



The 2018 Lytham Trophy

The conditions for the 2018 Lytham Trophy were somewhat unknown with an average temperature of 17 degrees and just a 7mph breeze over the 3 days. Competitors took full advantage of the weather with 17 scores under par over the opening 2 rounds. In comparison, there were just 6 scores under par in all 4 rounds in both 2016 & 2017.

Round 1 was set a light by Billy McKenzie of Rowlands Castle Golf Club who recorded a 4 under par 66 which included 6 birdies. He followed his opening 66 up with a round of 74 to end the 36 hole cut on level par, but by the end of the 2nd day, 2017 Walker Cup Player Matthew Jordan had risen to the top of the leaderboard dropping just 4 shots during his opening 36 holes. He did however offset these with 8 birdies to finish on a total score of 136, and in doing so took a 2 shot lead over Mitch Waite and Sweden's David Nyfjall into the final days play.

The 3rd round again saw fantastic scoring conditions, but the course presented a difficult challenge with only 2 players breaking par. Tiarnon McLarnon of Massareene Golf Club and Andrew Wilson of Darlington Golf Club both shot a 1 under par 69. Tiarnon produced one of the rounds of week went he went bogey free, until dropping his only shot at the 18th hole. Jordan's nearest challenger and playing partner Mitch Waite, put together a fantastic 18 holes of golf scoring a level par 70 which comprised of 2 birdies and 2 bogeys. Jordan however completed the 1st 14 holes in 2 under par and looked unflappable, but the next 3 holes saw his drop 3 shots. In true fighting spirit, Jordan hit the 18th fairway before hitting a superb wedge into 5 feet on the 18th hole to complete his round with a birdie and signing for a level par 70.

Retaining his 2 shot lead, Jordan continue his birdie streak when he birdied the par 3 1st to take a 3 shot lead. Things for Jordan only got started there picking further shots up at the 8th, 13th, and 14th to take a sizable lead. The only drop shot in an almost perfect round came at the par 4 15th, but was quickly followed up with a birdie 3 at the 16th. Although the scoring did not reflect it, Mitch Waite gave Jordan a good challenge for the trophy posted a level par 34 on the outward 9.

A huge credit must go to Matthew Jordan for posting the winning score of 8 under par, the lowest winning margin since 2004, and in doing so became the winner of the 54th Lytham Trophy.



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