

18th French Open - 23 & 24 April 2022

Domaine de Champlong Golf Club, Roanne – Loire

I would like to give special thanks to Carlo Farioli, IPPA President, and to all the players who made the long trip to take part in this Pitch & Putt Open, held on the excellent Champlong Course. Thanks too to the club manager, Christophe Jullien and his team for preparing the course so well.

Forty or so players from Spain, Italy, Portugal and the French Departments of La Manche, Hérault and from all over the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region fought hard with the little white ball over the three rounds of the competition.

On Saturday, the greens were especially difficult with tricky flag positions combined with really unpleasant weather conditions of wind and rain. On Sunday, the course was much more “playable” and the scores were correspondingly better.

The title went to a Spanish player, Juan Soler Espinosa, who set a new course record with a superb final round of 8 under par. A fine second place went to a former winner of several IPPA Opens, Jean-Claude Richard of the French Montpensier club. Frank Blanchard from the Bas en Basset club took 3rd place, followed by Christian Moulin from Riom. Alberto Viotto, an Italian player from the Virginia Golf Club finished fifth.

The Ladies’ title went to Sophie Aubonnet from the local Champlong club, winner by one stroke after a close struggle with her fellow club player Ghislaine Roux. Valérie Martin from the St Etienne Golf Club finished in third place.

At the prize-giving ceremony, presided by the club manager, Christophe Jullien, assisted by IPPA president Carlo Farioli, the players were congratulated for their fine performances, before sharing the final farewell cocktail party.

We all hope to meet again in 2023 for the next Open at the end of April near St Etienne