



Cyprus Amateur Men's Open 2017

Press Release

22 May 2017

Cyprus Amateur Men's golf trophy goes to Malta

Despite an ominous weather forecast and eyes constantly on the lookout for lighting, the first two days of the Cyprus Amateur Men's Open were concluded without any break in play. This popular event was organized by Cyprus Golf Federation (CGF) and hosted by Aphrodite Hills GC – this was the fifteenth such Open, attracting entries from 15 countries. The main sponsor of this event is Cyprus Tourist Organisation (CTO).

The winds which kept away the worst weather made conditions very difficult for the players on Saturday. Leading at that point were Marcus Toennesen, from Germany and Ryan Staykov, from Bulgaria, both two shots ahead of JJ Micallef from Malta. Close behind were local player Andrew Halifax from Elea GC, and a former winner of the Cyprus Amateur Men's Open, Rachid Akl from Lebanon.

Of note on Friday was a hole in one scored by Luke Pepper from Episkopi GC, on the 12th par 3 – Luke was unlucky not to have had his hole in one on Sunday at the fifth hole as he missed out on the €10,000 travel voucher offered by CGF.

Sunday witnessed beautiful conditions, with a very close finish. With one hole to go, JJ Micallef (handicap of +3.2) was one shot ahead of Andrew Halifax, after a two-shot swing on the seventeenth hole, birdied by Andrew Halifax. Andrew missed a birdie putt on hole eighteen, which may well have forced a play-off. However, JJ Micallef held his nerve on the last hole to win by one shot. In his short speech, the Winner thanked CGF for the well-organized event, and Aphrodite Hills for the excellent course condition.

There were a number of subsidiary prizes as listed below – presented by Stelios Patsalides (CGF Vice President) and Maro Kazepi (Golf Coordinator, CTO).

A special presentation was made to Peter Greenwood-Jones who is retiring from CGF to return to England after serving for over ten years as Chairman of Handicaps and Rules, and also as a Member of the CGF Competitions Committee.

Next year's Cyprus Amateur Men's Open will be hosted by Eléa Estate GC on May 18-20, 2018.

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Champion 2017	MICHALLEF, JJ (MLT) 219 / 71-78-70
Runner Up	HALIFAX, Andrew (GBR) 220 / 77-75-68
Third Place	TOENNESSEN, Marcus (GER) 220 / 75-71-74
Division 1 Gross Winner	STOYKOV, Ryan (BUL) 226 / 70-76-80
Division 1 Net Winner	PEPPER, Luke (GBR) 210 / 70-70-70
Division 2 Gross Winner	PITIRIS, Nikolas (CYP) 242 / 83-85-74
Division 2 Net Winner	CLARKE, Steve (GBR) 217 / 81-70-66
Day 1 Net Winner	TOTH, Janos (HUN) 69
Day 2 Net Winner	MICHAELIDES, Savvas (CYP) 71
Day 3 Net Winner	MAGZHANOV, Alex (RUS) 71
Best Junior - Gross	ZAVACZKI, Balint (HUN) 221 / 73-76-72
Best Junior - Net	LILLEVALI, Edgar (EST) 222 / 72-73-77



Champion 2017 - JJ Michallef (Malta)

Pictured with Maro Kazepi, CTO Representative



Left to right: Stelios Patsalides (CGF, Vice President), Luke Pepper (Great Britain), Marcus Toennesen (Germany), Andrew Halifax (Great Britain), JJ Michalief (Malta), Maro Kazepi (CTO Representative), Ryan Stoykov (Bulgaria), Theodoros Michael (Cyprus), Nikolas Pitiris (Cyprus), Steve Clarke (Great Britain), Janos Toth (Hungary), Balint Zavaczki (Hungary)

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