

Filton GC Head Professional Daryl Kelley won his first G&S PGA Medal of the season with a 2 under par round of 69 at Bath Golf Club. He was the only player in the field to beat the Sham Castle's layout par figure of 71 on a cloudy but dry day high above the city of Bath.

Despite some heavy rain in the days leading up to the event the course played very well and the greens putted true, with plenty of pace for the time of year. Positioning of the ball is very important at Bath as many greens have some tricky slopes which can become even tougher if approached from the wrong angles. If the ball is well positioned many birdie and eagle chances are to be had and Kelley helped himself to a handful during his round.

Kelley's round opened with a clumsy 3 putt on the first green for an opening bogey but then he stepped up on the drivable second hole and promptly launched what was probably the shot of the day. His tee shot with his driver landed and ended within 4ft of the flag which he converted for the eagle 2 and with it moved under par where he would stay for the rest of the round. More red figures were added at the 6th and 7th where a curling downhill 10ft putt was holed. His second 2 of the day at the 11th moved him back to -3 after he had dropped a stroke at the 8th but he then gave it straight back again at the next. His final birdie of the day came at the penultimate hole but as before he gave it back with a bogey on the leaf strewn green of the final hole.

Runners up on level par were the in form Somerset amateur Ashley Mansell and Mendip Professional John Goymer. Mansell matched Kelley's eagle at the second and carded 3 other birdies during his round but also included 5 bogies. Goymer got off to a slow start with 3 bogies appearing on his card in the first 5 holes, in between these there was one birdie at the short 4th though. The bogey at the 5th would be the last dropped shot to appear on his card and back to back birdies at the 14th and 15th brought him back to where he started for the day.

Fourth spot was shared on 72 by the ever consistent Rod Hibbitt and the in form Gareth Bennett who could both look back at various points of their rounds where shots could have and should been saved and moved them up the final positions.

Ross Langdon was one of 4 players to card 73 and with it he increased the lead he has at the top of the Order of Merit to 6 points as the G&S PGA head up to Gloucestershire for the next two events. Cotswold Hills is the first event in the 'Cheltenham swing' with the following Wednesday Cleeve Hill being the venue.