

In the spotlight...

# Issac Bate

## ‘Showed great character when pressure was on’



Bate watches the progress of his putt during his Junior Island Championship final match against Trystan Perkins.

AFTER playing arguably his two best rounds of golf yet and agonisingly missing out on a maiden Junior Island Championship title, Isaac Bate's ability has been praised. The 16-year-old took favourite and more experienced Trystan Perkins all the way to the 35th hole of their showdown last weekend, having fought back from five down at the midway point. And although Perkins held on for victory, Bate's efforts did not go unnoticed by Bill Le Huray, who is on the junior committee at the Royal Guernsey Golf Club. 'Isaac played some damn good golf all day long and had he had a few more breaks here and there, maybe a luckier bounce every now and then, the outcome may have been different,' said Le Huray. 'What was especially impressive was the distance he has driving the ball because he has never been an especially big hitter, but

Despite just missing out on the Junior Island Championship title after fighting back from five down, 16-year-old Isaac Bate has demonstrated his ability with a golf club in hand. **Matt Lihou** reports

on a few occasions was putting his tee shot past even where Trystan was landing. 'By doing that and getting those extra yards on his drive, it opens up a lot more possibilities when it comes to attacking the green with his next shots. 'The way that Isaac drives the ball and plays is not the most orthodox, but he gets the ball around the course well and it doesn't matter how you do it, that is all that matters.' UK-born Bate moved to the island when he was seven, but had already had big success even

before that, as he won the under-six category at the HSBC Wee Wonders National Junior Golf Championships. That performance earned him a place at the following year's US Kids Golf World Championships, where he finished an impressive 18th, as well as getting to meet the legendary Tiger Woods. These days, Bate plays off a six handicap, but that is a mark that Le Huray expects him to lower in the near future and believes that he should reach four before too long. A regular of recent junior inter-

insulars, Bate will miss this year's match but Le Huray is still confident he will achieve much moving forward. 'If Isaac can produce rounds regularly as good as he did last weekend, then he will lower that handicap soon and can push on from there further. 'I don't want to say too much about what he may or may not achieve in the seniors in the future because it all depends on whether he remains on-island or goes to university. 'But he has the ability and has proved that, as well as showing he has great character as well because when he was five down last weekend, he could easily have folded. 'Fighting back like that, even when Trystan himself did very little wrong, showed that Isaac is capable of and hopefully he produces that on a regular basis now.'

(Picture by Adrian Miller, 15140964)

### ISAAC BATE

**Age:** 16

**Sport:** Golf

**Club:** Royal Guernsey Golf Club

**Handicap:** Six

**Notable achievements:** Runner-up in this year's Junior Island Championship final