

**NORTHERN COUNTIES GOLF UNION  
Men's County Qualifying Championship 2018  
The Wynyard Golf Club - 8<sup>th</sup> August**

*At over 7,000 yards from the championship tees and with a par of 72, the Wellington Course at The Wynyard presented a stiff challenge for the field of top amateur golfers from the Northern Counties.*

*The forty two players teeing it up in this event included some notable high achievers over recent months such as Trevor Foster who won the British Seniors Amateur Championship at Royal Porthcawl just a few days ago and Nick Poppleton, the 2018 Brabazon Trophy winner.*



*Nick Poppleton*



*Trevor Foster*

*Teams from the seven counties within the NCGU prepared to do battle over 36 holes of stroke play with all the scores from their six-man team counting for each round.*



*1<sup>st</sup> hole*



*The Wynyard clubhouse*



*9th hole*

*The winner of this event will represent the North of England in the England Golf Men's County Championship to be held from the 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> September at Aldeburgh Golf Club.*

*Yorkshire last won this championship for the North of England in 2016 when held at Sandwell Park Golf Club near West Bromwich.*

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In the morning round, five of the Yorkshire team recorded sub-par rounds as they came in for lunch with a score of 420. Dan Bradbury had a five under par round of 66 and was backed up by Bailey Gill (68), David Hague (69), Ben Hutchinson (69), Nick Poppleton (71) and Sam Bairstow (77).



*Dan Bradbury - Yorkshire*



*Bailey Gill - Yorkshire*



*David Hague - Yorkshire*



*Ben Hutchinson - Yorkshire*



*Nick Poppleton - Yorkshire*



*Sam Bairstow - Yorkshire*

Yorkshire had a slim three shot lead after the first round with Cheshire hot on their heels with a score of 423, followed by defending champions Northumberland on 428, hosts Durham on 429, Cumbria on 435, Lancashire on 436 and the Isle of Man trailing on 455.

The lowest score in the morning was recorded by Lewis George from Cheshire with an outstanding round of 65, seven under par for the Wellington Course. As well as this, plus the four first round scores in the 60s from the Yorkshire team players, another six golfers shot three under par or better, namely Ciaran Doherty (Lancashire) 67, Phil Ridden (Northumberland) 68, Andrew Wilson (Durham) 68, Ben Hallam (Cheshire) 69, Matty Lamb (Northumberland) 69 and Jamie Birkbeck (Durham) 69.



*Lewis George - Cheshire*



*Ciaran Doherty - Lancashire*



*Phil Ridden - Northumberland*



*Andrew Wilson - Durham*



*Ben Hallam - Cheshire*



*Matty Lamb - Northumberland*



*Jamie Birkbeck - Durham*

With the uncomfortably hot temperatures of recent weeks subsiding and the course playing very fairly for all of the golfers, the possibility of a very close finish was anticipated by many of the supporters who had come along to cheer on their respective county sides.

They were not to be disappointed as Cheshire showed great consistency in the afternoon, recording a second round score of 425 for an overall total of 848, 16 under par for their 12 rounds played.

Yorkshire, therefore, had it all to do if they wanted to win this championship for the third time in the last five years and go on to play at Aldeburgh Golf Club next month.

Always up for a challenge such as this, the Yorkshire team also played superbly consistent golf in the second round, recording a score of 424 for a twenty under par championship total of 844 and a four shot victory over their county rivals Cheshire.

In addition to their six man team, it is worthy of mention that Yorkshire's non-playing reserve Lewis Hollingsworth gave terrific on course support to his team mates on their way to winning this championship.

In third place on 860 were Northumberland with fourth placed Cumbria on 863, followed by Lancashire on 864, Northumberland on 874 and finally the Isle of Man on 917.

A further seven scores in the 60s were recorded in the second round with Ben Hutchinson matching the best of the day round of 65, closely followed by Luke Walker (Cumbria) with a 66, Bailey Gill 67, Ciaran Doherty with yet with another round of 67 to his credit, Lewis George 68, Matty Lamb 69 and James Glenn (Durham) 69.



*Luke Walker - Cumbria*



*James Glenn - Durham*

With CSS coming in at 74 for both rounds of this championship, the scoring by these top golfers from the Northern Counties was simply stupendous with 45 rounds out of the 84 played being under or level par. Leading the way in this statistical department were Yorkshire and Cheshire for whom 9 of their 12 rounds were either level or under par, a truly magnificent effort.



*Yorkshire - Winners 2018*

Individual honours for the championship went to Lewis George who won the best 36 hole score (133) for the second consecutive year, Dan Bradbury for the best morning round (66) and Ben Hutchinson for the best afternoon round (65).



*Lewis George - best 36 hole score*



*Dan Bradbury - best first round score*



*Ben Hutchinson - best second round score*



*The prize table*



*The County Presidents, Clyde Camp Chairman of the NCGU & Chris Mounter Director of Golf, The Wynyard*



*Thanks to the Isle of Man team and their officials for travelling so far to play in this championship*

Congratulations to the Yorkshire team and the very best of luck to their players and officials for the Men's County Finals at Aldeburgh Golf Club in September.

A full results sheet for this championship may be found on the NCGU website by accessing the following link :-

[https://www.ncgu.co.uk/images/Result\\_Mens\\_Qualifying\\_2018\\_Wynyard.pdf](https://www.ncgu.co.uk/images/Result_Mens_Qualifying_2018_Wynyard.pdf)

**Tim Jackson**  
On behalf of the Northern Counties Golf Union