



Un, dos, tres!

Winner of the French Open in 2014 at the age of 12, Thomas Artigas from Spain successfully defended his title the following year and has now made it three in a row on the Gloriette course in Tours. His 5 shot lead coming into the final round melted in the sun as François Griffon improved on his 6-under-par second round with an outstanding 47 to finish tied with Tomy. The play-off started with three more ties as the two contenders peppered the flag and sank the putts, but Tomy showed his champion's qualities with a superb birdy on the final hole after François faltered on his birdy attempt. A grandstand finish to a great competition.



Julien Van Hauwe, who won the French Amateur Golf Championship in 2000 before turning professional and playing on the European Tour, honoured us by playing "hors concours" in our Open on his home course. He was 5 shots down on Tomy after two rounds but he too showed his mettle in the final round with a stunning 42 which included 8 successive birdies! Thank you Julien!

His father, Jacques Van Hauwe, who built the course, was proud to watch his son play such a fine round. But he was even prouder to see his grandson snatch third place – at the age of 10! A fine example of the true value of Pitch & Putt as a family affair.

In competitive International Pitch & Putt age and gender are irrelevant – just ask veteran Jean-Marie Malbranque, who won the Senior title, or Herma Kleinlugtenbeld who was the leading lady on 7 under par, tying for third place overall! Jean-Marie hopes to celebrate his 80th birthday by returning to St Andrews to play in the World Championship in 2020!



Age, size and gender are all irrelevant in this exciting sport – the only things that count are skill and strong nerves and these were all clearly present in Tours this week-end. The weather was good on Friday for practice and a friendly matchplay knock-out, also won by Tomy. The conditions on Saturday were terrible, with cold rain and strong winds, but it turned out fine again on Sunday for the final round. As for the course, Giulio Caramaschi from San Marino claimed "I have now played P&P for 15 years all over Europe – these were the finest greens I have ever seen".

FPP and IPPA are independent organizations, solely concerned with the promotion of this wonderful sport. Next month we will be in Portugal and then in Italy, followed by San Marino; Japan is organising a major competition in September and our first incursion into Africa will be in Tunisia in November. Just P&P - no regional politics, no bans, and no sterile protectionism – our Opens are truly open.



We work closely with golf, (IPPA is supported by the R&A); we are an active member of "Peace & Sport" and we hope soon to gain admission to SportAccord, thereby achieving real international status. International Pitch & Putt certainly deserves it - IPP, IPP, IPP – IPPA!

John Hudson - president FPP, past president EPPA & IPPA, founding Board member FIPPA

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