

2013 Championship and Silver Meeting - Pleasington Golf Club - 7th - 9th May



It was a beautiful day for the qualifying round at Pleasington, but the lack of rain for the last couple of weeks and the preceding dreadful weather in the UK made approaches to the greens and putting very difficult. As a result there was only one score in the 70's, which was a 79 from Fiona Anderson from Formby Ladies', who won the President's Prize for the best gross. The best nett was won by Lesley Lee from Penwortham, and the 2nd, 3rd and 4th netts were Bev Scholes from Rochdale, Pat Bontoft from Preston, and Beth Brown from Pleasington, all with the very good score of 73.

The first morning of the matchplay stages produced some very close matches, the most exciting of which were between Fiona Anderson and Helen Braddock, with Fiona just winning on the 17th, and the match between Sue Warrington and Carol Helme, who triumphed on the 18th.

The afternoon, however, saw the pace hotting up with some very good golf. Penny Thompson was one under par when she beat Fiona Anderson, whose tee shots were uncharacteristically wayward, on the 13th hole. Maggie Ayers and Grainne Pendlebury had a ding dong match with Maggie finally triumphing on the 20th.

The semi finals the next morning were between Penny and Maggie, and Jeanette and Chris Stokes. Penny played some great golf on the front nine, including a chip in eagle on the 7th, which contributed to her being 4 up after the 9th. Maggie countered with a great tee shot to the 10th to reduce the deficit to 3 but lost the 11th to go back to 4 down. A half in 3 on the 12th was followed by a birdie on the 13th from Maggie to reduce the deficit to 3 once again, and the match became really interesting when Maggie won the 16th to go 2 down with 2 to play. On the 17th green for 2, with every chance of winning the hole, Maggie made an uncharacteristic error and three putted to lose the match and Penny was through to the final.

The match between Jeanette and Chris was a corker. Chris went 3 up after the 4th, and looked as if she would go 4 up when she put her 2nd shot on the green, and Jeanette was in the greenside bunker for 2. Jeanette, however, put her bunker shot stiff and Chris 3 putted. Jeanette won the 7th and the 8th to square the match, but then went back to 3 down again. Once again she clawed her way back to square and then went 1 up. Chris brought the match back to all square, and the girls halved the 18th to go down the 1st again. Both girls were on the green in 2 and both just missed their eagle putts. In the end, Chris managed to win the 5th, the 23rd hole played to go through to the final.

The weather by this time was appalling, very wet and windy. From the outset Chris played some great golf and Penny seemed to have difficulty in getting her rhythm. In the end, as usual, it came down to putting. Chris played and putted beautifully and Penny just couldn't hole the 5 and 6 footers. Chris wrapped up the match on the 15th, when she rolled in a very difficult putt from 8 feet, to become a very deserved Champion for the second time in 3 years.