the Club with individual and group coaching sessions available throughout the year.

A regular Pro Shop Newsletter will be emailed to Members keep everyone informed of developments.

Sam Benton Midland Boys Amateur Champion

Following two rounds of 73 and 70 for a one under par total of 143, South Staffs Junior member Sam Benton won the Midland Boys Amateur Championship at Kidderminster Golf Club. Sam follows in some notable footsteps as champion including some past and present South Staffs members - **Kevin Hale** (1997), **Paul McGarry** (1974) and **Gerald Moore** (1968). Other previous winners of this championship include **David Gilford** (1981) and **Sandy Lyle** (1972).

CARTER WINS MIDLAND MASTERS



If you are going to lose a golf tournament, you want to lose it to a stroke of genius, particularly if it is in a play-off.

Daniel Greenwood, the Forest Pines pro, could only stand in wonder as Steve Carter, of South Staffordshire Golf Club, chipped in from 30 yards to win the Parque da Floresta Midland Masters at Kedleston Park.

Both were stunned as the ball pitched onto the dance floor and waltzed to the hole never deviating from its line.

Those who don't know golf might describe it as fluke; those who play the game - Greenwood included - know, as gut-wrenching as it might be,

that Carter's shot was nothing less than magnificent.

It was simply a marvellous way to clinch his first Midland Order of Merit title and the diminutive Carter, who enjoyed rounds of 68 and 69 to finish, tied first on 137 with Greenwood and Craig Shave, of Whetstone GC, hopes it heralds the start of better things. Carter could barely believe his triumph.

"I have had a relatively poor year, so coming here and finishing off with that chip in was fantastic," he said afterwards.

Carter's morning round at Kedleston Park included six birdies but it was his stoic determination in the afternoon that kept him in the tournament.

It had an inauspicious start with a "silly" bogey on the 10th when he chipped close from just short of the green and missed a short putt. He restored order with a magnificent 5-iron approach to about six feet on the 11th - a tricky 188-yard, par 3 - which he duly knocked in for a two. "That settled me down after making the bogey."

He erred again at the 15th, trying to take on the corner and losing it in the trees to card a double-bogey six but par on 16 and a superb eagle on 17 (his eighth) again righted the ship.

The front nine (his homeward nine) was steady with only one dropped shot on the 401-yard, par four third hole.

"When I got to the eighth tee at six under, I knew Danny [Greenwood] or one of the guys would get to six or seven under par so I knew I had a chance," added Carter. "I hit a driver and went for the green, hit it just to the edge pin high and chipped it stone dead to make a birdie.

A four down the last, after getting up and down from the edge of a greenside bunker, assured his place in the play-off with Greenwood and Shave.

Shave was first to drop out after re-visiting the 18th - a 422-yard, par four dog-leg that is uphill all the way. Carter admits he was lucky to stay in contention after pulling his tee-shot, struck badly with a driver, into the trees.

"I was actually a little bit nervous," he said. "I didn't fancy hitting what was probably the right shot with a 3-wood or 3-iron so I tried to hit the driver and take the corner on. I pulled it left into the trees but had a lucky lie and was able to force a nine iron just off the edge of the green."

Two putts - sent Carter and Greenwood back to the 18th tee again.

This time, sense prevailed but Carter again flirted with the trees and he had to punch a six iron under the trees to the edge of the green.

Greenwood, 15 feet from the hole for three after also finding the trees with his tee-shot, could only stand and watch as Carter, trying to knock it close to stay in the play-off, chipped in.

"I couldn't believe it. My aim was to make a four and force another play-off hole but it rolled like a putt and it dropped in, it was just amazing!

"I have had a poor start and decided not to practice this week. I played well in the pro-am and came out today, putted for 15 minutes, and went straight to the tee and played the best golf I've played all year.

"I think that could be the key. Maybe I should become a lazy golfer! Just get there for my bacon sandwich and a coffee..."

South Staffs Junior Open

Results of the Junior Open played on Wednesday 5th August. **Boys Best Gross:** (78) Alex Berrow, Patshull Park. **Girls Best Gross:** (87) Olivia Raybould (South Staffs).

Boys Best Nett: Matthew Smith (Whittington Heath), 74-9-65. George Ling (South Staffs) 77-10-67. Harrison Quirk (Amington) 78-9-69. Thomas Cox (South Staffs) 80-11-69.

Girls Best Nett: Nikki Gardner 87-17-70. 51 juniors played from 20 different clubs.

Captain's Charity Pro-Am

A total of 41 teams took part in the Captain's Charity Pro-Am on 17th July, which should raise £5,000 for 'Help the Heroes'. Unfortunately the tournament was curtailed due to torrential rain stopping play with some teams still out on the course. The result was restricted to the 11 holes which all professionals had completed.

Professional Event after 11 holes.

1st = (68) -3. Lee Clarke (Beeston Fields GC);

Mathew Morris (Stourbridge GC).

3rd = (69) -2. Craig Swinburn (Notts GC);

Jeremy Harrold (Perton Park GC).

Pro-Am Event after 11 holes.

1st 135 -7. Simon Lilly (Wellingborough GC).

2nd 136 -6. Paul Wesselingh (Kedleston Park GC).

3rd 136 -6. Mark Sparrow (Himley Hall GC).

South Staffs Champions

Tuck Cup

Mark Guy and Phil Rogers won the Tuck Cup - Club Foursomes Championship - beating Don Crofts and Philip Sims in the final.

Scratch Championship

Andy Ellis won this years 36 hole Club Championship with rounds of 76 and 74 (150), beating Tom Hewitt 76 and 76 (152) by two shots.

Members Challenge

Rhys Ford-Jones with net scores of 72 and 70 (142) won the Members Challenge by one shot from Tom Cox and John Mumford. Rhys's brother Jordon was two shots further adrift in 4th on 145.



Andy Ellis

Presidents Day

Club President Paul Lewis organised an American Foursomes competition (Both players drive and then

play each others ball for the 2nd shot). There were several excellent scores, most notably from the winners and runners up.

Winners: (61) Adam White and Steve Durnall.

2nd: (61.5) Steve and Eddie Charlton.

3rd: (65) Gerald Moore and Trevor Williams.

President Paul Lewis presents the prizes.



Stafford Knot

In the annual tournament between the Member Clubs of the Staffordshire Union of Golf Clubs for the Stafford Knot Trophy held at South Staffs on 3rd July, Barlaston wrestled the trophy from holders Aston Wood with a team score of 133. Patshull Park were second with 138 and South Staffs, Trentham and Lord Stafford's team with 139 were third equal. Lord Stafford won the longest drive and John Staine from Barlaston the nearest the pin. Lord Stafford presented the trophy and prizes during the dinner in the clubhouse at the end of play.

Carter holds on to win Farmfoods British Par 3 Championship

5th - 6th August

South Staffordshire Golf Club professional Steve Carter has won the Farmfoods British Par 3 Championship at rain soaked Nailcote Hall, beating David Hutton, by a single stroke after a fraught 18 holes of golf in damp and dank conditions.

"This is without doubt my biggest win," said Carter. There were a lot of really good players here who perhaps would be expected to do a lot better than me, so to contend with good players is what I want to do. I think I will go to the Tour Qualifying School for sure now. I can afford it!"

Indeed he can after claiming £5,000 in coins as the top prize and the coveted Farmfoods British Par 3 Championship trophy.

Carter, part of the last group to go out in the rain-affected first round played the tough short course almost to perfection, carding six birdies and dropping just two shots in his two loops of nine, fired

a superb four-under-par 50 to take the outright lead from a chasing pack that included Tommy Horton, one of the grandest names in British golf, Tony Jacklin, the legendary two-times Major winner, a clutch of former Ryder Cup players and a group of European Tour players that included Graeme Storm, Lee Slattery and Robert Dinwiddie for whom the demands of Nailcote's fabulous Cromwell Course proved more than a slight challenge.

His final round, he admits, was a nervous affair not least because he started the day leading the tournament on four under par just as the fine morning sunshine turned to grey, leaden skies.

"I was really nervous all day but was delighted to hit the first green which settled me down a bit.

"I had a great run down 10, 11 and 12 with birdie, birdie, birdie and then I knew I had a little bit of a cushion and I needed it!"

With Hutton, safely in

the clubhouse on one under par after rounds of 57 and 50 and Andrew Collison, the pro from Bungay and Waveney Valley Golf Club, in Suffolk, matching him shot for shot for much of the last round he did well to keep his concentration.

Three putted the 13th, scored bogey on 14 but made a great save on 16 from the bunker, chipping out to three feet and knocking it in.

"On the last hole I took a club less. I didn't want to go into the pond at the back so hit it to front edge knowing I had three putts to win and decided to take all three!"

Last month the 30-year-old won the Parque da Floresta Midland Masters crown for his first Midland Order of Merit title which until yesterday was his best victory.

"This tops it particularly considering the company I have been keeping this week."

Steve's wallet was swelled by £500 after he



and Paul Cavill, a 14 handicapper, came home first in the team event with nett rounds of 46 and 46 for a 16-under-par total of 92, a shot clear of Nick James and Aaron Rai, the prodigious teenager.

Phillip Archer, who finished alongside Mathew Morris on level par, was best of the European Tour pros with Sam Walker, of the Challenge Tour, hot on his heels on one over par after rounds of 56 and 53.

The Farmfoods British Par 3 Championship, celebrating its 76th year since its inception in 1933

at the Palace Hotel, Torquay, brings together the cream of the Midland professionals, European Tour pros and Challenge Tour pros.

Photos: Peter Blanchflower.



Adding Value to SSGC Membership

Brocton Hall Golf Club

A reciprocal arrangement with Brocton Hall has been agreed whereby SSGC Members can play at Brocton Hall Golf Club for a £15 green fee and vice versa.

This arrangement is limited and initially will be trialed until 30th June 2010 and is available on weekdays and weekends. Arrangements should be made through the SSGC office or club shop.

Chris Jewkes Fitness Centre

SSGC Members can now loosen those tired muscles by booking a **Free Sports Massage** with Zena at the newly opened Chris Jewkes Fitness Centre in Danescourt Road. This offer is available for a limited period and bookings should be made by calling 01902 750355.

Harry Vardon Men's Open Sunday 23rd August 2009

Places are still available for Amateur players to play in this 18 hole Strokeplay event.

Entry forms can be obtained from the Club Shop or downloaded from the Club website.

1st Prize **£300.00**, 2nd Prize **£250.00**,

3rd Prize **£150.00**, 4th Prize **£100.00**,

5th Prize **£50.00**. Best Gross Score **£300.00**.

Best Stableford Score **£100.00**.

(Prizes will be PGA Vouchers to the value of the above and redeemable at any PGA Professionals Shop).

Print your own Handicap Certificate

Finally, the answer to obtaining your handicap certificate - print your own!

Firstly make sure you have up to date certificate from SSGC, with your unique HDID [howdidido] verification code printed on it.

- Log on to www.howdidido.co.uk and register if not already registered.
- Go into 'My Golf'.
- Click on 'Certificate' located on left hand side of page.
- You will be asked for HDID Verification Code, printed on bottom left of handicap certificate.
- Enter 'Verification Code' and Submit.
- Print off your Handicap Certificate.

You will only be required to enter 'Verification Code' once. Your Certificate will be automatically printed off each time you enter 'My Golf' and click on 'Certificate'.

Any problems have a word with Roger Craddock.

For Members who have yet to register with www.howdidido.co.uk - HowDidiDo is the largest network of golfers anywhere in the world. Holding the handicaps, results and scores of over 1,000,000 men and women, and registration will enable you to receive the results of the latest competitions you have played in via email.

This FREE service is available to any golf club (inc South Staffs) whose administrators use the market leading CLUB2000 software from Club Systems International and therefore any of their members too.

Defibrillator

A defibrillator is now situated in the foyer and the following staff have been trained to use it. Sue LeBeau, Steve Carter, Shaun Ball, Peter Finch, Jane Weston, Lorraine Darrell, Julie Weaver, Rhys Thomas, Andy Richards, Carl Morgan and Paul Whilton.

If any Members would like to be trained to use it please contact Sue LeBeau.