

THOMAS TELFORD TROPHY 2021



ICE London Region had the privilege of hosting the 35th Thomas Telford Trophy at West Hill Golf Club on 5th and 6th September 2021. It was a particular pleasure to welcome the players to West Hill after the enforced cancellation in 2020 due to Covid-19.

West Hill is one of the well-known courses clustered around Woking built in outstanding Surrey golfing country and happily endowed by nature with sandy soil which makes it a pleasure to play all year round. The course may not be long by modern standards but hazards abound in the form of heather to be carried from the tees and bordering the fairways, strategically placed bunkers, numerous trees and a stream. An outstanding feature is the testing quality of the second shots to subtly contoured greens. It is currently rated 73 in the Golf Monthly Top 100 Courses. The major event of the year at West Hill is the "Father and Son" Matchplay Foursomes tournament held there since it was inaugurated in 1931 and this year played just a few weeks before our visit. The course was in truly excellent condition and we were blessed with glorious weather to match.

The team from Northern Ireland (Stuart McQueen, Edward Bill, Jonny McIlwaine and Ben Adair) rose to the challenge of West Hill with excellent scores in each round and won the Thomas Telford Trophy with a total of 226 points. Second were London North (Dino Nicola, Roger North, Peter Stevenson and Norman Schunter) with 213 and Third were West Midlands (Steve Brookbanks, Peter Watson, Chris Uren and Richard Green) with 210 points.

In the St Andrews Foursomes Edward Bill and Jonny McIlwaine (Northern Ireland) won with 43 points from Steve Miles and Russell Calderwood (South East) on 42 and Peter Stevenson and Norman Schunter (London North) in 3rd on 41 points. In the Singles competition Ben Adair (Northern Ireland) prevailed with 40 points from Jonny McIlwaine (also Northern Ireland) on 37, winning on count back from Neil Williams. The Scott Quaich for lowest gross score was won by Debbie Hay-Smith (East of Scotland) with 28 points playing off a handicap of 6. The Veterans' Chilterns Salver returned to Northern Ireland, being won by Jack McFarland, 28 points, on countback from David Thomas and Stewart Dunmore.

At the Tournament Dinner on the Monday evening West Hill Golf Club were represented by Ken Marchant, a Past Captain of the Club and a player in the first ten Thomas Telford Trophies when he was a Director of the Institution. He spoke about the welcome he received from Club members when he first joined WHGC and gave us an equally warm welcome.

The Institution was represented by David Balmforth, Past President and recently elected as Chair of The Civil Engineers' Club. He thanked Ken for his welcome and encouraged us to support CEC activities and promote the Thomas Telford Trophy, before later presenting the main trophies. Also in attendance was Yan Zhou, the London Region Representative on ICE Council.

The London ICE organising committee comprised Dino Nicola, Neil Farmer, Peter Stevenson, Norman Schunter, Ian Purser, and Martyn Taylor. They were ably assisted on the day by Andy Salmon, Anne and Ken Duguid and Paul Musgrave who helped everything run smoothly. Main event sponsorship was very generously provided by Bechtel, Tony Gee and Partners, BAM Nuttall and CEC with further support from Mott MacDonald, Canham Consulting and Jubb.

Next year West of Scotland Region will host the 36th Thomas Telford Trophy at Glasgow Gables Golf Club on Monday 5th September 2022.

Prize Winners

Thomas Telford Trophy

- 1st Northern Ireland – 226 points
- 2nd London North – 213 points
- 3rd West Midlands – 210 points

St Andrew's Foursomes

- 1st Jonny McIlwaine and Edward Bill (Northern Ireland)
- 2nd Steve Miles and Russell Calderwood (South East)
- 3rd Peter Stevenson and Norman Schunter (London North)

Singles

- 1st Ben Adair (Northern Ireland)
- 2nd Jonny McIlwaine (Northern Ireland)
- 3rd Neil Williams (Wales)

Scott Quaich

- 1st Debbie Hay-Smith (East of Scotland)

Veterans – Chiltern Salver

- 1st Jack McFarland (Northern Ireland)



David Balmforth with the winning
Northern Ireland Team



Foursomes winners
Jonny McIlwaine and Edward Bill



Ken Marchant with Singles
winner Ben Adair



Scott Quach winner
Debbie Hay-Smith



Veterans winner Jack McFarland

Photos by Dino Nicola