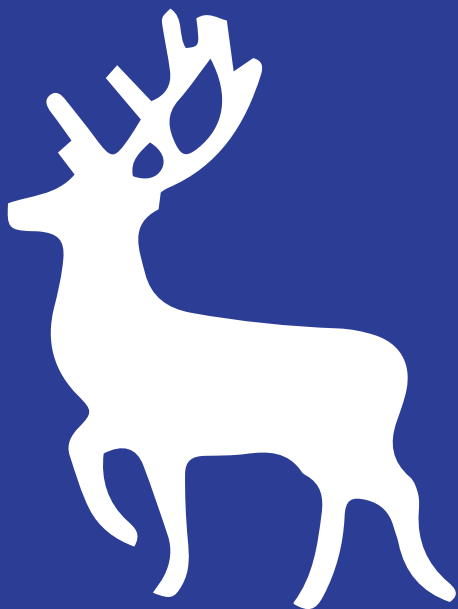




HERTFORDSHIRE GOLF 2024
CELEBRATING A YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENT

www.hertfordshiregolf.org

**JANET BISCOE**

IT HAS BEEN ANOTHER GREAT YEAR FOR GOLF IN THE COUNTY OF HERTFORDSHIRE AND WE ARE DELIGHTED TO SHARE WITH YOU AND RECALL SOME OF THE SUCCESSES THAT PLAYERS IN OUR COUNTY HAD THIS YEAR.

We continue to be very proud that Hertfordshire Golf offers opportunities for golf at all levels; from reaching out to people suffering with illness, encouraging Guides to take up the sport, providing school events, offering a junior development pathway through the ITour, Futures Tour and the Girls Summer Series, right through to scratch and handicap championships, competitions and inter-club matches for golfers of all levels and championing the very best, elite golfers.

This publication shines a light on some exceptional performances this year and we must single out Harry Cox, who has a host of titles to his credit this year – County Men's Champion; County Boys Champion; England Golf Champion of Champions in both Men and Boys; semi-finalist in the R&A Boys Championship at Moortown; quarter finalist in the English Amateur Championship at Seaton Carew and recently named in England's 2025 Boys squad. What an incredible achievement.

Congratulations also go to Darcie West, winner of England Golf Girls Champion of Champions and to Jackie Foster, winner of the English Senior Women's Amateur Championship.

You have made Hertfordshire proud.

Janet Biscoe
Editor

COUNTY STAFF**Louis Matamala**

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Matt Clarke

Assistant County Secretary

Matthew Crowhurst

County Development Officer

Genny Hill

Office Administrator

Robin Colbourne**PRESIDENT****BOARD OF DIRECTORS****Bobby Kendall**

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Finance

Jane Clarke

Club Services

Rowena Hemmings

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Championships

2024 COUNTY CHAMPIONS

**HARRY COX WELWYN GARDEN CITY GC
AND ANNA MALLOY SANDY LODGE GC**

**HARRY COX SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDS HIS
MEN'S COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE AND
ANNA MOLLOY GOES ONE BETTER THAN 2023 AND
WINS THE WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP**

Our flagship County Championship took place 30 May to 2 June with the playing of both the Men's and the Women's events simultaneously at the same venue.

The host this year was Welwyn Garden City GC. Somewhat surprisingly this was the first time in the club's history that these events had been played on the course. The club is, of course, most famous for being the home club of Sir Nick Faldo, himself a past winner of the Men's County Championship in 1975, who later added six major championship wins to his vast trophy cabinet.

The event started on Thursday with the Women's strokeplay qualifying round, with several trophies being played for as part of the strokeplay qualifying - Scratch Aggregate Cup (best 36 holes gross), the Anne Pyke Trophy (best 36 holes nett) and the Pam Lane Salver (best team score, using best two gross scores from two of three players from the same club from each round).

Best gross was won by former Champion Kelly Cooke, formerly of Welwyn Garden City GC but now playing out of Panshanger GC, with 149 +5 pipping Zainab Jeppe of Mill Green GC on an afternoon countback. Zainab did however



win the best nett comfortably with an excellent score of 141 -3. The team competition was won by Essendon GC, represented by Riya Chandaria, Janine Cicchirillo and Sarah Marley, who proceeded to represent Hertfordshire in the England Golf Women's Champion Club Final event, played at Hessle GC, Yorkshire in late August.

The Men's strokeplay qualifying took place on Friday with a field of 66 competitors. The weather was thoroughly miserable with a strong north/north-westerly wind making conditions testing but the players accepted the challenge and played in good spirits.

Defending champion 16 year-old Harry Cox always looked the one to beat and laid a marker down, claiming the medalist honours with the best 36 hole gross score of 137(-3), four shots clear of his nearest challenger, Tom Ryan of Knebworth GC and the ever-reliable Niall Johnston of Letchworth GC, both on 141 (+1).

The score for the top 16 places qualifying through to the weekend knock-out rounds fell on 148 +8, with a sudden-death playoff required for five players tied on the score to determine the last qualifier, which was taken by Oscar Freeman of West Herts GC.

The round of 16 in the Men's event saw wins for several previous champions - Harry Cox who defeated Oscar Freeman, 2018 winner Joss Gosling who defeated Phil Dormer and 2016 winner Tony Wilkins who defeated Finlay Rennie. Niall Johnston edged out home player Jack McGregor on the last hole but both Louie Bloxham and the long-hitting David Allmand-Smith made it through to the quarter final round.



The Women's event recommenced on the Saturday afternoon and saw relatively one-sided affairs across the board with comfortable victories for Kelly Cooke, Zainab Jeppe, Anna Molloy, and Emmanuelle Hewson, the latter taking on Jackie Foster who had recently won the English Senior Women's Amateur Championship.

The Men's quarter finals saw tighter affairs, although no matches went to the 18th hole, with wins for the irrepressible Harry Cox and Louie Bloxham, setting up a popular all-host club semi-final match up in the top half and Tony Wilkins and Joss Gosling in the bottom half.

Finally, summer seemed to arrive for our last day on the Sunday and the players were greeted in bright sunshine, with little to no wind and warmer temperatures.

The Women's semi-final matches saw a top half of two former Champions take each other on with Kelly Cooke against Emmanuelle Hewson and in the bottom half two former runners-up taking each other on with Zainab Jeppe against Anna Molloy. Both matches saw good play and remained tight but good short games and putting were key in the victories for Emmanuelle and Anna to set up a final match in the afternoon.

The Men's semi-final matches were both played in great spirit between friends. Harry Cox continued his sparkling form and defeated his good pal Louie on the 16th green, while in the other semi-final match Tony Wilkins played some terrific golf and was several under par, defeating Joss on the 14th green.

Both finals were followed by strong support, especially the Men's final with the added attraction of the home player on display.



ANNA MOLLOY

HARRY COX

In the Women's final, Anna took an early lead and was two up on Emmanuelle by the turn. She stretched this to an unassailable four up by the 15th tee and closed the game out with a par four on the 15th to take the Women's title and go one better than her runner-up position last year at Moor Park.

In the Men's final, Harry continued to be generally unflappable and led over Tony, two up at the turn with two birdies at the third and sixth and all the rest pars. Tony had the opportunity to cut the deficit on the eighth hole, with a birdie putt on the short par four after Harry made a rare error to be out of position but Tony couldn't make it count and the hole was halved in par. On the tenth Harry holed

from outside Tony to make it three up, a lead that Harry would hold until the 16th green, where he closed the match out to retain the Men's title. Harry is the first player to retain the Men's Championship since Ben Connelly of Porters Park some 20 years ago.

The prize giving was held outside on the putting green with winners, almost winners, well-wishers, supporters and officials all enjoying a well-deserved drink or two.

Our thanks go to Welwyn Garden City GC for all their efforts in hosting the event. The competitors were universal in their praise of both the well-conditioned course and the welcome they received.



Congratulations to both Harry and Anna on their victories. Harry proceeded to Woodhall Spa to play in the Men's Champion of Champions.

The 2025 Championships will be held at Berkhamsted GC, 29 May - 1 June.

2024 COUNTY CHAMPIONS

WOMEN'S SEMI FINAL

KELLY COOKE V EMMANUELLE HEWSON

ZAINAB JEPPE V ANNA MOLLOY

FINAL

ANNA MOLLOY V EMMANUELLE HEWSON

MEN'S SEMI FINAL

HARRY COX V LOUIE BLOXHAM

TONY WILKINS V JOSS GOSLING

FINAL

HARRY COX V TONY WILKINS



HONORARY MEMBERSHIP WAS AWARDED TO ANNE PYKE AND MARK KNIGHT THIS YEAR IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR LONG SERVICE AND OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION

ANNE PYKE

Anne has been a stalwart of Hertfordshire Golf for over 50 years. Most recently, she was county president between 2021 and 2023 and previously she held the positions of captain and president of the County Ladies' Golf Association.

Her services to golf at club, county and national level are impressive. When Anne moved to the area in the 1970s, she was a member at Verulam GC and then in 1978 she joined Harpenden GC, where she eventually became lady president.

She was president of the South East Region of the English Ladies' Golf Association (ELGA), an executive committee member on ELGA and, following the merger with the EGU, served for three years on the English Golf Championship committee.

Anne played in the Ladies' County first team, mostly during the 1980s. She attended the R&A Tournament and Referees Seminar (TARS) in 2006, has refereed for England for 13

years, as well as for Hertfordshire for a shorter period, and was a member of the county course rating team when the USGA system was first introduced.

In short, there aren't many positions that Anne hasn't fulfilled in her time.

We are very grateful to Anne for the skills, knowledge and expertise she has contributed over a sustained period. In the last two years ill health has unfortunately curtailed her ability to attend events, but it has not dampened her enthusiasm and championing of Hertfordshire Golf.



MARK KNIGHT

Mark Knight was directly involved with junior golf in Hertfordshire for over two decades and was an invaluable driving force behind many of the most successful and important initiatives for encouraging young golfers of all abilities in the county.

Mark, along with professional Mark Day, initiated and administered the Futures and iTour events, a key component of our player pathway in the county, enabling us to have contact and engagement with golfers far earlier in their

journey than previously. Mark was also part of a team that delivered the County Academy Program (CAP) that underpins and compliments our annual county coaching structure.

Mark was the junior organiser at Redbourn GC for many years and created a programme and a culture that fostered many successful players, most notably Jack Bigham and Sophia Fullbrook. But importantly, many more juniors owe their ongoing enthusiasm for the game in some small part to Mark's commitment and efforts.

He was awarded the Volunteer of the Year Award by England Golf in 2014 and was also the Regional Girls Manager for England Golf for some time.

He started part-time employment with the Men's Union in 2017 as office administrator and took on the role of assistant county secretary when the union and the women's association merged in 2018, a position he held until his retirement in late 2023. Mark was a model employee with no task too much, too awkward or too difficult to manage.

We are indebted to Mark's contributions.

JACKIE FOSTER OF BISHOPS STORTFORD CLAIMS YET ANOTHER MAJOR WIN

Jackie by her own admission somewhat snuck through the strokeplay qualifying and into the knock-out rounds and was Number 16 out of Number 16 to make the cut. But true to form she provided stern opposition for all she came up against and despatched the medalist and Number 1 seed Emma Brown in her home county, Yorkshire in the Round of 16.



OUR OWN JACKIE FOSTER OF BISHOPS STORTFORD CLAIMED THE TITLE OF ENGLISH SENIOR WOMEN'S AMATEUR CHAMPION WITH VICTORY AT THE YORK GOLF CLUB IN MAY.

Jackie has now won all of the top senior events, including the Senior Women's Stroke Play in 2016 and 2017, the Senior Women's County Champion of Champions in 2021 and The R&A Senior Women's Amateur in 2023 at Woodhall Spa.

Jackie defeated Caroline Berry of Bromborough, Merseyside by the margin of 3&2 in the final match.

Congratulations to Jackie on her stellar performance on the national stage.



JACK BIGHAM AND SOPHIA FULLBROOK NAMED IN ENGLAND TEAMS FOR 2025

Jack Bigham of Harpenden GC and Sophia Fullbrook of The Melbourne Club have both been named in their respective England teams for the 2025 season.

Jack, 2021 R&A Boys Amateur Champion, and Sophia, 2022 England Girls Amateur Champion, are studying in the US where they both attend Florida State University, one of the strongest golfing colleges in the country.

England Men's and Women's teams are made up of a mix of domestic and overseas players and we are very proud to have the pair continue to play such an important role in the international setup. We wish both Jack and Sophia continued success in 2025.

HARRY COX NAMED FOR ENGLAND BOYS SQUAD

Harry Cox has deservedly topped off his amazing 2024 season by being named in England's 2025 Boys Squad.

Congratulations to Harry for this fabulous recognition and wishing you well for a great 2025 season.





HARRY COX CONTINUED HIS UNPRECEDENTED RUN OF WINS BY CLAIMING THE BOYS COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP AT SANDY LODGE IN JULY

HARRY ONCE AGAIN PROVED TO BE THE CREAM OF THE CROP AS HE ROMPED TO VICTORY TO ADD TO HIS TRIUMPHS IN 2022 AND 2023, IN DOING SO BECOMING THE FIRST THREE-TIME WINNER OF THIS PARTICULAR EVENT.

This was the first time the Boys Championship event had been held at Sandy Lodge GC since 1998, some 26 years ago. The course was presented excellently for the event and provided a fair but exciting challenge for competitors, particularly with long rough providing a severe penalty for wild driving.

The competition is 36 holes medal strokeplay played off scratch, with an age-related category of the best U16 scores for the Malcolm Reid Trophy, and the Team Championship, with the best two from three handicap players from the same club used.

After the morning round, Harry led by three shots after a round of 67 (-4) from his nearest rivals - namely Finlay Rennie of Centurion GC, and Harrison Preston of Hanbury Manor GC - both on 70 (-1). In the U16 category Cobi Arai of Dyrham Park GC led on 71 (level).



HARRY COX

In the afternoon round Harry stretched his lead further adding a round of 66 (-5) for a 36-hole total of 133 (-9) for the day. Harry won by six clear shots from Harrison in second place with an excellent performance of his own on 139 (-3) for the day, an afternoon 69 to add to his morning 70. In third place was Nat Warren of Porters Park GC, who edged out playing partner Finlay Rennie with an afternoon score of 68 (-3), after both had tied on 141 (-1) for the day.

In the Malcolm Reid Trophy, halfway leader Cobi faded in the afternoon with a score of 79, which allowed Ben Sessions of Bishop's Stortford GC to claim the title with an afternoon 71 for a total of 144 (+2) for the day. Henry Dowsett of East Herts GC was the runner-up on 148 (+6).

In the Team Championship, played for the Team Flag, unsurprisingly Welwyn Garden City GC came out on top with a terrific team total of 275 (-9). Harry was joined by Louie Bloxham and Patrick Donovan, with all three players having at least one score counting towards the team total.

Harry proceeded to represent Hertfordshire at the Boys Champion of Champions event at Woodhall Spa in September.



SANDY LODGE'S DARCIE WEST TAKES HERTFORDSHIRE GIRLS CHAMPIONSHIP

DARCIE WEST OF SANDY LODGE GC SECURED VICTORY IN THE GIRLS COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP AT KNEBORTH GC IN AUGUST ON A DAY WHICH STARTED COOL, WET AND WINDY AND THE FIRST FEW HOLES WERE PLAYED IN FAR FROM SUMMERY CONDITIONS.

Though the rain soon relented, the strong winds made for tough scoring. However, fresh from a fantastic run all the way through to the quarter-finals of the R&A Girls Championship at Alwoodley GC the previous week, Darcie maintained her recent run of form with a round of 72 (-1) – four shots clear of runner-up Alecia Ibekwem, also of Sandy Lodge GC.

In the handicap results, Lilly Newton of Bishop's Stortford GC returned an excellent net 69 (-4) two shots clear of runner-up Anya Martin of Verulam GC.

Darcie went onto compete in and win the Girls Champion of Champions at Woodhall Spa in September.





HARPENDEN'S TONY MITCHELL TAKES COUNTY MEN'S MID-AGE TITLE

OUR ANNUAL MEN'S MID-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP WAS PLAYED IN JULY AT THE HERTFORDSHIRE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB, LOCATED NEAR BROXBOURNE. A TOTAL OF 51 COMPETITORS TOOK PART IN THE 36-HOLE STROKEPLAY COMPETITION, WITH SEPARATE SCRATCH AND HANDICAP EVENTS.

The course was presented well and provides a fair and interesting challenge for the competitors, with some water hazards to avoid down the closing stretch and a fair amount of long rough providing some penalty for wide shots across the course. The weather in the lead up to the event rendered the course playing very scoreable and some rain between rounds further softened the course up to more of a target golf challenge.

After the morning 18 holes, Tony Mitchell of Harpenden GC and a former England Boys player and County Boys Champion, led by four shots with a magnificent round of 65 (-5). A pack of three players on 69 (-1) were the nearest challengers, namely Tony Wilkins of Harpenden Common GC, Niall Johnston of Letchworth GC and Simon Irwin of Verulam GC.

Mitchell, who had only relatively recently returned to the game after a long break throughout his 20s, rolled back the years and showed his mettle to clinch the title with an afternoon 67 (-3), for a superb 36-hole gross total of 132 (-8).



Tony won by three shots from his nearest competitor, David Jackson of Hadley Wood GC, himself a two-time winner of the event who stormed through the field with an afternoon joint best of the day 65 (-5) for a total of 135 (-5).

Making up the top three was the ever-consistent Niall Johnston, adding an afternoon level par round of 70 for a total of 139 (-1) for the day. Mat Larman of Hanbury Manor GC won the best handicap prize, aided by an excellent gross score of 67, nett 63, in the afternoon round for a nett total of 134 (-6).



UNDER 35s CHAMPION



LAURIE OWEN OF HARPENDEN COMMON GC TAKES COUNTY UNDER 35s TITLE

Former Men's County Champion, Laurie Owen, added an age bracket title to his championship at Porters Park GC in June.

No fewer than 42 competitors took part in the annual event, this year taking place at Porters Park GC as part of their 125th anniversary celebrations.

The event, an age-related championship for those aged at least 18 but younger than 35 at the start of the year, replaced the Colts Championship in the schedule.

The competition is played over 36 holes medal strokeplay, with the winner being the player with the lowest returned gross score for the day.

Thankfully, the weather on the day for the event was excellent, with the course bathed in sunshine all day, along with warm temperatures and light winds.

Laurie Owen was fresh from his victory the previous month at the King George V tournament, Porters Park's annual men's scratch open event. Laurie had shot an incredible score of 61 (-9), which would have been a course amateur record was it not for the fact that preferred lies were in operation. Laurie started the U35s event as the favourite after his impressive victory in the King George V.

Laurie took a considerable lead into the afternoon round after a score of 69 (-1) in the morning to lead by two from Rio Saigal of Moor Park GC on 71 (+1) and by a further three shots from the chasing pack.

He added an afternoon 71 (+1) for an overall total score of 140 - level for the day - to win by three shots from Rio and Owen Clouting, of Welwyn Garden City GC. Owen had stormed through the field with an afternoon score of 69 (-1) to pip Rio to second place. Rio did, though, have the consolation of finishing as the best-placed U25 player, therefore winning entry into the England Golf U25 Championship, which took place at Woburn in July.

Congratulations to Laurie on his well-deserved victory. Next year's Men's U35s Championship will take place at Ashridge GC on 22 June.



HARRY'S HEROICS

HARRY COX MAKES HISTORY WITH SENSATIONAL DOUBLE WIN AT CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

What seemed an impossible task proved anything but as Harry Cox of Welwyn Garden City not only secured the County Boys Champion of Champions around 36 holes on the tough and demanding Hotchkin course at Woodhall Spa. He then returned the next day to do what no man has done before, by winning the Men's Champion of Champions over the same weekend!

Harry qualified for both national finals having done the county double of men's and boy's county champion earlier in the year.

Having had a long, tiring season, which has brought so much success, Harry was unsure that he would be able to play both 36 holes finals but somehow mustered up the energy and concentration to maintain such an incredible standard.

In the Boys Championship on the Saturday, a morning round of 71 -2 saw Harry hold a one shot lead going into round two. He extended his lead as the afternoon progressed and with the wind getting up, the course became more challenging, but Harry was unfazed by a double bogey on 16 as he held his nerve over the closing two holes to shoot a level par 73, which with his morning round would secure a one stroke victory.



With the boys championship in the bag, Sunday brought the men to play. The course was set up even longer than the day before and pin positions hidden away in more challenging places to access.

This proved no issues for Harry as a morning round of 71 -2, saw Harry in a three-way tie for the lead, which ominously included last year's champion, Levi Desmond from Lincolnshire.

And it was Levi who would prove to be the toughest opposition in the afternoon as he tried desperately to defend his title. The two of them would trade birdies back and forth and with Levi holding a one stroke lead going up the last, it took a courageous birdie from Harry to shoot a second round 70 -3 and see them head off into playoff holes.

The first playoff hole was tied with pars but the second playoff hole took them back up the 18th and once more the hole proved fruitful for Harry as he birdied it again, adding the Men's Champion of Champions to his trophy collection.

Words don't really express what an amazing accomplishment this is and Hertfordshire Golf are super proud of what what he has achieved. Bring on 2025.



DARCIE WEST WINS GIRLS COUNTY CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS AT WOODHALL SPA IN DRAMATIC PLAYOFF

DARCIE WEST OF SANDY LODGE WITH GIRLS COUNTY CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS TROPHY

Darcie West of Sandy Lodge secured victory at the 2024 Girls County Champion of Champions in dramatic style, winning in a playoff at the first extra hole in near darkness.

Hosted by Woodhall Spa on their Bracken Course, this tournament invites all the 2024 English Girls County Champions to battle it out over 36 holes strokeplay to find the overall champion.

Posting scores of 75 & 73 would find Darcie in a tie with her close friend from Buckinghamshire, Ellie Lichtenhein, which would send them out in a sudden-death playoff in ever darkening skies to determine the victor.

And it was Darcie who prevailed, adding this prestigious title to a continued run of form, which had seen her make it through to the quarters finals of The R&A Girls Championship and securing her place in this tournament with victory at the Hertfordshire Girls County Championship.



HOSTED BY WOODHALL SPA ON THEIR BRACKEN COURSE, THIS TOURNAMENT INVITES ALL THE 2024 ENGLISH GIRLS COUNTY CHAMPIONS



LEWIS SALTHOUSE WINS BOYS U14s CHAMPIONSHIP

IN LATE AUGUST, KNEBWORTH GC HOSTED THE BOYS U14 ANNUAL CHAMPIONSHIP IN TOUGH, WINDY CONDITIONS.

Despite the adverse weather and the challenges of a tricky course, the players put on a display that was nothing short of a showcase of golfing prowess.

The competition came to an enthralling climax with Lewis of West Herts GC returning a score of 74, that was matched by George Lancaster of Sandy Lodge GC. A playoff was required to separate the pair, after matching each other's scores down one and 18.

George's long drive down the middle unfortunately found the bunker, leaving him unable to find the green in regulation. Lewis remained calm and his regulation par was enough to secure the title.

With more than one title on offer, George did receive the consolation of becoming U14 champion, with Lewis taking the U13 title and Marcus Karim of East Herts – aged just 10 – taking the U12 crown.



LEWIS SALTHOUSE



GEORGE LANCASTER



BEN SESSIONS WINS BOYS U16s CHAMPIONSHIP AND LILY WRANGLE WINS GIRLS AUTUMN CUP

Clarke of Knebworth scored 30 points in scratch stableford to claim the Barbara Quirk Shield.

The cumulative prize for the Girls Spring and Autumn Meetings were handed out on the day - namely the Handicap Plate, won by Amelia Parker of Letchworth GC with 75 handicap stableford points and the Cunningham Salver, won by Tala Clarke of Knebworth GC with 56 scratch stableford points.

We were also delighted to have with us on the day Gillian O'Gorman, daughter of Ann MacLaurin, who presented the plate in her late mother's name to winner Amelia Parker, for best cumulative finishes in the three county girls' events across the season. Gillian and her family have always been extremely supportive of county girls' golf and are looking again to support Hertfordshire Golf in the future.

Other age prizes in the boys' event went to 10 year old Marcus Karim of East Herts GC for best U14 scratch with gross 71 (+2), & Ronnie Seagroatt of Hanbury Manor GC, who won the best U15 scratch with gross 70 (+1). Next year's events will be played at West Herts GC on Tuesday 28 October.



BEN SESSION

THE TRADITIONAL END OF SEASON CLOSING EVENT, HELD DURING HALF TERM WEEK, TOOK PLACE ON 1 NOVEMBER WITH THE BOYS UNDER 16S CHAMPIONSHIP RUN IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE GIRLS AUTUMN MEETING, PLAYED AT MID HERTS GC WITH 56 BOYS PLAYING MEDAL STROKEPLAY AND 15 GIRLS PLAYING STABLEFORD.

Retaining the title he won last year at his home club, Bishops Stortford GC, Ben Sessions returned the only under par gross score of the day with an impressive 68 (-1) to win the overall boys' scratch prize and the oldest age category scratch prize. This caps off a great period for Ben, who recently represented England at Under 16 level in a match against Ireland played at Burnham and Berrow in Somerset. River Gardiner won the overall handicap prize with a nett 67 (-2).

In the girls' event, home player Lily Wrangle, returned the best score of 37 points to win the Autumn Cup, while Tala

BUILDING STRENGTH FOR THE FUTURE

ENCOURAGING YOUNGSTERS INTO GOLF IS A KEY PART OF THE ROLE OF OUR COUNTY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, MATT CROWHURST.

The Futures Tour for five to 11-year-olds provides an opportunity for young golfers to have fun playing golf within their respective peer groups. Over 100 young competitors register to play each year in events which take place around the county on par three courses.

The Futures Tour underpins the foundation of the academy programme and provides a nursery bed of young golfers progressing through recognised player pathways into club, county and national structures.

The iTour programme has been structured for 11 to 16-year-old players. They are not required to have a handicap or be a member of a club and may be latecomers to the game or in need of a confidence boost on longer courses prior to playing a full 18-hole course.

This has been a successful year with participation on both tours continuing to grow and we are grateful to all the clubs and junior organisers across the county who support these programmes.

Both the Futures Tour and the iTour run an order of merit which sees the best five scores taken from each player to determine the winner.

Oliver Lester from Bishop Stortford GC won the Futures Tour OOM with a best five scores of 155. Oliver, has been



OWEN WHITE



OLIVER LESTER

very consistent this year and will now be moving on to the iTour we wish Oliver the best of luck for 2025.

The iTour OOM winner is Owen White from Letchworth Golf Club with a best five scores of 204. Owen had a fantastic year and is developing into a great golfer. He will now look to compete in the Junior Opens and we wish him the best of luck for 2025.



A BUSY YEAR FOR HERTFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS

It was a busy year for Hertfordshire schools' golfers both within and outside the county. The season kicked off in October 2023 at Chesfield Downs with our showcase scratch event, The Schools Rosebowl. A field of 60 students took part, with a maximum handicap of 12.4 for boys and 18.4 for girls. The standards were very high and a lowest gross of 71 from Ixie Akpan of The Highfield School secured the girls' title. Harry Cox, Louie Bloxham and Luca Ibekwem all returned scores of 72 but it was Luca from Queens' School who took the boys' title on countback.

From this tournament the top four boys and three girls progressed to the Schools East Region Championship at Wensum Valley in Norfolk. From these East Region Championships, Euan Hardie, Marcus Karim, Ruby Esterbrook and Tala Clarke made it through to the National Finals.

The National Finals took place in June at Stanmore GC. The top seven boys and five girls go forward to represent the England Schools National side in an international match against Wales Schools, held a match at Stoke Rochford GC

in Lincolnshire. Tala Clarke of Marriotts once again made it through Nationals to represent the England Schools national side for a third appearance, having finished runner-up in 2023 and been U16 National Champion in 2021. England secured a comfortable 13-8 victory over Wales.

In March, The Club at Mill Green welcomed students to the Team Championship, where 25 teams battled it out. Marcus Karim, Alfie Akers and Ava Gadsby of St. Edmunds College's won the nett and went on to play in the National Team Finals on the Bracken course at Woodhall Spa. Bishop's Stortford High, represented by Ben Sessions, Dylan Hussey and Euan Hardie, secured a spot in the inaugural scratch team championship around the Hotchkin course. St. Edmunds College finished tied fourth in the nett championship and Bishop's Stortford High finished third in the scratch championship.

The Mid Handicap Schools Championship took place at The Club at Mill Green with 41 students competing. Several players played below their handicap, but Alfie Copeland of Monk's Walk took the title with 41 points.

From this championship, the top six boys and three girls are selected to represent the county in the McPartlin Trophy, a match which brings together Hertfordshire, Essex, Middlesex and Bedfordshire in a team format, taking the best seven scores from nine. It was our year to host and Aldenham GC welcomed us for this annual contest. Representing Hertfordshire were Alfie Copeland, Maisie Palombo, James McCann, Flora Hadley, Timo Herr, Eve Warren, Raff Murru, Lewis Greenhill and Matthew Digweed. They all did the county proud, finishing third with Bedfordshire winning the trophy for the first time.



MATTHEW GAUNTLETT AND SEAN KELLY WIN MEN'S COUNTY FOURSOMES CHAMPIONSHIP

TOWARDS THE END OF SEPTEMBER THE MEN'S COUNTY FOURSOMES CHAMPIONSHIP TOOK PLACE AT BROOKMANS PARK GC, WITH THE WEST HERTS GC PAIR OF MATTHEW GAUNTLETT AND SEAN KELLY VICTORIOUS.

On arrival and at first sight, heavy overnight rain had rendered the course unplayable with several flooded greens. However, a window of opportunity arose late in the morning with dry weather allowing the competition to be completed, albeit over 18 holes as opposed to the intended 36.

The best score returned was an impressive 68 (-3) gross from both Gauntlett and Kelly, along with Warren Clarke and Callum McCarthy of Knebworth GC. A sudden death playoff was required to determine our winners and - after both pairs made regulation pars on the first hole - a 25-footer for birdie on the par four closing hole from Sean sealed the win for the West Herts pair.

It was a double win on the day for West Herts as they carried off the Peggy Harkett Memorial Trophy for the best cumulative team score with Sean and Matthew added to by Ronnie Gibb and Noah Peters.

A SUDDEN DEATH PLAYOFF WAS REQUIRED TO DETERMINE OUR WINNERS

Our thanks go to Brookmans Park GC for hosting and to their staff for their considerable efforts to get the event played in the first place.



A BIT OF HISTORY...

In 1889 there were no golf clubs in Hertfordshire, (there were only 80 in the whole of England) but then in 1890, West Herts GC (playing at Bushey Hall) and Chorleywood GC were established within weeks of each other. West Herts GC subsequently moved to its current location in 1897. Thus these three clubs, West Herts, Chorleywood and Bushey Hall, lay claim to being the oldest clubs in Hertfordshire. However, Hertfordshire Golf Union (HGU) did not come into existence until Thursday 24th March 1924, over thirty years later. On that day, 12 representatives from 10 different clubs, Berkhamsted, Bishop's Stortford, Bushey Hall, Mid Herts, Moor Park, Old Fold Manor, Oxhey, Porters Park, Sandy Lodge and Verulam convened for a meeting at The Golfers Club, Whitehall Court, London. Major Burton of Porters Park GC took the chair and the meeting passed the resolution: "That the Hertfordshire Golf Union be and is formed."

Records of the inauguration of the Hertfordshire County Ladies Golf Association are patchy. The Ladies Golf Union (LGU) was formed in the UK in 1893 as the first golf organisation exclusively for women. It was founded by Issette Pearson, who recognized the need for a governing body to oversee the growing number of women's golf clubs in Britain and Ireland. Many Hertfordshire Clubs have records of women's golf and women's competitions dating back to the early 19th century and we believe the first Hertfordshire interclub championship took place in 1923.



CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

THE FIRST LADIES' HERTFORDSHIRE GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP WAS HELD IN 1923 AND THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE HERTFORDSHIRE GOLF UNION TOOK PLACE THE FOLLOWING YEAR, SO WE TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO CELEBRATE BOTH CENTENARIES WITH TWO KEY EVENTS.

Last year, we organised a special centenary playing of our Club Officials Challenge event, played at Hadley Wood GC. Over 40 of our affiliated clubs were represented on the day, with a total of 84 competitors taking part.

All the participants were given centenary souvenirs – goodie bags with ball marker, pitch repaire and a towel.

This year we invited every club to hold a qualifying competition to identify their best male and best female player. Each winner received a £100 voucher donated by Hertfordshire Golf. Winners were also eligible to compete in the Hertfordshire Golf Centenary Competition, held in September at Sandy Lodge.

Forty clubs nominated a pair to play in the competition. Unfortunately, the weather was against us and it was decided to reschedule the event for 2025.

We look forward to another 100 years of County Golf in Hertfordshire.



PAUL NANCARROW SECURES MEN'S SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP DOUBLE

PAUL NANCARROW OF OLD FORD MANOR GC CAME OUT VICTORIOUS IN BOTH THE MEN'S SENIOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP AND THE MEN'S SENIOR NETT CHAMPIONSHIP.

With Old Ford Manor GC hosting the competitions, Paul made full use of his home advantage and clinched the Senior County title with a dramatic playoff win.

After the first day of the competition, Mike Ready of The Melbourne Club led the way with an excellent round of 71, giving him a one-shot lead and a five-shot advantage over the eventual winner.

Day two proved to be even more challenging as the weather deteriorated fast, with early sunshine soon being replaced by rain that didn't abate from then until the conclusion.

However, the adverse weather didn't seem to affect Paul, as he came storming through the field with a sublime round of 70 which automatically secured him the nett trophy on countback.

However, with countback not being used for the main title, Paul and Mike ventured back out in the rain for a sudden death playoff.



Paul's solid par four on the first hole proved enough to add the Senior Championship title to the nett trophy he had won earlier that day.

Mike Ready did have the consolation of winning the over 65s category with a three-shot victory over runner-up John Ambridge of Moor Park GC.



ESSENDON GOLF CLUB'S SARAH MARLEY ENJOYS DOUBLE SUCCESS AT WOMEN'S SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

THE WOMEN'S SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP TOOK PLACE IN EARLY OCTOBER, WITH WELWYN GARDEN CG CLUB HOSTING THE EVENT.

The competition had originally been planned to take place at Hadley Wood GC but, due to course works taking place, it was moved to Welwyn Garden City at very short notice.

That undoubtedly contributed to a relatively small tally of just 21 competitors taking part in the event, but nevertheless it was once again a great day enjoyed by all.

Newly-eligible senior Sarah Marley of Essendon GC particularly enjoyed her day as she lifted both the main scratch trophy and the Tatham Cup for the best handicap score.

Sarah returned an excellent score of 78 (+6), nett 73 (+1), to win both events with relative ease. In the Veterans category, Gill Winter of East Herts GC won the tray for best gross score with a very respectable 87 (+15).

We would like to thank Welwyn Garden City GC for hosting, particularly at such short notice.



SARAH LIFTED BOTH THE MAIN SCRATCH TROPHY AND THE TATHAM CUP FOR THE BEST HANDICAP SCORE



WOMEN'S SPRING AND AUTUMN MEETINGS

OUR SPRING AND AUTUMN WOMEN'S MEETINGS ONCE AGAIN PROVED TO BE A ROARING SUCCESS, WITH BOTH EVENTS WELL SUPPORTED AND SHOWCASING THE VERY BEST OF WOMEN'S GOLF IN THE COUNTY.

Consisting of 80 competitors in teams of four, the spring meeting saw players representing 12 different golf clubs from across the county.

The event format of the best two scores from the four players being used on each hole allowed for attacking golf and some great scoring.

The winners came from Brookmans Park. Narrowly pipping their clubmates to the title by a single point were Berti Walter, Mandy Blanchflower, Pat McMonagle and Linda Douglas.

One of the highlights of the event was the raising of £230 from the Ball Sweep to support Hertfordshire Golf's 'Disability Golf for Stroke, Parkinson's and Dementia Sufferers' initiatives.

Later in the year, the women's autumn meeting took place at Knebworth Golf Club.

Ten different clubs were represented at the event, with 54 players taking part in teams of four.



The winners of the autumn meeting were Bocket Hall's Jennie Lewis Puttick, Kay Wardley, Sue Bradbury and Sooying Foster, scoring 78.

A further £200 was raised for Hertfordshire Golf's Stroke, Parkinson's and Dementia causes.



HERTFORDSHIRE GOLF: PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA, STROKE AND PARKINSON'S

A 12-week study of the participants was carried out by Professor David Hewson of South Bedfordshire University. He found that their mobility had improved in all areas. The only area where there was very little benefit was in the speed of the swing. The purpose of delivering these golf sessions is to keep people mobile for as long as possible and the results of the 12-week study show that this is happening. Not only that, it gives the carers a break.

DEMENTIA

As a result of the success of the Stroke and Parkinson's project, we have started to run sessions for a dementia group at Essendon GC. There are currently eight participants in this group.

The purpose of the group is to keep people active and to give carers a break. Some are new to golf, while others are more experienced players.

The group love the social aspect of the sessions and it gives them something to look forward to.

SINCE 2018, HERTFORDSHIRE GOLF HAS BEEN REACHING OUT TO PROVIDE GROUP GOLF ACTIVITIES FOR PEOPLE WHO SUFFER FROM PARKINSON'S OR WHO HAVE SUFFERED STROKES. MORE RECENTLY, THE ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN EXTENDED TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE SUFFERING WITH DEMENTIA TO GET INVOLVED.

In the past, funding has been received from Sport England and we are in the process of applying to other organisations for grants. It costs around £5,000 a year to run the sessions, which Hertfordshire Golf is committed to funding.

STROKE AND PARKINSON'S

The Stroke and Parkinson's sessions have been running at Chesfield Downs GC since 2018. During the Covid lockdown we ran quizzes on Zoom just to keep the group together. There are two weekly sessions – taking place on Mondays and Tuesdays – involving 16 participants.



THE COUNTY FINALS DAY WAS PLAYED ON SUNDAY 6TH OCTOBER AT THE PICTURESQUE EAST HERTS GC, WITH FIVE OF THE SIX KNOCKOUT EVENTS PLAYED ACROSS THE SEASON BEING PLAYED TO A CONCLUSION.

WOMEN'S POWELL CUP - scratch foursomes

The Powell Cup final match was contested between the hosts East Herts GC and Brookmans Park GC, with East Herts last winning the event in 2008 and Brookmans Park never having made the final match previously. The home advantage element aided the East Herts pairing of Jackie Reeve and Ava Gadsby and they ultimately came out as winners by the margin of 5&3 against opponents Wendy Plummer and Sian Shrimpton-Davies.

MEN'S MEMBERS CUP - handicap singles

In the Men's Members Cup knock out final, Brookmans Park GC was once again represented, this time by Allan Douglas, and his opponent in the final was Andrew Smith of Stevenage GC. Allan had defeated reigning champion Louis Leveson of South Herts GC in the first round and continued his fine form throughout. Allan played well and used his shots received effectively and despite some steady golf by Andrew, Allan prevailed on the 14th green by a margin of 5&4.

MIXED GREENSOMES - handicap pairs

The Mixed Greensomes knockout final was contested between married couple Andy and Michelle Gardner of Brookmans Park GC, against a pairing from Knebworth GC of Tim Smart and Dierdre Wisdom. The Gardners took an early lead and held on to take the title by a margin of 3&1.



LEFT: AVA GADSBY
RIGHT: JACKIE REEVE
EAST HERTS GC



ALLAN DOUGLAS
BROOKMANS
PARK GC



ANDY AND MICHELLE GARDNER
BROOKMANS PARK GC

Leading the way for County Golf



LEFT: JANET LANSDOWNE
RIGHT: HILARY ALLWRIGHT
MOOR PARK GC



LETCWORTH GC MEN'S TEAM



RIGHT: SIMMI SICCONI HADLEY WOOD GC
LEFT: HILARY ALLWRIGHT
MOOR PARK GC



WOMEN'S FOURBALL - handicap pairs event open to all high/low pairings

The Women's Fourball knock out is now in its second year and we hope is now established as an ongoing event. In the final, Hilary Allwright and Janet Lansdowne of Moor Park GC played against Simmi Ciccone and Lak Perara of Hadley Wood GC. The match was exceptionally close all the way and went to the last green, where the Moor Park pairing of Hilary and Janet pipped their opponents by the narrowest of margins, 1 up.

MEN'S HERTS TEAM CUP - fourball team event

The Men's Herts Team Cup final was played between South Herts GC, who have won the event before and lost in the final in recent years, against Letchworth GC, who had never made the final previously. Both teams were represented well and some excellent golf was played. In the end Letchworth won the cup with three matches won against one for South Herts. All the finals were played in good spirit and camaraderie and the day ended with a respectful speech by Letchworth GC team captain, Bryan Wappat.

WOMEN'S DE PAULA CUP - singles matchplay knockout

This event took place later in the month as amazingly both finalists, Simmi Ciccone of Hadley Wood GC and Hilary Allwright of Moor Park GC, were involved in the Finals Day as opponents in the Women's Fourball knockout final. The match took place at East Herts GC in dry but autumnal conditions, with falling leaves causing issues with locating even slightly errant shots. Simmi took a lead early on and led three up by the 13th hole. Hilary, receiving seven shots, rallied and despite losing a ball not far off the 15th green to lose the par three hole, won the 16th hole to take the match to the 17th, but Simmi prevailed with a 2&1 win.



LETCHWORTH GC RETAIN MEN'S CHAMPION CLUB CROWN

THE FIRST MAJOR EVENT OF THE COUNTY SEASON WAS PLAYED IN MAY AT SOUTH HERTS GC IN TOTTERIDGE, BARNET. THE EVENT IS A 36 HOLE SCRATCH MEDAL, WITH EACH OF THE 22 COMPETING CLUBS HAVING THREE REPRESENTATIVES EACH, IN AN ALL SCORES TO COUNT FORMAT.

The event was bathed in wall-to-wall sunshine and warm temperatures all day. Truly a stunning day to play golf. The course, which had dried out and firmed up significantly was presented excellently and as always at South Herts GC, the greens provided a stern test.

At the halfway point of 18 holes it was extremely tight, with defending champions Letchworth GC leading by one shot on +6 as a team from Harpenden Common GC on +7 and Ashridge GC in third a further two shots back on +9 and more clubs just a further couple behind them. All to play for in the afternoon round.

However, Letchworth GC had other ideas and weren't for budging from their perch as they returned an sparkling afternoon cumulative score of -7, with all three players scoring under par rounds – Men's 1st Team Manager Phil Dormer with a best of the day 68 (-4), the ever-steady Niall Johnston with 70(-2) and Kiertan Sangha with a 71 (-1).



Pictured above is the Letchworth GC team of Johnston, Dormer & Sangha with South Herts GC Club Captain Nikki Harris

Letchworth GC would stretch their lead to eventually win by 11 shots from runners up Harpenden Common GC, represented by Laurie Owen, Tom Turner and Tony Wilkins, on +10, a score in most years likely good enough to win. Knebworth GC finished third on +25 represented by Warren Clarke, Jamie Jackson & Callum McCarthy.

Letchworth GC progressed to represent Hertfordshire at the England Golf Champion Club Final played at Stanton-on-the-Wolds GC in Nottinghamshire in September, where they finished in an impressive third place.



COUNTY FOURBALL CHAMPIONS 2024 – BALDOCK & EDWARDS OF WELWYN GARDEN CITY GC

THE COUNTY FOURBALL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT WAS PLAYED IN APRIL, KINDLY HOSTED BY STOCKS GC, OUR MOST WESTERLY OUTPOST IN THE COUNTY.

Thirty one pairs of male and female golfers from all over the county took part on a decidedly freakish day of weather, with the competitors experiencing pretty much all four seasons in the one round of golf. The conditions were so bad at one point that the referees called a suspension of play that lasted an hour before play resumed.

Despite the conditions, the course was playing well with the ground nice and firm and the greens putting well.

DESPITE THE CONDITIONS, THE COURSE WAS PLAYING WELL WITH THE GROUND NICE AND FIRM AND THE GREENS PUTTING WELL



The course was enjoyed by defending champions Stuart Edwards and Dan Baldock of Welwyn Garden City GC, who retained their title with an excellent score of 42 points to win by one from nearest rivals Salvatore Colella and Stavros Constantanidies from The Hertfordshire GC on 41. Final podium position was taken by Robert Camilleri & Dave Miles of Rickmansworth GC with 40 points. The best all female pair was Norah Crammond and Marta Thomas from the home club on 39 points.

Our thanks to Stocks GC for hosting and looking after us so well on the day and to all the competitors for their patience and cooperation on a difficult day for the organisers.



CICCONE & JACKSON WIN MIXED FOURSOMES TITLE

OUR ANNUAL COUNTY MIXED FOURSOMES CHAMPIONSHIP WAS PLAYED IN MID-SEPTEMBER, ON A GLORIOUS AUTUMN DAY AT HANBURY MANOR GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB.

Fourteen pairs took part, playing 36 holes foursome medal strokeplay, with the females all playing the tee shots on the even numbered holes in the morning and then the reverse in the afternoon round.

After the morning round there was a tie at the top of the scratch leaderboard with two pairs - namely Simmi Ciccone and David Jackson of Hadley Wood GC, and Birgitte Karle and Paul Nancarrow of Old Fold Manor GC - returning excellent gross scores of 76 (+4).

In the afternoon the leaders came back to the field, but Simmi and David did just enough to pip Birgitte and Paul by a single shot. Father and daughter pair, Peter Hutchinson and Kelly Cooke, returned a best-of-the-afternoon round of 79 gross to edge Birgitte and Paul into the runners-up spot. Simmi and David's total for the day was an impressive 163 (+19), with Kelly and Peter and Peter and Birgitte all on 164 (+20).



In the handicap division there were much clearer winners with the Brookmans Park GC pairing of Wendy Plummer and Andrew Gardner returning an excellent nett score of 72-72 for a 144 level par total. This was good enough to take the handicap prize quite comfortably.

The day was a great success, with the competitors all enjoying the challenge of the format and Hanbury Manor GC being superb hosts.



ALDWICKBURY PARK TEAM WIN MIXED FUN EVENT AT MID HERTS



THE SECOND EDITION OF THE MIXED FUN TEAM EVENT WAS PLAYED IN EARLY AUGUST AT MID HERTS GOLF CLUB, WITH SEVEN TEAMS OF FOUR COMPETING. THE FORMAT ON THE DAY WAS BEST TWO FROM FOUR SCORES, BUT WITH THE CAVEAT THAT ONE MALE SCORE AND ONE FEMALE SCORE WERE REQUIRED FOR EACH HOLE.

The event was played in beautiful conditions with sunshine and warm temperatures in abundance, and the hosts ensured competitors were looked after extremely well.

The winning score on the day came from the team at Aldwickbury Park GC, consisting of Lee Edwards, Pete Laurence, Linda Reeve and Elaine Meager, on 87 points.

The runners-up on the day were the home team from Mid Herts GC, namely Mark Pearson, Peter McIntyre, Susan Hammond and Stephanie Parry, who finished a shot behind on 87.

The victorious team were awarded bottles of wine, presented by Hertfordshire Golf Chair Bobby Kendall.

Next year it will be called the Mixed Team Challenge Event - venue and date to be confirmed.

THE VICTORIOUS TEAM WERE AWARDED BOTTLES OF WINE, PRESENTED BY HERTFORDSHIRE GOLF CHAIR BOBBY KENDALL



ROSS KEMP AND FRANKIE ABBOTT-WILLIAMS ARE FAMILY CUP WINNERS AT VERULAM GC

ONCE AGAIN THE INCLEMENT WEATHER DECIDED IT NEEDED TO PLAY ITS PART IN ANOTHER COUNTY EVENT, REDUCING THE 18 HOLES FAMILY PAIRINGS STABLEFORD COMPETITION AT VERULAM GC TO A 12 HOLES RESULT.

With just the first two groups out on the course, a huge clap of thunder brought an immediate halt to play. With weather apps to the fore, play was able to resume after a 40 minute delay.

A long spell of sunny weather ensued and with the first group out approaching the 18th green, we dared to think we may get lucky and complete the tournament. But no! Dark clouds covered the sky, hail stones poured down, covering the green in a blanket of ice, then another huge clap of thunder brought an immediate suspension to play.

Whilst sunshine soon followed, with greens flooded, everybody back in the clubhouse and another lengthy delay possible, conversations between players and officials led to a clear belief that enough was enough and with the final group having made it through 12 holes, that a 12 hole result would be the best outcome.

Frankie Abbott-Williams and his uncle Ross Kemp with Family Cup, flanked by Verulam GC's Lady Captain Sue Rickard and Club Captain Syd Halder

It was a sad way for this ever-growing-in-popularity tournament to end. The Family Cup brings relatives together. As long as the pairings are related and both members of Hertfordshire affiliated clubs, they are all good to pair up and there is always such a mix of different relationships in this betterball stableford format.

With all the 12 holes scores recorded, it was Frankie of Old Fold Manor GC with his uncle Ross of Batchwood Hall GC who triumphed with 29 points, three points clear of a three-way tie for second on 26 points. Many thanks go to referees, volunteers, Verulam GC staff and the players themselves for their patience and efforts in difficult circumstances.



HERTFORDSHIRE WERE THE HOSTS AND THE DEFENDING CHAMPIONS OF THIS YEAR'S GIRLS JUNIOR COUNTY MATCH DAYS, SO THERE WAS A LITTLE PRESSURE ON THE TEAM, BUT THEY WERE UP FOR THE CHALLENGE.

The squad of Tala Clarke, Alecia Ibekwem, Hana Cunnane (Captain), Ava Gadsby, Amiya Raja, Alice Maskell, Grace Maskell and Caitlin Garrard along with Responsible Adults, Jo Oliver, Clare Mulvaney, Barney Puttick and Team Manager, Jennie Lewis Puttick, arrived at Brocket Hall ready for action.

The girls won their first match against Cambs & Hunts 6 – 0 but there was still a long way to go. They lost 4 – 2 to Essex in the morning and although disappointed, they picked themselves up in the afternoon and won 4-2 against Beds.

AFTER A 6.30AM START ON THURSDAY FOR THE MATCH AGAINST NORFOLK, THE TEAM WERE THRILLED WITH A 6-0 WIN



AUGUST 2024 - THE MELBOURNE CLUB

After a 6.30 am start on Thursday for the match against Norfolk, the team were thrilled with a 6-0 win. Thursday afternoon saw the final game against Suffolk. However, the more experienced Suffolk team was too strong and won 4.5 – 1.5.

Hertfordshire came third overall with an excellent performance for our squad.

All our girls gave their best, but special mention must go to Tala, who played number one against the strongest players of each county and won all five of her matches, which is a fantastic achievement.

Team Manager Jennie said: "For me, it is a privilege to be part of such a special experience in these young girls' lives. I am sure they will look back on this week with fondness - they are a credit to our county. A big thank you must also go to Jo, Clare and Barney, the county team, volunteers, spectators, parents and Jane Walter who went over and above to assist me with set up. Last, but by no means least, to all at Brocket Hall for making all the counties welcome and for looking after us so well."

WOMEN

This year's County Match Week was played on the Martello Course, Felixstowe Ferry GC. This stunning links course, named after the infamous towers, was a wonderful setting for the six East Region Counties to compete over a three-day tournament, the winner of which goes onto the National Finals.

Herts lost narrowly to Norfolk and Beds on Friday but bounced back on Saturday with a convincing win against Cambs & Hunts, followed by a draw against last year's national champions, Essex. It became all to play for on the Sunday, with four from six counties having a chance. Unfortunately, it was another close match for Herts where we narrowly lost to the hosts Suffolk 3-2. The final table showed Herts in fifth position.

A special mention, not only to the squad, but also the support team who were brilliant with caddying, organising and relaxing the squad. The camaraderie was second to none and each day was filled with laughter, banter and great fun.

Congratulations to Tala Clarke who won the Mary Oliver Brooch for most points won.

We look forward to next year at John O'Gaunt GC June 30th – July 2nd, 2025

A huge thanks to the squad listed below who once again gave everything representing Herts.

Anna Molloy – Sandy Lodge

Jackie Foster – Bishop's Stortford

Tala Clarke – Knebworth, **Kelly Cooke** – Panshanger,

Charlotte Field – Bishop's Stortford, **Connie Packer** –

Bishop's Stortford, **Deborah Lear** – Hadley Wood, **Alecia**

Ibekwem – Sandy Lodge, **Alison Strous** – Welwyn Garden

City, **Hana Cunnane** – Sandy Lodge, **Janet Proudfoot** –

Ashridge, **Sandra Moses** – Knebworth

Aly Nedza

MEN

The team started the season looking to build on the back of another solid season in 2023. As in 2023, when we brought in Harry Cox to set up with good success, we wanted to bring in another player and promote from the under 18s. Looking at the bigger picture of how well individuals are playing and, more importantly, how they blend in with the rest of the team, we were please to bring in young Louie Bloxham from Welwyn Garden City GC.

Match 1 - away to Middlesex at Sudbury GC. After a very wet winter the team was itching to get going and got off to a flying start, being four up in the morning foursomes eventually closing the match out to win 8.5-3.5. Match 2 - home to Essex, knowing that a victory or a half could have a big say in how the final league table looked. Essex fielded a squad of full-time golfers and a couple of international players and proved too strong for Hertfordshire, the only match where we lost both sessions - a 9-3 loss.

Match 3 - v Bedfordshire at Hadley Wood GC. After a disappointing result at Essex, the team wanted to bounce straight back and stay in the race, which is exactly what they did. With the foursomes partnerships getting stronger, the team won the morning session and with some excellent singles performances cruised to a 8-4 victory.

The final match - away to the ever-strong BBO at Frilford Heath GC. With BBO losing to Essex and Bedfordshire, we knew a win or a half would secure second place but also make it possible to win the league. The morning foursomes showed the strength of the team and how well the partnerships have worked, winning the session 3.5-0.5. The singles matches were tighter but with an 8-4 win, the title was still possible. Unfortunately for us, Essex beat Bedfordshire in the final match and claimed back-to-back titles as well as going on to win the national finals.

I thank every single player for giving up their time and making themselves available this season. The commitment and team spirt shown through the squad is brilliant, so thank you. Thank you to Laurie Owen, team captain and Niall Johnston who have both helped massively this season.

Phil Dormer

SENIOR MEN

The Senior Men started the season with two halves and one narrow loss in the friendly matches. However, it provided a good opportunity to blood new members of the squad.

Our first game was against Essex – a tough match and one which, unfortunately, determined the season as we narrowly lost 5 ½– 4 ½. By the time we played our last two matches Essex had played all their matches and had an unassailable lead. For the first time in four years the league was beyond our grasp.

In the meantime, the Senior Men's team competed in the SEG qualifier at Heythrop Park GC, a two-day qualifying event with our best six players competing against 10 other counties. Hertfordshire finished a very commendable third, helped by a great performance by David Lang who was second overall.

August saw the qualifying for the SEG foursomes, held at Muswell Hill GC. The morning performance was not up to standard with only two wins from our five pairs, but some lunchtime words encouraged the team to an afternoon whitewash, victory in the qualifier and a place in the final at Weston Super Mare GC. The final pitched Herts against Sussex, Gloucestershire and Bedfordshire, who had all won their respective regional qualifiers. The team was represented by five pairings of Paul Nancarrow/Tye Carter, Mark Gershinson/Garry Cooper, Nick Davis/ Dominic Ronan, David Scammel/David Lang and Phil Embleton/Simon Kay. With half a point between Hertfordshire, Gloucestershire and Sussex, a strong afternoon performance was needed. Four afternoon wins out of the five matches took Hertfordshire to seven points, which was matched by Sussex, so match-winning margins came into play. Hertfordshire had amassed a bigger set of victory margins and claimed the trophy.

It was a good end to the season which had clearly had its disappointments despite the quality of our squad. A big thank you to all the team members who always show a great desire to play for the county and of course the support we receive throughout the year from the county with our various events. Further thanks to Nick Davis and Nick O'Bryne who

provide their help and support whenever asked, and of course the biggest thanks to Bob Peacock as Vice/Manager and his 'whatever is needed' support.

Simon Kay

SENIOR WOMEN

The Senior Women's season was book-ended by two very beautiful days for golf, one sunny late spring day at Harewood Downs and an unexpectedly lovely autumn day at Royal Norwich. It's just a pity that the weather for the matches in between them didn't quite live up to this.

Despite the weather, it's been a good year as new blood was welcomed in to the squad and a great team spirit was created. New players joined the squad from Centurion GC, Harpenden GC, Brookmans Park GC, Mid Herts GC and Moor Park GC.

In the BBHH&O region, Herts finished a respectable third out of the five teams that compete by winning one, halving two and losing the fourth. The winners this year were Berkshire, well done to them.

Having won twice, lost once and halved the final match in the East Region competition, the Herts women were definitely in with a shout for the overall title. A rescheduled fixture between Norfolk and Cambs & Hunts meant the season finished a little later than planned and certainly went down to the wire but Hertfordshire lost on count back by half a point (on games won) to Essex. So close...

The friendly match against Middlesex was played at our new base at East Herts and was a win for Hertfordshire. The trickiness of the set up was reflected in the scoring at the Inter County Championships hosted by Berkshire at Mill Ride GC in September. Sussex prevailed again this year with the Herts team of four finishing sixth overall, well done to them.

Congratulations to our new Seniors Champion, Sarah Marley from Essendon, who won both the scratch and the nett prizes at Welwyn Garden City GC in early October.

Lindsay Murray-Gray

UNDER 18 BOYS

Hopes were high for the season ahead at the beginning of the year as many of this group of players had come off the back of a successful 2023 league campaign at U16 level. A resounding win over Essex in the annual Cheshunt Salver match helped regain the Salver for the first time in a few years. The first league matches of the season, held at the splendid Sandy Lodge GC, saw a comfortable win over Middlesex and a narrow win over BB&O. Next up was the England Golf Boys County Qualifier at Rookery Park, Suffolk and a top five finish behind eventual winners Kent.

As the season progressed, player availability meant that we weren't always able to field our strongest team and a disappointing double loss in June to Kent and Essex meant we needed two big wins in our final round of matches and hope that Middlesex could beat Essex for us to progress to the finals weekend and that is exactly what happened on a balmy afternoon at Langdon Hills GC. The Herts boys produced the two wins they needed and when Essex unexpectedly lost to Middlesex, by the time the final tables were totted up, we had pipped Essex to the top of the table by one match point which once again goes to show that every win and half point really do matter. The final was played in late October at John O'Gaunt GC in Bedfordshire against Surrey and Bedfordshire. Originally scheduled for mid-September, it was rearranged when the course was closed due to unseasonal weather.

Boys playing in final on October 27th – result to follow
Gerald Duddy

UNDER 16 BOYS

Achieving the success of the 2023 under 16s boys, who were crowned South East Group Champions, was always going to

be difficult, particularly as seven of their final winning team had moved up an age group.

This year's boys enjoyed a league season of three wins, two draws and just one defeat to finish second in their group table. A very acceptable return given that on many occasions we fielded a side of which over fifty per cent were debutants with most young enough to feature in next year's team, which hopefully may mirror the success of the 2023 boys.

A total of 16 boys, including three different captains, have played for the team this year and they have all demonstrated the desire and commitment coupled with existence of a fun environment has made the season most enjoyable.

A special thanks must go to the coach Matt Spencer, who has been a tower of strength in developing and improving the team's performance.

Graham Oram

UNDER 14 BOYS

This year has been both challenging and rewarding for the Under 14 team, who faced formidable opponents across the Southeast. The journey began with the traditional fixtures against neighbouring counties, including a series of matches against Essex and Kent, both of whom fielded strong teams this season. Kent, in particular, demonstrated exceptional skill and consistency, rightfully earning the league title.

Despite the overall competitive pressure, one of the season's highlights was our victory over Essex in August at Boyce Hill, their home course - a particularly noteworthy win as our team, characterised by youthful spirit and higher handicaps compared to our rivals, showed remarkable performance. This victory not only highlighted our players' skills but also their determination and the strategic acumen of our coaching staff. It was a pivotal moment that underscored the potential within our team and gave a much-needed boost to our morale.

Throughout the season, our players learned valuable lessons in sportsmanship, strategy, and the importance of mental toughness. The experiences gained this year are invaluable and will aid their development as golfers and individuals.

We are committed to providing an environment that fosters growth, encourages resilience, and builds a foundation for future successes in and beyond the sport.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the parents, supporters, and the Hertfordshire community for their unwavering support. Our journey would not be possible without them, and we look forward to their continued encouragement as we prepare for the challenges of the next season.

Sudip Roy

GIRLS

Our year began in October 2023 with squad selections based on performance and participation in competitions during the previous year. The Performance Squad included eleven girls and the development squad fourteen.

The golfing season started with Junior Opens, schools and East Region competitions. From April to September the girls had plenty of opportunities to play and hone their games, often being invited to play in their club scratch matches and other competitions.

The Girls Summer Series took place with meetings at Knebworth GC, Redbourn GC, Mid Herts GC, Bishops Stortford GC, West Herts GC and The Hertfordshire GC. Thank you to all the clubs for hosting us and looking after the girls so well.

Highgate GC and Knebworth GC hosted a friendly match against Middlesex and Cambridgeshire respectively during the summer. This is great preparation for them in representing their County. Another big competition for the girls is the East Region Junior Team Trophy, this year held

at Aspley Guise GC. Hertfordshire came joint second with Essex on 119 points, with Norfolk the runaway winners on 129 points on a difficult but well-laid out course.

Several girls reduced their handicaps to single figures over the summer and some from twenties to low teens. It is a privilege to be a part of the girls golfing journey, however, it is not only about handicaps but also about how they comport themselves on and around the golf course and their etiquette. Thank you to all the parents who transport the girls back and forth to the various venues both in Hertfordshire and beyond and to all of the golf clubs, junior organisers and managers who have hosted us during the year.

Jennie Lewis Puttick



SEVERAL OF THE MATCHES WERE VERY TIGHT ENCOUNTERS INDEED

EAST HERTS GC A TEAM WIN THE WOMEN'S SCRATCH LEAGUE

The Women's Scratch League Finals were played in October on the New Course at Essendon Country Club, which saw the culmination of the 2024 league season with four finals matches being played, with the winners of each divisional pool facing off to decide the divisional champions, and in the case of the top division, the overall champions for 2024.

DIVISION 1	East Herts A v Aldwickbury Park A
DIVISION 2	Berkhamsted v Old Fold Manor
DIVISION 3	Sandy Lodge B v Verulam
DIVISION 4	East Herts B v Aldwickbury Park B

Several of the matches were very tight encounters indeed. In the Division 1 match, extra holes were required as the overall match was tied and the second game finished after 18 holes all square. This went in the favour of East Herts GC on the 19th hole with a steady par to take the title. In the Division 2 match it went to the last putt in the last match with Berkhamsted GC pipping Old Fold Manor GC to take the winning shield. In Division 3 a strong Sandy Lodge GC B team defeated Verulam GC 4-1 and in Division 4 Aldwickbury Park GC got some form of revenge on East Herts GC when their B team defeated the opposition.

Our thanks to Essendon for hosting and to all the competitors who took part, not only in the finals day but also throughout the season.



HARPENDEN COMMON GC WIN MEN'S SCRATCH LEAGUE FOR FOURTH YEAR IN SUCCESSION

Harpenden Common GC (HCGC) have once again been crowned the Division 1 Champions of the Hertfordshire Golf Men's Scratch Team League - a quadruple of wins for 'The Common' after being crowned league champions in 2021, 2022 and 2023. This ties the all-time record with Berkhamsted GC who retained the league crown between 1990 and 1993.

The title was won at Letchworth GC in September when HCGC beat the home team, Letchworth GC by a very impressive 9.5 points to 2.5 points. After the morning foursomes the HCGC team were 3 – 1 up with eight singles matches to follow in the afternoon. HCGC managed to secure six and a half of the possible eight points to win the match and comfortably win the 2024 title.

The Scratch League is the county's premier club competition and this is the sixth time that HGCC has won Division 1 since 2012.

A jubilant team captain, Ryan Hodges said: "Four years in a row as champions in the top division just shows the quality of golfers we have here at Harpenden Common. We are very proud of our achievement and the win demonstrates we have amazing strength in depth to be able to field a strong team for every match against the top golf clubs in the county."

HARPENDEN COMMON GC ONCE AGAIN CROWNED DIVISION 1 CHAMPIONS OF THE MEN'S SCRATCH TEAM LEAGUE



COUNTY WINNERS 2024

Men's County Championship:	Harry Cox of Welwyn Garden City
Women's County Championship:	Anna Molloy of Sandy Lodge
Women's Scratch Aggregate Cup:	Kelly Cooke of Panshanger
Women's Anne Pyke Trophy:	Zainab Jeppe of Mill Green
Boys Champion:	Harry Cox of Welwyn Garden City
Malcolm Reid Trophy winner:	Ben Sessions of Bishop's Stortford
Boys Team Flag Champions:	Welwyn Garden City
Girls Champion:	Darcie West of Sandy Lodge
Men's Champion Club:	Letchworth
Women's Team Championship winners:	Essendon
Men's Senior Champion:	Paul Nancarrow of Old Fold Manor
Men's Senior Handicap Champion:	Paul Nancarrow of Old Fold Manor
Women's Senior Champion:	Sarah Marley of Essendon
Women's Senior Handicap Champion:	Sarah Marley of Essendon
Women's Veterans Trophy winner:	Gill Winter of East Herts
Men's Under 35 Champion:	Laurie Owen of Harpenden Common
Men's Mid Age Champion:	Tony Mitchell of Harpenden Common
Men's Scratch League Champions:	Harpenden Common
Women's Scratch League Champions:	East Herts A
Junior Champion Club:	East Herts
Men's Senior Champion Club:	Berkhamsted
Schools Scratch Boys Champion 2024/25:	Competition Abandoned
Schools Scratch Girls Champion 2024/25:	Competition Abandoned
Schools Mid Handicap Championship winner:	Alfie Copeland of Essendon
Boys Spring Meeting winner:	Aaron Gould of Knebworth
Girls Spring Meeting winner:	Amelia Parker of Letchworth
Girls Autumn Meeting winner:	Lily Wrangle of Mid Herts
County Fourball Championship:	Stuart Edwards & Dan Baldock of Welwyn Garden City
Men's Foursomes Championship winners:	Matt Gauntlett & Sean Kelly of West Herts
Men's Peggy Harkett Trophy winners:	West Herts
Women's Interclub Foursomes:	Essendon
Women's Powell Cup KO winners:	East Herts
Men's Herts Salver winner:	Jamie Jackson of Knebworth

Family Cup winners:	Ross Kemp of Batchwood Hall & Frankie Abbott Williams of Old Fold Manor
Boys Under 16 Champion:	Ben Sessions of Bishop's Stortford
Boys Under 14 Champion:	Lewis Salthouse of West Herts
Mixed Foursomes Championship:	Simmi Ciccone & David Jackson of Hadley Wood
Men's Senior Challenge Trophy winner:	Robert Jones of Hadley Wood
Lorna Hall Spring Salver winner:	Tala Clarke of Knebworth
Barbara Quirk Shield winner:	Tala Clarke of Knebworth
Cuningham Salver winner:	Tala Clarke of Knebworth
Girls Handicap Plate winner:	Amelia Parker of Letchworth
Men's Herts Team Cup KO winners:	Letchworth
Men's Members Cup winner:	Allan Douglas of Brookmans Park
Mixed Greensomes KO winners:	Andrew & Michelle Gardner of Brookmans Park
Women's Da Paula Cup KO winner:	Simmi Ciccone of Hadley Wood
Women's Fourball KO winners:	Hilary Allwright & Janet Lansdowne of Moor Park
Men's Order of Merit winner:	Niall Johnston of Letchworth
Boys Scratch Order of Merit winner:	Luca Ibekwem of West Herts
Boys Handicap Order of Merit winner:	Nikhil Kaniyur of West Herts
Girls Scratch Order of Merit winner:	Tala Clarke of Knebworth
Girls Handicap Order of Merit winner:	Amelia Parker of Letchworth
Boys Junior Challenge Trophy winner:	Harry Cox of Welwyn Garden City
Junior League Champions –	
Ver Shield winners:	Hanbury Manor
Ver Plate winners:	Enfield of Middlesex
Women's Mary Oliver Brooch:	Tala Clarke of Knebworth

MEN'S SCRATCH DIVISIONAL WINNERS:

Division 2:	Welwyn Garden City
Division 3:	Hanbury Manor
Division 4:	The Hertfordshire
Division 5:	Batchworth Park
Division 6:	Aldenham
Division B1:	Harpenden
Division B2:	Stocks

WOMEN'S SCRATCH DIVISIONAL WINNERS:

Division 2:	Berkhamsted
Division 3:	Sandy Lodge B
Division 4:	Aldwickbury Park B

Womens Spring Meeting winners:	Brookmans Park
Women's Autumn Meeting winners:	Brocket Hall GC
Mixed Fun event winners:	Aldwickbury Park



HERTFORDSHIRE GOLF - 2025 CHAMPIONSHIP DATES & VENUES



EVENT	VENUE	DATE
Schools Scratch Championships 24/25	Mill Green	Monday 24th March
Men's Champion Club Semi Finals	Hadley Wood & Moor Park-West	Sunday 30th March
Junior Champion Club	Redbourn	Tuesday 15th April
Boys & Girls Spring Meetings	Redbourn	Tuesday 15th April
County Fourball Championship	TBC	TBC
Schools Mid Handicap Championship 24/25	Mill Green	Monday 28th April
Herts Salver (Men's County Champ Q)	Letchworth	Saturday 3rd May
Schools Team Championship 24/25	Mill Green	Thursday 8th May
Men's Champion Club Final	Stocks	Sunday 11th May
Women's Spring Meeting	Sandy Lodge	Monday 12th May
Men's Senior Champion Club	Brookmans Park	Wednesday 21st May
County Championships (Men's & Women's)	Berkhamsted	Thursday 29th May to Sunday 1st June
Women's Interclub Foursomes	Dyrham Park	Monday 9th June
Men's Under 35 Championship	Ashridge	Sunday 22nd June
Family Cup	TBC	TBC
Men's Mid Age Championship	Letchworth	Monday 21st July
Boys Championship	Knebworth	Monday 28th July
Men's Seniors Championship	Hanbury Manor	Tuesday 5th & Wednesday 6th August
Boys Under 14 Championship	The Hertfordshire	Friday 22nd August
Girls Championship	The Hertfordshire	Friday 22nd August
Mixed Team Challenge Event	TBC	TBC
Mixed Foursomes Championship	Moor Park - West	Friday 29th August
Women's Autumn Meeting	South Herts	Monday 8th September
Men's County Foursomes Championship	Sandy Lodge	Sunday 21st September
Club Officials Challenge	East Herts	Monday 22nd September
Men's Senior Challenge Trophy	Old Fold Manor	Monday 29th September
County Finals Day	Brickendon Grange	Sunday 5th October
Women's Seniors Championship	TBC	TBC
Women's Scratch League Finals Day	East Herts	Sunday 12th October
Boys Under 16 Championship	West Herts	Tuesday 28th October
Girls Autumn Meeting	West Herts	Tuesday 28th October