

Second successive Carnegie Shield triumph for Mailley

GOLF

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ROYAL Dornoch golfer Chris Mailley joined an elite band of golfers who have made a successful defence of the Carnegie Shield since the trophy was gifted to the club by Scottish philanthropist and millionaire owner Andrew Carnegie in 1901.

In the centenary competition last August, Mailley came out on top in the final against American Trey Wilkinson to win the shield for a second time, his first win arriving in 2009.

Last year's semi-final was repeated in Saturday's final, when once more he took on the three-time winning American, Andrew Biggadike, who won the finals in 2003, 2005 and 2008.

Mailley reached his second successive final by way of a 16th green semi-final result over a new American name at this stage of the competition, Ryan Chin from the Essex County Country Club, New Jersey.

Biggadike had to go an extra three holes to get past 2010 winner and Golspie greenkeeper Alex Macdonald in the quarter-finals before ousting local David Pearson after 16 holes in the semis.

From his opening drive in the final, Mailley was left with just a short pitch to the green which he judged to perfection to make an opening birdie and take the lead.

He went two ahead at the fifth hole where Biggadike completely misjudged his pitch to the green and his ball fell down the bank.

Biggadike's best spell came at the far end of the Dornoch links course with back to back birdies on the 8th and 9th holes to get back to level. The American looked favourite to go ahead on the 10th after Mailley missed the green from the tee but the local found a long putt for a saving half in par.

Biggadike was often being outdriven from the tee and Mailley's length took him almost onto the 15th green. The well deserved birdie got him back in front once again and over the final three holes the defending champion secured the necessary

halves to record back to back wins.

Alastair Frood of Ranfurly Castle is also a member of Ayrshire's highly rated Western Gailes Golf Club where he hones his links play to a handicap of four.

His opponent in the final of the low handicap Davidson Trophy was the brother of the 2001 Centenary Year Shield winner, David Aitchison. While Jonathan has not followed his younger brother's path to professional golf at Hayling Island he still holds a handicap of six.

But his links golf learned as a junior on the Dornoch course is in the past and Frood ended the contest after 13 holes, playing close to par golf.

At 16 years of age, and playing in his first Carnegie Shield Week, junior section captain David Stoddart made a memorable debut by winning the E C Fraser Trophy, beating Richard Fawssett (Crowham Hurst) by one hole.

Rarely did more than one hole separate the teenager from his Croydon opponent but with a nett four on "Foxy" the local junior edged in front once more and held his narrow lead to the final hole, where his last stroke allowance came in handy to give him a nett four and match-winning half.

Carnegie Shield results:

Quarter-finals – R Chin (Essex County Country Club) beat D MacIntyre (Grangemouth) 1 up. C Mailley (RDGC) beat N McQueen (Mellor & Townscliffe) 5/4. D Pearson (RDGC) beat A Cameron (Fortrose & Rosemarkie) 4/2. A Biggadike (RDGC) beat A MacDonald (Golspie) at the 21st. **Semi-finals** – Mailley beat Chin 3/2. Biggadike beat Pearson 3/2. **Final** – Mailley beat Biggadike 1 up.

Handicap Class 1 Davidson Trophy semi-finals – A Frood (Ranfurly Castle) (4) beat M Klavara (Chicago) (7) 2/1. J Aitchison (Woodhall Spa) (6) beat I Russell (Cawder) (5) 3/2. **Final** – Frood beat Aitchison 6/5. **Class 2: E C Fraser Trophy semi-finals;** D Stoddart (RDGC) (17) beat I McAuley (RDGC) (9) 1 up. R Fawssett (Crowham Hurst) (10) beat J McLachlan (Strathclyde Park) (13) 6/5. **Final** – Stoddart beat Fawssett 1 up.

Carnegie Shield winner Chris Mailley.

