



HILTON PARK GOLF CLUB

Martin Laird

What a performance by Martin Laird on the PGA tour!

Our former junior champion and junior captain could not have imagined a more thrilling conclusion to his first season on the PGA tour in the United States.

After modest success in the first half of the season he burst into life in the second half and began closing in on the substantial winnings necessary for keeping his card for next season.

In the final tournament of the year Martin was lying in 126th place on the money list – and only the first 125 were granted exemption for 2009. Under the greatest pressure imaginable our bold boy showed his fighting spirit as he faced an eight-foot putt on the 72nd hole. Everything depended on it. If it went in, he had a chance of moving up that one vital place, but only if Davis Love III won the tournament. If he missed he would lose his full season card and the number of tournaments he could have played would be curtailed.

Martin kept his cool and stroked the ball into the hole. And then Davis Love did his bit by getting up and down from difficult lies on the two closing holes.

Martin can now look forward to another full season on the PGA tour, having picked up more than \$800,000 this year. Not bad for a Hilton Park lad!

Well done, Martin. We hope to see you at your old club sometime soon when we will be delighted to present you with your well-deserved honorary membership commemorating your achievement in becoming the first Scot to qualify for the PGA tour since Sandy Lyle – and then keeping your card.

You're making the club proud – and keeping quite a few members out of their beds at night as we follow your progress on television!