

DORSET GIRL'S CHAMPIONSHIP

What a start to the year – weather wise. Everyone kept looking at the weather forecast and hoping that it would change but unfortunately on Sunday 16th May (Spring) at Broadstone Golf Club, the heavens decided to empty themselves.

Val Ford (Lady President), Susan Olds (Lady Captain – Broadstone GC) and myself were hiding in the starters post at Broadstone when the raining was pouring down. We decided to delay for ten/fifteen minutes in the hope that the rain would go away – well at least for the start. We were not lucky and it rained and rained.

The girls teed off – some not looking very happy, we were lucky to have Susan and parents out on the first ball spotting, getting very wet.

The girl's made it around 18 holes with intermittent rain and a little bit of sunshine and then had a break for their lunch, with questions of – are we going out again (with rain pouring down). They went out again at 2pm, again with a bit of rain to keep them company.

During the Championship first round girls and parents started to arrive for the Birdie Trophy – again asking – are we going to play – isn't it cancelled. Off they went – again in the rain and again very wet parents ball spotting.

To give you an idea of the conditions- the putting green was flooded in places, a lot of water in bunkers plus in places on the fairway.

I am very grateful for the parents who ball spotted on the 1st, 7th and 13th – far too many to name but they also got very wet.

The Birdie girls started to come in – looking a bit bedraggled but happy. It was lovely to see and hear some of the very nice comments from the balcony from members of Broadstone – some of whom thought I was a bit nasty in sending such little ones out to play golf, this was after they had been out playing in pouring rain.

The young high handicap girls played very well on a very tough course in very tough conditions and Olivia Harris (Sturminster GC) won with 41 points – awesome, with Lilly Mae Jones (Parkstone GC) with 35 points and Evie Brown (Sturminster GC) with 30 points.

Girls Championship – the girls came in – some smiles, others not so happy but all finished which was a great achievement.

Dorset Girls Champion is Lilli Horn (Ferndown GC) with a 77 & 75, with Chloe Haesler (Broadstone GC) one shot behind with a 78 & 75. Sienna Birch (Ferndown GC) was third with 77 & 80.

Dorset Nett Champion is Sienna Birch with a Nett – 143, with Chloe Haesler a nett 149.

I would like to thank Ed Richardson (General Manager), Susan Olds (Lady Captain) and all the catering staff for their support and encouragement. Thank you to all the Members at Broadstone GC for allowing us use of the golf course (one hour in the morning and afternoon and three tee times at lunchtime), very generous.

The course considering the conditions was in excellent condition, thank you to all the green staff.

I must admit the sandwiches and fries were the best that I and everyone else have eaten in a long time, thank you to all the catering staff who fed and kept us going with tea and coffee.

Thank you to Susan for paying for drinks for the girls on the 7th – kept them going. Thank you to all the parents for bringing the girls and then ball spotting. We are very fortunate in Dorset to have such a strong girl's section, with a number of very young girls just starting to play in the bigger competitions. I can see some future Georgia Hall, Hayley Davis, Sophie Keech and Alice Plumb girls out there.

Lastly, I would like to thank Val Ford (President) for starting, ball spotting and presenting the prizes with Susan. Kay Everett, Liz Walker, Steve Haesler, Martin Purchase, and Caroline Townsend for helping and being there to support me and make sure I didn't make too many mistakes.

Next major competition is the Ashley Wood & Palmer – at Ashley Wood Golf Club on Tuesday 3rd August.

Sheila Davidge

CJO