

## **2012 Richardson Trophy Matches**

We didn't win the Richardson Trophy, but we had a really good go at it. I am very proud of my team, who were: Fiona Anderson (Champion), Helen Braddock, Penny Thompson, Ann Lowe, Jeanette Williams, Chris Stokes, Linda Noblett, Carol Helme, and Carmel Hall. I should also like to thank our numerous caddies who supported us home and away. You made such a difference.

### **Lancashire v Northumberland - Formby Ladies' Golf Club - 30th May 2012**

#### **Result Lancashire 6 Northumberland 1**

The course had changed exponentially from the Championship, the fairways had become hard and bouncy and the rough and heather was seven or eight inches high in places. Any shot not hit up the middle was badly punished and judging the approach shots to the green was crucial. The Lancashire team mastered the conditions better than their Northumberland opposition and won six of the seven matches, - a superb performance.

The match which went Northumberland's way was between Jeanette Williams of Lancashire and Elaine Elliott of Northumberland. It was nip and tuck all the way, with Jeanette taking the lead at one point and then being pulled back to all square, and then Elaine going one ahead. It was impossible to call, but when Jeanette's drive was bunkered on the 17th, Elaine took her opportunity and won the hole to go one up on the 18th tee. Jeanette's approach to the 18th green was just off the putting surface, but Elaine pressed home her advantage by putting her second shot 7 feet from the hole. Jeanette could not manage to hole her chip, and the match was Elaine's. All the matches were played in great spirit, and the weather was warm and kind, so let's hope that it stays that way for the rest of the matches.



## Lancashire v Yorkshire - Scarcroft Golf Club - 13th June 2012

### Result Yorkshire 4 Lancashire 3

After heavy rain Scarcroft was playing very long and this was a very significant factor in the match. All the matches were very close at the turn and could have gone either way.

Fiona Anderson, our champion, beat Sandra Paul, the Yorkshire champion, in a very close match on the 18th green. Jeanette Williams triumphed against Hilary Smyth 3&2, and Ann Lowe beat Carolyn Kirk 2&1. Unfortunately, the other 4 matches went Yorkshire's way due to some very long and straight hitting from the Yorkshire girls, so the eventual result was 4 - 3.

Lancashire's new vet, Carol Helme, played Julie Wheeldon, also a new vet, in a super match which was characterised by some very long hitting and low scoring. Julie birdied the 9th and Carol's birdie putt shaved the hole for Julie to go 2 up. This remained the score until the par 5 14th signature hole, which has a huge pond in front of an elevated 2 tier green. Carol, who was running out of holes, went for the green with her second shot, and although she cleared the pond, ended up with a bunker between her and the flag. There was very little room to play with, she just under cooked her pitch and rolled back into the bunker. Julie had 2 putts for a conservative par, and once again, Carol's putt shaved the hole for her to go 3 down with 4 to play. Although both girls hit good tee shots to the par 3 15th hole, Julie got down in 2 to finish the match 4&3. Carol should take great heart from her debut, however, as Julie is proving to be a major find for Yorkshire.



## Lancashire v Cumbria at Keswick Golf Club - 26th June 2012

### Result Lancashire 5 Cumbria 2

As we all know the weather in June has been absolutely appalling, and as the 18th at Keswick was under water on the Friday before the match, and half the village of Threlkeld, where we were due to stay was flooded, the first problem was whether the match would get played on Tuesday 26th June. Due to the effective drainage that the club has installed over the last few years, however, the match did get played, and whilst it was very wet under foot and the speed of the greens reflected the amount of water which had deluged the course, this was a minor miracle.

After 9 holes the match was not going Lancashire's way, and we were down in 4 matches. This was still the case after 11 holes, but things were looking a little more hopeful. As time went on, however, the result looked very close, - too close to call. Lancashire had drawn first blood with a win for Helen Braddock, against the Cumbria Captain Pam Dobinson, in the last match. This was followed by wins for Cumbria in the first two matches, with Fiona Anderson losing on the last green to Rosie Waller, and Chris Stokes losing to Alison Wood on the 16th. Ann Lowe levelled the match, beating Sue Cotter on the 16th. The last 3 matches were all on the 16th, 17th and 18th holes by this time. First to win was Jeanette Williams on the 17th, and the crunch match by this time was on the 18th, between Carol Helme and Isobel Williams from Cumbria. A brilliant recovery by Isobel to within 6 feet of the hole after she had had to take a penalty drop meant that Carol had to sink her 7 footer for the match on the last green, and so she did, securing the match for Lancashire. Meanwhile Carmel Hall had hit a stonking drive down the very narrow 17th fairway, and made par to beat Liz Scott, also a Keswick member, by 2&1, to make the final result 5 - 2.



## Lancashire v Durham - Formby Ladies' Golf Club - 2nd July 2012

### Result Lancashire 3<sup>1/2</sup> Durham 3<sup>1/2</sup>

This was the match we had to win to give ourselves a fair chance of bringing back the Richardson Trophy to Lancashire, but unfortunately it was not to be. The weather was appalling, and it hardly stopped raining from start to finish. Despite this, the greens were superb and the fairways were like playing on a parkland course.

The top match between Fiona Anderson and Karen Lee went the distance, and with Fiona 2 down with 4 to play, and the rest of the team down in 3 of the other 6 matches, the signs were not good. Fiona held on though, and got the match back to 1 down on the 18th tee. First off the tee, Fiona hit a superb drive down the right hand side of the fairway. Karen put her drive in the rough and could not get the green with her second shot. Fiona hit a three wood pin high just off the green and chipped to 2 feet. Karen was on the green for 3, but could not hole her putt, and Fiona rolled in her 2 footer to half her game and, as it eventually turned out, the match.

Meanwhile, Jeanette Williams was battling it out with Ruth Lindley in the second match. 2 down with 2 to play Jeanette won the 17th with a fine 4 after Ruth had been bunkered with her drive. Jeanette hit the fairway on the 18th, but she was not far enough to get up in two. Ruth had gone into the heather but was on the green for 3, and putted up dead for a certain 5. Jeanette had hit a chip which left her about 8 feet away, but the putt just slipped by to deny her a halved game, and a win for Lancashire.

Wins for Ann Lowe, (who has won all her games to date) Helen Braddock and Chris Stokes, and a win for Pat McIntosh of Durham against Carol Helme, meant that everything rested on the last game between Carmel Hall and Chris Pascall of Durham. Carmel had been well down in her match and fought back bravely, taking the match all the way to the 17th, but it was Chris who ultimately triumphed, giving Durham a halved match.



## Lancashire v Cheshire at Wallasey Golf Club - Tuesday 17th July 2012

### Result Lancashire 4 Cheshire 3

In order to have any chance of winning the Richardson Trophy, we knew that we had to beat Cheshire on their home turf, and this was a very big ask, but the team responded magnificently. Cheshire were without their Champion, Caroline Berry, but Barbara Laird, the Northern Champion was playing top against Fiona, our Champion. Fiona was 3 down after six, and two down after nine, but a birdie on the 11th and a win at the short 12th meant that she was all square coming to the very difficult 15th. Fiona rolled in a twelve footer for birdie to go one up for the first time and held on to win one up.

Meanwhile, Carol Helme, who was playing Jeanne Bell from Royal Liverpool, was having a humdinger of a match. One up after nine, Carol came to the par 5 17th dormie 2 up, but hearts were in mouths when Carol cut her second well right of the green into deep rough. Although she found it, Jeanne was on the green for two and made her birdie, so it was all down to the last. Could Carol hold on? That she did, with a chip and a putt for her par on the last to win one up. Linda Noblett had won out in the country against Sheila McKinnon including a hole in one on the 9th, and Helen Braddock beat Amanda Ryan 4&3 so the eventual result was 4-3. A magnificent performance, but it was not to be as Yorkshire beat Durham to secure the Trophy with Lancashire in second place.



**Our victorious team at Wallasey**



**Lancashire Caddies at Wallasey**