

County President, County Captain, Honorary Life Members, Vice Presidents, Past Presidents, Past Captains, County & Club Officials and Ladies.

I have pleasure in presenting my report on junior golf in Lancashire for 2010.

Every January I send to each club a form to be filled in with your Junior Girls names, addresses and handicaps, I need this information so I can invite the girls to our Introduction to golf days, which are held during the Easter holidays. The girls do not need a handicap to attend these. The sessions last for 1½ hours and they spend time with a professional, practice chipping and putting and do a quiz. This year they were held at Preston Golf Academy, Manchester Golf Club and Samlesbury Golf Centre and 65 girls attended. Many of these girls now play in our monthly 9 hole competitions at Hart Common, where the emphasis is on enjoyment. My thanks to Peter Roberts and family who run Hart Common Golf Club, for allowing us to use the course and clubhouse, and always make us so welcome. I also thank Liz Robinson for organising these days.

Royal Lytham's Short Course was used for 2 card marking days, many girls have obtained and reduced their handicaps by playing in them. So when the girls bring their cards back to the club they count towards their handicaps. Myerscough, Southport and Ainsdale and Bacup Golf Clubs have also been had junior events for beginners.

This year we were asked by English Women Golf Association to support the recruitment and retention of ladies. We had an evening at Samlesbury Golf Centre, similar to the Introduction to golf days, for mothers or friends of the girls, 21 attended and some have now joined a golf club. At the end of season Fun Day at Hart Common, some of these ladies played.

The Lancashire Girls golf has 125 members aged 7 to 21, we started the year with our AGM where our trophies and County colours for 2009 competitions and matches were presented.

The 18 hole competitions were held at Formby Ladies, Davyhulme and Knott End Golf clubs, Blackburn had to be cancelled due to a water logged course after many hours of rain. From these the Gross Trophy winner is Victoria Bithell, (Haydock Park) the Nett Trophy goes to Sophie Lamb (Clitheroe) Stableford winner Lauren Harkness (Fleetwood) The Handicap Reduction Trophy Hollie Muse no handicap now 20, she attended our Introduction to golf day at Preston this year.

The Lancashire Junior Championship was held at Rochdale Golf club and was won by Brogan Townend of Pleasington club, runner up Emma Harris Peel club, (Isle of Man). Alicia Stebbings Wilpshire club won the Stableford competition.

The annual early season competition of a Professional, A or B team player and Junior was held at St Annes Old Links GC, 12 teams took part.

Sincere thanks to Audrey McClelland who runs the competitions with help on the desk from Brenda Fleet, I could not manage without you both, thanks again.

In the County Junior matches we beat Cumbria, Cheshire, Yorkshire and Durham, a new fixture with Chorley boys was halved, we lost to Lancashire Boys, in a very close match. An under 21's team beat the Lancashire Lady Veterans at Royal Birkdale.

Thank you so much to every club that has allowed the girls to play on their courses and a special thank you to the ladies and officials at these clubs, for all they did to make these days so enjoyable for the County officials and the girls.

Lancashire finished third in the Northern Counties Junior Jamboree at Vicars Cross, near Chester. The team was Victoria Bithell, Sam Edwards, Rachel Higson, Hilary Robinson, Sophie Potter and Lauren Harkness.

14 girls played in the 3 English Girls Championships at Market Rasen and Seacroft.

11 girls entered the Northern Girls championship at Whitley Bay, Brogan Townend won Chairman's Trophy Emma Harris won the Liverpool Society Trophy.

2010 has been another successful year for our young golfers and I congratulate every one. Nikki Foster and Kelly Tidy have been selected for the Gt Britain and Ireland squad

Kelly Tidy, Emily Taylor, Nikki Foster and Brogan Townend, have all played for England. Kelly played in the Junior Ryder Cup.

The Lancashire Ladies' Champion is Bethany Garton who led our team at County Match Week.

Emma Harris is once again the Isle of Man Ladies Champion, this is the 3rd consecutive year.

Hollie Vizard won the Bury Ladies Championship. Brogan won the Pleasington Putter, Nikki Foster won Birkdale Scratch, Emily Taylor won Scottish girls under 16. Amelia Taylor played in the US kid's competition in Arizona last New Year.

Laura Johnson is the Bolton and district champion. Courtney Milburn was the top girl in her age group of National Skills Championship, Brogan Townend was invited last March to the Asia final of the Faldo series at Mission Hills in China. Hollie Vizard won the Lady Derby and President's prize for the 2nd time. Elizabeth Stebbings tomorrow flies out to Aba Dhabi to play in the Daily Telegraph final. At February half term 6 girls and myself attended the Hacienda del Alamo Golf Festival in Mercia and did well, even though the weather wasn't good. We will be going again next February. These are only some of the achievements of the girls, I could go on, and they don't just play in this country as you have heard. In the girls order of merit we have 5 girls in the top 22.

I hope these achievements show why we strongly request all clubs to allow their members aged under 18 to play in ladies' competitions and matches under the same conditions as adults, we should not deny them the prize or the right to have their name on an honours board when they recorded the best score in a ladies competition. We thank all the ladies who help young golfers in Lancashire and to the clubs who already follow this England and Lancashire request.

The Lancashire girls in EWGA Coaching Squads for 2010/11 Kelly Tidy and Nikki Foster National performance squad, Emily Taylor and Brogan Townend Under 18's, Select North Emma Harris and Bethany Garton, Super Birdies North Olivia Cowan and Eloise Healey, Birdies North Sophie Lamb and Erin Porter, total 10 which is excellent.

We have own Eagle and Birdie squads and they will be starting their winter training programme soon, which will take place at Garstang Driving Range and Myerscough.

We thank Jane Forrest the Junior's Coach for the huge commitment she has given to County Coaching and Matches at Junior level throughout the year, our success is due to this. Also to Samlesbury Golf Centre, Myerscough College, Garstang Golf and Country Club, Clitheroe GC and Great Harwood GC for their friendliness towards us on our Training Days. Also Pleasington Golf Club for allowing us to have our Junior Committee meetings there.

The ELGA Trust has financially helped our Junior Training, the Trust is now very short of money and I urge all clubs to consider sending them a donation, raised from a competition or social function to enable them to carry on this vital support. It does not have to be a large amount, they will welcome any individual or club donation.

Thank you to all ladies, clubs and societies who have given us prizes and generous donations. These enable us to include all Lancashire girls who want to play golf. Many more good players are now emerging who I am confident will make good club members as well as potential County players. A full calendar is planned for 2011 and hope the weather will allow it to take place.

My thanks also go to the girls parents, grandparents, relatives, friends and sometimes club members who transport them to golfing events around the area.

Thank you to the President, Captain, Vice Captain, Liz Robinson Executive members and past executive members for your support and help at all junior events in 2010.

Linda Marr 24 November 2010