

JAMBOREE 2012 - THE HIRSEL - COLDSTREAM - 6th - 9th AUGUST 2012

The Hirsell is just in Scotland, in the town of Coldstream, home to the Coldstream Guards, of which you will hear more later. Several of the team had decided to go up early for an extra practice round on the Sunday, but the weather was frightful and the course was closed all day. Everybody was crossing their fingers that there would be no further closures but the weather for the next four days was warm, humid, and sunny. Because of the huge amount of water that all inland courses have taken, there were preferred lies on the fairways and the greens were like puddings, so the course played very long. The rough was short but very thick and as a result, very difficult to play from, so there was a premium on accuracy. The North were drawn against Scotland on the first day, and we were 2-1 down after the foursomes in the morning. Then Scotland made a decision which we reckon cost them dearly, resting two of their most experienced players, Fiona de Vries and Heather Anderson in the afternoon. As a result, we won 4 out of 6 singles, with Ruth Lindley halving with Lorna Bennett to give us the all important half point and a 5 - 4 victory. Meanwhile, the South, who won the Jamboree last year, only halved with the Midlands, so we were in a great position after the first day.

On the second day, the North played the Midlands, and I caddied for Sue Dye who was playing with Fiona Anderson against Janet Melville and Jo Ashmore. Janet and Jo have played foursomes for the Midlands for years and have both also played for England Seniors, so they are a force to be reckoned with. It was a superb match with both pairs having 4 birdies each, and a fair result would have been a half. The North were 3 down with 5 to play but levelled the match by the 18th tee. Fiona's drive was right of centre but the Midlands had gone left, into the rough. Tragically, Sue's shot hit the trees on the right and it was impossible for Fiona to get up in three. Jo put her third into the bunker short left of the green and so both sides were on in 4. Fiona put her putt from the back of the green dead, but Jo rolled her putt from 15 feet in for the win! At lunchtime it was one and a half each, and things were looking dicey for the afternoon, but the team responded superbly and won four and a half points in the singles, beating the Midlands 6 - 3.

The final day was incredibly exciting. In the foursomes Barbara Laird and Caroline Berry were 1 down on the 18th tee against Chris Quinn, the English Seniors' Champion and Jeannie O'Keefe, and managed to halve the match. Fiona and Sue Dye were one up and managed to hang on for a win on the 18th green and Ruth Lindley and Sandra Paul were one down on the 18th tee and managed to halve their match to give us a 2 - 1 lead at lunchtime. Because of the number of points we had overall at lunchtime from the individual matches we only needed to halve with the South to win the Trophy, which meant we only needed two and a half points from the singles.

The tension was unbelievable in the afternoon, for players, caddies and spectators. First blow went to the South, with Chris Quinn beating Barbara Laird 4 & 3. Caroline Berry was playing Lulu Houseman, and the news was not good as Caroline was 2 down going through 15. Sue Dye lost 4 & 3 to Debbie Richards, the Southern Champion, and our first point came from Karen Lee, who beat Jeannie O'Keefe out in the country. Gill Mellor in her first Jamboree was playing against Katherine Russell, also in her first Jamboree. Both girls were very long hitters and Gill was 2 up with 3 to play, so this was good news. Fiona was playing Carole Weir, whom she had played in the foursomes in the morning, and was 1 down with 2 to play, so things were not looking good. Where were we going to get one and a half points from? And then the news filtered through - Caroline had managed to halve her match with Lulu, so we only needed a point from the two last matches!

Meanwhile, Gill needed a ruling for a lie in the rough on the 16th so Fiona and Carole went through. Fiona lost the 16th to go one down, but managed to put her second shot on edge of the 17th green after Carole had gone through the back of the green for two. Fiona put her putt, which must have been the best part of 25 yards downhill, dead, and Carole duffed her chip so it was onto the 18th. Fiona played the 18th in fine style. A drive down the left half of the fairway and a three wood to a flat lie enabled her to put a seven iron to about 14 feet from the pin. Carole hit the trees twice on the right and so could only get up for 4, but she

was inside Fiona's putt, and there was the possibility that if Fiona left her putt too far away, Carole would hole, and Fiona could three putt to lose the match.

Whilst all this was going on Katherine Russell had hit her second to the 17th short and pitched up to 10 feet for three, but Gill, who had been just off the left of the green for two, left her third 5 feet away. Katherine rolled her putt in, Gill didn't and it was down the 18th for the final match.

Could Fiona put her putt dead? If she could she would secure the winning half and the Trophy as Gill was standing on the 18th tee dormie one up. Fiona didn't put her putt dead, - she holed it for a birdie, and the North had won the Miller Stirling Trophy for the first time since 2007. Gill won her match on the 18th green and the final result was 51/2 - 31/2. During the week, the 18th proved to be a great hole for the North, as we only lost 2 matches out of the 9 that went to the 18th.

At the same time that the Jamboree was going on, it was Civic Week in Coldstream. This is a week of festivities in the town and in fact all the border towns, and Coldstream's week culminates with a procession to Flodden Field, just over the border in England. The Battle of Flodden Field was in 1513, and was not Scotland's finest hour. These days there is a procession involving pipers, the Coldstream Guards, and this year 274 riders and their horses who go to Flodden to commemorate and honour the dead of Flodden Field. We were there on the morning that we were resting from caddying duties, and found the spectacle very uplifting, and even had our photograph taken with the Coldstream Guards!







NORTHERN COUNTIES VETERAN LADIES' GOLF ASSOCIATION

NORTHERN DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP 2012

RINGWAY GOLF CLUB

CHESHIRE

Wed/Thurs/Fri 23rd 24th and 25th May 2012

18 holes medal play

Top 16 Competitors to qualify for match play

Match Play- 1st Round Results Thursday 24th May

Caroline Berry beat Alison Grant 4/3
Jennifer Adams beat Elisabeth Wilson 2 up
Ruth Lindley beat Hilary Smyth 1up
Lesley Marsh beat Judy Butler 1up
Gill Mellor beat Laraine Hague 1up
Helen Braddock beat Jeanette Williams 4 & 3
Carolyn Kirk beat Sue Dye 1up
Barbara Laird beat Fiona Anderson 4 & 2

Quarter Finals Results

Caroline Berry beat Jennifer Adams 6/5
Ruth Lindley beat Lesley Marsh 3/1
Gill Mellor beat Helen Braddock 3 & 2
Barbara Laird beat Carolyn Kirk 6 & 5

Semi-Finals 25th May

Caroline Berry beat Ruth Lindley 1up

Barbara Laird beat Gill Mellor 3/2

N.C.V.L.G.A FINAL 25th May

Barbara Laird beat Caroline Berry 2/1

The Northern Championship at Ringway Golf Club was the second event in our calendar. Lancashire won the Handicap Shield, thanks to Jennifer Adams, our Vice Captain, who had the best nett on the qualifying day, Maggie Ayers from Ashton and Lea, and Helen Braddock from Bolton Old Links. Lancashire had 4 players who qualified, Fiona Anderson, Helen Braddock, Jeanette Williams and Jennifer Adams. Unfortunately, Fiona met Barbara Laird, the eventual winner in the first round and was 6 down after 10 holes, Barbara having gone out in 34 - 3 under par. Although Fiona never stopped trying, she ran out of steam on the 16th, where Barbara won the match 4&2. Sadly for Lancashire, Helen and Jeanette met in the first round and Helen won a very good match 4 & 3. In the afternoon Helen played Cheshire's latest find, Gill Mellor in a super match, in which Gill triumphed 3&2. Jen beat Lis Wilson from Cheshire on the 18th in the first round, but then had the dubious pleasure of meeting Caroline Berry, the holder in the afternoon, and went down 6&5. The final was between Caroline Berry and Barbara Laird of Cheshire, but this time it was Barbara who triumphed after some uncharacteristically wayward play by Caroline. The Northern team for the Jamboree will be picked at the end of June, and we hope that there will be a Lancashire player in the team.

The Jamboree team has now been announced, and is as follows:

Barbara Laird - Champion - Cheshire

Fiona Anderson - Lancashire

Caroline Berry - Cheshire

Sue Dye - Cheshire

Karen Lee - Durham

Ruth Lindley - Durham

Gill Mellor - Cheshire

Sandra Paul - Yorkshire

Reserves

Helen Braddock - Lancashire

Carolyn Kirk - Yorkshire

Our best wishes go to the team, and we hope that they can bring the Miller Stirling Trophy back to the Northern Division.

[Click here for 2012 drawsheet](#)

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