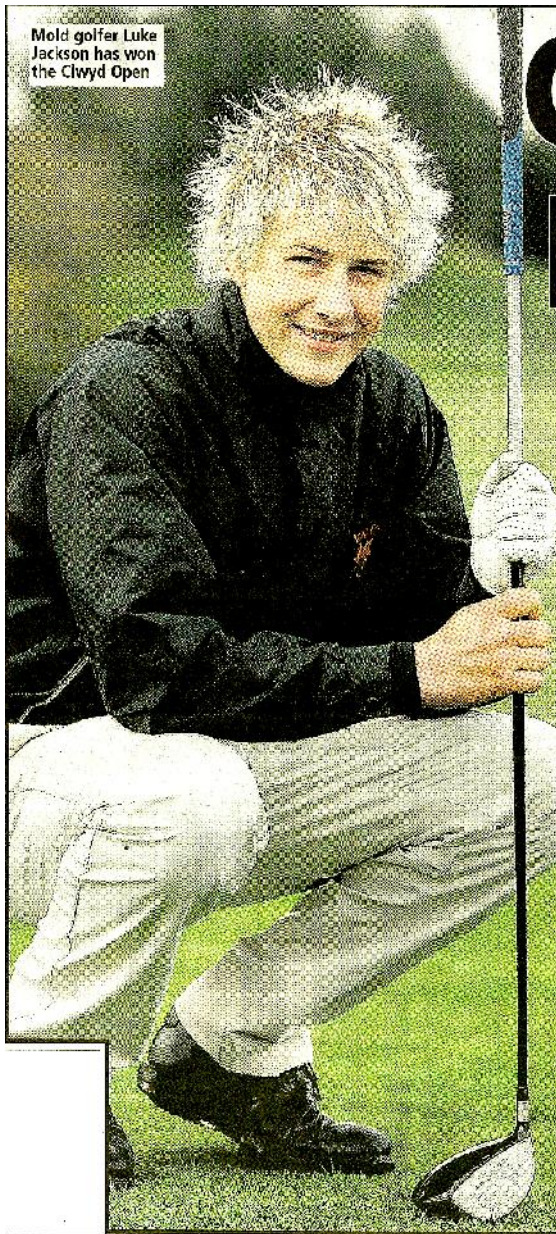


Mold golfer Luke Jackson has won the Clwyd Open



Cool hands Luke takes Clwyd win

MOLD 16-year-old Luke Jackson kept his cool to claim his biggest victory to date when he won the 72-hole Clwyd Open, over the Wrexham and Prestatyn courses at the weekend, with a four-round total of 290, which was also the best nett score.

The Welsh boys international, who plays off scratch, improved by a stroke in every one of his four rounds, opening with a 74 at Wrexham and closing with a 71 at Prestatyn.

Scott Parry from Anglesey club Rhosneigr led after the morning round at Wrexham with a 71, with Newport plus two player Joe Vickery a stroke behind and Jackson in a group on 74, which included another plus two player Nick James from Wenvoe Castle in Cardiff.

James added a 70 in the afternoon to take the Egrton Vase for the best 36 hole score on the first day by a stroke from Oliver Farr of Ludlow (75-70), who plays off plus one, with Jackson in third place overnight on 147 after his second round 73.

Parry crashed to an 80 in the second round to drop out of contention.

Vincent Thorne of Tenby, who was eight off the pace overnight, posted a best of the day 69 in the first round at Prestatyn on Sunday, but James held on to the lead with a 73, while Jackson moved to second place alongside Farr, two strokes behind James after they shot 72 and 74 respectively.

St Pierre's Richard Bentham had the best final round of 69, a stroke ahead of Conwy's Gareth Williams, but it was Jackson with a closing 71 who claimed top prize by two strokes from James (75).

Jackson also won the Jubilee Trophy with his total of 143 for the best 36 holes at Prestatyn, winning on a comeback from Radyr's Chris O'Neil with Thorne (89-74) third also on 143.

Newport's Vickery and Luke Thomas from the Vale of Glamorgan were joint third in the gross competition on 294, with Thorne and Rhys Pugh from the Vale of Glamorgan a shot further back with three players on 296, including Farr.

Jackson's nett total of 290 was three strokes better than one handicapper Tom Phillips from St Mellons, while his fellow scratchman Thomas, Conwy's Williams and Josh Green from Clays, who both play off one, all finished on 294, a stroke ahead of Pugh, who also plays off scratch.

Jackson, winner of the North Wales men's and youths championships at Nefyn in 2007, was presented with the trophy by Prestatyn captain Alan Roberts and former Wrexham secretary Jim Johnson read a eulogy to Truro's Ben Enoch, winner of the Clwyd Open last year, who was tragically killed in a car crash recently.

Golf Union of Wales president Ted Lloyd from Rhuddlan and Wrexham captain Tony Brunyee also attended the presentation.

FINAL TOTALS: 290 - Luke Jackson (Mold); 73-72-72-71, 292 - Nick James (Wenvoe Castle); 74-70-73-75, 294 - Joe Vickery (Newport); 72-77-72-73; Luke Thomas (Vale of Glamorgan); 79-79-74-72, 295 - Vincent Thorne (Tenby); 79-76-69-74, Rhys Pugh (Vale of Glamorgan); 77-72-78-74.
OTHER SCORES: 297 - Jamie Horvie (Royal St Davids); 80-71-73-73, 298 - Gareth Williams (Conwy); 79-73-76-70; Scott Parry (Rhosneigr); 71-80-72-75; Jason Shuttleworth (Prestatyn); 74-76-73-75; Josh Green (Clays); 74-74-75-75, 302 - Michael Evans (Clays); 78-74-76-74, 303 - Aaron Williams (Prestatyn); 75-74-78-75, 305 - Geraint Jones (Royal St Davids); 76-82-72-75, 307 - Leo Jones (Conwy); 81-73-80-75.