

LANCASHIRE LADIES' COUNTY GOLF ASSOCIATION

Captain's Report for 2010

President of EWGA, County President, Vice-Captain, Honorary Life Members, Vice Presidents, Officials and Ladies

I have much pleasure in presenting my report for 2010

I cannot believe it is 12 months since I was elected as your County Captain, how the year has flown by, in fact the last 10 years serving on Lancashire have.

Winter training and all squads days

The training sessions for all the squads took place over the winter months at Myerscough College and Garstang Golf & County Club

On these days the squads were divided into three groups and covered three activities. The indoor golf coaching at Myerscough was supervised by Jane Forrest, fitness and team play by John Barclay and Anne Baines. At Garstang the Instinctive Golf was supervised by Paul Eales.

These days have been very worthwhile, our thanks go to Myerscough College and Garstang Golf & Country Club, for the use of all their facilities, our professionals, officials and executive members for supporting us throughout our winter training programme.

Our first outdoor training session for the senior squad was arranged for 21st February at Fleetwood but this had to be cancelled due to thick snow, and was re-arranged for the 14th March, this was a cold but sunny day and they managed to play 18 holes.

Competitions

Sunday 21st March our first competition of the season, the Pro's Ladies & Girls at St Annes Old Links on a sunny but chilly day. 12 teams took part, the winning team was John Barclay, Lucie Walker and Chynna Hobson.

Monday 29th March on a cold rainy day we played our annual match against the Lancashire Veterans at Royal Birkdale. The girls won by 3 matches to 1. Even though the weather was unpleasant everyone enjoyed playing this magnificent golf course.

Our annual Lads v Lasses match was played on 11th April at Accrington GC.

It was a sunny but rather chilly day and the men came prepared to avenge their defeat of last year. The highest handicap on the men's team was scratch, the lowest +4, sad to say they beat us this year 10½ to 1½.

The following week I attended the Northern Foursomes at Pontefract GC.

We had 21 pairs entered from Lancashire Clubs; unfortunately due to the draw they kept knocking each other out of the competition. By the Wednesday afternoon only 2 pairs from Lancashire were still in the competition and they had drawn each other. Elaine Clark and Jennifer Fallows beat Linda Dorning the Lancashire Vets Captain and Chris Appleby both of Preston GC.

The semi-final on Thursday morning saw Elaine and Jennifer beat the Yorkshire pair Helen Searle and Charlotte Austwick.

The final again was a battle of the Roses, Elaine and Jennifer taking on two very young girls, Megan Lockett and Holly Morgan. They all played wonderful golf with Elaine and Jennifer winning 2&1.

The following Saturday Fleetwood was the venue for the President's v Captain's match, on a lovely sunny day, excellent golf was played and the Captain's team took the honours and tankard.

The Interclub handicap qualifying took place on 10th and 12th May at Fishwick Hall, Hindley Hall, Darwen and Werneth.

The 8 teams to qualify for the final at Knott End GC in September were Ashton & Lea, Hindley Hall, Huyton & Prescott, Lee Park, Turton, Nelson, Bolton Old Links and Manchester. The final this year was won by Manchester.

Spring Bank holiday weekend saw the start of the Lancashire Championship at my club Pleasington.

Sunday 30th May we had 37 competitors playing in the 36 holes qualifying round on a bright but chilly day.

Once all the competitors were out on the course the President and I hosted a lunch for the Officials of Pleasington GC, Championship organisers and guests.

Pleasington as usual did us proud.

Top qualifier was Bethany Garton – Royal Lytham & St. Annes and the winner of the Carr Gold Medal was Elaine Clark – Manchester on a card play-off from Bethany Garton and Catherine Roberts – Pleasington.

Monday the first day of the match play stages was sunny and warm and there were some great matches played in these lovely conditions.

Tuesday, finals day dawned, a very wet, cold miserable morning, but fortunately the afternoon brightened considerably for the final between Bethany Garton and Catherine Roberts.

Bethany beat Catherine 3&2 to become County Champion for 2010.

The semi-finalists were Natalee Evans (Pleasington) and Nicola Rawlinson (Royal Birkdale)

The Plate, was won by Andrea Peacock (Heysham) in a great match against Karen Clayton (Manchester) which finished on the 18th.

Thanks must go to Jackie & Judith the East division reps for their excellent organisation of the Championship.

A big thank you to all our referees; Sally Hampson – Championship roving referee, semi final and 2nd flight final referee, Chris Stokes, Colette Connell and Joyce Ryder the other semi final referees and Les Wilson from the Lancashire Union for refereeing the Championship Final.

My thanks to Pleasington GC, to the staff and all the volunteers who helped make the Championship run so smoothly, it was a wonderful 3 days.

On Monday after play, we had a selection meeting and decided we would take a squad of 9 to Carlisle for Northern Counties Match Week. The team chosen was:- Bethany Garton (Royal Lytham & St. Annes) Elaine Clark (Manchester)

Emma Clegg (Clitheroe), Natalee Evans (Pleasington), Nikki Foster (Pleasington), Sophie Powell (Manchester), Nicola Rawlinson (Royal Birkdale), Catherine Roberts (Pleasington) and Brogan Townend (Pleasington).

The following Sunday 6th June we went to Haydock Park with 8 of our team to play our annual match against the Oxbridge Men. It was a dull chilly day, talk about flaming June.

The format is foursome's matchplay morning and afternoon. We won in the morning 3-1 and drew 2-2 in the afternoon an overall win of 5-3. We played level and all of us played from the men's yellow tees.

We are grateful to the Oxbridge Golfing Society, some of whom travel many miles to play in this fixture. This match is invaluable practice for our team prior to CMW.

Week commencing 7th June were the Divisional Finals of the Scott Leggatt.

These were played at Morecambe, Nelson, Formby Hall, Gathurst and Crompton & Royton. The final was at Childwall in July and the winners were:-

Elaine Clark and Jennifer Fallows (Manchester) with A Yates and S Swindlehurst (Lancaster) 2nd.

The following week was the Elsie Corlett Summer Meeting at Heysham GC.

Now this was flaming June, a beautiful sunny day for all.

The winner was Katie-Jane Stanley of Manchester GC with a score of 90-22-68

A great result as Katie-Jane is only 11 years of age.

The Interclub Scratch Team Trophy was held at Accrington GC again on a lovely sunny day. The winners were Royal Lytham & St. Annes, the runners up were Clitheroe.

Finally, after much planning and a practice round on the 18th June the most important week for our County team had arrived.

Northern Counties Match Week at Carlisle GC. 27th June to 2 July.

Our first match on Monday was against our old enemy Yorkshire, the day was warm and sunny.

The team knew they had to be quick out of the blocks and they were winning the morning foursomes 2-1. In the afternoon singles Yorkshire came back fighting, we lost one match 4&3 and all the others went to the 18th but we only managed to win one of them. Overall result Lancashire 3 Yorkshire 6. Not the start we wanted.

Tuesday we took on Cheshire. We lost the morning foursomes 2-1 but bounced back and won the singles 4-2. Overall 5-4 win to us.

Wednesday was Durham's turn, foursomes 2-1 then singles 4-2, overall 6-2 to us.

Thursday saw us take on Cumbria, foursomes 3-0 and the singles 5½ - ½ great result 8½ - ½ to us.

Friday, final day we played Northumberland, we again won the foursomes 3-0 and the singles 5½ - ½ good win 8½ - ½.

Yorkshire remained unbeaten all week and we finished runners-up, a great achievement as we had lost four of our players from last year.

Our team was fantastic; they bonded well together and played great golf.

I would like to thank all who came, and those who trolley pulled for the team,

Your tremendous support and encouragement was much appreciated by all.

The first week in July and the calendar is getting more hectic by the week.

Monday the 5th July Interclub Bronze Team Trophy at Leyland GC.

This was the inaugural qualifying round for this new competition played in beautiful sunny weather.

The qualifiers were Royal Lytham & St. Annes and Herons Reach.

Tuesday 6th – Thursday 8th July Lancashire hosted the Northern Ladies Championship at Clitheroe GC.

Fifteen ladies/girls from Lancashire entered this event and eight of them qualified for the Championship match play stage.

In the qualifying round Rachael Goodall of Heswall Cheshire shot a 68 to set a new course record and Emma Clegg of host club Clitheroe had a hole in one.

The winner of the Championship was Bronte Law of Bramhall Cheshire with Emma Clegg of Clitheroe runner up.

Lancashire won the Scratch Team Shield after a card play-off with Cheshire, the team comprised Emma Clegg (Clitheroe), Bethany Garton (Royal Lytham & St Annes) and Brogan Townend (Pleasington).

Lancashire also won the Handicap Team Cup the team comprised Emma Clegg, Bethany Garton and Donna Barnes (Manchester).

Week commencing the 12th July the 3 other qualifying rounds for the Interclub Bronze Team Trophy took place, these were at Huyton & Prescott, the qualifiers were Hindley Hall, Childwall and Haydock Park. At Blackley the qualifiers were Manchester, Bolton and Crompton & Royton and at Rossendale the qualifiers were Pleasington and Dunscar.

A total of 63 teams entered which is very good for the first year.

The Final was played at Knott End in September and the very first winners of the Trophy are Royal Lytham & St. Annes GC.

On Sunday 18th July Rochdale GC hosted the Junior Championship.

The winner was Brogan Townend (Pleasington) the runner-up Emma Harris (Peel – IOM). Full report by the Junior Organiser.

The next day was the 4 ball team event at Chorley GC.

Those who played in the morning had the best of the weather, around 2.30pm it started to rain, in fact it poured down, we just about managed to complete the competition before the course flooded.

The winning team was C Helme, S-A Atwood, J Churchill & L Johnson all of Bolton Old Links with 91pts.

The last week in July we headed off to Lincolnshire for the English Girls U13's, U15's and U18's, these events were played on two separate courses and it rained on one or other of the courses every day. 14 girls in total entered these events. More details in CJO's report.

The first week in August saw us travelling to Vicars Cross in Cheshire for the Junior Jamboree. This event was very successful although we did not manage to retain our title. Again Linda our CJO will cover this and all other junior events in her report.

The following Monday 9th August was the qualifying round for the Lady Derby Challenge Cup at Bolton Old Links GC.

Last year it was played on an absolutely glorious summers day. I'm afraid the same can't be said for this year, it poured down to such an extent that some of the greens started to go under water. President Patsy and the greenkeeper had to squeegee them so play could continue.

The top 16 players qualified at Bolton Old Links to play in the match play stages hosted by Manchester on 23rd & 24th August.

The weather at Manchester on the Monday was dreadful, we managed to get both rounds completed but again we had to squeegee a number of greens to get play finished.

The following day was even worse, we had a suspension of play for almost 3 hours, which meant we could only get the semi-finals completed.

The final was re-arranged for the following Monday, which I'm pleased to say was a lovely sunny day. Hollie Vizard (Pleasington) and Sue Warrington (Manchester) had a great final with Hollie eventually winning on the 20th to retain the Lady Derby Trophy.

On 17th August Anne Baines our CTO and I travelled to Northumberland to support our girls who were playing in the Northern Girls Championship at Whitley Bay the following day. Lancashire Girls once again did us proud in this event, 11 girls entered and 7 of them took prizes. More about this in CJO's report.

On Friday 3rd September a lovely sunny day we were at Worsley GC for the Handicap Shield Finals. The four qualifying clubs were Silverdale, Formby Ladies 'B', Turton and Davyhulme Park.

The semi-final matches were extremely close, the victors being Silverdale and Turton, so for the afternoon final we had a repeat of last year, after being runners-up for the last 2 years Silverdale went one better and won the Handicap Shield.

Three days later we were at Pleasington GC for the Scratch Shield Finals. Clitheroe had originally been the venue for these finals but as they had qualified an alternative venue had to be found. Pleasington at short notice very kindly agreed to host the event.

The four qualifying clubs were Haydock Park, Clitheroe, Manchester and Formby Ladies'. The semi-finals again was a very close affair, the victors were Clitheroe and Formby Ladies'. In the final Formby Ladies bt Clitheroe.

The following day West Derby GC hosted the final of the Bronze Shield between Manchester and Royal Birkdale. Manchester were runners-up last year but they beat Royal Birkdale this year to win the Bronze Shield.

The next day was the Frances Smith Trophy held at New North Manchester GC. Over 80 competitors played this year, the winner was Doreen Hesketh of Ormskirk with a nett 72 on a card play off with Sue Travis of Rochdale.

The following week was English County finals at Kedleston Park in Derbyshire. We would have loved to have been there defending our title but it wasn't to be. I went to Kedleston Park for 3 days, and Vice Captain Joy went on another day to support Yorkshire as they had for us last year, I know it was greatly appreciated by them. Sadly Yorkshire didn't win County Finals.

Our last home fixture so to speak was the Manning Plate, our annual match against the Lancashire Union Executive. This year it was the Ladies turn to host this event, which was played at my club Pleasington. Even though we lost 4-1 we all had a super afternoon and evening.

The final golfing event in the calendar was our friendly match against Cumbria, which was played at Furness GC. We took a mixture of 'A', 'B' and Juniors for this match.

We won the morning foursomes 5-0 and the afternoon singles 8-1. A great result to finish off the season. Many congratulations to all the winners this season.

Achievements

Kelly Tidy won the British Ladies Amateur Championship, the first English player since 2002. She played in the European Girls Championship, the Junior Ryder Cup, the Home Internationals and is in the GB & I squad for 2011. Kelly finished 6th in Englands Order of Merit and 2nd in the Girls O of M.

Nikki Foster won the Birkdale Scratch, was runner-up in both the Helen Holm and the Welsh 54 hole open strokeplay She played in the Home Internationals and is in the GB & I squad for 2011. Nikki finished 2nd in the English O of M.

Brogan Townend won the Pleasington Putter the first ever home player to win. She was runner-up in the Fairhaven Trophy and played for England in the U16's match against Spain. Brogan played in the Faldo Series Grand Final at Mission Hills in China and qualified again this year in the Faldo Series Final at Lough Erne in Ireland not quite the exotic places as last year. Brogan finished 8th in the Girls O of M.

Emily Taylor won the Scottish U16's setting a new course record 66, she also won the Fairhaven Trophy again setting a new course record 72 and came fourth in the R & A Junior Open. Emily played in the Girls Home Internationals and has finished 16th in the Girls O of M.

Emma Harris retained her title as Isle of Man Ladies Champion.

Elizabeth Stebbings from Wilpshire tomorrow flies out to Abu Dhabi for the Daily Telegraph Junior Golf Championship.

Ann Irvin President of The English Women's Golf Association, Ann I hope you have enjoyed your first year as President I know you've had a very hectic season and I was delighted that you could be there for the 3 days of my County Championship. Ann, Lancashire is very proud of you, and we all wish you a happy and successful 2nd year in office.

One of the things which has given me most pleasure aside from CMW is attending all the County competitions and meeting you all, it really has been a pleasure starting you off in our competitions. During the year I have attended many luncheons and dinners, all of which I have enjoyed immensely, can't you tell, the diet starts next week. I thank you all for the courtesy and kindness shown at these invitations.

My sincere thanks to all associations, clubs and individuals who have kindly donated monies towards Lancashire and the Juniors it is very much appreciated..

I would like to extend my grateful thanks to all the Lady Captains and committees of Golf Clubs who have hosted County events this year. We greatly appreciate all the help and support you have so freely given. Thank you all.

Executive

The Lancashire Executive are an extremely hard working bunch of ladies, they give unstintingly of their time to make sure everything and every event runs smoothly.

Barbara Whiting and Carroll Ashton our handicap advisers always busy answering queries from clubs and County on handicapping matters. Our Standard Scratch Score Assessor, Ruth, always on hand to assist clubs with their scratch score queries. My thanks to you all.

Chris Stokes is in her first year as our NEWGA representative and has done a sterling job. Chris and her team ran a very successful Northern Ladies Championship at Clitheroe in July. Next year she has the big one, Lancashire will be hosting Northern Counties Match Week, this will be held at St Annes Old Links from the 20th to 24th June. So ladies make a note of the date we need as much support as we can to cheer on our Lancashire team.

Our eight divisional reps, Jane McMunn, Enid Hepworth, Di Vaux, Colette Connell, Joyce Ryder, Pat Mackrill, Jackie Snowden and Judith Harrison have all worked tirelessly during the year running our competitions sometimes in very trying circumstances with the rain we have had. Thanks also to Joyce and Pat with the help of Marjorie Bray for producing the excellent newsletter which you've received today.

To the Shield reps, Jane McMunn, Agnes King, Margaret Milne and Brenda Flett, a huge thank you ladies for all the work you have done, I know you have been bombarded with all sorts of questions. Brenda of course has also continued to keep our financial affairs in order as County Treasurer.

Linda Marr our Junior Organiser assisted by Liz Robinson and Audrey McClelland have had a very successful year with the junior girls but I will leave that to Linda to report.

Anne Baines well what a fantastic Training Officer. Anne arranged all the training through the winter, she was assisted on these days by the Selectors and Sheila Maher 2008 Captain. Anne during the golfing season has been to numerous events up and down the country and around the County on our behalf supporting and encouraging our girls. She has also been at our B Team and Junior matches helping the girls with their pre-match warm up.

Thank you so much Anne it's been a great 2 years working with you.

Two ladies who probably have the biggest job in the County, are our Secretaries Elaine and Jennifer. They work incredibly hard but they also find time to play fantastic golf, they won the Northern Foursomes in April and the final of the Scott Leggatt in July, they are my dynamic duo. Elaine will be even busier next year as she takes on the role of Lady Captain at Manchester GC, Elaine I hope you have a very happy and successful year.

Past Captain Linda thank you so much for your support, coming up to Carlisle to cheer on the team at CMW and always on the end of the phone when I wanted a chat – Thank you.

President Patsy has been at numerous events this year not just supporting the Lancashire Ladies but also the Lancashire men, thank you so much Patsy for your company and support.

To my Vice Captain Joy, we first worked together on the Executive from 2004 to 2007, we had many laughs then, and we've had many laughs again this year. Joy thank you so much for all your help and support it's been brilliant having you by my side.

My thanks to the Council at my club Pleasington for allowing us to hold our Executive and sub-committee meetings there, everyone makes us so welcome.

A huge thank you to the Pleasington Ladies you have been so supportive not just this year but in all the years I have served on the Lancashire Executive.

Special thanks must go to my husband Bert or Bertie as I call him. He has been a tower of strength to me over the last 10 years. He's chief cook and bottle washer and when I've returned home from a long day away, the table is set and a glass of wine is waiting for me. I have appreciated everything he has done for me, he truly is my rock. Now it's my turn to look after him.

Well, all good things must come to an end, I have made many new friends over the years, friendships which will last a life time.

I have had 10 wonderful years with Lancashire and to be Captain in 2010 was the icing on the cake.

Finally to the Past Captains, for allowing me the privilege and honour to be your Captain in 2010, it has been a wonderful experience and I will cherish the memories forever.

Thank you everyone.