

Glorious weather greeted the 180 plus golfers playing in the 2018 Seniors Pairs Open on Friday. With the course in excellent condition considering the poor start to the year; it was left to the vagaries of the greens to sort players out. Golfers from nearly thirty clubs all over the Westcountry met up again to test their skills on Honiton's tight tree lined fairways.

No event of this size can be achieved without a lot of hard work, and many helpers. Great praise was given, and earned, to the many club members who gave up their time to make the Opens such a friendly well organised event – a comment frequently received. Honiton have a lot of people who are prepared to do more than just play golf, and it is to their credit that the result was a really successful day for all. Many members were at the Club for over twelve hours. With final figures still to be defined it is thought that the two draws on the raffle table, raised around £400 and the ladies at the Halfway Hut with their buns and chat, managed to get nearly £200 out of the competitors. All this money will go towards the Seniors contribution to the Devon Link Up charity – jointly chosen this year by the Seniors, Ladies and Club captains.

Praise was also given to the many local businesses and members who sponsored certain holes – with a bottle of wine won for every birdie achieved. Two's were achieved by nearly twenty players – at the 2nd, 7th, 10th and 12th holes – each receiving two sleeves of balls.

The nearest the pin award on the 4th was a success for Geof Rooke of the Cannington Club in Somerset – he being the only golfer of the day to get on the extremely tricky green. Nearest the pin on 12th was won by Geof Taylor from the Folke GC and the Honiton member closest was Keith Lloyd – a fitting farewell as he is shortly off to Scotland. Nearest the cross on the 18th was Mark Ramsden of the Taunton and Pickeridge Club with Peter Blake being nearest of the Honiton players.

The overall winners of the Open were local members Derek Keen and Martin Stockley with their 45 points total – exactly the same as last years winning total. Both fairly new to the Honiton Club, they had teamed up together and will be increasingly involved in the many competitions and matches in the months ahead. Highest place in the visitors part of the prizes were Messrs Steer and Woolacott from the Downes Crediton GC, followed by Schofield and Holbrook of Weymouth – both with 44 points. On 42 points were Stevens and Nicholls of Whitsand Bay, followed by Vickery and Ramsden of Enmore/Taunton with 41 points, the same as Serwata and Cumming of the St Mellion club. The positions in the Honiton part of the prizes were all achieved after count-back rules were invoked – as they all had 43 points. Top came Bill Eaton and Alex Neil, then Club President Max Pipe and Ron Graham, with Vic Wood and Tom Stanton next. Duncan Hepburn and Gerry Bolton were fourth, with Bob Cleal and Jim Wallis fifth.

The next Seniors Open is on July 6th and is a Texas Scramble.

JMP