

Glazier leads championship

A driving ambition

DARTMOUTH Golf and Country Club's Paul Glazier is three points clear at the top of the RE/MAX European Long Drive Championship after a thrilling fourth round at the picturesque Saint Omer Golf Club in Lumbres, France.

Despite finishing in fifth place in the French leg of the championships, Glazier gained five order of merit points to stay on top of the table ahead of next week's fifth round at County Tipperary, Ireland.

The Dartmouth golfer is just ahead of rival player Janos Uotila, but a gap of 10 points has now emerged between second and third places in the table, and things are looking good for the man known as Hammer Time.

Glazier had built up a strong lead after the previous rounds in Italy, Spain and Austria, and will be desperate to hold on to his lead for the remainder of the championships.

On his trip to France, he said: "The grid didn't really suit me and I was unable to reproduce the form I showed on the range in practice. I'm a little disappointed to only finish fifth but the five order of merit points I gained keep me on top of the table.

"Janos has closed the gap, but there's now 10 points between third place and me, so qualification for the RE/MAX World Long Drive Championship via one of the top two order of merit slots is looking good."

The day started overcast and the grid played soft with very little roll.

The best drives in qualification were set very early on when the weather was at its best. Glazier's best drive was 297m (325 yd), which saw him qualify in seventh position.

As the skies brightened and the temperatures increased for the afternoon's final, so did the distances.

In the quarter-final, Adam Stacey, third in the RE/MAX World Long Drive Championship in 2005, produced the longest drive of the day with a sensational 349m (382 yd) bomb to cruise through to the semi-final.



■ ON A ROLL: Paul Glazier, who currently leads the RE/MAX European Long Drive Championship table

All the other LDE European Tour regulars safely negotiated this first hurdle in their quest to be crowned RE/MAX Long Drive Champion of France except current RE/MAX Long Drive Champion of Spain, Stef 'Grizzly' Gresel.

The final was an entertaining affair, with Stacey, once again, showing why he is one of the finest long drivers around as he struck a magnificent drive of 334m (365 yd) with his third ball to steal the show and earn him the title of RE/MAX Long Drive Champion of France for 2007.

The LDE European Long Drive tour takes a well-earned

break next week but resumes the week after in the Emerald Isle for the RE/MAX Long Drive Championship of Ireland at the Ballykisteon Hotel and Golf Resort, in County Tipperary.

A PhD student and senior technician at the Cardiff School of Sport at the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff (UWIC), Glazier is being sponsored by Dartmouth in his quest for glory.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available to support Glazier's trips around Europe this summer.

Contact longdrive@dgcc.co.uk for further details.