

Trampolining

Whittaker praise for ace Gumbs

TRACY WHITTAKER heaped praise on youngster Yazmin Gumbs after she took first place in the opening grade one event of the season.

The Northants Academy ace finished 0.9 points in front of her nearest rival, and is now in pole position to make the British team for the upcoming European Championships in Metz.

Whittaker said: "Yazmin's been training really hard and the result is just desserts for that."

"She's learned from good and bad competitions. She was below par at the World Championships and we dissected her performance,

developed some mental strategies and that showed in a great performance last weekend."

Injury could threaten Gumbs' European bid however, with a groin injury keeping her out of training this week.

Whittaker said she expects the 15-year-old to be fit enough to take part in the two remaining trial events though, taking place on the last two weekends of this month.

"She's seen the physio this week and he said to get some rest so that's what she's doing at the moment," said Whittaker.

"Winning breeds confidence and I'm sure that with a bit of rest, hopefully the injury should calm down and she'll be in the right condition to compete next week."

Team-mate Amanda Harris took eighth place in the trial event, after an error in her final routine.

British champion Jaime Moore narrowly missed out on first place at the Vulcan Arena in Hull. Moore was forced to settle for silver, missing out on top spot by two marks.

Katie Harris picked up a personal best third in the under-19 girls.

Penny Mitchell snatched third spot by

just 0.3 to take home a bronze medal.

There were mixed results for the under-15 girls team, with Erin Balford the highest-placed Academy member.

An error in her first routine left Katie McKenzie in 25th, and Sophie Gardener went wrong in her second 10 moves, leaving her in 30th.

Rebecca Pedley scored a top-10 finish in the under-17 girls. Pedley ended in ninth spot, with Hannah Morriarty (13th), Mitchell (16th), Victoria Payne (17th) all finishing behind.

It was a disappointing day for the Academy's men's team of James

Higgins, Steve Walsh and Danny Creedon.

The trio all failed to complete their voluntary routines, and will be looking to bounce back at next weekend's competition in Southend.

Mean-while the Academy, who were awarded development club of the year at the 2005 Northamptonshire Sports Awards, have launched their fifth satellite centre.

The club will now run classes at Northampton Academy in Lings, whose £25m state of the art facilities make it an excellent venue for the club.

Community sports coach Becky Brandon, who will be running the new venture, said: "The community classes provide a friendly and professional service and will cater from beginners through to advanced level."

"With members participating for a variety of reasons, it will give everyone the chance to learn a wide range of skills such as balance, agility and co-ordination."

Classes run for an hour, and take place on Mondays between 5-7pm, Thursdays between 5-8pm, and Saturdays between 9.30am and 12.30pm.

For further details, call the club on Northampton 590351.



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Around the Greens

Tricklebank defies conditions to win it



■ GOOD FORM – Overstone Park's Brian Mudge was 15th at the Forest of Arden

JIM TRICKLEBANK led the way in a bitterly cold March medal at Overstone Park, winning the first division by four clear shots.

Tricklebank went round the Sywell Road course in a gross 74, which became a nett 69, a very good score given the cold conditions – there was even snow on some greens.

Ian Roche was second with a gross 77, nett 73, which Matthew Evans matched but had to settle for third on countback despite hitting a gross 81.

In a very tight division two, Ricky Hopkinson took top spot but countback was required to establish all of the top three places.

Hopkinson's gross 89 was cut back to a nett 70, a score matched by second-placed Craig Windsor, though his gross round was 88.

Former club captain Ivan Roy was edged out to third after signing for a gross 86.

Daniel Pickering won division three with a gross 96 that became a nett of 72 and first place.

Second went to Phil Pickering, who tallied a gross 100 that translated into a nett 75 and Mick Fraser filled the frame with a gross round of 102 that became a nett 80.

The only contender in division four unsurprisingly won it, Cathy Drewitt recording a gross 107, 72 nett.

Ian Smith chipped in from 80 yards to claim an eagle two at the 348-yard par four 12th in one of the day's highlights.

ABBAY HILL Golf Centre are hosting a 'creating golf addicts' weekend on March 25-26.

The weekend gives everyone the chance to find out about the benefits of the LinkSystem – a new way of teaching golf to create genuine golf addicts through working on skills and technique.

The open weekend at Abbey Hill includes free 30-minute individual assessments for experienced players, free 30-minute group lessons for beginners, free range balls and a free prize draw.

The open weekends provide an ideal opportunity for those eager to get into golf, the curious, the experienced and, crucially, those who haven't yet plucked up the courage to take the first steps towards learning. For more details ring 01908 563845.

FRANK BUSTIN won round nine of the winter series at Northampton Golf Club, but it was a close-run thing with countback required to separate the top three.

Bustin, playing off an 11 handicap, scored 38 points to win the event, but was joined on that total by both Brian Bazeley and Tom Heffernan.

Bazeley, an 18 handicapper, and Heffernan, who plays off 17, both also signed for cards that produced 38 points but were nudged into second and third respectively.

David Page filled the frame with 37 points for fourth, the same tally that secured fifth place for Keith Clarke.

Tucker's the top man at Ashby

BARRY TUCKER was celebrating at Cold Ashby Golf Club in the March medal, winning the first division with a nett score of 64.

Tucker signed for a superb gross 72 which, when combined with his eight handicap, was enough for first place.

Tony Earp was nudged into second despite matching the winning nett score of 64 – he signed for an initial gross of 74.

Graham Bates filled the frame in the first division with a gross 72 that became a nett 65 after his seven handicap had kicked in.

Paul Hol produced a very good round to win division two with

a nett score of 62 from a gross of 74. The performance will almost certainly lead to a good cut from the secretary.

Gerry McInerney was second with a gross 77 that became a nett 65, a score matched by Geoff Tooley, whose gross round was an 80. In division three, Richard Saulet went round in 81, a gross of 64, with Sam Burkimsher in second with a gross 86 that translated into a nett 21.

John Roberts filled the frame with an initial round of 83 that became a nett 65 once his 18 handicap had been applied.

Fraser Carnihan shot the best gross of the day, a superb 65.

SIMON LILLY was the best placed of the local professionals in the latest Midlands PGA pro-am, staged at the Forest of Arden Golf Club.

Lilly finished seventh on the day with a two-over-par 74, four shots behind overall winners Paul Bagshaw and Mathew Morris.

Overstone Park pro Brian Mudge finished joint 15th with a six-over-par 78, alongside Phillip Ogden, of De Vere Belton Woods.

EWAN MILNE and Paul Sisman joined forces with Nigel Grimmitt and Geoff Matthews to win the Team Medal/

Stableford at Wellingborough Golf Club by just a solitary point.

The event is played under bizarre rules, with one pair's stableford score taken away from the other duo's medal score, but it worked in favour of Milne, Sisman, Grimmitt and Matthews, the team notching 22 points.

David White, Jacob Palmer, Ian Jolly and Martin Cooke finished in second place on the day.

Elsewhere at the club, the Senior Men's Open went the way of Mick O'Neill, who came out on top with 42 points.

Dennis Rowlands was two points back with Keith Darby a further shot adrift in third.