

## Junior County Match Week 2019

Haywards Heath Golf Club was this year's venue for the South Region Junior County Match Week. We arrived on the Sunday for a windy practice round and then settled in to the Bent Arms coaching inn in the nearby village.



The following day our first match was against Hampshire. We set off in the dry but with rain clouds threatening. Hyun-ji Kim and Ellie Monk had won their matches before the thunder and lightning arrived and everybody else was called in. Half an hour later it looked clear although still wet and the remaining matches went out to be completed. However the thunder came back with two matches still out on the course. Both matches had 2 holes to play - Abbi Rawlings was up and Alex Jakins was down. With the weather looking like it was settled in for the rest of the day we agreed with Hampshire to call those matches as they stood. So we beat Hampshire 6-1.

What a great start to the week!

Mid-afternoon the rain was still pouring down and the course was flooding so play was abandoned for the rest of the day. With the forecast looking grim for Wednesday (but OK for the Tuesday), we agreed to hold the rest of the matches over 9 holes in 4 sessions on the Tuesday, and play the stableford competition on the Wednesday if we could. (It was finally abandoned later on)

Our first Tuesday match over the shortened format was against Middlesex. We secured a comfortable 5.5 - 1.5 win. Next up was Kent, who proved tougher opposition but we came in with a 4 - 3 win. With just the last session left against Sussex, and with both counties having 3 wins in the bag, this was to be the decider.

Our girls fought valiantly, but I think the 9 holes format proved especially difficult for our young team, and we lost to Sussex 1.5 - 5.5. A special mention for Hyun-ji, who won her Sussex match beating a player of 2 shots lower handicap than herself. As our lowest handicap Hyun-ji always had to start first; not easy for her first Junior County match week! Congratulations to Ellen Yates, who captained the team, and was the only undefeated player.(3 wins; one half).

So, Sussex are the 2019 junior champions, and Surrey are the runners up.

Congratulations and thank you to our lovely team of girls; Ellen Yates (captain), Gabrielle Shacklady, Abbi Rowlands, Alex Phelps, Ellie Monk, Hyun-ji Kim, Herry Ji, Alex Jakins and Grace Bishop.

There was some stunning golf played by all of them- and the even better news is that they are all young enough to qualify for our 2020 team, and most of them for many years beyond!



Sally Parrish  
Surrey Girls Team Captain