

The force is with Luke as he claims title

Luke Jackson, a member of Mold Golf Club, has won the North Wales Golf Counties Championship

MOLD'S Luke Jackson is the new North Wales men's and youths' champion after rounds of 71 and 70 at Nefyn left him two clear of the field.

The 15-year-old pupil at Mold Alun school, who was playing off two handicap at the time but which has since been cut to one, also won the nett prize with a total of 137 in an event dominated by young players.

"It's my best ever win and I played really well," said Jackson, who is a Welsh Boys international and has represented his country at under-15, U16 and U18 level.

Introduced to the game as a nine-year-old by his dad Darren, Jackson has made spectacular progress in six short years coming down from his starting handicap of 40.

"I was very keen right from the start and spent a lot of time practising," said Jackson, who lives in the village of Nannerch near Mold.

Currently studying for his GCSEs, Jackson's ultimate aim is to win a golf scholarship for a college in America.

At Nefyn his first round 71 left him a stroke behind Stuart Runcie from Abergele in the field of 57, but his afternoon 70 took him clear of his rivals with Llion Kerry from Royal St David's adding a 71 to his opening 72 to take second place on 143.

Mark Parry from Holyhead, who won the Welsh under-15 championship at Raglan Parc in Monmouthshire last month, finished third on 144 after a pair of 72s and three handicapper Parry took second place in the nett competition on 138, three ahead of

one handicapper Kerry in third.

Runcie won the prize for the best morning round with his 70 with Louis Myddlehurst from the North Wales club winning the nett prize with a 69 off his six handicap.

Prestatyn veteran John Williams won the afternoon gross prize for his 71 with Robbie McVicar from Baron Hill shooting 75-5-70 to take the nett prize.

Jackson and Kerry were first and second in the youth competition and Parry finished runner-up to Jackson in the nett comp.

Mark Parry, 15, added another title to his collection when he beat his 21-year-old brother Scott at the 19th in the final of the Anglesey doubles championship at their home club Holyhead.

Thirteen-handicapper Alan Langley of the host club was round in 79 for a nett 66 to win the Anglesey Seniors which was also staged at Holyhead.

ANDREW BARNETT, who flew to Atlanta with the Great Britain & Ireland team yesterday to prepare to face America in the PGA Cup

later this week, left on a high note with victory in the Holywell Pro-Am last Friday.

The North Wales Golf Range professional had a four under-par 66 to finish two ahead of John Fisher of Huyton & Prescott.

Lee Harpin from North Wales won the Cheshire and North Wales Open at Chirk.

THE North Wales Professional Golfers' Alliance starts at Hawarden a week tomorrow and members must pay the annual fee of £15 before they can play. Entry fees are £14 for amateurs and £13 for professionals. A full story about the forthcoming season will appear in this column next week.