

Junior Report for the AGM 25 November 2017

Madam Captain, Madam President, Madam Vice Presidents, Past Captains and Ladies

You will be delighted to hear that 2017 has been a wonderful year for girls golf in Surrey. I am sure that many of you will have seen the entries on the SLCGA website throughout the season, and I therefore ask for your indulgence and patience for a short while as I detail some of the wonderful successes that the girls have achieved.

Our Girls Champion is Sarah Wilmore from Worplesdon. The championship was played at Malden Golf Club and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone there for all their help in organising this event. The members were very impressed, and more than a bit surprised, at the standard of golf the girls played. Sarah is now at Reading University and we wish her well for the future. She has been a great supporter of both girls and ladies events over the last few years and we look forward to seeing her on the Surrey fairways for many years to come. Our U15 champion is Rafiah Banday from Royal Mid Surrey and for the second year in a row Hyun-Ji Kim from Wimbledon Park won the U13 championship.

Our U10 champion is Annabel Peaford aged 8 from Walton Heath. Congratulations to her and all the other 6-10 year olds who played at Hoebridge on their 9 hole short course.

Junior County Match Week was held at Royal Winchester Golf Club in August. This is a hilly course in parts and I am sure the Surrey supporters were very happy just walking this course rather than having to play 6 rounds in 31/2 days! Oh to be young again!

The 9 girls who represented Surrey were

Sarah Wilmore, Captain (Worplesdon)

Jess Adams ((Worplesdon)

Jemma Milton (Hankley Common)

Ellie Lace (Royal Mid Surrey)

Rafiah Banday (Royal Mid Surrey)

Lauren Gooding (Roehampton)

Olivia Horsford (Wimbledon Park)

Pavani Kumar (Royal Mid Surrey)

Canice Screene (Croham Hurst)

Last year our lowest handicap was 5, this year our highest handicap was 5!

The format of this competition is 7 singles matches off scratch against the counties of Middlesex, Sussex, Kent and Hampshire.

Our first opponents were Middlesex who we knew would be tough and we managed a draw courtesy of good golf and a fantastic half by Rafiah who was 2 down with 2 to play. We knew we had to beat the other 3 teams if we were to have any chance of winning the competition. Our next opponents were Kent and we managed to beat them 5/2 and the girls went to bed that night with a smile on their faces!

On Tuesday morning we were drawn against Hampshire and the result was a draw 8 1/2 to a 1/2 in our favour.

We now only had to beat Sussex! This match was very tense. I think some of our girls were so excited it took them a little while before they settled down and found their rhythm. In the end we had 1 loss, 2 halved matches and 4 wins, the scoreline 5/2 to Surrey and victory!

The team spirit and the standard of golf was exceptional. All the girls played their part and I must make special mention of our Captain Sarah, who was very well organised and had an overall calming effect on the team. My thanks must go to Rosemary and Sally who stayed down for the 3 nights and helped to ferry the girls back and forth each day. Thanks you also to our coach Greg Brodie for his support and his wise words and to all the other supporters and wonderful parents who were so encouraging and enthusiastic.

Not only did we win Junior County Match Week but we also won the stableford competition which each county plays in when not playing a match. The stableford is off handicap, so to win both the scratch and handicap events was a great achievement.

In September we fielded a team to play in the Alresford Cup. 6 girls play in this handicap stableford event and their 4 best scores count. We were represented by 4 girls from Windlesham, Alex Phelps, Ellen Yates, Evie Kircher and Ellie Monk, Grace Bishop from Wentworth and Daisy Walsh from Bramley. Alex had the best score of any of the 8 counties taking part, 42 points and with scores of 42, 38, 37 & 36 Surrey were victorious by 15 points. A wonderful achievement by our next generation of Surrey girls! My thanks as always to all the parents and supporters, especially Ellen who stepped in at the last minute as someone pulled out that morning feeling unwell.

I would like to make special mention of some of the girls individual successes over the past few months.

Charlotte (Lottie) Woodham (Windlesham) took part in the Wee Wonders Grand Final at St Andrews in August. Originally 2252 participants took part in the regional qualifiers, 616 took part in the regional finals and 209 in the finals. The competitors are split into age groups and Lottie qualified in the girls 5-8 group. There were 24 girls taking part in her age group final and she won finishing 6 shots ahead of the runner-up. I believe her ambition is to be the next Charley Hull and who knows! Many congratulations to Lottie on a wonderful victory!

Another Lottie had a good summer - Lottie Woad from Farnham qualified to play in the Abraham Trophy Final at Blackmoor. This is a competition for the most improved girls in England, based on their scores submitted for handicap in the previous 12 months. 22 girls played in the final (4 from Surrey Alex Jakins and Sarah Mardani both from Windlesham and Sasha Crockett from Burhill together with Lottie). Lottie played the round of her life. A level par 72 nett 63 and she won by 5 shots. Lottie's golf has been going from strength to strength and we wish her every success for the future.

5 Surrey girls were selected for England U16 coaching for the next season - Lottie Woad, Rafiah Banday, Ella Hammond Baveystock (Wentworth), Sarah Mardani and Ellen Yates (both from Windlesham).

17 girls played in the various age related English Girls Championships with some fantastic results. I know that other girls in Surrey have had successful seasons reducing their handicaps significantly and winning numerous matches. We congratulate them all but there are just too many to mention here!

Sally has already mentioned Martha Lewis, and Annabel and Sammy Fuller all of whom I have known for many years and I wish them all well, as I do all the other girls, for the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Alison Trinick for organising our Playing Days at Hoebridge. So many of the girls already mentioned came to these, starting out on their golfing adventure. The slightly more experienced girls have coaching from our enthusiastic and highly qualified coaches and I thank Greg, Simon, Ben, Laurence, Sam, Leah and Jo for all their hard work and for making the sessions both fun and rewarding. I have

learnt a lot over the years! For the last 9 years I have worked with our fantastic training officer, Julia Brook. Thank you Julia it has been great fun.

The junior committee have been very supportive and I thank them for everything. Our President Rosemary and Captain Sally are great supporters of girls golf, so thank you both for all your help and advice. Thank you also to our County Secretary Amanda, your help has been greatly appreciated.

I must thank all the parents and chauffeurs. Thank you to all the clubs and societies who have contributed so generously to our 'junior fund' and thank you to all our clubs and their members who have allowed us to play on their beautiful courses. We are very lucky in Surrey!

Thank You