



Oxfordshire County Girls County Week - Summer 2009

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US Kids World Championship

Thank you to everyone who helped fund Emily Price's trip to Pinehurst to compete in the US Kids World Championship.

It was her first time in America, and she took time to acclimatise to the extreme conditions, struggling to cope with the 100 degree temperatures but her scores of 42, 43 and 46 for the 9 holes gave her a total of 131, 13 shots behind the winner and she finished 24th in a field of 74 of the best young players in the world.

Emily will be 10 in October and will start to compete over 18 holes so she intends to work hard over the winter to improve her strength ready for next season. We're looking forward to seeing her progress.

Volunteers Welcome

We always need more volunteers so if you've got a bit of free time and would like to share your love of golf with our young players please contact us.

Junior County Week— Players' report

by Claire Reynolds (Junior Captain)

Firstly, as Captain of the Oxfordshire girls 2008-09 County squad I would like to thank all of my team for putting up a splendid performance at County Week. All our team, including our new recruits within the squad (Sophie, Cara and Imogen), conducted themselves professionally on and off the course as well as contributing to the team spirit that made my last year with the girls a very enjoyable one and made me a very proud captain.

However, the county team not only consists of the girls, as this year we had the pleasure of Suzy Smith's and Liz McPhail's company. Suzy's first year at being in charge of the squad was an extremely successful one, not only because she carried us round 5 games of golf, but was sensitive when we needed her to be sensitive, she was stern when we needed her to be stern and she was blooming good fun when we needed a giggle.

The Rothschild course at Mentmore Golf and Country Club was an idyllic setting for the week as it was in superb condition, with lush fairways and excellent greens. As many of the girls on my team would agree, the course's water hazards were challenging throughout, however they aided our concentration and enabled us to play to the best of our ability. I also believe that every girl I talked to, Oxfordshire or otherwise, was eternally grateful to, at last, be playing on a flat course!

Once again, the hotel accommodation provided was excellent in comparison to memories of university halls, with the smell of testosterone still lingering in the air after those delightful student boys. We were also provided with the opportunity to use the hotel's swimming pool, however to Suzy's great relief we were all too exhausted from the golf to try it out. Hopefully next year the girls may give it a go, and if I dare say so, Suzy may have a dip herself!

This year the matches against our fellow counties were as enjoyable as ever. It was clear that every county had a very strong team with players just as determined as ours. Our first match against the eventual winners, Hertfordshire, was a tough one to begin with. However we only lost by four and a half games to two and a half, so despite the loss, the all round performance was a success. We also managed to halve against Berkshire which put us all in a positive frame of mind, allowing us to be victorious over Buckinghamshire the next morning. During the final match many of the individual games were very tight and we were down in some of them, but our team spirit and philosophy to never give up saw us clinch the final win.

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Junior County Week Team 2009

From left: Flora McPhail (Vice Captatin), Claire Reynolds (Captain) , Nicole du Plessis, Gemma Clements, Abi Laker, Cara Gainer, Sophie Stone and Imogen Vessey



Oxfordshire County Girls

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On behalf of all the girls, a big thank you is owed to Shay Brennan for taking the time to fill us with confidence on the Monday, which lasted throughout the next two days. His coaching this year for the girls has been a great success and I believe he had a great influence on our performance. May I also thank every one of the ladies who came to

support the county team; it was very much appreciated. I also wish Flora the best of luck next year with the captancy. I hope it is as enjoyable as this year has been for me.

Finally, County week next year is being held at Temple Golf Club in Berkshire and it would be wonderful to see the same faces as well as a few more to support the girls.

Handicaps

Congratulations to all the girls who have reduced their handicaps this year:

Gemma Clements - 7 to 6
 Helen Cross -29 to 27
 Cara Gainer - 26 to 18
 Harriet Gilbey - 36 to 32
 Emily Keel - 30 to 23
 Anna Kirk - 19 to 18
 Abi Laker - 6 to 4
 Georgina Lawton - 31 to 25
 Sunny Ricketts -27 to 22
 Sophie Stone - 17 to 16
 Imogen Vessey - 33 to 27

Also to those who have achieved their first CONGU handicap:
 Katie Amor
 Amy Gaertner
 Olivia Herring
 Nicole Howlett
 Alex Pitts

I'm sorry if I've missed any of you - if I have please tell me.



Junior County Week - Organiser's report

The girls first match against Hertfordshire was very tough with nearly all the matches going to the last hole. Gemma Clements and Sophie Stone both won their matches and Cara Gainer secured a half. In the afternoon they halved against Berkshire with wins for Abi Laker, Claire Reynolds and Cara Gainer and a half for Nicole Du Plessis. Flora McPhail managed an elusive albatross on the 8th hole with two magnificent shots.

Despite feeling a little weary they fought back well the next morning to defeat Buckinghamshire by 4 games to 3 with wins for Abi Laker, Flora McPhail, Claire Reynolds and Cara Gainer.

In the afternoon the girls played a four-somes stableford and they were determined to do well. Not surprisingly, as they had played brilliantly for the two days, Cara and Sophie came in with the best score of the day—44 points and Imogen and Nicole scored an excellent 39 points. The best 3 scores tied them with Buckinghamshire but with a count back on the fourth card they just lost out by 2 points.

However, there was some consolation, their win against Buckinghamshire meant that they won the triangular match between Berks, Bucks and Oxon and they will represent the region in the Midlands South Team Finals in October.

For the full results please see the OLCGA website

Cara Gainer (pictured below) was awarded the Boddington Trophy in recognition of her achievements this year. Having only taken up golf last September, she has already cut her handicap to 18, has won or halved all her county matches and has played well in all the county and regional competitions.



A chance to blow your own trumpet ...

Cut your handicap or won a competition?

Let us know how you're getting on with your golf. Please send an email to

Suzy Smith,
 (suzy@aspensoftware.co.uk)
 or call me (0118 986 3891)
 with the details.

I know how modest you all are but please let us know if you have cut your handicap or done well in a competition. We're always keen to hear about it.



Oxfordshire County Girls

National Championships

U15 Girls' Championship

Abi Laker played in the National Girls' U15 Championship at The Wiltshire Golf and Country Club on 28th, 29th and 30th July. The first day was very windy and the girls struggled with the cross winds. Abi scored 86 (14 over par) 12 shots behind the leader. The conditions on the second day were even worse – not just windy but also torrential rain. Abi was one of the early starters and, after having a double bogey and then a bogey on a couple of early holes she played very steadily – holing some crucial putts and went on to score 77 (5 over par). Her round included a hole in one on the 16th hole – her first ace! Shortly after Abi finished her round the competition was halted because of the weather. The girls who were still on the course or hadn't started went out the next morning in much better conditions to play their second rounds but only a few scored as well as Abi had the day before. She qualified in 8th

place for the final, and with a final round score of 81, maintained her 8th place – 10 shots behind the overall winner – Elizabeth Mallett from Warwickshire. Abi's goal was a top 10 finish so she was over the moon to have done so well.

U18 Girls' Championship

Gemma Clements played in the National Girls' U18 Championship at North Wiltshire Golf Club in equally difficult conditions. Gemma's first round score put her in the bottom half of the leader board and she needed a good second round to pull herself into the knockout stage. In the afternoon of the second day the greens flooded and play had to be abandoned. The decision was taken to use the first round scores to determine the qualifiers so Gemma didn't get through to the knockout stages. It was Gemma's first year in the U18 competition and we're sure she'll learn from the experience and come back fighting next year.

Midlands South Championship

Abi Laker, Gemma Clements, Flora McPhail, Cara Gainer and Sophie Stone played in the inaugural Midlands South Girls' Championship at Studley Wood Golf Club on 5th August.

The Under 15 scratch Champion was Meghan Maclaren from Wellingborough GC (Northants) with a total of 156, with Abi Laker of Burford GC (Oxon) in second place with a total of 159.

Gemma Dryburgh from Beaconsfield GC (Bucks) shot rounds of 76 and 79 (total of 155) to become the first Regional Girls' Champion. The runner up was Zoe Edwards from South Herefordshire GC with a total of 158, on count back from Gemma's club mate Zoe Fitz-Costa, also from Beaconsfield.

The County team prize (best two nett scores from three nominated players) was won by the hosts, Oxfordshire, with a score of 279 (13 shots under par for the course). The winning team comprised Sophie Stone (Studley Wood), who used her local knowledge to good effect, plus Flora McPhail and Cara Gainer (both from Frilford Heath).

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County Website

Keep up with all the news from the county on the web site - www.olcga.org.uk. You can see photos, match reports, coaching dates, contact numbers, find out the results of competitions and download competition entry forms.



Abi Laker - Runner up in the Under 15 Championship



Sophie Stone and Cara Gainer accepting the team prize from County President, Jane Pezaro.