

# LA MANGA CLUB

OWNERS CHAMPIONSHIP SUPPLEMENT



A summary of our 5 day spectacular and one of the best ever Owners Championships! November 24-28

## Was this the best Owners Championship ever?

**We would like to think so, but if it wasn't...**

Many adjectives could be attributed to the 5 day Championships - exciting, exhausting, frustrating, and nerve-racking are probably all appropriate at different times and to different people. However, the phrase most heard during and after the tournament was - 'great fun'.

It has to be that way. Why else would 200 golfers put themselves through three rounds of gruelling competition on each of La Manga Club's challenging courses?



For many golfing owners, this is the week they must be at The Club. The atmosphere in the Owners' Clubhouse at the pre-tournament gathering on the Sunday felt special - and so it continued right through to the Gala Dinner and prize-giving on Friday. In between times, there were also events in the Clubhouse on Tuesday and Thursday. Our restaurant sponsors made sure the pace never flagged by offering discounts and special menus just in case anyone needed an excuse to go out to eat. Friday Finale must go down as one of the great La Manga Club nights. Nearly 300 people packing the Ballroom of the Hotel Principe Felipe to celebrate a wonderful week where many old friendships were rekindled for another year and yet more new ones made.

Friday was yet another example of the excellent organisation and attention to detail that had been evident all week. The organising group will rightly take due credit. Moreover, this year we saw the re-birth of La Manga Club's involvement in the tournament. They provided the goody bags and topped up the prize fund vouchers. Gill Davies and the team did a first class job on and around the courses all week, processing 575 rounds of golf!

The dinner was superbly organised. Those who heard Jose Asenjo speak on the Friday night could not but help to be encouraged by his words about their desire to engage and work with the owners to the benefit of all.

For most, it was a shame the golf had to get in the way of having a good time!



Good weather right up to the Friday, light winds, courses in great condition - no excuses then for anything other than great scoring, or so it would seem.

Pitching everyone against the terrors of the West Course on Days One and Two seemed a bit sadistic and the scoring reflected this. Only a handful beat handicap in spite of the extra shots the course offers.

Exceptional performances came from Tony Leslie and Malcolm Elam for the men and Moira Houston and Gabby Coates for the ladies.

The North Course on two beautiful still autumnal days ought to be a place to make up ground and Bridgette Field took full advantage, carding a 44 - the highest stableford score of the entire competition. For the men, Phil Hinchliffe, Kevin Lynch and David Williams all put themselves in contention with scores over 40.

On Thursday evening it was back to the Owners' Club for 'Date Night'. Time to find out if you had made the cut for the final round on the South Course on Friday. If not, time to find a partner to give you a chance in the pairs competition on the North.



During the evening Len Woodward was introduced to Sylvia Ingham. The chemistry must have been special. Between them they ran away with the Pairs Trophy with 49 points, 7 ahead of the nearest challenger.

Meanwhile, on the South Course, there were no run-away winners. As the wind got up and the pressure on the leaders grew, the scores plummeted. Only Helen Holland for the ladies and Richard Oliver and Doug McGhee for the men could beat 36 points. It was a day for the lower handicappers to excel and so it proved.

It was revealed on Friday night at the dinner that Moira Houston had pipped Bridgette Field (each with 100 points over the three rounds) by virtue of her lower handicap to win the Ladies' Overall trophy. In the Men's Overall Richard Oliver's lower handicap was also enough to take the big prize after his superb final round brought him level with David Williams on 108 points.



Young David Hague destroyed the men's scratch field, shooting 2 over par (gross), whilst Sheila Brunton was similarly dominant in the ladies.

Details of all of the winners (and losers) are on the Owners Golf website, [www.lamangaclubowners.com](http://www.lamangaclubowners.com) Special mention must be made of Martin Hurst's passionate speech having triumphed in Men's Division 3, possibly the biggest cheer of the night! Also to the award of a new trophy this year for the best score for men and ladies over 70 years of age. Good manners prevents us naming the winners!

Talking of age, it was wonderful to see golfers in their 80s playing on equal terms with Charlie Hunt, aged 13 and playing in his first Owners Championships. Golf is truly an amazing game.

The future for the three flagship owners' tournaments looks bright. As well as main sponsors LMC SL, we have 26 banner and nearest the pin sponsors. Scott Hosie, formerly of this parish and now of Mizuno, also supplied hats, visors and golf bags.

**Entry forms are now available for the Matchplay in January and dates have been confirmed for the Summer Tournament in April.** You'll find all the details on the owners website. If they are half as much fun as the Owners Championships you won't want to miss them. **David Williams**, Owners Golf Organising Group



## We would like to thank all of our generous sponsors

Without whom, this wonderful event wouldn't have been possible to put on in the way that we did.



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## It must be mentioned that the courses were in great shape

It would be wrong not to mention the golf courses and how well they have been maintained and operated. Considering we currently have no permanent Director of Golf, the team headed by Jesus Moreno have done an amazing job, so a big thank you to them as well. Having such a great event on some of the worlds best courses make the week so much better for every competitor.



## What the CEO of LMC SL said in his speech at the finale dinner

**We wanted to share with you what José Asenjo, Chief Executive of La Manga Club had to say.**

**We felt it was important that all owners of our resort are aware of our mutual collaboration.**

Good evening everybody, It is a great pleasure for me, one year on, to be here again sharing this special occasion with all of you, in this Owners' Championship Presentation Dinner.

After one year managing La Manga Club, some of the objectives I had when I joined this company, are already in place.

We are positioning La Manga Club as one of the most important and up-market leisure and sports tourist resorts in Europe. However, my aim here was not only to achieve economic and positioning results, but also one of the most important aims for me was to have a direct and accessible relationship with the General Community. I believe we have fulfilled this aim, and at present there is a very close relationship between LMC SL and the General Community.

We are working in mutual collaboration and another evident example that this relationship is closer, is the support that the club is providing in events such as the Owners' Championship or the successful Fireworks night joint event we had earlier in November.

I would like to give special thanks to Mr. Fish and all his team, for inviting me tonight and for working together with us, in making LMC a place that we can feel proud to live and work in.

It is my desire to continue working in this way, in mutual collaboration, to achieve great things.

I would like to thank you all for being here tonight and I hope you enjoy yourselves a lot.

Thank you very much!