



HERTFORDSHIRE GOLF 2023



CELEBRATING
A YEAR OF
ACHIEVEMENT





WELCOME

2023 COUNTY CHAMPIONS
HARRY COX WELWYN GARDEN CITY
& TALA CLARKE KNEBORTH



OUR FLAGSHIP
MEN'S AND
WOMEN'S
COUNTY
CHAMPIONSHIP
EVENTS TOOK
PLACE IN THE
FIRST WEEK OF
JUNE.

This was the fourth time that the championships have been held simultaneously at the same venue, the first being back in 2020 at Letchworth. The Championships were hosted by Moor Park GC on their High Course.

The course, as always with Moor Park, was presented excellently. In particular the greens were very true, firm, and slick, with downhill putts on some of the more undulating greens providing a stiff challenge.

The men's stroke play qualifying saw a full field of 66 players. The scoring was generally very good in the morning with the all-important cut line of 16th place standing at a low +2.

We invite you to explore the varied activities of Hertfordshire Golf in this celebration of county golf in 2023.

In here you will find reports on how Hertfordshire golfers at all stages of their golfing life have enjoyed participation and success in 2023. We cover our championships for both handicap and scratch golfers, our teams, those who have supported the county as volunteers, initiatives for getting new people into golf and those who have achieved success on the national stage.

We are particularly delighted to celebrate two outstanding successes - Jack Bigham for being selected to play for England in the Walker Cup and Jackie Foster for her formidable win at the R&A Women's Senior Amateur Golf Championship. And maybe we will see Harry Cox and Tala Clarke following in their footsteps - Harry and Tala have had an incredible season, winning so many

events, not least winning both the junior and the adult County Championships.

We hope that you will enjoy reading this review of the year and want to join other golfers in experiencing everything that Hertfordshire Golf has to offer.

Bobby Kendall, Chair of Hertfordshire Golf

COUNTY PRESIDENTS

The AGM in March saw the conclusion of Anne Pyke's term as County President and the election of Robin Colbourne. Anne can look back on a very successful two year Presidency and we thank her for service and wise counsel. Robin, as a former President of the men's HGU, a central figure in the merger of the HGU and HCLGA and the first chair of the merged county body in 2018, has taken over the mantle.

2023 COUNTY CHAMPIONS PICTURED WITH THE MOOR PARK CENTENARY CAPTAINS DIPTI PATEL & JOHN AMBRIDGE



Two excellent scores were returned in the morning round with 2019 Champion Joss Gosling of The Melbourne Club scoring a very impressive 68 (-4) and the always consistent Niall Johnston of Letchworth one shot back on 69 (-3).

However, the north easterly wind blew that bit more in the afternoon and the course firmed up and showed a bit more bite in the afternoon round. Both Joss and Niall ended up dropping back to level for the day, but on an afternoon countback Niall would win the title and the number 1 seed position with an afternoon 75 against Joss with 76. The scores pushed out and saw a tie for 16th in the end on 152 (+8) with five players playing a sudden-death playoff for four spots. David Jackson of Hadley Wood, Phil Dormer of Letchworth and Harry Bennett of East Herts all made par four up the first hole of the High Course to progress, leaving Steve Standing of The Hertfordshire and George Leversuch of South Herts to battle out for the remaining spot after both made bogey fives. As the light dwindled the playoff progressed back to the first hole after both players made regulation pars on holes 17 and 18. Eventually George claimed that last space after Steve dropped a shot at the first once again. Notable qualifier was third time Men’s County Champion and Moor Park centenary Captain, John Ambridge.

The women’s stroke play qualifier saw a total of 29 competitors on the day, a higher number than recent years. The conditions were more on the difficult side from the off for the women as the wind of the previous afternoon was a constant all day and the greens were ever drying out and speeding up. Two players dealt with the conditions better than most, Anna Molloy of Sandy Lodge, and 16-year-old Tala Clarke of Knebworth. Both players returned scores of 152 for the day, but Anna would pip Tala for the Scratch Aggregate Cup on an afternoon back nine countback. Tala had the consolation of comfortably winning the Anne Pyke Trophy for the best nett score on the day with 144 (-2). The team prize was won by Sandy Lodge, with the Anna teaming up with Amiya Raja for a combined score of 324 gross, winning the Pam Lane Salver by three shots from Bishop’s Stortford. The top 16 mark fell on 176, with Connie Packer of Bishop’s Stortford up against Aly Nedza of Welwyn Garden City for the last remaining spot for the knock out rounds the following morning. This sudden-death playoff was resolved much quicker than the men’s equivalent, with Connie winning through on the first extra hole.

The knockout rounds began with the round of 16 for both the men and the women on the Saturday morning. In the men’s event Niall Johnston crashed out to clubmate and men’s first team manager Phil Dormer after a close match on the last green. One match between Connor O’Brien of Mid Herts and Louie Bloxham of Welwyn Garden City required 25 holes to resolve! Connor was three up with three to play but birdies on all of the last three holes saw Louie take the match to sudden death, which was finally resolved on the seventh with a birdie by Connor. In the women’s event, the feature match was arguably the 2020 Champion Jackie Foster versus the 2021 Champion Emmanuelle Hewson of Mid Herts which produced a titanic battle which required extra holes to resolve and saw Jackie just edge the match on the 19th hole.

THE QUARTER FINALS

The quarter final matches took place on Saturday afternoon and were resolved more quickly than the preceding matches.

In the women’s, Jackie Foster bowed out to Tala Clarke losing 5&4. In the men’s Joss Gosling and Letchworth’s Rob Holden, current England Under 25 Champion, set up a mouthwatering semi-final match by winning their quarter finals.

THE SEMI FINALS

The final four in both events saw a blend of experience and youth, with past champions still remaining in both. In the top half of the men’s event Phil Dormer played current Herts Boys’ Champion Harry Cox of Welwyn Garden City. Harry played inspired golf, going out in 29 shots to take a commanding lead to book his place in the final. The Joss vs Rob match saw more high level golf that was nip and tuck on the front nine until Rob won three holes to take the lead and claimed victory on the 17th green.

In the women’s matches, current champion Kelly Cooke of Welwyn Garden City made an excellent effort to retain the title, playing the number one seed Anna Molloy. Kelly led throughout, but Anna managed to turn the match with a birdie at 16 and won the match on the 18th green, one up. Tala Clarke took on Zainab Jeppe of Mill Green, runner-up in 2020. Zainab held a commanding lead, at one point as much as five up, but a back nine revival by Tala saw her win five holes in a row and the match needed extra holes to resolve. Eventually Tala won the match on the 22nd, the fourth extra hole, with a par four.

THE FINAL

The final matches were played in great spirit between several bright, young and talented individuals and now we were guaranteed to have new winners of both events. Rob took an early lead on the fourth after Harry went through the back of the green and failed to get up and down. The following hole saw a stunning double sandy par for Rob to retain a narrow lead. Rob birdied the par five sixth to go two up. A brief fight back from Harry to level the match was quickly extinguished when a mistake on the 10th would again see Rob take the lead. Harry birdied the 16th to again level the match, but a poor drive on 17 allowed Rob a narrow one hole lead up the last hole.

Rob found the green on the par three 18th, albeit a long way from the hole. Harry hit a terrific eight iron to within seven feet of the flag. Rob’s long putt was a good one but it became irrelevant when Harry’s birdie putt took the match to extra holes. A majestic drive from Harry and a pulled drive from Rob into the trees gave

WOMENS

SEMI FINAL:

ANNA MOLLOY V KELLY COOKE
TALA CLARKE V ZAINAB JEPPE

FINAL

TALA CLARK V ANNA MOLLOY

MENS

SEMI FINAL:

PHIL DORMER V HARRY COX
JOSS GOSLING V ROBERT HOLDEN

FINAL

HARRY COX V ROBERT HOLDEN

Harry the advantage. Rob played a punch shot into the right greenside bunkers, while Harry played a confident approach shot to within eight feet of the flag. When Rob’s putt sailed by the hole he conceded the match to Harry and we had our men’s champion golfer for the year.

In the women’s final Tala took an early three up lead, which despite Anna’s best efforts, she could never quite eat into. Tala’s par with a delightful chip from the front fringe of the 14th green gave her a two up lead and she closed out the match on the 17th green.

Amazingly the combined age of our champions for 2023 is an incredible 31-years-old.

Welwyn Garden City GC will host next year’s County Championships.



JACK BIGHAM OF HARPENDEN GC PLAYS FOR GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND IN THE WALKER CUP



The 49th Walker Cup match was played at St Andrews, with the biennial encounter taking place over the Old Course, marking 100 years since it was first played at the home of golf.

Jack Bigham said: "I was hoping I'd be in, but to actually be told I was in the squad, I couldn't really believe it, especially with it being at St Andrews. You never know if the opportunity might come about again so I was over the moon. It's always been a goal of mine."

"In my first year of college, I didn't start off great and then this spring, I played well. My team, Florida State, made it to the NCAA Finals so playing well out there gave me a lot of confidence for when I came back to the UK. I started off with a tied-12th at the St Andrews Links Trophy but my best result was at the European Amateur Championship where I was tied-4th (and just three shots back of the winner). That gave me a lot of confidence and boosted my chances of Walker Cup selection.

THE WALKER CUP, THE AMATEUR EQUIVALENT OF THE RYDER CUP, TOOK PLACE IN SEPTEMBER AND IT WAS A PROUD MOMENT FOR HERTFORDSHIRE TO SEE JACK BIGHAM OF HARPENDEN GC TAKING A WELL-DESERVED PLACE IN THE 10-MAN SQUAD.

"The whole year has been really consistent for me which has been nice. I'd obviously like to say thanks to my parents who have always taken time out to take me to events growing up. Without them I wouldn't have been able to get to where I am."

Jack played in the singles matches on day one and two, winning one and losing one. At 19 years of age, he was the second youngest member of the squad. The USA beat GB & I 14.5 to 11.5. Stuart Wilson, GB&I captain, said, "This was their opportunity to perform on the biggest stage in amateur golf and have their name written alongside some of the greatest names in the history of the sport. There is arguably no more iconic venue than the Old Course at St Andrews."

Sophia Fullbrook, a member of the England girls' team, was selected for the women's team and represented England in the Women's and Men's Home Internationals. See page 36.



JACKIE FOSTER WINS R&A WOMEN'S SENIOR AMATEUR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

ONE OF HERTFORDSHIRE'S MOST DECORATED AMATEUR GOLFERS ADDED ANOTHER TITLE TO HER IMPRESSIVE LIST WITH A STUNNING WIN AT THE R&A WOMEN'S SENIOR AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP, PLAYED AT WOODHALL SPA IN LINCOLNSHIRE.

Jackie won the title with a +6 over four rounds on one of the toughest courses in England, two shots better than her nearest rival, Emma Brown.

Our utmost congratulations go to Jackie and her husband and caddy, Ian.

"It's amazing," the 59-year-old said.

"My aim for the week was to make the first cut, and then to do well enough to make the second cut. I'm thrilled. I can't believe it. It's beyond my wildest dreams." Foster went head-to-head in the final round with Nadene Gole, the number one senior player on the World Amateur Golf Ranking at 244th. She led Gole by two at the start of the day. That lead evaporated on the first hole. Lying 150 yards from the flag, the Australian's 6-iron approach found the bottom of the cup for an eagle.

"At the start of the day, I thought to myself 'I've had three good rounds so far, am I going to be able to keep it up?'" Foster said.



"I was steady over the front nine, going out in level par. I knew where I was against Nadene but at halfway my husband, Ian, who caddied for me, said there was quite a gap between us and the rest of the field.

"So, it was just a case of continuing trying to make pars. "I got really edgy at the end but it's hard to win. This achievement has to be at the top of what I've done in golf.

"Four rounds over two tough golf courses is hard so to win is almost unbelievable, and to do it here is extra special."



COUNTY BOYS UNDER 16 TEAM

2023 SOUTH EAST GROUP CHAMPIONS



AS LUKE DONALD’S RYDER CUP TEAM WERE GOING HEAD TO HEAD WITH THEIR US COUNTERPARTS IN ROME, THE COUNTY BOYS U16 TEAM WERE GOING TOE TO TOE WITH A YOUTHFUL TEAM FROM NORFOLK AND AN UNKNOWN SUSSEX TEAM IN THE ENGLAND GOLF SOUTH EASTERN FINALS ON THE MARTELLO COURSE AT FELIXSTOWE FERRY GC, SUFFOLK.

After Saturday’s practice round on the rugged links course, the eight selected players from six different clubs across Hertfordshire arrived in buoyant mood on Sunday hoping to make it third time lucky in these finals having finish third and second in 2021 and 2022 respectively. For seven of the eight players, the memory of losing an U14 final in 2021 by half a point was still to be banished. And banish it they did!

Needing 4.5 points in both games to become league champions, Ben Sessions once again set the tone for the day with two convincing wins. An outstanding 7&5 victory against Sussex was soon followed by a 5&4 win against the recent Reid Trophy runner up from Norfolk. Harry Cox, recently selected to represent England in an international against Ireland, then recorded two 4&3 victories. Finlay Rennie saw off his opponent from Norfolk with relative ease but was pushed all the way by his Sussex counterpart and, in the end, a tied match was the deserved outcome. When Louie Bloxham then finished his games with 5&4 and 2&1 wins, Hertfordshire led Norfolk 4-0 and Sussex 3.5-0.5 and that elusive target started looking like a reality and thoughts turned to who might hole the winning putt.

Further double wins for Ronnie Gibb and Ed Wade secured the necessary points to confirm the U16 league title for Hertfordshire with two groups still on the course. Matthew Benson-Jones enjoyed a 6&4 win against Norfolk but eventually succumbed to Sussex on the 17th green having put in a great fight back from three-down. In the final match, 2023 team captain, Harrison Preston won both his games including turning a two-down deficit through 11 holes into a one hole win against Sussex and the final results were confirmed as a resounding 8-0 win against Norfolk and a convincing 6.5-1.5 win against Sussex. Although eight players played this weekend, in total 14 different players played in the league matches and each

one contributed to the final total of individual match points which enabled us to qualify for the final and this win was as much their win as it was for the eight players who travelled.

In his presentation speech, as well as thanking the host club for their fantastic hospitality and the organisers, Harrison thanked the many parents from all three counties who had taxied players to league matches all across the South East of England throughout the year. On behalf of the team, Harrison extended his immense gratitude, saying that the Under 16 team would not have had this great success without the continued support of the parents.

HERTS V NORFOLK

SUNDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2023
SINGLES

1	Ben Sessions Bishops Stortford	<i>Won 5 & 4</i>	Sullivan Goddard
2	Harry Cox Welwyn Garden City	<i>Won 4 & 3</i>	Harry Thomas
3	Finlay Rennie Centurion Club	<i>Won 2 & 1</i>	Jamison Gray
4	Louie Bloxham Welwyn Garden City	<i>Won 5 & 4</i>	Jake Gunby
5	Ronnie Gibb West Herts	<i>Won 2 & 1</i>	Liam Caffyn
6	Eddie Wade Harpenden Common	<i>Won 7 & 5</i>	Quin Monaghan
7	Matthew Jones Harpenden Golf Club	<i>Won 6 & 4</i>	Theo Pudney
8	Harrison Preston Bishops Stortford	<i>Won 3 & 2</i>	Will Payne

Singles Totals 8 0

HERTS V SUSSEX

1	Ben Sessions Bishops Stortford	<i>Won 7 & 6</i>	Charlie Curtis
2	Harry Cox Welwyn Garden City	<i>Won 4 & 3</i>	Matt Vearnacombe
3	Finlay Rennie Centurion Club	<i>Halved</i>	Archie Shakespeare
4	Louie Bloxham Welwyn Garden City	<i>Won 2 & 1</i>	George Shakespeare
5	Ronnie Gibb West Herts	<i>Won 3 & 2</i>	Toby Morrall
6	Eddie Wade Harpenden Common	<i>Won 4 & 3</i>	Thady White
7	Matthew Jones Harpenden Golf Club	<i>Lost 3 & 1</i>	Max Martin
8	Harrison Preston Bishops Stortford	<i>Won 1 Hole</i>	Dylan Lingard

6 1/2 1 1/2



JUNIOR COUNTY MATCH DAYS

Squad: Tala Clarke, Darcie West, Connie Packer, Alecia Ibekwen, Sian Pickford, Hana Cunnane, Ruby Esterbrook (captain) and Amelia Fitzgerald

Head coach - Jo Oliver

PGA coach - Samantha Head

Assistant team captain - Clare Mulvney

PGA professional - Barney Puttick

Team manager - Jennie Lewis Puttick



The team arrived at Benton Hall GC in Essex on a very blustery Tuesday afternoon for the Eastern Region County Match Days. We were all in good spirits, however, a lot of time was spent looking at the weather forecast for the rest of the week.

The girls proceeded to decorate the buggy and everyone agreed that we should win a prize for the best decorated one. Jo and Sam took the girls for their pre-match prep including stretching, pitching off grass and finally some putts.

Our first match on Wednesday afternoon was against Essex, the current holders of the trophy, and we were elated to win 4 -2.

Thursday saw the sunshine come out and we were playing Bedfordshire in the morning. We won against Bedfordshire five and one and our girls were in terrific form and high spirits.

Thursday afternoon saw us beat Cambs and Hunts 5-1, although it was far closer than the scoreline suggests.

On Friday everyone was in great spirits and an early night was in order as we were leaving the hotel at 6.30am for our game against Norfolk. The result of 4.5 - 1.5 doesn't do justice to the ups and downs that occurred.

So Friday afternoon arrived and we faced Suffolk, knowing that if we won or halved the match we would win overall. We had two clear wins out there by 4.40pm, one loss and the other three matches were quite tight. At around 5pm we had another win, so the match was halved and then came our final win at 17.07 on the 17th to seal the result!

Everyone played exceptionally well, and I believe had a very positive experience. Thank you to all my responsible adults.

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. I am not just saying this but winning was just the icing on the cake because everyone entered this week with positivity and enthusiasm. Our Captain Ruby made an excellent winner's speech, and I am so proud of every member of the squad. They are a credit to our county.

Manager: Jennie Lewis Puttick





EAST REGION GIRLS CHAMPIONSHIP 2023 WINNER: DARCY WEST OF SANDY LODGE GC



Twenty seven junior female golfers from took part in a 36 holes medal strokeplay to determine the regional champion.

After round one, Connie Packer of Bishop's Stortford, led the main gross competition by four shots from a crop of players on 74 (+1).

Knebworth golf course isn't the easiest of walks and many competitors understandably started to flag somewhat on the back nine of the afternoon round. Connie rued two double bogeys and finished one shot shy of the winning score of 146, level par for the day, returned by



HERTFORDSHIRE WAS DELIGHTED TO HOST THE EAST REGION GIRLS CHAMPIONSHIP IN AUGUST AT KNEBWORD GC.

Darcie West of Sandy Lodge. It became a double Sandy Lodge and Herts victory when Alecia Ibekwem won the Under 15's gross event with 153, +7 for the day, to take the title by one from Zoe McLean Tattan of Romford in Essex.

The county team prize, counting all scores from the three lowest handicap players per county, was won by the Hertfordshire team Darcie, Connie and home member Tala Clarke with an impressive cumulative score of 445 +7 for the day.

WOMEN'S SPRING AND AUTUMN MEETINGS



THESE TWO EVENTS HAVE PROVED EXTREMELY POPULAR AS THEY ARE AN EXCELLENT WAY OF SOCIALISING WITH CLUB MATES OR FRIENDS FROM OTHER CLUBS.

The handicap range is wide, so we are pleased to be able to offer events for all playing levels in a social whilst competitive environment.

This year our hosts were Old Fold Manor and The Club at Mill Green respectively, attracting fields of 60+ players at each meeting.

SPRING MEETING

We received a wonderful and warm welcome from Old Fold Manor who hosted 80 women from 13 different clubs. Playing our traditional, "friendly" format of best two scores from four, the winners with 82 points were May Cheung, Xi Zhiang, Fang Mei Lu & Jackie Wai from

The Melbourne Club & Berkhamsted. They are pictured with our past President Rev. Hugh Wikner who kindly presented the prizes.

AUTUMN MEETING

60 ladies represented ten different Hertfordshire clubs. Our hosts, The Club at Mill Green, were wonderfully organised and were excellent hosts. Everyone enjoyed a superb day of golfing and socialising. The winners with 93 points were Laura Rael-Brook, Fang Mei Lu, Katie Berman and Danielle Miller from The Melbourne Club. Fang Mei Lu completing the 'double' for 2023! They are pictured with Robin Colbourne, County President.



HARRY COX OF WELWYN GARDEN CITY BOYS CHAMPION & MALCOLM REID TROPHY WINNER 2023



OUR ANNUAL
COUNTY BOYS
CHAMPIONSHIP WAS
HELD IN JULY AT THE
HERTFORDSHIRE
G&CC, WITH 37
COMPETITORS
TAKING PART
WITH HANDICAPS
RANGING
FROM +2 TO 11.

After the morning round the leader was 15-year-old Henry Dowsett of Bishop's Stortford, who shot an excellent round of 67 (-3), his best ever score! Henry would lead by three shots from his nearest challengers, the returning champion Harry Cox of Welwyn Garden City and Noah Peters of West Herts, both on 70 level par.

Cox showed his class in the afternoon round and returned a 68 -2 for a total of 138 -2 for the day, good enough to reclaim his title by two shots from Peters who returned another level par round of 70 for 140. Daniel Colkett returned an equal best of the day 67 -3 in the afternoon to secure a third-placed finish.

Harry proceeded to the England Golf Boys Champion of Champions event at Woodhall Spa in September, where he shot 149 over 36 holes and finished 14th. He also represented Hertfordshire the following day in the Men's Champion of Champions event, where he again scored 149, 7 shots behind the leader.

Welwyn Garden City claimed the Boys Team Champions flag, when the team of Harry, backed up by Patrick Donovan and Louie Bloxham, returned an aggregate gross score of 281 +1, winning by two shots from the West Herts team of Ronnie Gibb, Luca Ibekwem and Noah Peters.



GIRLS CHAMPIONSHIP

Reigning Women's County Champion 16-year-old Tala Clarke of Knebworth GC added the County Girls Championship title to her growing list of accomplishments, when she claimed the premier county girls' title with a victory at Harpenden GC in August.

Tala shot a gross score of 74 +2 on the day to defeat her nearest rival and defending Girls Champion, Darcie West of Sandy Lodge, by 1 shot, with the Bishop's Stortford pair of Connie Packer & Ruby Esterbrook also on 75 +3.

Best handicap score on the day was achieved by Lilly Newton of Bishop's Stortford with a nett 68 -4.

Tala would progress to represent Hertfordshire at the Girls Champion of Champions event at Woodhall Spa in September where she finished in 20th position.



JACQUI SADLER OF MID HERTS WINS WOMEN'S SENIORS COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP



THE COUNTY
WOMEN'S SENIORS
CHAMPIONSHIP
TOOK PLACE IN
OCTOBER WITH 28
FEMALE GOLFERS
AGED 50 AND
OVER, COMPETING
OVER 18 HOLES
STROKEPLAY MEDAL
TO DETERMINE THE
SENIOR CHAMPION
GOLFER OF THE
YEAR.

The event was played at the Old Fold Manor GC located on the outskirts of Barnet, a course famed for its sloping and tricky greens complexes.

Jackie Foster of Bishop's Stortford, reigning champion and winner of the previous five years, was unable to defend her title at this year's event. The event was keenly contested all the same with the handicaps more bunched this year with potentially more possible contenders and winners.

The eventual winner was a newcomer to Hertfordshire Golf, Jacqui Sadler of Mid Herts, a previous Middlesex County Champion when a member of Crews Hill, who returned a very creditable gross score of 76, +4 against the par of the course, good enough to win by two

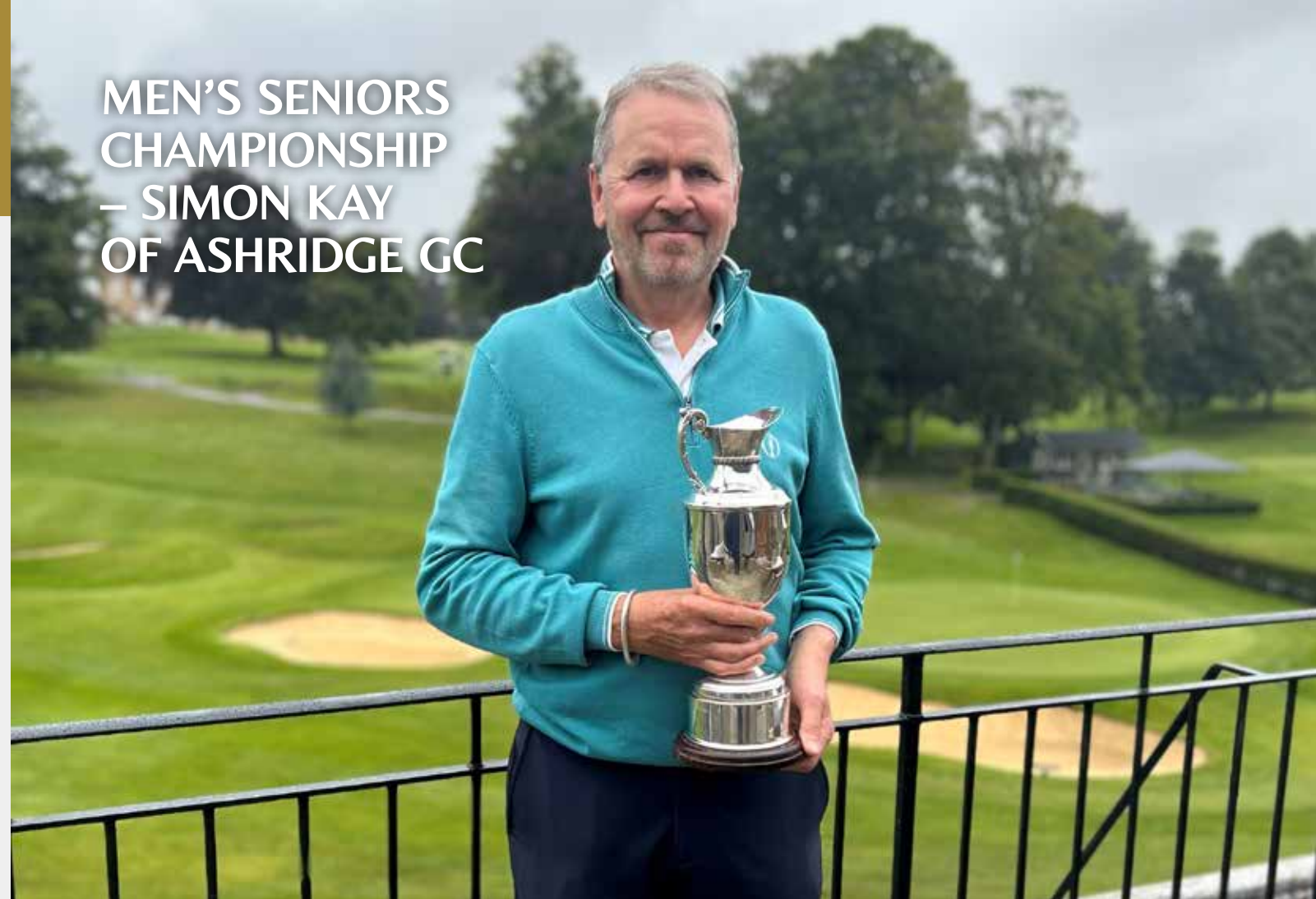
shots from nearest rival Sandra Moses of Knebworth with 78 +6. Sandra had the consolation of picking up the Veterans' Trophy for the best gross score for those in the field aged 65 and over.

The Tatham Cup awarded to the best nett score of the day was won by Joyce Lim of The Melbourne Club who led the field by a long way with a superb nett 65 -7, by far the best nett score on the day.

The competitors were all well looked after on the day by both the club and the organisers and the spirit and camaraderie on the day was first class.

The 2024 event will be at Hadley Wood GC on Monday 7th October.

MEN'S SENIORS CHAMPIONSHIP – SIMON KAY OF ASHRIDGE GC



The Men's County Seniors Championship took place in early August at the picturesque East Herts GC.

Over 71 competitors took part on day one, an 18-hole strokeplay medal, with the top 30 gross scores and all those within eight shots of the lead qualifying for day two.

Just one shot separated the top four players, with Simon Kay of Ashridge GC just pipping the others by one shot on 149 (+7). A three-way tie on 150 (+8) needed various countback methods to be resolved with Jason

Court of Berkhamsted edging out Mark Gershinson for the runners-up spot and David Lang of Hanbury Manor finishing fourth.

In the handicap event, the Terry Trude Trophy, Gary Higgins of Brookmans Park took the honours with two very steady scores of 71 and 72 for a 143 total (+1), just edging out his club mate Marc Walton on 145 (+3).

Simon also played Hertfordshire in the English Senior Men's Strokeplay Championship, played in June at Alwoodley and Pannal Golf Clubs, where he had a very creditable tied third finish.



ITOUR AND FUTURES TOUR GO FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

It's been a fantastic year for both the ITour and the Futures Tour with a lot more new participants entering the events and we hope to see the numbers continue to climb. Each year both tours run an Order of Merit, which is the best five scores from the season.

This year saw San Jin Wan take home the Futures Tour Order of Merit with a best five score of 175. The Futures Tour is for children aged 5 - 11 years and is played on Par 3 courses across Hertfordshire.

The iTour, aimed at children aged 11-16 years old, is played over nine holes on the main courses around Hertfordshire. The iTour Order Of

Merit winner for 2023 is Roshan Ayaru, with a fantastic best of five score of 215. Congratulations to both players on their successful year.

Both the iTour and the Futures Tour are part of the Hertfordshire Golf Development pathway, which is designed to encourage young golfers and provide opportunities for them to play competitive golf in a fun and friendly environment. Parents are expected to leave the children to make decisions for themselves and to encourage the fun element of golf. Both tours have a competition once a month from April - October. More information about both tours can be found on the Hertfordshire Golf website under the junior tab.

SCHOOLS SCRATCH CHAMPIONSHIP 2022/23



It was a wet, bitterly cold day with winds gusting 50 mph in March when 48 boys and 11 girls turned out on the day to play the Schools Scratch Championship at Harpenden Common GC.

It was most definitely a bad day on the golf course but that's always better than a bad day at school!

There were smiles and banter and just a few glum faces at the score recorder's desk following the four hour buffeting the players dealt with on the course. Obviously, with such difficult conditions the scoring was not so good and in fact the PCC was +3 but as always in golf, the cream rose to the top.

The overall winner was determined by a card countback between Louie Bloxham of Welwyn Garden City GC, representing Richard Hale School and Josh Robinson of Harpenden GC, representing Sir John Lawes School, both returning a gross 73. Louie Bloxham was victorious winning both the overall and the under 16s event, leaving with both trophies.

Meanwhile, the girl's overall winner with a gross 79 was Tala Clarke of Knebworth GC representing Marriotts School and Ixie Akpan of John O'Gaunts GC representing The Highfield School, taking the under 16 trophy with a gross score of 83.



ESSENDON COUNTRY CLUB 'A' TEAM WIN WOMEN'S OVALTINE SCRATCH LEAGUE

THE WOMEN'S
OVALTINE
SCRATCH
LEAGUE FINALS
DAY TOOK
PLACE IN
OCTOBER AT
SANDY
LODGE GC.



Four divisional finals took place with five-a-side singles matches played off scratch to determine the winning clubs. This was the culmination of 38 teams who have battled throughout the summer to win their division. In division 1 Essendon A played against defending champions Bishop's Stortford A, in division 2 Knebworth played against East Herts A, in division 3 West Herts played against Harpenden B and in division 4 The Melbourne Club took on Letchworth B.

The top match in the division 1 final was between the respective team captains, Jackie Foster of Bishop's Stortford and Elaine Ratcliffe of Essendon. Jackie had freshly returned from Scottsdale, Arizona, where she had played in the US Women's Senior Amateur Championship. Jackie

had qualified through her excellent win in the British Women's Senior Amateur Championship at Woodhall Spa earlier in the year. On this day, however, it was ex-Curtis Cup Captain Elaine who won the match to take the point for Essendon. The second match went to the 19th hole and was won by Riya Chandaria of Essendon. When Janine Cicchirillo added a third point for Essendon in the fourth game, the match was effectively over and Essendon won the division 1 title for the first time in their history.

Division 2 was won by East Herts A, division 3 by West Herts and division 4 by The Melbourne Club.

Congratulations to all those who qualified to take part in the finals day.

MEN'S SCRATCH LEAGUE WINNERS HARPENDEN COMMON GC



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



Harpenden Common made it a hat trick of wins after being crowned the champions in 2021 and 2022. The title was won at Harpenden (Hammonds End) GC on Sunday 17 September when Harpenden Common GC team beat the home team, Harpenden by 6.5 points to 5.5 points.

After the morning foursomes the teams were tied 2-2 with eight singles matches to follow in the afternoon. HCGC managed to secure 4.5 points of the possible 8 to win the match and the 2023 title.

The Scratch Team League is the county premier golf club competition, held every year. This year 48 clubs entered the league, split into eight divisions. Harpenden Common GC has now won Division 1 five times since 2012, an amazing achievement.

An ecstatic and emotional team captain, Ryan Hodges said: "I am super proud of the lads to have won the top league three years in a row and I would like to say a massive thank you to everybody who came out to

support us, especially considering the conditions. Harpenden Common GC is very proud of the achievement as the win demonstrates amazing strength in depth that is required to have a strong team for every match against the top golf clubs in the county".

PAST WINNERS

2023	Harpenden Common
2022	Harpenden Common
2021	Harpenden Common
2020	Not Played
2019	Berkhamsted
2018	Hadley Wood
2017	Letchworth
2016	Berkhamsted
2015	Harpenden Common



COUNTY FINALS DAY

THE CULMINATION OF THE SEASON'S KNOCKOUT MATCH PLAY COMPETITIONS.

Berkhamsted GC hosted five of the knockout finals in early October, three women's and two men's events with representation of golfers from around the county. The weather was sensational with Indian summer conditions, sunny, bright and with some light breezes. All in all a perfect day for golf. The Mixed Foursomes took place later in the month at Welwyn Garden City.

WOMEN'S POWELL CUP

The first final out on the course was the Women's Powell Cup, a scratch foursomes knockout played between clubs. This year's final was between Essendon, represented by Riya Chandaria and Sarah Marley, and Sandy Lodge, represented by Darcy West and Gemma



Brinkworth. A tight match ensued which the straighter hitting Essendon pair eventually edged out the longer hitting Sandy Lodge pair by the margin of 2&1.

MEN'S MEMBERS CUP

The Men's Members Cup final, a singles matchplay knockout played off handicap between representatives of clubs. Defending



champion Louis Leveson of South Herts once again made the final, this year against Gary Bridgeman of Batchworth Park. Gary had cut short a family holiday in order to make the match, returning that morning, but sadly for him his preparation therefore was not as he would have wished and on the day he struggled badly. Louis played some very solid golf and the match ended on the 10th green by the margin of 9&8.

WOMEN'S FOURBALL KNOCKOUT

A new event for this year was next with the final of our Women's Fourball knockout, in a high/low partners format. The final saw Emma Goss and Danielle Alexander of Porters Park take on Liz O'Hare and Jane



Kitchen of Welwyn Garden City. The Porters Park pair held a narrow lead at the turn and then extended through the next few holes and eventually came out as winners by a 4&3 margin.

MEN'S TEAM CUP

The Men's Team Cup is always keenly contested and enjoyed by our clubs. This is a fourball betterball match play knockout played off handicap. This year saw The Shire London and the Manor of Groves contested the final match, both first time finalists in this event. A series of matches played in great spirit took place which saw The Shire London outright winners by three wins to one. The Shire London Team Captain Tim Evans-Jones graciously received the trophy and thanked his counterpart Peter Fitch for their great company and competition on the day.



Our thanks to Berkhamsted GC for their hospitality and in hosting us on the day and allowing us access to the course on a Sunday afternoon. Congratulations again to all the winners on the day and well done to all who made the finals day event.

MIXED GREENSOMES KNOCKOUT

Both sets of players had battled through the early tournament match rounds to come face to face in the finals and there was an added twist, a first in Hertfordshire Golf history, of being all from the same golf club!



Welwyn Garden City Club Captain, John Hawsley, and his playing partner, Liz O'Hare, found themselves facing their friends and fellow members, Chris and Carol Pomroy. Although John & Liz were giving nine shots to Chris and Carol, John and Liz won the match 2 & 1.

Alastair Fraser of Old Fold Manor GC was the walking referee for the event and the Knebworth GC Events Manager, Emma Brooke, made sure everything ran smoothly with the excellent post match food and beverage.

John and Liz were presented with the trophy and a glass memento and all four players received vouchers.

WOMEN'S DE PAULA CUP

The Women's De Paula Cup, is a singles matchplay knockout played off handicap for female golfers of handicap 12.5 and above as at time of entry. This saw a previous runner up in this event, Janet Akers of Brickendon Grange, take on Ashley Coe of Hadley Wood. An evenly matched game ensued as expected in part as both players held handicaps within 0.1 of each other. This match would need extra holes to resolve and went all the way to the 20th before Janet edged out her opponent.





MIXED EVENTS



ON SUNDAY
13TH AUGUST,
RICHARD MOORE
OF LETCHWORTH
GOLF CLUB'S
TEAM STRUCK
A MAGNIFICENT
OPENING TEE SHOT
IN HERTFORDSHIRE
GOLF'S INAUGURAL
MIXED FUN
EVENT ON THE
MELBOURNE
COURSE AT
BROCKET HALL.

NEW MIXED FUN EVENT

Ten teams of two men and two women gathered to participate in a format that insisted on a score counting from both a male and female competitor on each hole.

Most of the teams that entered appeared to come from a small number of clubs and the hopes next year are to spread the participation throughout Hertfordshire's 60 affiliated clubs. Sandy Swingers accumulated sufficient points to gather second prize, but Welwyn Garden City's team

of Aly Nedza, Kelly Cooke, Peter Hutcherson and Iain Thompson pipped them to the post and walked away as winners.

County President, Robin Colbourne, presented the prizes including those for 'nearest the pin' won by Robin Buxton of Brookmans Park and Sally McAlister of Porters Park.

Everyone reported having an extremely enjoyable day and Hertfordshire Golf look forward to building on the success of the event next year.



COUNTY FOURBALL CHAMPIONSHIP – MEN AND WOMEN

Hanbury Manor G&CC hosted this year's County Fourball Championship, which, for the first time, was a male and female pairs event.

There were 35 pairs of Herts golfers playing on the day, nine of which were female pairs. The best score was a terrific 43 points achieved by Stuart Edwards and Dan Baldock of Welwyn Garden City scored a terrific 43 points and took the title by one point from John Kilbey and Ed Clark of South Herts. The best female pair were Esther and Alison Strous of Welwyn Garden City with 39 points.



MIXED FOURSOMES CHAMPIONS

Mother and son pair, Debbie & Josh Lear of Hadley Wood, won the Mixed Foursomes Championship, played at Letchworth GC in September.

After 36 holes, the Lears were tied for the lead with defending champions Collette Te & Spencer Davis of Old Fold Manor and last year's runners up Michelle Gardner of Brookmans Park with Mike Ready of The Melbourne Club. All three pairs returned to the first tee for a short par four opener and Debbie's ten footer on the first green settled the playoff in style.



INTRODUCING GUIDES TO GOLF



HERTFORDSHIRE GOLF'S INITIATIVE TO INTRODUCE GUIDES TO GOLF AND TO DEVELOP A GIRLGUIDING BADGE FOR GOLF WON THE 2023 ENGLAND GOLF AWARD IN THE WOMEN & GIRLS TRAILBLAZERS' CATEGORY.

Launched as part of the county's strategy to introduce women and girls to golf, the project has gone from strength to strength with dozens of girls attending golf courses around the county to obtain their Girls Golf Challenge Badge.

Credit for the initiative must go to the hard and tireless work of Hertfordshire Golf Director, Rowena Hemmings, and her team who makes sure these projects are given the attention and dedication they need to become successful.

Rowena said: "It was a real honour for me to be a part of the Hertfordshire Golf team that won this coveted award in the category 'Women & Girls Trailblazers'. A lot of hard work went in to making the girlguiding project a success and being recognised by England Golf was unbelievable".

Our thanks also go to former County Development Officer, Esther Strous, who played a vital part in the early days of the project and a very big thank you to Girlguiding Leader, Nicola Day, who was key in linking up girlguiding and Hertfordshire Golf.

This year, over 150 Guides made a start at obtaining their Girls Golf Challenge Badge, with many Hertfordshire golf clubs giving their time and support to run sessions. The feedback has been really positive with some of the girls signing up to additional golf session that the clubs had on offer.

To obtain the Girls Golf Challenge Badge, the Guides are asked to complete activities from each of five areas:

- About Golf
- Fair Play
- Creativity
- Golf Skills
- Health and Exercise

The variety of activities means members can find out about different aspects of golf in a fun and informative way. The badge gives them

a taste of what golf can offer; a fun, friendly activity for everybody whatever their ability.

In September, the project was given a fantastic boost, when the girls were invited by Hertfordshire Golf to attend The Rose Ladies Open at Bocket Hall. Brownies and Guides from across the county were treated to a masterclass from professional golfer, Justin Rose. The girls presented Justin with a Girlguiding Hertfordshire Golf Challenge Badge before earning their own badge through completing activities provided by the Golf Foundation. They met Swedish professional golfer, My Leaner, who presented the badges. They were also able to soak up the wonderful atmosphere and watch some fantastic ladies golf during the event's final day. Overall, the day was a great success and hopefully the day has inspired those who attended to carry on playing golf.



Olivia M:

"because I love playing golf and enjoyed the mini golf at the Herts mere recently. I want to improve my skills."

Myra:

"I've played crazy golf a lot of times and I was interested in playing real golf."

Isabelle:

"because golf is fun and a good game. I enjoy hitting the ball and getting it in the hole. I want to get better at it. My grandpa plays and I want to improve so I can play with him."

Talia:

"I watch golf on tv with my daddy and also my grandparents and know of Justin Rose and his interesting golf trousers!"

Olivia S:

"I would like to go because I like sports and watching people playing sports and going to the golf day will help me learn new skills and build up my confidence to play."

Mia:

"I went to the golf event at Porters Park last year and really enjoyed it."



LETCHWORTH GC WINS MEN'S CHAMPION CLUB



OUR MEN'S
CHAMPION
CLUB FINAL WAS
THE FIRST 36-
HOLE MAJOR
COMPETITION
OF THE COUNTY
SEASON BACK IN
MAY, WHEN THE
EVENT WAS KINDLY
HOSTED FOR
THE FIRST TIME
BY BRICKENDON
GRANGE GC.

The event is a 36-hole strokeplay medal scratch competition with each club represented by three players, with the winners being the team with the lowest total score across all six rounds.

After the morning round the host club led the way on 220, +7 as a team, helped by a score of 70 (-1) by Bradley Robinson.

In the afternoon round the scores improved. Best of the day gross 69s (-2) were returned by both Rob Holden of Letchworth and 2022 Men's County Champion holder Max Hopkins. Rob's score along with steady

rounds from teammates, Niall Johnston and former Men's County Champion Laurie Owen, allowed Letchworth to creep past the home club to take the title with an aggregate gross score of 442 for the day, +16.

Letchworth GC went on to represent the county at the England Golf Champion Club Final event, played at Ealing GC in West London. The team performed admirably and finished in seventh position.



MEN'S UNDER 35 CHAMPION - GREG HURLEY OF THE HERTFORDSHIRE GC

FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE COLTS CHAMPIONSHIP, THE NEWLY-MONIKERED MEN'S UNDER 35s CHAMPIONSHIP TOOK PLACE IN JUNE AT WELWYN GARDEN CITY GC.

The weather was swelteringly hot, one of the hottest days of the year, but gusty winds blew up as the day progressed, making play more bearable but making playing conditions that bit harder on the already firm ground. The course was well presented and played fair, rewarding good shots and punishing the offline and wayward golf.

After the morning round there was a two-way tie at the top of the halfway leaderboard with both Greg Hurley of The Hertfordshire and home player George Ackerman, playing together, returning rounds of 69, one under par. Greg, like many on the day, fell foul of a very awkward back left pin position on the par 3 18th hole, with the wind strongly at the players' backs, the hole played much shorter than the yardage and many players went over the green and, with nothing to stop the ball,

would end up out of bounds. Greg finished his morning round with a double bogey 5 as would many of the competitors. Greg and George lead by 1 shot from nearest rival Brad Robinson of Brickendon Grange on level par 70.

Greg, starting his afternoon round from the 10th, showed no signs of nerves of holding the lead and began his afternoon round from the 10th with an eagle 3, birdie 3 and a par 3 on his first three holes. Greg's nerve held up, adding more birdies to shoot a stunning 66 (-4) to defeat his playing partner George who returned a creditable 72. Greg's total of 135 (-5) for the day won by six shots from George on 141 (+1), with Kiertan Sangha of Letchworth a shot further back on 142 (+2), pipping his club mate Niall Johnston into third place with an excellent afternoon round of 69.



TEAM REPORTS



MEN’S

The men’s first team had some strong team and individual performances throughout the season starting with the first match against Middlesex, winning 10.5 to 1.5. This gave the team members hope that they would be contending for the SEG league title this year. Unfortunately, the team once again came up against the strong teams of Essex and BBO who both fielded teams boasting England internationals and full-time golfers. With defeats to both and a victory against Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire finished the season in third place.

This season one of the goals was to bring through Hertfordshire’s up-and-coming golfers and get them involved with the men’s first team, with the first player being young Harry Cox. Harry settled in well and battled hard for the six-man team and in his matches against BBO, winning praise from the BBO management team. Bringing Harry into the team will hopefully show the under 16s and younger players that if they play well they can work their way up to the men’s first team. There are two or three players who have been identified as potential members of the squad for next season and it is hoped that integrating them with experienced team members and enabling them to play at the highest level of county golf will give us the best opportunity to compete with the likes of Essex and BBO.

I would like to thank the whole team for giving us 100% effort this season. Thank you to everyone in the office and thanks to The Melbourne GC for allowing us to be able to play our home matches at a wonderful venue.

Phil Dormer



WOMEN’S

Several of the team competed in the County Championship at Moor Park, where Jackie, Connie, Kelly, Charlie, Emmanuelle, Mawgan, Anna and Tala made it through to the playoffs, to ultimately see Tala crowned County Champion.

County Match Week followed shortly afterwards at Wensum Valley, Norfolk. The East Region Intercounty Match Week sees each county playing two foursomes and three singles matches, off scratch. With thunderstorms and gale force winds throughout the tournament, fantastic matches were played in very tough conditions. Many went to the 18th hole, which unfortunately saw Hertfordshire lose narrowly to Norfolk, Essex and Beds. However, convincing wins over Cambs and Hunts and Suffolk, resulted in Hertfordshire finishing third in the table on game points. Congratulations to Emmanuelle Hewson who retained the Mary Oliver Brooch for most points won, closely followed by Jackie Foster and Maddie Rolph, who tied for second place.

Darcie West went onto win the East Region Junior Championship at Knebworth and Jackie Foster the Women’s Senior Amateur Championship at Woodhall Spa.

Congratulations to Maddie Rolph who has decided to turn professional and Charlie Field for making a come back in her golfing career. A huge thanks to all the squad, who gave their all, namely.

Jackie Foster (Bishops Stortford), Kelly Cooke (WGCGC), Maddie Rolph (Centurion GC), Emmanuelle Hewson (Mid Herts), Mawgan Vater (East Herts), Micaela DuPlessis (Harpenden GC), Charlie Field (Bishops Stortford), Connie Packer (Bishops Stortford), Darcie West (Sandy Lodge), Tala Clarke (Knebworth) and Lucy Walker (Bishops Stortford).

Looking forward to next year at Felixstowe Ferry GC, 27th – 30th June 2024.

Aly Nedza

UNDER 18 BOYS

An up and down year for the Under 18 team in league matches against Middlesex, Essex and BB&O with some brilliant wins and others where the team put up a strong performance but didn’t quite get the hoped-for results.

The first fixture of the season was the ‘Cheshunt Salver’ match, a Ryder Cup style event against Essex starting with a morning of foursomes followed by singles in the afternoon. Hertfordshire battled hard and there were some very close matches but the overall result went in the favour of Essex 11.5 – 6.5. The annual friendly fixture against the men’s first team follows a similar foursomes and singles series of matches across the squad of ten. This year saw the spoils going to the men 10.5 – 4.5.

The South-East Group triangular matches started in May. A good win by Jaego Gardiner prevented a clean sweep by Essex 1-7. The team managed to secure a half against BB&O 4-4. August was a busy month with two triangular fixtures. The team beat Middlesex 6-2 but narrowly lost to Essex 3.5 – 4.5. The Bank Holiday weekend was the most successful for the team, securing convincing wins against both Middlesex 7-1 and BB&O 6-2 at ‘home’ at Old Fold Manor GC.

With one eye on next year, the last match of the season was an Under 17 fixture against Kent held on the West course at Sundridge Park Golf Club. Kent fielded a very strong team and despite a valiant effort Hertfordshire lost 6-2. There were, however, inspired wins by Nathaniel Warren of Verulam GC who won 5&3 and Will Lyons whose match went all the way to the 18th where he recorded a 1-Up victory.

Karen Bond

UNDER 16 BOYS

The U16 team were back in the central zone of the South East Group U16 league and had home and away matches against Middlesex, Essex and BB&O. League matches were played between May and late August and the team set off with a home start to the season with a narrow win against BB&O and Middlesex picking up an unlikely draw.

The second round of matches resulted in a loss to Essex and a win over Middlesex and this meant two big wins were needed in the last round of fixtures against BB&O and undefeated league leaders Essex. Not a problem for team Herts. Two convincing wins against these toughest of opponents and a tie between the other two counties meant that the team qualified for the finals weekend at the beginning of October by the narrowest of margins. At the final, held at Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club on the Suffolk coast, the team dominated both opponents and recorded resounding wins against Sussex by 6.6-1.5 and Norfolk by 8-0 to bring the silverware back to Hertfordshire. See pages 8 & 9 for more.

Gerald Duddy



TEAM REPORTS



UNDER 14 BOYS

Reflecting on the journey of our Under 14 Boys team through the season fills me with immense pride and appreciation. We embarked on a year dotted with trials and triumphs, witnessing the budding talents and unwavering spirit of our young golfers.

In matches that ranged from a gritty tie against Essex to close clashes with notable teams like Kent, our boys exhibited remarkable skill, perseverance, and sportsmanship. Every swing, whether leading to victory or providing a learning curve, has been integral in shaping their journey, unveiling their potential, and strengthening their character on the course.

Heartfelt gratitude extends to our steadfast supporters, coaches, and parents, whose encouragement and belief have been the wind beneath our young golfers' wings. Their presence has been a constant source of motivation and warmth, enabling our boys to navigate through every high and low with resilience and composure.

While we celebrated joyous moments, we also embraced defeats with grace, learning valuable lessons that will undoubtedly carve our path ahead. Our focus remains not only on nurturing athletic proficiency but also on instilling values of respect, teamwork, and fair play amongst our players.

Looking ahead, we carry forward a tapestry of experiences, insights, and friendships into the forthcoming seasons. Here's to future endeavours, where we continue to embody the spirit and potential of Hertfordshire golf.

Sudip Roy

GIRLS

My aim for the 2022-23 season was to engage with our girls and parents, so I looked at what our boys teams were doing well and started WhatsApp groups for our girls' squad. This allowed parents, girls, coaches and managers to communicate relevant information in a timely manner, whether this was about coaching sessions, junior opens, competitions or if someone had performed well on or off the course.

We started the Girls Summer Series which is a monthly competition for any girl with a handicap index below 32.4 to meet and play with other girls. Typically most clubs have one or two junior girls in the membership, the two exceptions to this are Bishops Stortford and Sandy Lodge. The competition is played at different courses each month and friendships have been formed alongside the golfing experience.

We also had the County Match Days at Benton Hall in August and there is a full report on pages 8 and 9. Needless to say we are all very proud of the girls and how they represented our county so well.

Moving into winter we now have very healthy performance and development squads and Jo Oliver and her assistant coaches will be working hard with the girls to get them ready for the 2024 season. In the new year we will also be looking at building up our breaking 100 and 90 squads.

Overall our goal is not only to help the girls with their golf techniques, but also to create a fun learning environment with their peer group. I feel having a sense of community is important for all girls in the county to progress on their golf journey.

Jennie Lewis Puttick

MEN'S SENIORS

The Herts Seniors had its usual campaign in the 2023 season, essentially three core competitions. In our friendlies, we beat Suffolk away and narrowly lost to a very strong Surrey team - more of them later. Our league campaign began with an away win against an invigorated Middlesex team, followed by a strong win against Essex, normally one of our strong challengers for the league.

In the SEG Seniors Qualifier, the team managed fourth place despite the preparation being hampered by two late withdrawals. The Southern Counties Senior Foursomes followed at the start of August but, unfortunately, the team did not manage to qualify for the final.

At the end of August the focus returned to the league. With most other counties having played one more match than Hertfordshire, it became clear that the league would be decided by the last match. In our penultimate match we went to Beaconsfield GC to play BB&O - a close match which was narrowly lost. The team knew that a win at home against Bedfordshire in our final match would win the championship crown. The team took on the challenge and beat a resurgent Beds team 9 ½- ½ to win the league once again, the third time in as many years.

In the South East League Final played at Blackmoor GC, our opponents were Surrey, fresh from winning the English County Seniors final. The match had a series of very close games and after the ten matches the result was 5-5, a tie. Under the SEG rules the outcome is based on match points, with the agonisingly close outcome of Surrey 27 and Herts 26. A sad conclusion for the team having, fought so hard against such a strong team. This was our third league final in a row, winning one and losing two.

A big thank you to all our supporters and in particular to Chair, Bobby Kendall and President, Robin Colbourne Nick O'Byrne and the ever-present Nick Davis.

Simon Kay

WOMEN'S SENIORS

It was another busy season for the women with a strong showing in the BBHH&O Region campaign. (Bucks, Berks, Hamps, Herts and Oxon), culminating in a nail-biting finish in a winner takes all match in Hampshire. Despite the crucial match making it to the 18th green, the Herts team narrowly lost (4-3). However, it was proof indeed of their strong performance throughout.

There have also been some close finishes in the East Region matches where the team plays Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Cambs and Hunts. The competition level has certainly ramped up in the last two years since the move away from a more friendly format and the introduction of a league trophy. Hertfordshire has already begun plotting its strategy to win it back in the 2024 season!

In May the friendly match with Middlesex was played at Finchley GC and afforded the county to include a number of players who it hopes will progress to the main team in the coming seasons. It is hoped that a second friendly will be added to next year's schedule to further increase participation.

Sussex were the hosts for the 2023 Inter-County Championships and our team of four gave a good account of themselves, given the extremely difficult playing conditions at Highwoods GC. Even a tree falling down mid round, replicating the Masters earlier in the year, did not stop them from finishing, although it probably should have...

The finale to the season was the Women's Senior Championships held at Old Fold Manor. with representation from a wide range of clubs across the county. A new champion was crowned, Jacqui Sadler from Mid Herts who has only just qualified for the 'senior' category in the last few months and is going to make an excellent addition to the team. Giving her a run for her money was Sandra Moses from Knebworth who forever claims to be retiring but continues to triumph. Well done to all that played in this event and thank you to all of the ladies that represented the county this year both physically and in the all-important role of reserve. Here's to 2024!

Lindsay Murray Gray



PGA PROFESSIONAL BARNEY PUTTICK OF MID HERTS GC CELEBRATED WITH HONORARY MEMBERSHIP



PGA PROFESSIONAL BARNEY PUTTICK HAS BEEN HONOURED BY HERTFORDSHIRE GOLF FOR HIS LONG ASSOCIATION WITH THE COUNTY AND FOR ALL HIS INVALUABLE EFFORTS IN PROMOTING THE GAME OF GOLF.

Barney has a real and demonstrative passion for coaching and improving the golf of all who know him. His genuine passion for golf often rubs off on all who come in touch with him. Without doubt the county has much benefited from its association with Barney over the years.

The honorary membership was awarded at Hertfordshire Golf's Annual General Meeting in March. Hertfordshire Golf Chairman, Bobby Kendall, said: "We are very fortunate to have the support of many very capable and enthusiastic volunteers and coaches who have given wonderful service over many years to all facets of our county activities. In 2020 we introduced a special award of Honorary Membership to publicly recognise those individuals whose contributions have in some way been exceptional. We are delighted to acknowledge Barney in this way."

Barney turned professional in 1979 and secured an assistant professional's position with Ian Connelly at Dyrham Park GC. Ian was one of the most foremost teachers of the day, coaching many fine players and writing for golf magazines. He was best known for being Nick Faldo's original coach and Barney says he still uses some of his ideas to this day.

Having completed his PGA training he decided to play full time and over a five year period competed in PGA events at local and national level, including some European Tour Events. His highlights were winning both the Hertfordshire PGA Assistants and the Order of Merit in one year. He became the South of England Under 25 Champion and after that competed in events in France, Spain and Italy. His favourite memory was tying Greg Norman for third place in a 36-hole tournament in Cannes, behind Corey Pavin.

He finished full-time playing in 1987 and became the Head professional at Ramsey GC, subsequently moved to Harpenden Common and then to Metro Golf Centre. In 2000 the opportunity presented itself to be the professional at Mid Herts Golf Club and Barney is still happily teaching and coaching there.

Barney has been providing coaching in the county continuously in one form or another since 1993. His association with Hertfordshire includes:

- Herts First Team Coach 1994- 2006
- Involved in coaching at Boys U18, U16 and U14 levels in Hertfordshire since 1993



- Coached the Herts Ladies team and the Girls team and is delighted to have played a part in the Junior Girls' success in the County Match Days (see pages 10 & 11).
- Worked individually with over 150 county golfers and several of his pupils have gone on to play for England.

Barney has always been highly respected and revered by his colleagues and was bestowed the honourable title of Fellow of the PGA in recent times. Prior to that in 2006 he was voted by Golf Monthly magazine as one of the UK's Top 25 coaches and has remained in that exalted list ever since. Barney still writes and publishes coaching tips for several major national and online publications. Many Herts coaches and managers have regularly asked Barney for advice and support throughout the years.

Hertfordshire Golf is delighted to recognise Barney's many years of dedicated service in furthering golf in the county.



SOPHIA FULLBROOK AND JACK BIGHAM PLAY FOR ENGLAND



Sophia Fullbrook of the Melbourne GC and Jack Bigham of Harpenden GC were selected to play in the Women's and Men's Home Internationals, held at Machynys GC in Wales in August.

Teams from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales - made up of 16 players (seven women and nine men) - gathered to compete across three days. England's joint men's and women's team swept the board at the end of a thrilling final day, taking five out of the seven points on offer in the morning foursomes, which proved to be the springboard to a thoroughly impressive victory over a talented Irish side. The opening three points of the morning were gathered by the pairings of Jack Bigham and Tyler Weaver, Sophia Fullbrook and Lottie Woad, and Mimi and Patience Rhodes.

THE JUSTIN ROSE TELEGRAPH JUNIOR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

Sophia and Tala Clarke were two of only twelve girls nationwide to qualify as finalists in the Junior Golf Championship held at Quinta do Lago in Portugal in November.

Sophia, defending her 2022 championship, this year finished tied second with a gross R1: 73, R2:71, R3:74, total 208, five shots behind the winner. A brilliant achievement and experience for them both.



HERTFORDSHIRE GOLF – 2024 CHAMPIONSHIP DATES & VENUES

EVENT	VENUE	DATE
SCHOOLS TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP 2023/24	MILL GREEN	Thursday 21st March
MEN'S CHAMPION CLUB SEMI FINALS	ALDENHAM & EAST HERTS	Sunday 31st March
JUNIOR CHAMPION CLUB	HARPENDEN COMMON	Monday 8th April
BOYS & GIRLS SPRING MEETINGS	HARPENDEN COMMON	Monday 8th April
COUNTY FOURBALL CHAMPIONSHIP	STOCKS	Monday 15th April
SCHOOLS MID HANDICAP CHAMPIONSHIP	MILL GREEN	Thursday 25th April
HERTS SALVER (MEN'S COUNTY CHAMP Q)	WEST HERTS	Sunday 5th May
MEN'S CHAMPION CLUB FINAL	SOUTH HERTS	Sunday 12th May
WOMEN'S SPRING MEETING	BROOKMANS PARK	Monday 13th May
MEN'S SENIOR CHAMPION CLUB	HARPENDEN	Tuesday 21st May
COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS (MEN'S & WOMEN'S)	WELWYN GARDEN CITY	Thursday 30th May to Sunday 2nd June
WOMEN'S INTERCLUB FOURSOMES	SOUTH HERTS	Monday 3rd June
MEN'S & WOMEN'S UNDER 35's CHAMPIONSHIP	PORTERS PARK	Sunday 16th June
FAMILY CUP	VERULAM	Sunday 7th July
MEN'S MID AGE CHAMPIONSHIP	THE HERTFORDSHIRE	Monday 15th July
BOYS CHAMPIONSHIP	SANDY LODGE	Monday 29th July
MEN'S SENIORS CHAMPIONSHIP	OLD FOLD MANOR	Monday 5th & Tuesday 6th August
BOYS UNDER 14 CHAMPIONSHIP	KNEBWORTH	Friday 23rd August
GIRLS CHAMPIONSHIP	KNEBWORTH	Friday 23rd August
MIXED TEAM FUN EVENT	TBC	August
CLUB OFFICIALS CHALLENGE	HARTSBOURNE	Thursday 5th September
WOMEN'S AUTUMN MEETING	HARTSBOURNE	Monday 9th September
MIXED FOURSOMES CHAMPIONSHIP	TBC	September
MEN'S COUNTY FOURSOMES CHAMPIONSHIP	BROOKMANS PARK	Sunday 22nd September
MEN'S SENIOR CHALLENGE TROPHY	LETCHWORTH	Thursday 26th September
COUNTY FINALS DAY	EAST HERTS	Sunday 6th October
WOMEN'S SENIORS CHAMPIONSHIP	HADLEY WOOD	Monday 7th October
SCHOOLS SCRATCH CHAMPIONSHIP	MILL GREEN	Monday 14th October
WOMEN'S SCRATCH LEAGUE FINALS DAY	ESSENDON - NEW	Friday 18th October
BOYS UNDER 16 CHAMPIONSHIP	MID HERTS	Friday 1st November
GIRLS AUTUMN MEETING	MID HERTS	Friday 1st November

COUNTY WINNERS 2023



Men’s County Championship:
Women’s County Championship:
Women’s Scratch Aggregate Cup:
Women’s Anne Pyke Trophy:
Boys Champion:
Malcolm Reid Trophy winner:
Boys Team Flag Champions:
Girls Champion:
Men’s Champion Club:
Women’s Team Championship winners:
Men’s Senior Champion:
Men’s Senior Handicap Champion:
Women’s Senior Champion:
Women’s Senior Handicap Champion:
Women’s Veterans Trophy winner:
Men’s Under 35 Champion:
Men’s Mid Age Champion:
Men’s Scratch League Champions:
Women’s Scratch League Champions:
Junior Champion Club:
Men’s Senior Champion Club:
Schools Scratch Boys Champion 2022/23:
Schools Scratch Boys Champion 2023/24:
Schools Scratch Girls Champion 2022/23:
Schools Scratch Girls Champion 2023/24:
Schools Mid Handicap
Championship winner:
Boys Spring Meeting winner:
Girls Spring Meeting winner:
Girls Autumn Meeting winner:
County Fourball Championship:
Men’s Foursomes
Championship winners:
Men’s Peggy Harkett Trophy winners:
Women’s Interclub Foursomes:
Women’s Powell Cup KO winners:
Men’s Herts Salver winner:
Family Cup winners:
Boys Under 16 Champion:

Harry Cox of Welwyn Garden City
Tala Clarke of Knebworth
Anna Molloy of Sandy Lodge
Tala Clarke of Knebworth
Harry Cox of Welwyn Garden City
Harry Cox of Welwyn Garden City
Welwyn Garden City
Tala Clarke of Knebworth
Letchworth
Sandy Lodge
Simon Kay of Ashridge
Gary Higgins of Brookmans Park
Jacqui Sadler of Mid Herts
Joyce Lim of The Melbourne Club
Sandra Moses of Knebworth
Greg Hurley of The Hertfordshire
Steve Standing of The Hertfordshire
Harpenden Common
Essendon A
Moor Park
The Melbourne Club
Louie Bloxham of Welwyn Garden City
Luca Ibekwem of West Herts
Tala Clarke of Knebworth
Ixie Akpan of Letchworth

Charlie Davies of Brookmans Park
Aditya Sawhney of Moor Park
Anya Martin of Verulam
Harriet Buchan of Bishop’s Stortford
Stuart Edwards & Dan Baldock of Welwyn Garden City

Tom Turner & Tony Wilkins of Harpenden Common
Harpenden Common
Abandoned due to storms
Essendon
Toby Peters of West Herts
David & Daniel Hobbs of Brookmans Park
Ben Sessions of Bishop’s Stortford

Boys Under 14 Champion:
Mixed Foursomes Championship:
Men’s Senior Challenge Trophy winner:
Lorna Hall Spring Salver winner:
Barbara Quirk Shield winner:
Cuningham Salver winner:
Girls Handicap Plate winner:
Men’s Herts Team Cup KO winners:
Men’s Members Cup winner:
Mixed Greensomes KO winners:
Women’s Da Paula Cup KO winner:
Women’s Fourball KO winners:
Men’s Order of Merit winner:
Boys Scratch Order of Merit winner:
Boys Handicap Order of Merit winner:
Girls Scratch Order of Merit winner:
Girls Handicap Order of Merit winner:
Boys Junior Challenge Trophy winner:
Junior League Champions - Ver Shield winners:
Ver Plate winners:
Women’s Mary Oliver Brooch:
Womens Spring Meeting winners:
Women’s Autumn Meeting winners:
Mixed Fun event winners:

Tristan Evans of West Herts
Debbie & Josh Lear of Hadley Wood
Gary Camp of The Hertfordshire
Connie Packer of Bishop’s Stortford
Alecia Ibekwem of Sandy Lodge
Ruby Esterbrook of Bishop’s Stortford
Lilly Newton of Bishop’s Stortford
The Shire London
Louis Leversion of South Herts
John Horsley & Liz O’Hare of Welwyn Garden City
Janet Akers of Brickendon Grange
Danielle Alexander & Emma Goss of Porters Park
Niall Johnston of Letchworth
Ben Sessions of Bishop’s Stortford
Alfie Akers of Brickendon Grange
Tala Clarke of Knebworth
Lilly Newton of Bishop’s Stortford
James Baxter of Centurion
Enfield of Middlesex
Beadlow Manor of Bedfordshire
Emmanuelle Hewson of Mid Herts
The Melbourne Club/Berkhamsted
The Melbourne Club
Welwyn Garden City

Men’s Scratch Divisional winners:
Division 2: Ashridge
Division 3: Brickendon Grange
Division 4: Hanbury Manor
Division 5: Aldwickbury Park
Division 6: Mill Green
Division B1: Berkhamsted
Division B2: Ashridge

Women’s Scratch Divisional winners:
Division 2: East Herts A
Division 3: West Herts
Division 4: The Melbourne Club



HERTFORDSHIRE
GOLF 2023