

The Keating Trophy Final

Played at Frinton Golf Club 18 & 19 April 2009



A final to relish – winner Jack Winer (Woolston Manor)

On Saturday 18 April fourteen qualifiers from a fortnight ago teed off in the match play section of this competition, with the wind conditions described by the locals, as a 'four shot breeze' i.e. it raised the standard par by four shots.

By lunchtime the fourteen were reduced to eighty and the afternoon contests produced four semi-finalists for Sunday morning. A highlight of the afternoon was a hole-in-one at the 6th par 3 by Ross Spurgeon (West Essex) who steered himself into Sunday's semi-final with a 3&1 victory over Orsett's Ross Dee.

The other three semi-finalists were Jack Clarke (Chelmsford), Jack Winer (Woolston Manor) and Andrew May (Boyce Hill).



Sunday morning dawned cloudy and cold with the north east wind providing challenging conditions. Jack Winer and Andrew May took 19 holes before a birdie on the first extra hole saw Jack through to the final. Ross Spurgeon won 3&1 against Jack Clarke.

Sunday afternoon's final began with a birdie from Ross to take an early lead, but Jack won the 2nd hole with a par score and after 2 halved holes took the lead at the 5th. By the 10th hole Jack had scored 4up but Ross hit back to take the 11th. The next four holes were halved in birdies or pars and Jack found himself 3up with three to play. Ross began his fight back by taking the next two holes and they went down the 18th with Jack just 1up.

On the long Par 5, the last hole, they were both on the green in three shots, Jack having a four foot putt with Ross being faced with a considerably longer one. Ross could not make his putt and Jack can out the winner by one hole.

In his acceptance speech the winner praised the Frinton green staff for a golf course which provided conditions which were usually only possible in summer.

The Essex Golf Union President, Mike Thirkettle presented the Trophy and praised the players for the high standard of golf produced.