

Amateurs dethroned

GOLF

■ Niall O'Shea

THERE was great fun in Kinsale on Saturday when the second pro shop challenge took place.

Kinsale's PGA Professionals Ger Broderick and Ian Stafford took on Kinsale amateurs Cathal Butler and John Murphy.

The match was a repeat of last year's inaugural match which was won by Butler and Murphy.

Last year the event raised €3,000 for Special Olympics, and this year the nominated charity was Marymount.

A large crowd watched the event and despite plenty of trash talking from Murphy and Butler, it was the professionals who took the lead.

Despite having good chances for birdies on the first and second the amateurs failed to convert, and Ian Stafford rolled in a birdie putt on the second hole to take the lead.

That putt claimed the €100 donation from the club for the first birdie.

The pro's stretched their lead and back to back birdies on the 5th and 6th saw them go four up.

The amateurs bit back, Murphy and Butler have both played some great golf this year and they reeled off four birdies in a row to narrow the lead to one by the 11th.

It was the pro's turn to dazzle on the 12th and 13th, that built the lead back to three holes.

Birdies on the 14th and 18th from the amateurs wasn't enough to balance the card and the Professionals ran out winners by two shots on -7.

The 65 by the professionals was three shots better than their score last year, and while they were very happy with the result, the real winner was Marymount with several Kinsale members making donations based on the number of birdies.

Organiser Ian Stafford was delighted with the turnout from members and supporters.

"We'd like to thank Kinsale Golf Club for allowing us to host the event again this year and to the captain, lady captain and president for donating €100 for the first birdie made" said Stafford.

"Thanks also to Titleist and Footjoy Ireland for kitting out the pros on the day.

"With donations still coming in we are very hopeful of reaching the €3,000 mark again this year which will go directly to Marymount Hospice."

Despite the bustling and thrash talk, both Butler and Murphy were quick to praise the professionals for the way they played.

The busy amateurs played the event in advance of heading to the South of Ireland this week.

"Ian and Ger were exceptional yesterday," admitted Murphy.

"It was actually nice to see them win because it meant so much to them, especially Ian.

"You could tell how much he cared having his uncle's name on that trophy and it was great to see how happy he was after the match.

"It's fair to say that it didn't help my south prep in any way given how badly I played.

"Losing to two old men would certainly knock your confidence but I'm sure I'll get over it.

"As disappointing as it was it was still a great day and I'm delighted to be part of such a great event and raise money for those who need it.

"Thanks to everybody who supported and I'm already looking forward to next year's pro shop challenge regardless of who is playing."



Kinsale golfers Brian McCarthy and Eric Rumley enjoying the Pro Shop Challenge.

Picture: Niall O'Shea



Professionals Ger Broderick and Ian Stafford with Amateurs John Murphy and Cathal Butler before teeing off at the Pro Shop Challenge.

Picture: Niall O'Shea



John Murphy reacts to a missed birdie putt on the first green.

Picture: Niall O'Shea



Ger Broderick hits the perfect recovery shot to reach the green on the second hole at the Pro Shop Challenge.

Picture: Niall O'Shea



Starter Gerry Waldron and Ian Stafford share a joke on the first tee at the Kinsale Pro Shop Challenge.

Picture: Niall O'Shea

in Kinsale Challenge



Scorekeepers James and Robbie Walsh pictured at the Pro Shop Challenge in Kinsale.

Picture: Niall O'Shea



Niamh and Robert Walsh enjoying the golf during the Pro Shop Challenge in Kinsale.

Picture: Niall O'Shea



Patsy Coughlan and Lady Captain Colette Kenny enjoying the Kinsale Pro Shop Challenge.

Picture: Niall O'Shea



Caddy Jody Costello pictured with Cathal Butler at the Pro Shop Challenge.

Picture: Niall O'Shea



A large crowd watches as Ian Stafford tees off the first at the Pro Shop Challenge.

Picture: Niall O'Shea

Friday Sport

Don't miss our club camp special on Friday in Cork Sports World. We bring you pictures and the latest news from the Ballincollig, Killeagh, Shamrocks, Sarsfields, St Vincent's, Douglas and Mayfield camps. Plus in soccer Barbara O'Connell and Noel Spillane look ahead to Cork City's clash with Galway as they begin life without Sean Maguire and Kevin O'Connor.

In Friday's Evening Echo Sport



Evening Echo