



## COUNTY 2<sup>ND</sup> TEAM - LADIES MATCH REPORT

Match: Shropshire v Derbyshire  
Venue: The Shropshire Golf Club  
Date: Wednesday 25th July 2018

Keen to do well and get a preview of the County Week venue for 2019, we arrived early enough for a few to have a practice round and make some notes for the team. Great job yet again by Sian and our rookie, Sandra Maxwell. Sian distributed her notes and diagrams as usual via Whats App whilst Lesley and Debs chatted to the locals to get some tips about the course. Every bit helps. Confidence was high as we had two wins out of two already but we weren't complacent.

A special thanks to Debs E, our county week top team mate. Why was she top team mate yet again? She negotiated with hubby, Steve, to delay her holiday so that she could play and support the team when we had our least number of players available. She packed her husband off in the morning and then quickly travelled down to The Shropshire to meet us, played her matches and then got back in her car and set off to catch him up. What a star and what a great hubby. Thanks to you both.

And the support kept coming. Judy and myself (the team reserves!) were joined by past Captain, Shelagh, Chris Bull, Debs Deakin and our immediate past President, Maggie and the wonderful Hugh Wylde. We even had a special visit from a friend of Judy's who happens to live in Shropshire but turned out to support Derbyshire. Well done Yvette. It was just great to see everyone and have the support on the day.

Despite our best efforts and some promising scores on the front nine we just couldn't seem to hang on and pull in three wins and sadly we lost the morning foursomes 2 - 1. Regular texting was going back and forth between President Paul and myself as he monitored our progress from afar. Along with many best wishes texts we were posting our progress to the squad via usual means and we had so much encouragement to do well in the afternoon singles matches.

Every player and caddie was up for a win in the afternoon and so despite our morning start, we felt confident we could pull it off. The running list submitted and everyone knowing their opponents we set off again under the watchful eye of Maggie and myself. If Sandra was nervous in her first second team match she never showed it she looked as confident as the rest of the team.

Regular digital media updates from super caddy, Debs D, Shelagh, Judy and Maggie kept everyone appraised of progress. It's becoming a well-oiled machine with everyone playing their part. Judy and I did our usual whizzing between games to keep everyone hydrated including caddies and supporters.

Sian fought to the end but finally succumbed to the youngster Caileigh but by the smallest of margins, only 1 down but not frustrated with the loss she then transferred her efforts to supporting the rest of the team.

Debs E after delaying her holiday for us suffered a similar result against one of Shropshire's most experienced players but remained with her team mates to encourage them on. We needed to win the next four games to secure a match win overall.

Lesley was going great guns with Debs D on her bag and pulled off a fantastic 4 & 3 win. Everyone was now focused on our rookie Sandra, Lorna (with Chris on her bag) and Lorraine, still on a high from her win the week previous.

Sandra was thrilled to pull off a 1up win but was a little frustrated with herself that she didn't wrap it up earlier. The excitement was building. Two more players out there and neither could lose. We could half the match but that wasn't good enough and they wouldn't be happy with a half either.

Lorna wrapped her game up on the 16th. A fantastic 3 & 2 win. Oh my goodness. It was becoming really exciting. Lorraine couldn't lose but she does love a tense finish and won on the 18th.

Team hugs and a little bit of excited congratulations then followed with a very respectful handshake with Shropshire Captain, Trish who congratulated everyone.

What I just couldn't convince myself to believe was the quick calculations by Debs D. She announced that we couldn't be beaten in terms of sub divisional matches and therefore, we were destined, for the second consecutive year, to be at the Midland North Region final.

Whatever the outcome of our home match against Shropshire, we can't lose, she said. I never count my chickens before they're hatched, as President Paul will tell you, so I took some convincing as Debs and Lesley patiently counted up the possible scores with two matches still to play. Finally, the penny dropped and we allowed ourselves further celebrations.

What a great team and I count every supporter and caddy in that number. I think I drove home with a smile on my face but a slight tear in my eyes.

Our final game is on 9th August against Shropshire at Ormonde Fields. Although, we know we've made it to the final, we want to do it with four wins under our belt so no slacking and the team deserve to do well.

I've seen some great golf, some spirited fight backs and some fantastic team camaraderie. I'd encourage anyone who would like to support the second team to join us at Ormonde on the 9th or the final at Rothley Park on 30th August.

From a very emotionally drained

Janet Carlin  
2<sup>nd</sup> Team Captain.  
29th July 2018