

NORTHERN COUNTIES GOLF UNION
North of England Open Amateur Championship 2017
Alwoodley Golf Club - 3rd to 5th October

This major end of season championship was being held for the second time on the immaculately prepared Alwoodley golf course on the outskirts of Leeds.

Ranked 48th best course in the UK and Ireland by Golf Monthly magazine, Alwoodley is a challenging test from the championship tees, measuring 6,900 hundred yards with a par 71.

With yet another high quality field of 111 players, the winner of this end of season championship, the final event on the 2017 England Golf Order of Merit, will have to play some very good golf to take the title.



Alwoodley Golf Club

Round 1

On a very blustery day, when the course CSS rocketed to 77, Nick Poppleton from Wath Golf Club made a terrific start to this championship, recording a three under par round of 68.

He led by two shots from fellow Yorkshireman James Cass (Fulford GC) who was the only other player under par after the first day's play.

A level par round of 71 was recorded by David Hague (Malton & Norton GC) to put him in third place followed by Phil Tomkinson (Otley GC) and Michael Henson (Bishop Auckland GC) on 72.



Nick Poppleton - 68



James Cass - 70



David Hague - 71



Phil Tomkinson - 72



Michael Henson - 72

Five shots behind leader Poppleton were Callan Barrow (Royal Lytham & St. Annes), Harry Goddard (Hanbury Manor GC), Jon Hopkins (Bishop Stortford GC), George Bloor (Cavendish GC), Olly Huggins (Frilford Heath GC), Josh Morton (Huddersfield GC), Jack Gaunt (Drayton Park GC), Luke Northwood (Kenilworth GC) and Alfie Fox (Roehampton GC) who all scored two over par rounds of 73 on a very difficult day for good golf.

Round 2

The top 32 players would progress to the last day's play after this round had been completed so there was a lot of catching to be done by the majority of the field if they were to get within sight of the leaders.

A stiff wind and persistent rain showers to come in the afternoon were factors that would make low scoring difficult to achieve as play commenced promptly at 7.30 am for round two.

Leader Nick Poppleton was not able to hit the heady heights of his first day's play but a battling round of 73 meant that he still retained his lead over the rest of the field at the end of play on Wednesday. His 36 hole total of 141 was one shot ahead of David Hague who showed great consistency in recording another level par round of 71.

One shot further back on 143 was Phil Tomkinson (71) with Callan Barrow (72) in fourth spot on 145 followed by Alex Fitzpatrick from Hallamshire GC who recoded a second round of 71 for a 146 total.

Just six shots behind leader Poppleton on 147 was home player Will Shucksmith (70) as well as Paul Waring (71) from Felixstowe GC, Andrew Wilson (71) from Darlington GC, Habebul Islam (72) from Ipswich GC and prominent first round players Harry Goddard (74) and James Cass (77).

Of particular note was a one under par round of 70 from Alex Ireland (Brickhampton Court GC) who improved 10 shots on his first round 80 and made the 36 hole cut with just one shot to spare.



Callan Barrow - 72 (145)



Alex Fitzpatrick - 71 (146)



Will Shucksmith - 70 (147)



Paul Waring - 71 (147)



Andrew Wilson - 71 (147)



Habebul Islam - 72 (147)



Harry Goddard - 74 (147)

The cut came at 151 with three players making the last two rounds on that score but with six others also on 151 having to make their way home.

Round 3

A beautifully sunny day with a cold biting wind greeted the field as play commenced early on Thursday morning. Due to the better weather conditions, scoring was likely to improve considerably but it was difficult to foresee the way that George Bloor from Cavendish GC was about to take the course apart as he teed off for his third round at 8.34 am.

With an eagle and four birdies after 10 holes, Bloor was making very significant progress up the leader board after his first two rounds of 73 and 75. Despite a dropped shot on the back nine, he later picked up yet another birdie and came into lunch with a magnificent round of six under par 65 to put him firmly amongst the favourites going into round four.

With leader Nick Poppleton shooting a solid level par round of 71, it was David Hague who seized the initiative to take the third round lead after recording a two under par score of 69.

His 54 hole total of 211 was just one shot ahead of Poppleton on 212 with George Bloor (65) and Callan Barrow (68) on 213, Andrew Wilson (70) and Phil Tomkinson (74) on 217, followed by Will Shucksmith (71) on 218 and Harry Goddard (73), Paul Waring (73) and Alex Fitzpatrick (74) all on 220, nine shots behind leader Hague.



George Bloor - 65 (213)

Round 4

With Poppleton, Bloor, Barrow and Shucksmith rather fading in the final round, leader David Hague managed to keep his nose ahead and record a three over par round of 74 for a 72 hole total of 285 just one over par on a very testing course, played in some of the most challenging weather conditions imaginable.

As others fell away, Andrew Wilson seized the opportunity and posted a one under par round of 70, his second of the day, to come through and finish runner-up on 287.

A great round of 68 from Harry Goddard propelled him into third spot on 288, the same mark as fourth placed Nick Poppleton (76) with George Bloor (77) in fifth place on 290 followed by Callum Barrow (77) in sixth place also on 290 and Alwoodley's Will Shucksmith (75) in seventh place on 293.

Worthy of mention was the final round of Josh Morton (Huddersfield GC) who managed to climb the leader board with a one under par score of 70 for a total of 295 and eighth place overall.



The Prize Table



The Championship Trophy



The County Plate

In addition to the North of England Open Amateur Championship title, the County Plate was also on offer and this would be won by the two golfers from the same county who recorded the lowest aggregate score over 72 holes.

On this occasion it was Yorkshire who triumphed with David Hague and Nick Poppleton victorious on behalf of their home county.

Northern Counties Golf Union															
North of England Open Amateur Stroke Play Championship															
The Alwoodley Golf Club															
Scores after 72 holes															
3, 4 & 5 October 2017															
Par 71															
C55 R1 77 C55 R2 76 C55 R3 74 C55 R4 75															
C55 R1 77 C55 R2 76 C55 R3 74 C55 R4 75															
Par 71 585 74															
David Hague	Malton & Norton	71	71	69	74	285	1	Jack Gaunt	Drayton Park	73	77	76	73	289	15
Andrew Wilson	Darlington	76	71	70	70	287	3	Ollie Huggins	Fitford Heath	73	76	79	72	300	16
Harry Goddard	Hanbury Manor	73	74	73	68	288	4	Tom Gray	Moorlown	77	73	74	76	300	16
Nicholas Poppleton	Wath	68	73	71	76	288	4	Koen Kouwenaar	Blast G&CC	76	74	74	77	301	17
George Bloor	Coverdale	73	75	65	77	290	6	Barclay Brown	Hallamshire	77	71	76	77	301	17
Callan Barrow	Royal Lytham & St. Anne's	73	72	68	77	290	6	James Cass	Fulford	70	77	77	77	301	17
Will Shucksmith	Alwoodley	77	70	71	78	293	9	Calvin Sherwood	Rookery Park	76	72	78	76	302	18
Josh Morton	Huddersfield	73	77	76	70	296	11	David Houlding	Moorlown	78	74	78	78	303	19
Alex Ireland	Birchington Court	80	70	71	74	295	11	Habeedul Islam	Ilwaco	78	72	77	78	303	19
Paul Waring	Felkstone	73	71	74	78	295	11	Adam Frontal	Cockridge Hall	76	73	72	82	303	19
Phil Tomkinson	Dray	73	71	74	78	295	11	Tom Hamson	Notte	78	73	76	77	304	20
Michael Henson	Bishop Auckland	72	76	73	73	296	12	Mike Doble	Reigate Hill	75	75	78	77	305	21
Callum Farr	Priest Hall	74	76	73	74	296	12	Jon Hopkins	Bishop Salford	73	76	78	78	305	21
Alex Fitzpatrick	Hallamshire	76	71	74	77	297	13	Michael Chambers	Overstone Park	78	73	80	80	311	27
Ben Hutchinson	Howley Hall	79	78	76	71	298	14	Luke Northwood	Kenilworth	73	77	78	83	311	27
Ian Kemarigat	Haydock Park	76	78	76	72	298	14	Arrun Singh Brar	Parkstone	78	72	80	82	312	28

The final score board



Mr Clyde Camp - Chairman of the NCGU 2017/18



*Nick Poppleton and David Hague
County Plate Winners - Yorkshire*



*Mr Martin Jobbings
Alwoodley GC Vice-Captain 2017*



David Hague presented by John and Gill Shaw, generous donors of the Championship Trophy

Hearty congratulations to David Hague on winning the 2017 North of England Open Amateur Championship with a great display of skillful and consistent golf.

The organisers and officials of the championship would like to sincerely thank all of those who took part in the fifth running of this event and they look forward to seeing everyone again next year at Alwoodley GC.

A full results sheet for this championship may be found on the NCGU website by accessing the following link :-

https://www.ncgu.co.uk/images/Final_32_scores_2017_N_of_E.pdf

Tim Jackson
On behalf of the Northern Counties Golf Union