

HAYLING GOLF CLUB

ERIF UK Matchplay Championship Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd June 2009

Stubbington on fire in ERIF Matchplay Victory

Hockley's Gary Stubbington beat East Horton's Russell Tate in a scintillating match at Hayling Golf Club on Tuesday (23/6) to win the 2009 ERIF UK Match-play Championship.

Both Professionals played some unbelievable golf in a brisk onshore breeze that blew over the superb, fast running Hayling links.

After Stubbington won the first hole with a par both players birdied the Par 5 second. Tate squared the match with a birdie at the third but Stubbington birdied the fourth and fifth to take a two hole advantage. Tate fought back with a birdie at the sixth and the seventh was halved in birdie fours. Tate birdied the eighth to square the match and then took the lead for the first time with another birdie at the ninth, his fourth consecutive birdie and his sixth in eight holes.

Stubbington drove the green at the 10th and holed his eagle putt to square the match once more.

After such a pulsating opening ten holes things then settled down and the eleventh and twelfth holes were halved in 'mundane' par figures.

The match now reached a pivotal stage with Tate missing hole able putts at the thirteenth, where he had driven the green, and fourteenth, where Stubbington had found a water hazard, to go one behind. Stubbington's tram liner birdie putt at the fifteenth compounded Tate's misery and the match finished at the sixteenth where the Tate failed to match Stubbington's solid par.

It had been an epic final, certainly the best of the modern era. Graham Smith, ERIF UK's Chief Executive, presented Gary Stubbington with the Championship trophy.

It was the seventh year that ERIF UK has sponsored the Match-play Championship, which was being played at Hayling Golf Club for the first time.

Stubbington had reached the final after defeating Blackmoor's Steve Mitchell in the semi-final while Tate had beaten Tidworth Garrison's Charlie Gold.

For more information about ERIF UK please visit the website (www.erif.co.uk)

The 2010 ERIF UK Championship will be played at Lee-on-the-Solent Golf Club.