



Bramshaw Juniors triumph in Junior Team Golf Championship England Final

Bramshaw Golf Club, New Forest, 25 October 2017 – After winning the Hampshire Junior League to qualify for the knock-out rounds of the Junior Team Golf Home Nations Championship, the Bramshaw Junior Team, won their Regional Final and Semi-final tournaments to earn a place in the National Final, which took place on Sunday 22nd October at Clitheroe Golf Club, Lancashire. Competing with Bramshaw were Thirsk, Ealing, Whitley Bay, Royal Norwich and Chelmsford and amongst these teams were several England players and a lowest handicap of +3.

With the practice-round the day before shortened due to strong winds, heavy rain and a waterlogged course and similar weather forecast for the tournament day prospects did not look good!

At 7am the following morning, the teams began to arrive, with strong winds and rain still falling. A meeting of the Course Manager and Tournament Officials resulted in the decision to delay the start until 11am, when the rain was supposed to stop, plus the tournament would have to be played over 9 holes rather than 18 due to the course being waterlogged in places. In addition, each Club provided a volunteer to squeegee the greens, which were suffering from copious amounts of surface water.

After Sky TV filmed and interviewed a selection of players, play eventually got underway just after 11am, with the rain starting to ease a little. By the time the last 3-ball teed off, the rain had almost stopped completely and the leading group were on their 9th and last hole. Again, Sky were filming the players as they completed their final hole and then we faced an anxious wait before Junior Team Golf were able to announce the results after the post-match dinner.

After a nail-biting period, Bramshaw were announced as National Final winners by the narrowest of margins – on countback from Whitley Bay! Their prize is a trip to Portugal to represent England in the Home Nations Final in March 2018.



Nev James, Junior Organiser, Bramshaw said “In such difficult conditions, all of the players from all Clubs had a lot to deal with and given our team is comparatively young, I am very proud of the way they played, handling the weather and the pressure so well. Every player gave a very solid golf performance and they are a genuine team, working with and supporting each other superbly”.

The players (L to R) are Elliot Thomas, Billy Lightfoot, Joe Buenfeld (Capt.), Ryan Archer, Anthony Sweeney and Ciaran Simpkin.

We now look forward to preparing for Portugal!

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