

Buckley rides the wind to claim Turkish Airlines World Golf Cup crown

Thomas Buckley mastered the windy conditions at Titanic Golf Club, Belek, Antalya to win the 2016 Turkish Airlines World Golf Cup Grand Final, hosted at the Titanic Deluxe Belek. Players were battling for one of ten available spots in the Pro-Am of the 2016 Turkish Airlines Open taking place down the road at Carya Golf Club.

Buckley from Washington D.C, USA, was one of four players to post an impressive 38 points in Round One, played over the River and Mediterranean nines on the Hawtree-designed layout. Dublin's Thomas Muldoon, Kiev's Oleg Vaslyk and Juan Martin Torregrosa from Buenos Aires all matched the American's two under par 38 points and set up an exciting Final Round fourball in the process.

Oslo's Matthew Corney made four birdies en route to a one under par 37 points, which gave him a five-shot lead over Buckley in the gross competition. The nearest to the pin competition, sponsored by Conte of Florence took place on the 11th hole during Round One, with Pervaiz Ahmed, fresh from his hole-in-one in the Karachi qualifier producing an almost as accurate effort to seal the men's prize whilst Doha's Uzma Mir secured the ladies prize.

The leading fourball teed off on hole one in the final round with the prize of a spot in the Pro-Am alongside Masters Champion Danny Willett on the line. An early slip on the par 5 second from Vaslyk ultimately put paid to his chances of partnering the five-time European Tour winner but things remained a lot tighter between Muldoon, Buckley and Torregrosa, with the Irishman taking a



one-shot lead into the final nine holes. Buckley overturned that deficit with a birdie on the 15th and took a two-stroke lead into the last three holes. Despite a late run from Muldoon, he held firm, holing a putt for 35 points on the 18th green to secure a nerve wracking one shot victory and a once in a lifetime game alongside the current incumbent of the Green Jacket with a combined score of 73 points. Muldoon had to settle for second alone on 72 points whilst a birdie on the last by Frankfurt's Denny

Staroske saw him steal third place from Torregrosa on 71 points, although both qualified for the Pro-Am. The final two available Pro-Am spots from the net category went to Alexey Sidorov (Moscow) and Ghazi Aurangzeb (Dubai).

Whilst the net competition could hardly have been tighter, the gross competition had a clear winner. Following on from his 37 points in round one, Matthew Corney cruised home in round two with a steady 33 points to finish with a combined total of 70 points (two over par). That total was good enough for a nine-shot victory over net winner Buckley and secured him a spot in the Pro-Am alongside defending TA Open Champion, Victor Dubuisson. Patrik Waxin from Miami also booked his place in the Pro-Am with a combined total of 60 points in the gross competition.



The final two available spots were allocated based on the leading score from Round One and the leading score from Round Two, not including those players who had already qualified for the

Pro-Am. That meant that, despite a tricky second round, there was still a spot for Oleg Vaslyk, with the final place going to Los Angeles qualifier, Bruno Ugur, whose 37 points was the tied best score in Round Two.

For those that competed in the Pro-Am, Wednesday 2nd November 2016 will surely live long in the memory. None more so than for Buckley who shared 18 holes in the gentlemanly company of Englishman Willett, who went on to finish second behind Sweden's Henrik Stenson in the European Tour's 2016 Order of Merit.

But it wasn't to be two wins in two days for Buckley, that honour instead went to the team captained by Alex Levy which featured two TAWGC Grand Finalists in Patrik Waxin and Ghazi Aurangzeb, rounding off a great three days of golf at the Grand Final.

2016 TAWGC Grand Final – Results

Net Competition

Winner – Thomas Buckley – $38+35 = 73$ points

Runner up – Thomas Muldoon – $38+34 = 72$ points

Third place – Denny Staroske – $36+35 = 71$ points

Gross Competition

Winner – Matthew Corney – $37+33 = 70$ points

Nearest the pin men – Pervaiz Ahmed

Nearest the pin ladies – Uzma Mir