

First and Second Team Reports

South West Inter- Counties Ladies Championships 4-6th July 2022

This year the competition was played at Clevedon Golf Club Somerset. The format is 2 foursomes and 3 single matches played against the 6 SW Counties (Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire). Somerset were last years SW Champions and as they were on home territory definitely the favourites.

We had a team of 9 nine players. Melissa McMahon and First Team Manager (Lyme Regis), Harriet Teversham and Chloe Northover (Yeovil), Alice Webb (Parkstone), Lilli Horne (Ferndown) and Chloe Haesler, Becky Hobell. Honor Johnson and Lauren Purchase (Broadstone). Unfortunately Lauren was injured so although not able to play caddied every round. She did a great job supporting and encouraging her players. All the ladies played exceptional golf having to birdy holes to halve. This was Honor's initiation into County golf and she didn't let the side down. She won all five of her games.

Unfortunately we lost to Wiltshire 3/2 on Monday, the first morning but then gathered ourselves and beat Gloucestershire 3.5/1.5 in the afternoon. Tuesday we beat Devon 5/0 in the morning and Somerset 4/1 in the afternoon. Going into the final session on Wednesday morning Dorset were top of the leader board. Although we had the same number of points as Somerset we had won one more game.

Wednesday morning and you could feel the tension. We beat Cornwall 3/2 but Somerset beat Wiltshire 5/0. We had the same number of points as Somerset so were joint leaders. However they beat us by 1 game (18.5 v 17.5) and once again were the SW County winners. A great achievement.

We were so disappointed. It was the closest we had been to winning for many years.

All the ladies who played are a credit to their clubs and the county. They were gracious in defeat and played all their matches in good spirit and sportsmanship. We hope that despite their busy schedules they'll be available next year to see if we can go one better!

Melissa is a great team manager. She motivates the players and leads by example. As you can see has done a fantastic job. I am very pleased that she has agreed to remain as first Team manager for another year.

Thank you to Jo Hadley (President) and Claire Bird (Vice Captain) for all their encouragement and support over the past few days. They are invaluable.

The Second Team played their match against Cornwall at Perranporth. Those of you who have played there will know what a difficult course it is. Unfortunately, having to cope with wind and rain, the ladies were narrowly beaten 5/4. Their next match is against Devon at Broadstone on 14th August. We wish Lesley and the team every success.