



Sant Jordi Newsletter

No 12/08.

Welcome to the End of Year Review of the Anglo Catalan Sant Jordi Golf Society Newsletter.

LATEST NEWS

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A great turnout of 35 hearty souls braved the cool conditions to face the music. Playing in initially difficult conditions the course bathed by the first rays of sunlight bloomed into its full splendor and glory. The temporary greens were mostly switched to make the course as near as possible 'normal' and clearly there were those that reveled in the conditions to make final challenges for top honors.

As always a special thanks to the Jordi and his team of Green Keepers who tried to give us the best of the conditions as the day drew on and I think managed just that. A good effort and well deserved praise to the staff that makes our event so enjoyable each month.

WELCOME TO:

A Special welcome to several new players. In Category A we welcomed Jordi Valldeneu, Mario Salamanca, Josep Canet & Danie Medina and in Category B Ruud Karlsdorp & Jose Fernandez. Welcome to the Sant Jordi Golf Society and we look forward to having a round with you all in the near future.

THE DECEMBER EVENT

Taking the event to Montanya in December was a risk and in the main we all had a great day. We were lucky with the weather and some of us were even in shirtsleeves towards the end of play. The snowy Montseny Mountains made a perfect backdrop for the display of talent and daring that was to take place and it was great to see new winners in both categories. There are loads of nice photos on the web, so why not take a look?

CATEGORY A (Handicap 0-17.9)

The top honors this month went to Jordi Valldeneu who on his first outing with us played very consistently to score 38 nett points. Jordi who had birdies on the two par 3 holes in the first nine, chipping in on both occasions has a great short game and handled the course well showing great management off the tee. Second was David Coote with 38 and sadly losing out on handicap to Jordi and third was for Emiliano Garcia with 37. So you can see Just one point between the top 3 and only 5 between the top 10. There was some pretty competitive play from all. Well done to you all and let's see if you can keep it up in the New Year.

Order of Merit Category A (Handicap 0-17.9)

(NOW ALL PUBLISHED ON THE WEB PAGE) – Please remember that only those players in the top 20 of each Category (or have played in a minimum of 6 events) after the October tournament can score Order of Merit points in Nov and December. See section below for full annual details.

CATEGORY B (Handicap 18 and above)

This was another competitive month with the top 8 all breaking par for the day and the top two scoring in the mid 40s. Top position and taking his first win after a deserved and steady round was Paul Smith. Paul scored 45 points and hit par or

thereabouts on all but 3 holes. It was great to see this result for one of the hardest workers on the tour. Nice one Paul. Hot on his heels in second place was Wolfgang Finkbeiner who has now settled in to what appears to be a high scoring role. Wolfgang is a great guy to have in the group and is another very regular scorer taking a fine birdie y on the 5th hole on his way to 44 points which would but for Paul's great play have taken home the bacon. Third with 39 points was Ralph Griffin on his 'winter tour of Europe' Now Ralph has been putting in some good performances of late and well deserved his position among the elite. Thanks for the fine show and let the 'show' begin for 2009.

Order of Merit Category B (Handicap 18 and above)

(NOW ALL PUBLISHED ON THE WEB PAGE) See section below for full annual details.

Par Busters Classification

It is nice to reward the 'sharpshooters' with this classification, so go for it boys (and girls). This classification is for gross birdies and eagles so no handicaps come into play. The final results this year placed Roger Hunger in the winner's circle with 10 under Par followed by a tie with 9 under between Adrian Cox and Albert Sant.

A ROUND WITH ADRIAN

Now it's payback time for the three poor souls in my group. I had the pleasure of partnering 'Lefty', Michael Robson, Jordi Valldeneu and Josep Canet. We will deal with them all individually.

It was the first time I have partnered Jordi who is a fine 8 handicap. He is very steady off the tee and missed very few fairways with his demon hybrid that he hits quite long. His intentions were made quite clear on the second hole where he chipped in for 2 from just off the green repeating the shot on the 6th. He putts well and clearly off 8 will figure highly in the 2009 Order of Merit.

Josep Canet is another good partner off 12 and also pretty good with the putter and mid irons. Sadly, like me off the tee things were not working and this placed him lower in the 'pecking order'. Nice pars on the 8th and 17th, two of the most difficult holes gave me the impression that the best is still to be seen and we look forward to seeing results in the fine weather of the New Year.

'Lefty' Michael Robson had what I call and 'on-off' round missing out on 3 holes caused by unlucky results from what appeared to be great tee shots. The rest of the round consisted of 6 pars but no birdies (which we are accustomed to see from Michael). Still 32 points was not a bad effort on just 14 holes and a winning score could have resulted from those missed points. Mike did have some great recovery shots reminiscent of Seve in his better days so in all not a bad effort.

Now I was set for making a challenge for the top spot in the Order of Merit after the win last month. It did not happen and with 31 points off 14 holes my round was somewhat akin to that of Michael. I was running on hope...Hope that Simon Green and David Coot and to some extent Graham Nash were suffering a similar fate... Alas it was not to be. The only glory was a birdie on the 13th and the low spots a 4 putt on the 12th after hitting the green in 2 and three in the water on the 10th.





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THE ORDER OF MERIT

We shall deal with the Order of Merit in the two categories.

Before the event Category A saw the Roger Hunger leading with 286 points followed by Adrian Cox on 270, Simon Green on 267, David Coote on 266 and Graham Nash on 254. With a good performance any of these had options of winning and it is pleasing to see that all 5 scored above 28 points. 31 belonged to me and I dropped to 4th, Graham scored 34 and closed the gap but stayed in 5th, place. From here we saw Simon fire a solid 34 which kept him in third place. The second spot was for Roger who signed in for a 28 and must have been disappointed after losing out on winners spot last year so I expect to see him in top form next year. First spot went to David Coote who scored 38 off his 15 handicap. David rocketed up from 4th to first and has shown great skill throughout the year and on merits deserves the top spot. Well done to all and we look forward to next year and hope it is as close as this.

THE 2009 SCORING SYSTEM

I have also done a comparison using next year's scoring system and the results compare favorably with this. David would still have won. There have been several suggestions for change between these we have had the following suggestions:

- Use the Stapleford points to count the total for the OOM.
- Use the Stapleford points plus a win bonus
- Use the points difference between 1st and second plus a win bonus, then 2nd and third, etc. etc.
- Remove the lunch bonus
- Take the best 10 of 14 results
- Limit the cat B handicap to 30

Let's deal with them individually:

1. A good idea but this does not account for winter months and varying weather conditions. If I play my 10 scoring events in fine weather I may score better than those who play in snow and ice on temp greens.
2. A suggestion from a long standing member. I like this one and would like a member vote.
3. A new idea. This would remove the weather lottery by using the relative difference between places in addition to the win bonus.
4. Remove the lunch bonus. NO we want to include this to promote camaraderie and the ideal of having a full day out with friends in the group. So this is staying.
5. Take only 10 of the 12 results. A favorite of many which I want to use next year. (We would take the top 13 scores from the 16 events in the 2009-2010 year with the final event being in April.
6. Limit the Category B handicap to 30 before slope. How do you feel about this?

So you can see plenty to think about. Which is your preference? We have until the January event to vote. So please let me know your preference by e-mail. My wish is to have the system in place that you as participants, friends and members want. Drop me a line with your views and / or your proposals. I know we cannot please all the guys all the time but a consensus would be best. It is after all your society.

SNAPS FROM THE EVENT

Following are some photos from the event. Hope you enjoy them:



The Snowy Montseny



David Coote getting in some pitching practice before the event



Roy Waters preparing for the icy conditions.. He did well





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David Minshaw eyeing the pin



Roy with his approach to the 9th?????????



Cazadors de Bollets (Where is granny?)



This level of the lake rose after swallowing 3 of my balls...A good place for a multi-storage car park if you ask me.



Order of Merit Winner Cat A – David Coote



Roy Waters came a close second.





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Simon Green took third with a fine display



Followed closely by Derek Simes



The Order of Merit trophies 2008



And Jeroni Matutes in Third



Roy Waters Cat B winner and best performance of the year with a record score.



Cat A tournament winner, Jordio Valldeu with 38 points of an 8 handicap.. Well done Jordi.





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And a delighted Paul Smith with a fine 45 points took the cat B First place. Nice going Paul.

THE ANNUAL REVIEW

The year was interesting for several reasons; we took the Hanslope trophy from the team so masterfully captained by Phil Canale. His team were holders of the trophy and we expect to have our hands full in March for the return match in Montanya. The top 8 in the order of merit get automatic selection for the team (Top 4 in each category) plus the captain's choices. So you had better buy Graham plenty of beers before then!

We had our first trip to play Carnoustie and Crail and it was so enjoyable that we plan to go to Saint Andrews again at the end of June. See the web for details. Hopefully we can play Hanslope there.

We completed the second year of the Order of Merit and also played Steve Watsons selection in Costa Brava.

The web page finally took off and is working relatively well with correspondence with the British Society, The Burns Club, The Witty Walkers and Sponsors.

We have had a great relationship with all our sponsors. Some we have lost some we have gained but we owe our gratitude to all of them and without their assistance we could not operate and hold the events we do. Please take a look at their slots in the web page.

THANKS TO

A Special thanks to Mike Thom for his efforts in making the Saint Andrews Event such a success, Graham Nash for organising and liaising with all the members and colleagues, for providing us with a never ending source of good humour and cheerfulness and finally to all of you for making the society what it is today.

Important

Please also note that all details or changes will be on the web. If you have any doubts about whether or not the event will take place. Check the web and read your e-mails BEFORE Thursday.

www.santjordigolf.com

If you can play, why not call Graham or mail me with your confirmation beforehand.

IN CLOSING

In order for the system to work, I need all your e-mails..I am still short of some so if you have one. Please let me have it.

Could you all pass me your addresses by mail at the following?

Adrian@santjordigolf.com

The shop. This is the next project, I need to contact our textile sponsors to get a deal for these and we hope to have a 15th Anniversary Polo and Sweater coming soon. It will be spectacular so if you want this please drop me a line to show your interest. Prices will be competitive.

Editors Note (me again):

DON'T FORGET THAT IF YOU STAY FOR LUNCH YOU GET A TWO POINT BONUS. IF YOU DO NOT THIS IS DEDUCTED FROM YOUR ORDER OF MERIT TOTAL (A DIFFERENCE OF 4 POINTS). OUR PHILOSOPHY IS TO HAVE A GREAT DAY WITH COLLEAGUES. NEXT YEAR THE BONUS WILL BE 5 POINTS MAKING A 10 POINT DIFFERENCE SO LET'S GET OUR AGENDAS SORTED AND RESERVE THE DAY. ALL THE DATES ARE PUBLISHED WELL IN ADVANCE AND ARE NOW ON THE WEB.

There is plenty of space for your publicity which is placed free of charge (except for a small donation for prizes at the St Andrews and December Order of Merit events).

Sant Jordi Newsletter would welcome your comments to improve the presentation and content. It is a nonprofit making newsletter, so my apologies for any omissions or typographical errors. If you wish to have your company logo and description included please drop me a mail on: eagle@ slicer.jazztel.es.

See you all in January at Vilalba

Regards

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Why not join us? Drop us a line and enjoy a great day in the company of new friends playing golf with the Anglo Catalan Sant Jordi Golf Society at the Magnificent Osona Montanya Golf Club. Full details on our web:

www.santjordigolf.com

