

Among the elder statesman of Atlantic pro golf, Jim Baxter is the standout player of 2011.

In a tournament that went right to the final shot, the long-time Moncton Golf and Country Club professional captured the CPGA Atlantic zone senior championship at the Moncton Country Meadows Golf Club yesterday.

Baxter turned in a final round score of 5-over-par 77 to finish the 36-hole championship at 7-over-par 151. He was 2-over-par 74 in the first round.

Baxter's margin of victory was just one shot over first-round leader Marshall McMahon of the Westfield Golf Club near Saint John. McMahon, the first-round leader with a 73, was 79 yesterday and finished at 8-over-par 152.

Country Meadows owner/professional Doug Sullivan was third, one stroke behind McMahon at 153. His games were 77-76.

It was Baxter's first victory in the senior championship that was held for only the first time three years ago. The first two champions were Richard Dumeah of Pugwash in 2009 and John Irwin of Charlottetown in 2010.

In the pre-senior class (players aged 42-49), Kevin Dugas of The Links at Montaque in Dartmouth was the runaway champion at 1-over-par 145. He was 1-over-par 73 yesterday after a first-round even par 72.

Brent McKay of the Sussex Golf and Curling Club was second at 151. His 72 yesterday was the best score of the day. He was 79 in the first round.

Dwayne MacGregor of Charlottetown was third at 152 (75-77).

Kim Adams, the former Futures Tour pro who now works at the Fox Harb'r Resort in Wallace, N.S., is the APGA ladies champion. She posted games of 84-81.

The opening round of the championship was held in conjunction with the annual Heather Wilbur Scholarship Scramble. It featured 24 teams joining APGA professionals in a scramble format pro-am tournament.