

## NCVLGA CHAMPIONSHIP 21-23 MAY 2019

Rotherham Golf Club in Yorkshire hosted the 34<sup>th</sup> Northern Counties Veteran Ladies' Golf Association Championship this year. The club house is an impressive old ancestral building, which is surrounded by a beautiful 18 hole undulating parkland course designed by Sandy



Herd and James Braid. With a par of 74 including six par 5's and four tricky par 3's it provided a good test for all the Championship competitors. The greens were not easy to read, which caused some higher than expected scores (and resulted in a non qualifying round).

Fourteen competitors from various clubs in Lancashire took part in the 98 strong field of participants from all the six Northern Counties and the weather was mainly sunny with light winds throughout the three days.

The top 16 gross best scores qualified for the main Championship match play and the next 8 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> flight competition. Carol Helme qualified in 11<sup>th</sup> place for the Championship and there were eight players with the same score trying to get the last five places in the 2<sup>nd</sup> flight.



Carmel Hall qualified 24<sup>th</sup> for the plate on a c.p.o from three others on the same score including Chris Appleby from St Annes Old Links.

Carol Helme played Sue Dye in the first round of the match play and got through to the quarterfinals by beating Sue 3 & 1. Carmel Hall had a tough draw and was beaten by the Cumbria champion Rosie Waller 5 & 4. In the quarter finals, in the afternoon, Carol Helme played the newly crowned Senior English Ladies' Champion Caroline Berry in a very closely fought and exciting match. Carol was just one down after 9 holes. She was 2 down after 11 and with being slightly out of position lost the 13<sup>th</sup> to go 3 down. She halved the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> to be dormy 3 down and played a superb shot to the tricky par 3, 16<sup>th</sup> hole, and managed to hole her putt for a birdie two to win the hole as her opponent took 2 putts for a three. On the par 4, 17<sup>th</sup> hole, Carol played a beautifully judged 2<sup>nd</sup> shot into the green finishing about 20 feet behind the flag while her opponent was around 35 feet away. The pin was in a difficult position on a slope. Carol parred the hole while her opponent had a bogie. Still one down standing on the 18<sup>th</sup> tee, par 5 hole, Carol tried to avoid the trees on the right with taking less club, but she got an unfortunate bounce into



the trees. She then hit a perfect low shot out between the trees positioning herself for a short

3<sup>rd</sup> shot in to the green. Caroline had a good long drive down the middle and hit a great 2<sup>nd</sup> shot onto the green. This time Caroline put her putt within a foot of the flag for a certain birdie 4 to win the match.



In the Stableford, 3 player team event for competitors who did not qualify for the match play stages, 16 teams took part and Lancashire fielded 3 teams. The team event was won by a team from Durham on a c.p.o from a Cheshire team. Our best result in this was 6<sup>th</sup> place on a c.p.o.