

## McKechnie magic shines through the storm

**T**he April storms caused havoc in the Kingdoms capital with severe flooding and major disruption suffered by many. However the staff of Arizona golf resort worked really hard and managed to open the course to host the RGBB/ 20 club singles championship on April 16<sup>th</sup>. A field of 50 players competed in wet conditions for the amazing prizes offered by the sponsors BMI, Moevenpick hotels, Sheraton hotels and Almarai.

With the course obviously very wet it was assumed that low scoring would be difficult due to the difference in the speed of the greens and the lush rough. However these assumptions were way off target as a record number of players shot well under the course par of 68. In fact the scoring for the main net championship (score after the players handicap is deducted) was so tight that a score worse than 9 under par did not get you close to a prize.

Shooting a net 59 (9 under par) but just missing out on the prizes were Rich Hare, Rocky Williams and Jan Hamren. In 4<sup>th</sup> place with a 59 was Scott Cummings. 3<sup>rd</sup> went to Tony Lyons who also shot a 59. Tony's birdie on the 18<sup>th</sup> and final hole proving the difference between 3<sup>rd</sup> place and being out of the prizes altogether. In 2<sup>nd</sup> place with a net 57 (11 under par) was Casey Blatch from Almarai. In first place with an RGBB record 17 under par (51 net) was Riyadh banks Andy McKechnie.

The winner of the gross competition (actual score shot) was also tight with Sam Montgomery's birdie on the 18<sup>th</sup> edging out Donal Lynch on a count back.

After receiving his trophy and numerous prizes, which included a meal for 4 at the Sheraton and a return flight to the UK on BMI Andy, said, " I am absolutely delighted to have won this event. There are some great players

here and I really did not think that I would have been in the running'.

Andy's win is all the more remarkable as this event took place on the weekend that the Icelandic volcano eruption caused travel chaos throughout Europe. Andy was actually on the last BMI flight that got out of the UK before the skies where closed.

On receiving his gross winners trophy and prizes Sam Montgomery went on to say, " I am really pleased to have won this event and amazed at the prizes on offer. With quality players such as Donal in the field I really did not think I had done enough to win the event.

There were also spot prizes for this event which were:  
 Longest putt on hole 6 – won by Rich Hare  
 Nearest to the pin on hole 9 – won by Monica Schiffer  
 Nearest to the pin on hole 3 – won by Graham Walker  
 Nearest to the pin on hole 2 – won by Howard Davies.  
 Howard remains the only person ever to score a hole in one in an RGBB event and was only inches away from repeating this rare feat with his effort on hole number 2.

The RGBB would like to thank sponsors BMI, Sheraton hotels, and Moevenpick hotels. We would also like to thank Arizona golf course for staging this event in challenging conditions as well Rich Hare for providing the amazing BBQ that was enjoyed by all. Our thanks go to 20 club President Rick Belcher and Vice President Finlay Graham for arranging this event and we look forward to working with them again in future tournaments.

Keep checking your emails over the coming months for more upcoming events. If you have an idea or request for an event please email sports co-ordinator Gary Richardson at richardsonksa@hotmail.co.uk

