



Sant Jordi Newsletter

200th Event

Web page: www.santjordigolf.com sponsored by:

WELCOME



September 2011



Welcome to the September newsletter which redacts the historic events of the 200th Sant Jordi Tournament played over the course at Montanya in ideal conditions. Over the years we have seen something of the order of 200 or so participants in these events and it was nice to see so many of the 'founder' members whose ideas and agreement brought Sant Jordi into existence all those years ago at Vallromanes Golf Club at the annual British Chamber of Commerce event. Details about that historic moment are recorded in the web page for all to see and we were delighted to welcome back to Sant Jordi three players who travelled from overseas to be with us and whose fortunes varied but all commented that it was great to be back among old friends. The event was a huge success with the best prizes and above all the best atmosphere I think we have ever had. Nearly all of the guys were equipped with the commemorative shirt for the traditional photograph on the steps of the course. For those players who unfortunately could not be with us a stock of shirts is available for collection. Contact or email Graham on graham.nash@gmail.com to place your request.





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These shirts are in part sponsored by Jonathan Goodman and Richard Rose from the Spectrum IFA Group, so we thank them and Spectrum IFA for their assistance which has allowed us to keep the cost down. A special mention for the kindness offered to our group by all the staff at Montanya. We took over the course on Thursday occupying 15 of the 18 tees and I am convinced you will all agree that the course was magnificent and aesthetically pleasing to the eye (As it is every month). One is compelled to add that the dedication being put in to the club since the present management is in place has developed Montanya into a course of such a high level that it can be difficult to concentrate on the golf. Thanks and our appreciation for their efforts goes to Jordi, Juan, Ivan and the Restaurant Staff and management for their efforts to accommodate us every month.

So with 64 players taking the start in this important event (broken down 24 in Category A and 40 in Category B) there was sure to be some 'fireworks' on the course and so it proved. More of that later but for now suffice to say that birdies were flowing and passions were to the forefront both on and off the course as you can read a little later in the newsletter. By popular vote, double points were available for the event making this a 'cannot miss' event.

We were delighted to welcome back several of the elder statesmen of Sant Jordi, some have travelled, some have aged but all were geared up or greased up (all assure me that no Viagra or Ralgex was required) and raring to go for the 10am shotgun start (Air horn). They are of course, Kevin Livsey, Clive Callahan, Dave Goss, Michael Witty, Pere Leonart, Phillip Strange, Peter Gaunt and Manel Sastre and from overseas, Rhodri James, Geoff Harrison and Edwin Hebink (The last three didn't need drugs to get them going). And we were delighted to welcome several players to Sant Jordi and encourage them all to bring friends with them for their next visit in October. They are: Andy Gordon, Jose Estebanell, Gilbert Agaraci, Joaquim Jover, Jose Fernandez and Josep Pedrals. The event was followed by a magnificent lunch with exquisite flavours served up by the L'estanyol restaurant before the prize giving.



So with all the ingredients for a memorable day and after the formalities were completed all 64 took to the course to put their skills to the test. Mixed results came back to the clubhouse some 4 and a half hours later....Read On.





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Category A (0-17.9 before slope)

Twenty Four players were gridlocked in combat for the Bronze Sant Jordi trophy but surprisingly only 4 of these scored 36 points or better. They were in reverse order, in fourth with 36 the present leader of Category A in the spectrum IFA Order of Merit, David Coote who knocked 9 pars in his round but despite this 'herculean' effort he lost out elsewhere on the course. Nine pars aren't bad. In third place also with 36 (but a lower handicap than Dave) was Iain Morwood. Iain scored eight pars to take the spot and as is customary was very regular all the way round. So 1 Second spot with a 4 point advantage over Iain a welcome return to form from Michael Robson saw him put 40 points on the board and some great OOM points. Michael hit his 40 with a combination of birdies on the 2nd, 6th and 14th (three of the 4 par 3's -Wow!) and 5 pars producing some really impressive golf (Note: Only Andy Gordon scored more birdies with 5 on the second nine holes). This was a hard fought battle and in top spot three points clear of Michael was Rhodri James. Rhodri was on form and although using borrowed clubs, his 43 was unbeatable today and with a combination of 9 pars and a very 'regular bag' on the other 9 he was able to keep the dragon flying high. Well done to all four for their superlative efforts.



Here Rhodri, Michael and Ian collect their prizes for first, second and third places respectively. Well done all three.

Category B (18 and over before Slope)

Category B was disputed and equally exciting with 40 players on the starting grid. 13 players equalled or bettered par (well done group) and produced a competent level all round with the top 24 all bettering 30 points. 40 points would place you in fourth spot and that honour went to Ian Robertson with 6 pars and some regular scoring everywhere else. In third position with 41 points scoring seven pars was Albert Sant and in a tremendous fight with what he must have thought would be a winning score of 44 was David Goss. David scored 5 pars and birdied two, the 5th and 13th (both par 5's) But for the efforts of Xavier Pitarque who blasted 49 points he would have won. 'Every dog has his day'. Today it was Xavier's turn and in impeccable style the 'dashing' Català honed down the trophy and blasted his way through the field to take top spot. It is great to see the elder statesmen win now and then so one of the longest supporters of Sant Jordi walked off with the bronze trophy after hitting a single par and some extraordinary play all the way round with 13 under par net. Some superlative golf on a wonderful day.



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Xavier, David and Albert collecting their prizes after some superlative golf around the Montanya course.

So that leaves the remaining prizes which were for the nearest the flag on the four par threes and the longest drive on the 18th hole.

Drive on the 18th hole



As I was strolled near the 18th and saw the marker on the fairway, I thought that nobody would have any trouble getting beyond the marker. However, there was a stiff breeze against and as the groups went through nobody was able to even challenge the tremendous drive 'bludgeoned' down the fairway by Ian Robertson. This drive was 20m beyond anything produced by the other competitors in the group so it was very much deserved.

The nearest the flag on the 2nd, 6th & 14th



Nearest the pins, Peter, Michael and David hit in some accurate irons to take the first three prizes.



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The nearest the flag on the 17th



The prize on the 17th was won by one of our new incorporations. Andy Gordon has recently arrived in Spain and as a PGA member did what 'needed to be done' to take the wine back to the table. Andy will be offering a golf clinic in November before the Saint Andrew's Major Trophy on warm up techniques (among other themes) so we look forward to that (He also hit those previously mentioned 5 birdies on the second 9 holes). Welcome to Sant Jordi and well done Andy who is opening a Sports Performance Center which is conveniently located in Sant Cugat. www.sportsperformancecenter.es



The traditional Sans and Sans Fine tea Merchants Voucher will this year be awarded to the winner of each category on alternate months. This prize courtesy of Alexandra Witty is a long standing award from one of the most esteemed and historic 'colonists' of Barcelona, The Witty family were first established here in the 19th century and have always been at the forefront of Catalan sport and industry. Their link with the founding of FC Barcelona is particularly highlighted this week with the Champions title (Michael & Freddy Witty are also founder members of Sant Jordi) and we give our continued thanks to Alexandra at Sans I Sans for her monthly support of Sant Jordi.



Golfs Us have donated some really great prizes for our events and today their top prize was won by Biel Garriga in the sorteo. Biel took home the magnificent Taylormade Putter.

The prize was presented on behalf of Golf'us by Marc Cox





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Double point's equals possible seismic activity in the classification of the Spectrum IFA Group Order of Merit. So how did you fare in the ratings?

The Spectrum IFA Order of Merit (2011-2012)



Category A (Top 10)



- First Place: David Coote with 1787 points
- Second Place: Iain Morwood with 1392 points
- Third Place: Josep Maria Comas with 1340 points
- Fourth Place: Steve Watson with 1206 points
- Fifth Place: Ralph Griffin with 1138 points
- Sixth Place: Albert Sant with 1109 points
- Seventh Place: Michael Robson with 1061 points
- Eighth Place: Dani Medina with 1038 points
- Ninth Place: Marc Cox with 1028 points
- Tenth Place: Juan Maestro with 1019 points

Category B (Top 10)



- First Place: Xavier Pitarque with 1598 points
- Second Place: Mark Mills with 1425 points
- Third Place: Ian Robertson with 1250 points
- Fourth Place: Lawrence Jones with 1225 points
- Fifth Place: Wolfgang Finkbeiner with 900 points
- Sixth Place: Richard Rose with 856 points
- Seventh Place: Jonathan Goodman with 815 points
- Eighth Place: David Goss with 788 points
- Ninth Place: Ricardo Ferrer with 713 points
- Tenth Place: Craig McLaughlan with 682 points

Some interesting movements but with loads of tournaments still in play including two majors, nothing is decided yet. The Saint Andrews event looms ever nearer and with two months to get warmed up hopefully last year's winner Antonio Berraza will have the trophy engraved and polished up.





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Some photos from the event



As always there are loads more photos on the web of the event and prize giving so check out www.santjordigolf.com





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THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING

In the year round events we need to give our hearty thanks to all our friends and contributors for their help. These are of course well known to you all, but take a few moments to browse through their web pages where you will find a lot of interesting offers and details.

ALL OF YOU FOR PARTICIPATING

And.....

Sans & Sans Fine Teas: <http://www.sansisans-finetea.com/>

Interlegal: <http://www.interlegal.net/es>

Bodegas Elvara: <http://www.elvara.com/>

Love in Style: <http://www.lis-cosmetica.com>

Golf Montanya: <http://www.golfmontanya.com/>

Restaurant L'Estanyol: <http://www.restaurantestanyol.com/>

Barcelona Adventure: <http://www.bcn-adventure.com/>

Spectrum IFA: <http://www.spectrum-ifa.com/spain.shtml>

The Scottish Government: <http://www.visitscotland.com/>

Golfus: www.golfus.es

...and today a special thanks also go to Clive Callahan, Xavier Pitarque, Marc Cox and Ricard Rovira for their contributions to the organisation and magnificent prize donations.

The next event will be our 201st event and this will take place on Thursday the 27th October at Montanya. We will contact all of you shortly before the event for your confirmations (although you can now register for this event on adrian@santjordigolf.com)

Disclaimer

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