

**LANCASHIRE LADIES' COUNTY GOLF ASSOCIATION**  
**COUNCIL MEETING 31ST OCTOBER 2011**

**SHIELD REPORT**

**ENTRIES**

Once again 22 clubs entered the Scratch Shield Competition in 2011, 86 clubs entered the Handicap Shield Competition - 2 fewer than in 2010, and 70 clubs entered for the Bronze Shield - 3 more than in 2010. There were more clubs entering more than one team for an individual Shield competition. Depending on the make up of individual clubs' membership and availability of players I would suggest that some clubs might want to review which competitions they enter in future.

**SCRATCH FINALS**

The Scratch Shield Finals were held at Preston Golf Club. In the semi-finals, Pleasington beat Bolton Old Links and Manchester beat Haydock Park. In the final, Pleasington beat Manchester.

Once again we had a play off in the group stages. This will not be required next year as there are only 4 groups.

**HANDICAP FINALS**

The Handicap Shield Finals were played at Childwall Golf Club. In the semi-finals, Pleasington beat Southport & Ainsdale and Lancaster beat Saddleworth. In the final, Pleasington beat Lancaster.

**BRONZE FINALS**

The Bronze Shield Finals were played over 2 days at Rochdale Golf Club. In the semi-finals, Fishwick Hall beat Bolton Old Links and Hindley Hall beat Clitheroe. In the final, Hindley Hall beat Fishwick Hall.

The Divisional Handicap and Bronze draws will take place as follows:

South West - Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November at Woolton, 10am

North West - Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November at Ashton & Lea, Handicap 11am & Bronze 12pm

South East - Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November at Manchester, Handicap 11am & Bronze 12pm

East division - Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November at Rossendale, 11am

The Scratch Shield draw will be read out after this report. Please will Club Representatives please meet to exchange contact details.

You will receive match confirmation sheets from Joyce Ryder which I would ask your team captains to use when informing her of your match dates.

**BRONZE SHIELD**

The number of clubs playing in the Bronze Shield varies quite significantly between the Divisions and this necessitates slightly different methods of deciding the Finalists. The North West had only 2 groups this year, the East had 3 and then played a round robin eliminator and the South West and South East each had 4 groups.

The closing date for first round matches in the Bronze Shield will remain as 24<sup>th</sup> July.

Round Robin stages and Divisional Finals are to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> August.

**HANDICAP SHIELD**

As this year, group winners will play the Divisional play off in their own division rather than travelling to another area of the county. These matches will be played on a specified date during the first week in August. Your Shield Representative will inform you of the date as soon after the draw meeting as possible. Please will team captains make a note of this date and ensure that their players are made aware of it along with the normal group match dates.

The closing date for first round matches will remain as 24<sup>th</sup> July.

Divisional Finals are to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> August.

#### SCRATCH SHIELD

The closing date for first round matches will once again be the 7<sup>th</sup> August.

#### MATCHES IN GENERAL

Please may I remind everyone that in all Shield matches (including Scratch matches) proof of current handicap must be shown. This can be an up to date handicap certificate or up to date computer print out, both are acceptable. Will team captains please ensure that results are sent on the official form.

As stated in the Executive report, Distance measuring devices are not permitted in Shield matches. May I take this opportunity to remind players that it their individual responsibility to know the rules of the competition. For example, if you think that someone is breaking a rule, it must be challenged at the time of the offence. No retrospective challenges can be made.

It has become clear in recent years that matches given as walkovers can have a huge impact on the outcome of a group. Although there is a regulation in place to disqualify a club that gives more than one walkover in a season it was felt that this was not sufficient. As a result, from 2012, if a team gives one complete walkover its results will be withdrawn and they will be banned from the following years competition. If clubs are struggling to fulfil a fixture with a complete team then as many players as possible should be sent to play.

#### SCRATCH, HANDICAP AND BRONZE FINALS

Joyce Ryder will be running the Scratch Finals in 2012; these will be held at Bolton Old Links Golf Club on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> August. Team captains must inform her of the confirmed match dates by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011. Handicap and Bronze fixtures are to be notified to the Divisional Shield Representatives by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2012. If these dates are not adhered to, your team will be disqualified. Agnes King will be running the Handicap Shield Finals, these will be held at Wilpshire Golf Club on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September and Jo O'Neill will run the Bronze Shield Finals at Penwortham Golf Club on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> September.

This concludes my report.

Elaine F. Clark  
Hon. Secretary