



MEDIA RELEASE

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STEWART WINS RIVERSDALE CUP WITH BIRDIE

Melbourne Monday 12 March: Australian amateur champion Tim Stewart, from NSW, clinched the 112th Riversdale Cup today with pressure birdies on the last two holes to win the prestigious Australian amateur tournament by one shot.

The overnight leader turned his game around in the closing stages after learning that Queenslander Andrew Dodt was in the clubhouse at eight under the card after firing a brilliant four-under 68 final round in very gusty wind conditions.

Stewart had surrendered the lead after a bogey on the par five 15th in a day which saw him drop six shots up until the 16th hole.

The 22-year-old New South Welshman then regrouped to hole a 2 metre birdie on the par 3 17th hole and then went to the 18th knowing he had to pull something out of the bag.

"I had been driving well all week, so I decided to give it a go as I did not know that I was square with Andrew until the 18th tee."

However, his drive hit one of the tall pine trees about 50 metres from the green and his ball came to rest on a downhill lie.

A well executed chip shot put him within three metres of the pin, and from there his putt found the centre of the cup to win the nation's second oldest championship, which is seen by many as the Australian 'Masters' of amateur golf.

Stewart had led the 72-hole championship on all but the opening round, but he said his 75 on the final round was played "under extreme pressure".

His win also helped him and fellow New South Welshman Richie Gallichan capture the International Teams Championship at 417 from West Australia's Rick Kulacz and Michael Foster on 422.

Stewart will now go to Sydney to defend his Australian amateur title at the New South Wales club this month and will be hoping to see his R&A world amateur golf ranking jump from its current 20th spot.

Dodt's bogey free round today set the championship up for the thrilling finish. He had consecutive birdies on the 7th and 8th holes and again on the 12th and 13th.

"Today was the best I've played all week. A number of putts just missed the cup, so I could have had anything for the round," said the Golf Australia National Squad member whose opening round of 67 put him in the box seat for the title. However, his first putt on the finale hole of the tournament reflected his day. It lipped out and robbed him of not only a play-off, but also the equal best round of the day with Matt Jager, of West Australia with 67.

Although disappointed, Dodt has high regard for Riversdale and its fast greens. He likened it to a major American amateur the way it is run and regards it as one of the most sought after events on the Australian circuit.

Dodt will join other members of the Australian team this Friday to 'fight' for the Ashes against the United Kingdom in a 54-hole tournament at Moonah Links.

Fellow National Squad and Ashes team member Rohan Blizzard, of NSW, came home equal third in the Cup with Matthew Griffin of Victoria at 6 under. Blizzard shot a closing 70 and Griffin a 68.

Five others were on the leader board at five under; Michael Foster, Matt Jager, Rick Kulacz, Ray Beaufils and Boyd Watts.

Last year's runner-up Kulacz was one of the 'hard luck' stories of the tournament. He was penalised four shots after discovering he had one too many clubs in his bag in the opening round.

Kulacz had gone on from the 2006 Cup to win the 2006 Federal Amateur and NSW Open Championships and was hoping to make amends for last year's loss.

Scores:

2007 Riversdale Cup: 279: T. Stewart (NSW) 70.66.68.75. **280:** A. Dodt (Qld), 67,69,76,68. **282:** R. Blizzard (NSW) 69,71,72,70; M. Griffin (Vic) 71,69,74,68. **283:** M. Foster (WA) 68,70,71,74; M. Jager(WA) 71,74,71,67; R.Kulacz (WA) 73,71,69,70; R. Beaufils (SA) 71,70,72,70; B.Watts (Qld) 72,70,67,74.

2007 International Teams Championship: 417 NSW (T. Stewart, R. Gallichan); 422 Western Australia (R. Kulacz, M. Foster); 428: Queensland (M. Dodt, A. Pike); 429: South Australia (S.Spiers,C.Austin).

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