

Josh storms to another win

Douglas

By KEN TOMLINSON

IN its 113-year history it's doubtful whether the Hutchinson Cup, the oldest golf trophy competed for in the Island, has ever had a younger winner.

15-year-old Josh McHarrie (20) was joint leader after Saturday's first round with a nett 63 and when he carded a 68 in Sunday's second lap for a 131 total it proved good enough for a one-stroke victory.

It capped yet another fine week for the young man who has picked up quite a few prizes over the last month or so. He has also seen his handicap reduced by 12 shots during that time! Taking the runner-up spoils was 2006 winner Neil Harris (5) who was consistent in returning two rounds of 66 nett. Noel McCourt (14) claimed third spot. His nett 70 on Saturday meant that he needed something special on Sunday and he duly delivered with a best-of-the-day 63 for a 133 total. That number was matched by Liam Cowin (5) who had shared the lead with McHarrie after 18 holes but a 70 on Sunday saw him having to settle for fourth after the count-back.

Neil Mackie (7) and Island Championship semi-finalist Stephen Skillicorn (1) continued their recent good form with 134 totals but this time it left them just outside the prizes in joint fifth place. Indeed it was misfortune all round for that branch of the Skillicorn clan. Dad Roy (13) was in bronze medal position after his nett 64 on Saturday but a Sunday to forget saw him slip out of contention.

Given the competition was played in the best weekend weather of the summer so far it was perhaps surprising that Peter Glover's rounds of 70 and 65 were good enough to secure the best gross prize. His 135 total was just one better than the unfortunate Skillicorn Jr. A two in the Hutchinson Cup received a credit of £7.50.

McHarrie had warmed up for his triumph by claiming top spot in the previous Tuesday's clubnight stableford after carding 40 points. Two players, Alex Lambie (8) and Ron Vickers (11), returned 38 points and the card play-off gave the nod to Lambie for second spot. Taking the fourth of the vouchers on offer with 37 points was Tony Quayle (17) leaving Ralph Trigger (12), Ian Beedie (20), Vernon Moore (21) and Paul Howard (23), who all matched the par of 36 points, to reflect on what might have been. A two was worth a credit of £15.

There are two open strokeplay competitions this weekend. The Douglas Town Cup is up for grabs on Saturday and it's the N.C. Corlett Cup on Sunday.

O'Meara wins in memorial

Port St Mary

By POMPO GARRETT

THE happy landlord Pat O'Meara (16) took the spoils in the Neil Cargill Memorial Cup last Sunday.

After a delayed start caused by the mist the winner rolled back the years (quite a number of them actually) to record a rare win. O'Meara's 62 was two shots better than runner-up Decca Kelly's (8) 64 and Para Quirk's (3) 65.

Despite the excellent weather, there were only 18 cards returned with lots of the non-finishers saying they had struggled to readjust to the greens after enjoying the quality of Rowany's during their recent golf week. Steve Worthy was the only person to card a two.

Noticeable absentees last week were Trinny and Susanna, aka Andy McCutcheon and Jason Mulrooney. They decided to play in the morning for a change but, as with a host of others, the mist soon got the better of them.

This week's competition is the annual Captain's Day.

KEB gets Old Tom's seal of approval



One of the Island's oldest and most treasured golf links wins praise from Old Tom Morris enthusiast

King Edward Bay

By RICK FARAGHER

KING Edward Bay Golf Club was given a resounding seal of approval when Old Tom Morris enthusiast Ernie Payne travelled to the Island recently as part of his ongoing quest to play every Morris-designed course in the British Isles and Ireland.

Payne has become something of a golfing celebrity after he recently completed a 23-year quest in playing every one of Scotland's 578 golf courses, with a scorecard from each to prove it.

Not long had he finished this mammoth mission when the Scotsman decided to undertake a new, broader challenge in playing all of Old Tom's courses through Scotland, Isle of Man, Ireland, England and Guernsey to commemorate the centenary of the golfing legend's death.

The challenge has been spearheaded by Old Tom's great-great-grandson Melvyn Hunter Morrow who is hoping to use Payne's latest charge to help raise funds for a bronze statue of the St Andrew's icon to be built and placed on the Old Course.

As well as playing the Onchan venue Payne had completed rounds at the other two Morris designs in the Island - Castletown and Ramsey — which sparked further praise from the enthusiast.

However, it was the eastern venue that generated the most excitement for Payne as he paid testament to the current layout, saying the old links was a 'true and honest reflection of how the four-times Open champion wanted a golf course to be.' The tricky, firm greens coupled with the narrow and undulating fairways that King Edward Bay possesses still hold firm the values of long-established links golf and creates a golfing arena teeming with the essence of tradition.

During his brief visit to King Edward Bay Payne was greeted by club captain Neil Kinrade and chairman of Golf and Leisure Peter Gough who presented him with a history of the course and club sweater. The visitor was then also invited to play in the usual Wednesday evening clubnight where playing partner, 2008 captain and long-

standing member Kinrade elaborated on the colourful history of one of the Island's proudest clubs.

In 1892 the creation of the new Electric Railway line from Derby Castle to Groudle sparked the idea for a new nine-hole golf course to be built to add to the growing tourist interest the Island was generating. The clubmaker and 'keeper of greens' at St Andrew's Old Tom Morris was engaged to design the course and the beginnings of Howstrake Golf Club were born.

A year later the course was temporarily closed to allow the Port Jack and Royal Avenue area to be developed but just 12 months later Dr Farrell, a local golfer, found an area of ground near Groudle suitable for

the best courses at that time and regular competitions with prizes totalling £70 attracted players from the UK.

By the turn of the century the collapse of Dumbells Bank had disastrous consequences for the development company and the Douglas Bay Hotel. Two years later a Mr Prestwich took over the course on an eight-year lease, reduced it to nine holes and ran it privately. This was also the same year King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra visited the area, resulting in the road being changed from Marine Drive to King Edward Road.

The economic slump caused by the First World War effected the club greatly, but this was overcome by the 1920s as a new 18-

owner of the Howstrake Estate Mr L. L. Corkill supported the members' passionate fight against this.

In 1966 the club took over the remaining two years of the Corkill lease and Harold Jones operated the course, a position that he held for nearly 20 years assisted by his family and stalwarts.

Ramsey developer Manor Investments purchased the club in 1970 and the club received a 'notice to quit' two years later, which it was forced to accept.

In 1974, following intense negotiations with Manor Investments and much hard work by the committee including John Davies and his father, Colin Quayle, Ron Kelly, John Jones, Dave Moore, Roy Gilbert, Harold Jones and many others, the course was back in business and club spirit was rising once more.

The course was unveiled in a new 55-acre site with 13 holes, Harold Jones continued in charge and a year later Jack Peddar opened the new first hole (now the 10th) having constructed the green himself with a spade and wheelbarrow.

By the early 1980s the club wished to purchase the course off Manor Investments but found the asking price too high.

However, in 1984 a consortium of nine local businessmen headed by Peter Gough formed Golf and Leisure and purchased the course, built a grand new clubhouse and gave new life to the treasured club. The facility was opened in 1987 and the club was renamed King Edward Bay Golf Club in 1989. It was at this time Harold Jones retired from his role and local man Roy Moore was appointed as head greenkeeper.

By 1991 the course had been restored to its full 18 holes and ever since has gone from strength to strength, thanks largely to the tireless efforts of Peter Gough and present head greenkeeper Brian Duggan.

While the course has endured some testing times over the last 116 years its current condition and club environment is a testament to the resolute and spirited nature of its members today and from times gone by. No doubt, 100 years on from his death, Old Tom is still applauding a golf course that has been the embodiment of the demanding and brave nature of links golf, just as he would have wanted.



PROUD MOMENT: Golf and Leisure's Peter Gough (left) and 2008 King Edward Bay captain Neil Kinrade (right) welcome Ernie Payne to the course during his visit

a new 18 holes and, together with George Lowe, Old Tom got to work on designing the Onchan course once more.

A new timber-framed and iron covered clubhouse was erected behind what is now the 15th green with a fine view over Douglas Bay and was one of the first public buildings in the Island to have electric lighting.

It is recorded that the initial Howstrake membership was 60 with the annual fee being one guinea or 10 shillings and sixpence for non-residents.

By 1896 Howstrake was said to be one of

hole, 150-acre course was revealed. Howstrake Golf Club prospered and in 1929 the British and Irish Ryder Cup team, including Henry Cotton, came over to play a 54-hole tournament at Howstrake, Port-Chee and Fort Anne.

In 1948 the club hosted the Island Championship for the first time as the course yet again prepared to enter a period of great transitional change where a 10-year lease to the owners of the Majestic Hotel would see the course become run-down. By 1965 the Majestic wanted to again reduce the course to nine holes but