

SSGS Matchplay Final Report

Gordon MacDonald (Glenbervie) added to his impressive collection of titles with a fine win in the Scottish senior amateur match-play championship at Stirling Golf Club, beating Muir Townsley (Dumfries and County) by one hole in a close and absorbing final.

In the morning's semi-final, Gordon beat the formidable John Fraser (Royal Burgess) by 4 and 3 with an impressive 3 under par performance. Muir started impressively against Laurie Chancellor (Inverness), who unfortunately had to retire after seven holes due to a back injury, at which point Muir was three up.

After a long and gruelling week neither finalist played quite as well in the final. Muir won the sixth and seventh holes to go two up before Gordon won the ninth to turn one down. Gordon then had to hole a tricky 8 foot putt on the tenth to avoid going two down, which gave him some encouragement and he then levelled the match by winning the 12th hole.

Muir went one up again by winning the 15th but, immediately and perhaps fatally, surrendered his advantage with a poor tee shot at the next hole.

Sensing his chance on a course of which he was at one time a member, Gordon then hit two fine shots just short of the last green and made birdie to go ahead for the first time in the match.

This was one title which had previously eluded him although he was runner-up to Muir's clubmate, Ian Brotherston in 2011.