

The dates for the **2014** Richardson Trophy matches, the Northern Veteran Ladies' Championship and the Jamboree were as follows:

DATE	DAY	COUNTY	VENUE	RESULT
3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Tues & Wed	Northumberland	Penwortham G.C.	LCSLGA won 6 - 1
10 <sup>th</sup> & 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Tues & Wed	Durham	Penwortham G.C.	LCSLGA won 5 - 2
7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Mon & Tues	Yorkshire	Bedale G.C.	Halved match
17 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Thu & Fri	Cheshire	Hazel Grove G.C.	LCSLGA won 4 - 3
23 <sup>rd</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup> July	Wed & Thurs	Cumbria	Carlisle G.C.	LCSLGA won 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 2 $\frac{1}{2}$

## Richardson Trophy Matches 2014

### Cumbria v Lancashire at Carlisle 24th July







The unseasonal weather continued for our last match against Cumbria at Carlisle. The course was in great condition, but very bouncy due to the very dry conditions. We had come prepared for a great battle because Cumbria have beaten us in the past and seem to get better every year.

Cumbria struck the first blow, with Alyson Wood beating our champion, Carol Helme on the 15th, but Jeanette Williams was in good form and beat Belinda, also on the 15th. From then on it got very tight, with the next four games all going to the 18th green, and more and more supporters watching the exciting events unfolding.

First of all it was Clare Seddon, who had been 1 down with 2 to play against Isobel Williams. Clare won the 17th and 18th to beat Isobel, who is renowned for her straight driving and wonderful short game, and so it was 2 - 1 to Lancashire. Next came Janet Melville and Kath Bulman, but this time it was Kath's and Cumbria's point as Kath got up and down at the 18th.

In the fifth game was Chris Stokes, who had had the nail biting finish the previous week against Cheshire. This time she was up against Rosie Waller, a great competitor who still plays for Cumbria's Ladies County Team. Their scoring was fantastic on the front nine, with Chris having 4 birdies and only turning 1 up. All square on the 18th tee, both girls made five on the last, so the overall match score stood on a knife edge at  $2\frac{1}{2}$  points each.

The sixth game was between Fiona Anderson and Janette McWhirter, Alyson Wood's sister. Fiona and Janette had had a ding dong battle with never more than one hole in it and they also came to the last tee all square. Fiona had the honour and put her drive on the fairway, setting up her long second shot to the back of 18th green. Janette also found the fairway, but from much closer range missed the green to the right. Fiona was first to secure her par then Janette narrowly failed to get up & down so we had secured  $3\frac{1}{2}$  points which would be good enough for a half with Cumbria, but not good enough to beat Yorkshire on countback.

Could Ann Lowe halve or win her game against Sue Cotter and secure victory for Lancashire? This game had also been very tight, and had Sue holed her putt on the 16th she would have reduced Ann's lead to 1 up and gained the vital honour on the 17th tee. But this miss made Ann's teeshot on the short 17th, where water lurked all down the left side of the green, a lot easier. Although it was long, Ann's shot was *just* off the left hand side of the green. Sue had to get it close, tried to play for a draw, but failed and found the greenside bunker. Neither player made par, but a four was good enough for that final valuable point, and we had beaten Cumbria, and also Yorkshire.

## **Cheshire v Lancashire at Hazel Grove 18th July**

Due to the weather, which was more like Spain in July than the UK, the course was very fast running and tricky. Hazel Grove was designed by Mckenzie and the greens have recently been relaid to USGA specifications. As a result some of the slopes and borrows are severe and not always obvious.

Cheshire were missing two of their best players, Champion Jeanne Bell, who had commitments at the Open Championship and Caroline Berry who was involved at the Junior Open Championship. On the day of the match Sue Dye, the Northern Champion, was taken ill and could not play. Despite this, Cheshire still had a very strong team, led out by Cath Rawthore, recent winner of the English Seniors' Stroke Play Championship, Barbara Laird and Gill Mellor, all 3 of whom are in the 2014 Jamboree Team. In addition, Mary Weaver, Carol Ryder and Sybra Eardley, who are all regular Cheshire team members, were also playing, so we knew we would have to play very well if we were to win.

Our Champion Carol played Cath Rawthore and lost narrowly 2 and 1. Matches 2 and 3 also went Cheshire's way so we had to win all four remaining matches. Ann Lowe struck first beating Sharon Heatley, who had been drafted in at the last minute, to give us our first point. This is where it started to get tense. Janet Melville was one down on the 16th tee against Mary Weaver, Chris Stokes was two up with three to play on Sybra Eardley, and Fiona Anderson was 3 up with 3 to play on Carol Ryder. It looked as if we could win two matches, but could we win three?

Janet won her match against Mary on the 18th amid much nail biting. Fiona won her match on the 16th. Chris was by this time dormie two and just needed to halve the 17th for us to win the match, but luck or fate was about to take a hand.

Sybra hit her drive on the 17th too far and everyone would have thought the ball was in the brook, but it must have trundled over the bridge and it ended up a yard over the ditch. Fired up by her good fortune, Sybra hit her approach to two feet and when Chris failed to match Sybra's birdie it was down the 18th with all to play for. Sybra drove first and pulled her drive left. Chris hit a superb drive splitting the fairway leaving her a short pitch to the green. Sybra's second shot had to skirt the trees on the left but she pushed it right and short of the green. Chris had a very difficult shot because the pin was on the bottom level of the tricky Mckenzie green and anything long would have resulted in an impossible putt back down the slope. Chris's pitch did not make the green, and then it was up to Sybra to see if she could get down in two. Her pitch was pin high but a long way right. Chris's second chip was a

cracker that cleverly used the slope and came back down to just 4 feet from the hole and so it was now back to Sybra to try and hole her putt to force Chris to match her 4. Sybra missed, so Chris had won and she had secured the match for Lancashire.

Goodness knows how the players felt, because the supporters were so tense that they could hardly look, but the match was won and our hopes were still alive going to Carlisle.



## **Yorkshire v Lancashire at Bedale 8th July**

We arrived at Bedale Golf Club the day after the Tour de France had passed through Yorkshire and there were loads of wrought iron yellow bicycles outside pubs on the way through North Yorkshire. The weather was lovely and remained so on the day of the match despite the odd clap of thunder. Champion Carol Helme had a great win against the Yorkshire Champion Carolyn Kirk, but after that the picture looked very tight and a little bleak for us. Ann Lowe held on to halve her match after being three down with three to play, and ultimately the score was 3½ points each, after some very hard fought and close matches.



## **Lancashire v Northumberland at Penwortham Wednesday 4th June**

The weather forecast for Wednesday was dreadful, but apart from one short sharp shower the weather was fine. In the top match Carol Helme struggled on the first nine against Ally Hansen, the Northumberland Champion, but fought back courageously to be only one down. Sadly, Carol found herself 2 down with 2 to play and lost on the 17th. Lancashire managed to win the other six matches after some fine golf on both sides. A great start to the season, with our next match on 11th June against Durham.



### **Lancashire v Durham at Penwortham Wednesday 11th June**

The practice day had been washed out due to very heavy rain, thunder and lightning, and some of the bunkers were full of water, so despite the fact that the weather for the match was warm and sunny the conditions were very difficult. The two top matches went Durham's way, but Lancashire won the other five matches, another excellent result.

**Northern Championship** – Seaton Carew G.C. Durham, 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2014 (Practice Day 19<sup>th</sup> May)

**Jamboree** - Wallasey G.C. Cheshire, 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> August 2014 (Practice Round on 4<sup>th</sup> August)

### **Friendly Matches**

**Lancs Vets v Welsh Northern Counties – Thursday 24th April at Penwortham G.C.**

We had an ideal golfing day, warm with sunny skies and light winds. Consequently some very good golf resulted, with LCLGA winning by 3 matches to 1. An excellent start to the season. The top match was all square after 12 holes, but then Ann Lowe and Penny Thompson moved up a gear, winning 3 & 2. Chris Stokes and Tracey Bentley proved a strong pairing and won 6 & 5. Helen Braddock and Carol Helme were down early in the match, but fought back to win 3 & 2. The final match saw Maggie Ayers and Linda Noblett up against the current Senior Ladies' British Open Champion, Anne Lewis, and her partner Denise Bithell. The Welsh pair were on good form and won 5 & 3.



### **Lancs Vets v Lancs B Team – West Lancashire G.C. - Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2014**

The weather was kind at West Lancashire although there was a cool breeze. In the top match Janet Melville and Clare Seddon, both of whom were making their debut for Lancashire Seniors, played Eloise Healey and Louisa Brunt who are both in Lancashire County's A Squad. In total there were 8 birdies in the match, but ultimately youth outdid experience and Janet and Clare lost 4&3. Champion Carol Helme and Carmel Hall played against Sophie Speariett and Roanne Tomlinson in a match which went to the 16th, again in the girls' favour. The third match was between Fiona Anderson and Penny Thompson against Alex Forrest and Amelia Taylor. For a long time it looked as if the match would be a half, with both sides holing some terrific putts, and Penny and Fiona having 5 birdies. Sadly, on the 18th Amelia put her chip stone dead from off the back of the green and Fiona was unable to match her, so the girls won 1 up. Our only win came from Chris Stokes and Jeanette Williams, who beat Vicky Bithell and Lauren Green 1 up. In the last match the result was again looking like a half until the girls, Georgia Ball and Rachael Morgan, birdied the 18th by holing out from just off the green, so Helen Braddock and Jeanette Smith also lost 1 down.



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