



South Staffordshire Golf Club News

Winter 2013/14

St Andrews Junior Ladies' Open Champion



Sam Meese, our 2013 Ladies Club Champion, has had the most successful season, by getting her handicap down to scratch, winning the Midlands Schools Championship and finishing 4th in the English Women's Amateur Championship.

But the pinnacle of her season has to be winning the St. Andrews Junior Ladies' Open Championship, an 18 hole qualifying Scratch Matchplay Tournament – for Ladies under 23 years of age on 1st January 2013, played over three days on the Strathrum, Eden and the Old Course. Sam was subsequently awarded the Golf Monthly Scratch Trophy.

Gentlemen's Prize Presentation Evening

The Annual Gentlemen's Prize Presentation Evening was held at the Club on Friday 22nd November. Eighty members attended and enjoyed a three course meal, a speech from Captain Nick Weaver and the traditional speech from the Club Matchplay Champion (Mander Cup), Nick Parr.

There were presentations by the President, Terry Leece to the Captain of the Dartmouth Bowl and The Stafford Knot Trophy won by the Club during the year.

There were some notable winners in the year. Alex Berrow won the Club Championship (Scratch Cup), Jack Smith won the Members' Challenge, Nick Parr won the Club's Matchplay Championship, Tom Hewitt Snr and Colin Woolley won the Club's Foursomes Matchplay Championship and Alex Berrow won the Men's Open Championship (Vardon Bowl).



Captain, Nick Weaver

The Dartmouth Bowl



Club President, Terry Leece presents Club Captain Nick Weaver with the Dartmouth Bowl

The annual match against Brocton Hall Golf Club for the Dartmouth Bowl was played on Saturday 6th July with 44 players on each side contesting 22 fourball better ball matches on a wonderful summer's afternoon, followed by a dinner in the Clubhouse.

During the match South Staffs professional Shaun Ball holed in one on the par three 11th.

As is normally the case, home advantage plays a big part in the event and this year was no exception with South Staffs comfortable winners 19½ - 2½.

The Dartmouth Bowl is one of the longest running competitions in club golf.

Played between South Staffs and Brocton Hall, the event dates back to 1894 when the Earl of Dartmouth presented a trophy to be competed for by members of The South Staffordshire Golf Club and The Staffordshire Golf Club which was based on Stafford Common. The Earl was President of both Clubs and the trophy was originally contested by individual members, playing off handicap, and the venue was to alternate between the two courses. The first competition was played in 1894 on Penn Common (South Staffs' original course) and was won by R.H. Bailey of South Staffs.

By 1897 the Staffordshire Golf Club on Stafford Common had folded with many of its members transferring to the newly formed Cannock Chase Golf Club which had its course on Milford Common. The competition became one played off scratch. In 1923 'The Cannock Chase Golf Club' was reconstituted as 'The Brocton Hall Golf Club' after purchasing the Brocton Hall Estate.

In 1938 the format of the competition was changed to a club team match played for annually and alternately at each club off club handicap, with as many players on each side as possible.

Next year when the match will be played at Brocton, it will be the 120th anniversary of the competition.

Gentlemen's Prize Presentation Evening

The full list of the winners for the year are as follows:

SCRATCH CUP - Alex Berrow; **MANDER CUP** - Nick Parr; **VARDON BOWL** - Alex Berrow;
TUCK CUP - Tom Hewitt Snr & Colin Woolley; **MEMBERS' CHALLENGE** - Jack Smith;
FOURSOMES BOWL - Gerry Blakemore & Gary Campbell; **CHAVASSE BOWL** - Tim Percy;
DOUBLE DIAMOND CUP - Simon Nightingale; **PALMERS CROSS CUP** - Nick Parr;
LADY PRESIDENT'S SALVER - Phil Collins; **PRESIDENT'S SALVER** - Nick Weaver;
AMERICA CUP - Greg Freeman; **HOSPITAL CUP** - Pete Hammonds; **BILLINGHAM CUP**
 (Division 1 Final Medal) - Michael Snape; **DIVISION 2** (Final Medal) - Gary Campbell;
DIVISION 3 (Final Medal) - Malcolm Bartlett; **RAY BUTTERWORTH CUP** (Division 1
 Final Stableford) - Geoff Baker; **DIVISION 2** (Final Stableford) - Martin Barnett;
DIVISION 3 (Final Stableford) - Lekh Mall; **COSFORD CUP** - Chris Gammon & Russell
 Wood; **SIEWWRIGHT BOWL** - Greg Freeman; **WENTWORTH WALKER CUP** - Will Hart;
VETERANS CUP - Chris Wright; **VICTOR HICKMAN BOWL** - Paul Nickel; **PRESIDENT'S
 PUTTER** - Gary Campbell; **ARMITAGE KETTLE** - Keith Bayliss & Colin Woolley;
WAR MEMORIAL CUP - John Tennant; **JAMES BEATTIE SALVER** - Chris Dean & Stephen
 Bennett; **CAPTAIN'S CUP** - Bob Barrett & Matthew Jacques; **PRESIDENT'S CUP** -
 Nick Weaver & David Franklin;
WINTER LEAGUE - Tim Dutton & Steve Holden; **PAST CAPTAINS' CUP** - Reg King;
SUNDAY STABLEFORD CUP - Rob Arrow.

JUNIOR TOPHIES:
TOM SHARRARD CUP - Thomas Bryan; **ANDY ELLIS CUP** - Nicholas Cox; **JENKS
 TROPHY** - Jack Smith; **JAMES GORDON
 TROPHY** - Will Dunn; **BEASLEY SHIELD** -
 Max Strudwicke.

*Last year's Captain, David Franklin
 & this year's Captain, Nick Weaver
 - The President's Cup Winners*



Alex Berrow - Club Champion (Scratch Cup)



Nick Parr - Matchplay Champion (Mander Cup)



Gary Campbell - President's Putter



Greg Freeman - America Cup



Alex Berrow - South Staffs Men's Open (Vardon Bowl)



Tom Hewitt Snr & Colin Woolley - Club Foursomes Champions (Tuck Cup)



Jack Smith - Members' Challenge

More Pictures from the Gentlemen's Prize Presentation Evening



Chris Wright - Veterans Cup



Keith Sargeant, Mike Lodge, Jeremy Harris, Chris Wright, David Franklin, Phil Sims, Gary Campbell, Simon Cartwright & Jeremy Bradley



Nick Parr - Palmers Cross Cup



Paul Nickel - Victor Hickman Cup



Phil Collins - Lady President's Salver



Michael Snape - Billingham Cup



Will Hart - Wentworth Walker Cup



Chris Gammon & Russell Wood retain the Cosford Cup



Tim Percy - Chavasse Bowl



Simon Nightingale - Double Diamond Cup



Keith Bayliss & Colin Woolley - Armitage Kettle



Malcolm Bartlett - Divison 3 Final Medal



Rob Arrow retains the Sunday Stableford Cup



Greg Freeman - Siewwright Bowl

The South Staffs Professionals



Head Professional **Peter Baker** having ceased playing The European/Challenge Tour in 2012, spent most of 2013 here at South Staffs coaching at his Golf Academy or supporting and using his considerable past Tour

experiences to help the players under Champion UK Management at different golf events.

Peter commenced his 2013 playing year by winning the Cornish Riviera Pro-Am Festival, played over three days at Trevoze, St Enodoc and Newquay.

Locally, Peter has played in five PGA in England (Midlands) Order of Merit events during the year, winning the PTS Invitational here at South Staffs in front of the Sky TV Cameras.

Finishing 12th in The Glazerite Trophy at Wellingborough GC, 17th in the Midland Masters, tied 2nd in Midland Masters Pro-Am both at Kedleston Park GC and tied 2nd in the Midland Open at Birstall GC.

Peter was unable to defend the Staffordshire Open title he won here at South Staffs last year, but tied 2nd in the Strokeplay Championship played at Trentham Park.



Peter putting for birdie on the 17th during the final round of the PTS Invitational

In the Staffordshire PGA Winter Alliances, Peter won at Enville and Brocton Hall. Tied for 2nd at both Little Aston and South Staffs and 3rd at Penn GC.

A message from Peter.

"I would like to thank all the Members who have supported the Pro Shop in 2013. We strive to offer quality and a high standard of service, merchandise and golf equipment in the Pro Shop to all Members and visitors and look forward to seeing you all in 2014."



Shaun Ball started 2013 in January, attempting to gain a European Senior Tour card at the qualifying school in Portugal, played over the Silves Golf Course and Gramacho Course at Pestana, and then Final Qualifying at the Vale da Pinta Golf Course, in Portugal. Unfortunately, Shaun finished in 35th position and outside the qualifying mark.

During the season, Shaun played in **Glenmuir PGA Professional Championship Qualifier** at Little Aston, finishing tied 2nd. **The Senior PGA Professional Championship** at Northamptonshire County. **The ISPS Hnada PGA Seniors Championship** at De Vere Mottram Hall and the **Glenmuir PGA Professional Championship** played at De Vere Slayley Hall.

Shaun also played 3 PGA in England (Midlands) Order of Merit events. The Glazerite Trophy, Midland Masters and the Midland Open and nine PGA in England (Midlands) Money List events.

In 2014 Shaun will be dividing his time playing the Senior Golf Circuit and coaching the promising youngsters at South Staffs - Jack Burns and Dominic Allsopp amongst them.

Greens Chairman Report

The ongoing aim of the Greens Management Team (GMT) and the greens staff has been to produce and maintain a course which is in the top three of the Midlands area.

We felt we made substantial progress last year with the consistent performance and playability of the greens and aprons and we saw stimp speeds of 10 regularly throughout the summer and up to 13 for the PTS.

The firmness of the greens improved during the season but as the wet weather has moved in for the winter we have more work to do on certain greens to improve drainage.

Unfortunately the recent unprecedented amount of rain is leaving the ground saturated and the water table very high. Coupled with the fact that much of the course is underpinned with hard sandstone underneath the surface it is almost impossible to drain the course adequately. However, we have ongoing plans to improve drainage generally.

The main areas of activity currently include;

- First stage of the renewal and enhancement

of the irrigation system with new tank, pump station and bore hole.



The recently installed steps on the 4th tee.

- Re shaping and refurbishment of all the bunkers on the course with the closure of the first fairway bunker on the 16th and the introduction of two new bunkers on the right hand side.
- General improvement of boundary hedges with new whips introduced into the gaps

each year and the sowing of a new hedge alongside the fence on the 6th.

- We are considering the clearing and ploughing of the bottom practice ground across Coppice Lane in order to cultivate turf and some new trees.
- Completion of the installation of tee steps around the course.
- Movement of larger trees from the maturing coppices around the course into key positions where we are losing many flowering cherries. This has been hampered by the recent wet ground conditions. Trees in general around the course including their cultivation and management are part of our forward planning.
- We are planning to introduce more colour in the cultivated beds around the course including the 6th and behind the 9th.
- We still have some work to do preparing some paths alongside some of the tees to reduce muddy areas.

We are committed to having the very best course available during the spring and summer season and we are hopeful that the course will take another major step forward in 2014.

Nick Weaver

Captain's Report

It's the start of a new year and during these long wet and cold days of winter I can start to look back at the year of my captaincy and, as it draws to a close, consider what challenges lie ahead.

My year started with my Captain's drive which was a 'Tiger style' 280 yard stinger down the first fairway. Peter Baker mistakenly thought it had come off the bottom of my club. Little did he know that I had hit it right out of the middle, hands pronating (Hogan-like) ensuring complete control with a touch of draw spin!

It has been immensely enjoyable and a great honour to be Captain of a club with such a long and distinguished history as The South Staffordshire Golf Club. I

believe that the membership generally applauds the direction that the club is taking and has witnessed improvements year on year.

I believe the Captain should be a bonding force within the club and someone who not only represents the club but who also communicates with all of the members. I followed David Franklin, who had been an excellent Captain, but my style had to be different. I couldn't hope to kiss as many of the women as David did and I didn't fancy kissing most of the men either!

The UK golf industry is going through some very challenging times. Following the Olympics, golf has been losing club members at the rate of 3000 a month to sports such as cycling and swimming. Also there has been a growing trend to play 'green fee only' golf avoiding the annual membership.

However, these trends should and can be seen positively as it has ensured that we as a golf club are having to be clear about what benefits we offer to members and why the opportunity to join and maintain a membership of a club like ours is so compelling. Golf clubs in the future will have to be clear as to what there are providing to their members and the market they are serving, otherwise they will not survive.

I am very confident about the future of our club because I know that there are many golfers in the region who want to play golf on a first-class course whenever it suits them, to be a member of a private club where they may introduce friends and colleagues and enjoy good hospitality and wholesome food whenever they choose, and to play in organised competitions against the constant challenge of one of the best courses in the Midlands and within a very keen field of golfers all trying their best to win. Finally, and most importantly, to have the opportunity after a game to share a convivial drink on the terrace with friends and take in one of the best views in Wolverhampton, which has been one of the many pleasures that members have enjoyed in the 106 years that the club has been based at Danescourt.



For me there have been many highlights during the year and I too have been delighted that we have taken important steps forward which the club will benefit from in future years.

The weather generally was good for my year, which does help, and Captain's day was a happy one with a full field morning and after

noon as I jetted around the course serving chocolate and drinks. I have an abiding image of **Dave Dornan** and **Ant Thomas** in their plus two's before teeing off.

The Titanic evening event was also well supported and there were some great fancy dress outfits.

A record win in the Dartmouth bowl losing only one match was also pleasing, particularly as we had lost so heavily the year before. It is amazing to think that we

have played that competition since 1894.

We had some real summer weather for the PTS tournament and enjoyed some good exposure in the press and on Sky TV with a

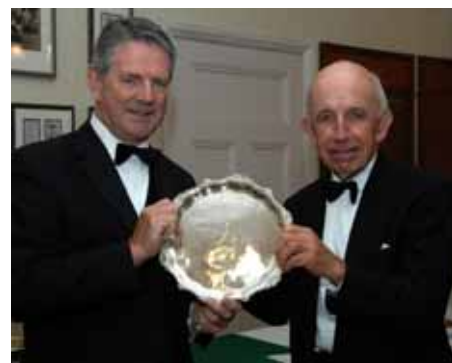


Captain Nick Weaver and Ladies Captain Kate Weaver with Peter Baker after winning the PTS Invitational

very worthy winner in our own professional Peter Baker. We were disappointed to lose sponsorship for the event going forward but we have secured the Midlands Professional Tournament and hope members will be generous enough to provide sponsorship, since this is a vital income opportunity for the club.

Many members have been very supportive of the Dining Room Appeal and we are on target to raise £20k before my captaincy ends. We are already considering improvements and options and we will be communicating some proposals in the near future.

The auction evening was a great success raising £10,000. Thank you to all the members who contributed so generously items for auction, and special thanks to Sybil Taylor for helping to organise the evening and David Berriman for his auctioneering skills.



The Captain receives the President's Salver (won during the year) from Club President Terry Leece.

The 'fine book' for conduct unbecoming at South Staffs raised almost £2500 and a particular thanks to all those who took part. It was great fun, though, and raised many laughs. There were 30 members who contributed £50 to my appeal and I am sincerely grateful. There will be an 'offenders only' event later in the year.

There were many other enjoyable events and evenings including a club supper, a divoting night, the Christmas party and what I think was the best New Year's party held at the club for some years.

2013 has seen some important changes

and initiatives commenced to improve the general quality of golf for all of the members in 2014 and I would like to thank Sue Lebeau and her team who have been so helpful. Peter Baker and all the staff at the shop for their support. My particular thanks to our President, Terry Leece, who will be stepping down at the AGM and who has served the club so well and been particularly helpful to me during my Captain's year. To Craig and the greens staff for their excellent work on the course, my Vice Captain Tom Hewitt and to a number of close friends who have been particularly supportive during the year.

The South Staffordshire Golf Club is an admired club throughout the Midlands where members and visitors are always made to feel welcome. I am confident that the Club is continuing to grow stronger and I would like to thank all of you for the opportunity to serve as your Captain.

Nick Weaver

The Stafford Knot

The annual Stafford Knot Charity Golf Event between the Member Clubs of the Staffordshire Union of Golf Clubs was held at South Staffs on Friday 5th July.

The competition is principally for the Club Captain or his nominee and three other club members, playing a best 2 from 4 net medal scores competition and raises funds for the Donna Louise Trust based in Trentham.

Lord Stafford, as patron of both the Staffordshire Union of Golf Clubs and the Donna Louise Trust, hosted the event which was being played for the 7th year. The Trust looks after children with life limiting disease and who are unlikely to live beyond the age of twenty.

A wonderful afternoon's golf was had by all the competitors followed by a splendid dinner in the Clubhouse at which Lord Stafford presented the prizes to the winners.

The Stafford Knot Trophy was won for the first time by the South Staffs team of Club Vice Captain, Tom Hewitt; Ian Guest; Ian Skidmore and Howard Percival, with a five under par score, two shots ahead of their nearest challengers - Trentham Golf Club.

Lord Stafford also entered a team into the event which included former Warwickshire and England cricketer, Tim Munton.

Result:

- 1st:** South Staffs G.C. **137** (-5)
- 2nd:** Trentham G.C. **139** (-3) B9
- 3rd:** Lord Stafford's Team **139** (-3)
- 4th:** The Manor G.C. **140** (-2)



Club President Terry Leece, presents Captain Nick Weaver with the Stafford Knot Trophy.

The PTS Invitational

Baker Secures Home Victory

Peter Baker took the honours at the three day £17,000 PGA Order of Merit Tournament, the PTS Invitational at South Staffordshire Golf Club – the opening event in the 2013 PGA in England (Midlands) Order of Merit.

The former Ryder Cup star, who is also head professional at the Wolverhampton club, started the day tied for the lead on seven-under par with Nottinghamshire's Lee Clarke.

But a steady one-under-par final round was enough to take him clear and he finished two shots ahead of his nearest challenger.

"I haven't played a great deal this year so I'm really delighted to have won around my home course," Baker said.

"It brings a funny type of pressure when you play at your own place. When you are not in a tournament you go around joking and talking to players out on the course but all of a sudden it's serious – you want to have a laugh and a joke with them but you remember you have to concentrate and get on with your game."

A bogey at the 13th was only Baker's second dropped shot of the 54-hole tournament and he was delighted with the way he approached his final round.

"My game plan was not to give it away and not make too many bogeys," he added.

"Lee [Clarke] played very well and didn't look as though he was going to hit a bad shot – it could have gone either way."

Clarke's one-over-par 72 on the final day secured second place – dropped shots at the 12th and 14th ending his challenge.

Another Ryder Cup veteran Paul Broadhurst had started the day three shots adrift of the leaders but his challenge faltered and he was four-over par at the end of the day.

Andrew Willey (Notts GC) finished third after a final round of 70 left him at three-under for the tournament with reigning Order of Merit champion Paul Streeter (Lincoln Golf Centre) finishing alongside Broadhurst on level par.

Professional Result:

- 1st:** Peter Baker (South Staffs GC) **-8** 205
- 2nd:** Lee Clarke (Beeston Fields GC) **-6** 207
- 3rd:** Andrew Willey (Notts GC) **-3** 210
- T4th:** Paul Streeter (Lincoln Golf Centre) **E** 213
- T4th:** Paul Broadhurst (Atherstone GC) **E** 213
- 6th:** Paul Bradshaw (Gainsborough GC) **+2** 215

Pro-Am Results

- 1st:** Lee Clarke (Beeston Fields G C) & Steve Clarke (a) 66-64 **130**
- T2nd:** Peter Baker (South Staffs GC) & John Vaughan (a) 66-65 **131**
- T2nd:** Paul Streeter (Lincoln Golf Centre) & Vince Miles (a) 65-66 **131**
- 4th:** Craig Shave (Whetstone GC) & Daz Anderson (a) 68-64 **132**



The final 3 Ball of Baker, Clarke and Broadhurst exchange cards on the 1st.

South Staffs Men's Open - The Vardon Bowl

South Staffs Golf Club held their sixth Men's Open on Sunday 8th September. 121 players including ninety from visiting Clubs enjoyed a course in excellent condition and greens comfortably running at 13.5 after a double cut and double roll. The course played to its full 6,587 yards and the stiff breeze and quick greens made low scoring difficult.

The best gross score and with it the Vardon Bowl went to Alex Berrow of South Staffs G.C. with a one over par 72. Second was Matthew Jacques of South Staffs G.C. with a two over par 73 beating Barry Ruddick of Shrewsbury G.C. also with a 73 on the back nine. The top handicap prize went to John Mackie of South Staffs G.C. with a gross 74 nett 70.



Alex Berrow being presented with the Vardon Bowl by John and Helen Gough.

Results: Gross Scores

- 1st:** Alex Berrow (+1) (South Staffs G.C.) **72 +1-73**
- 2nd:** Matthew Jacques (2) (South Staffs G.C.) **G.C. 73-2-71**
- 3rd:** Barry Ruddick (1) (Shrewsbury G.C.) **73-1-71**

Results: Nett Scores

- 1st:** John Mackie (South Staffs G.C.) **74-4-70**
- 2nd:** Matthew Jacques (South Staffs G.C.) **73-2-71 (B9)**
- 3rd:** Matt Lunn (Bridgnorth G.C.) **76-5-71**
- 4th:** Rob Arrow (South Staffs G.C.) **78-6-72 (B9)**
- 5th:** Kaljit Madahar (Edgbaston G.C.) **77-5-72 (B9)**
- 6th:** Jack Smith (South Staffs G.C.) **77-5-72**

Best Stableford Score Outside Top Prizes: Jack Smith (South Staffs G.C.) **35pts**

The Vardon Bowl was donated by John & Helen Gough in 2008 - their year as Captains, and since then only Members of South Staffs have managed to win it - Sam Benton, Ian Guest, Andy Ellis, Tom J Hewitt, Myles Frost and now Alex Berrow.

Ladies Golf at South Staffs



As my year as Lady Captain draws to a close, it is interesting to look back on what I hope has been an enjoyable year for all our lady members.

It has been a great honour for me to captain the Ladies' section at a time when there have been some very notable achievements.

Annette Deeley was elected Staffordshire County Captain for 2013/14 and, as a result, several county fixtures were held at South Staffs. We all wish Annette a speedy return to full health.

Our 'girls' did especially well this year.

Olivia Raybould played in the Midlands North Region Medal Final at Radcliffe-on-Trent and was

only one shot off going through to the National Finals.

Sam Meese, our 2013 Club Champion, got her handicap down to scratch and had a very successful season, winning the Midlands Schools Championship in April.

In May, Sam finished 4th in the English Women's Amateur Championship played over 72 holes at Kings Norton.

But the pinnacle of her season was when she became St. Andrews Junior Ladies' Champion in August. This competition was played over three days on the Strathrum, Eden and the Old Course. Sam was subsequently awarded the Golf Monthly Scratch Trophy. A great achievement.

Another of our young lady members, Holly Langford, became Staffordshire County Champion in an all South Staffs final, coming through 3 and 2 against Sam Meese at Enville.

Sam, Holly and Olivia all represented Staffordshire at County Week played at Hawkestone Park in June.

Our Scratch Team had a very good season this year and narrowly missed winning Division 1. My thanks to Liz Williams for captaining the team.



Lady Captain's Day in June was most enjoyable and played in good spirit in spite of an unseasonably cold and blustery day. Winners of the 3 Ball Alliance were Jacky Jennings, Suzanne Rogers and Sue Whitehead.

The 36 Hole Competition on 23rd July had to be cancelled due to heavy thunderstorms. It was rescheduled for Tuesday 27th August. The winner of the Jenks Scratch Trophy was Olivia Raybould, the Kettle Bowl, went to Jacky Jennings.

The County Silver Division Meeting, also postponed due to heavy rain, was held at South Staffs on 17th October. Jenny Rhodes won the gross prize, having just come back to playing after the birth of her baby daughter.

Our Open Day took place on a lovely hot, sunny day in July and was won by a team from Whittington Heath.

We had a most enjoyable Away Day at Patshull Park in August. A torrential downpour at the start threatened to close the course, but the sun came out and saved the day. The winners - Sue Hewitt, Barbara Lewis and Margaret Barnes - have chosen Kidderminster as the venue for our Away Day in 2014.

I believe the Ladies' section at South Staffs is a very unique 'club' in its own right. We all enjoy playing a lovely course and the friendship that being a member of South Staffs Golf Club affords us. I hope that 2014 brings more success to our aspiring young golfers and continued pleasure to those of us who play simply for fun!

Kate Weaver

Staffordshire County Ladies' Champion 10th - 12th May 2013

Congratulations to Holly Langford on becoming Staffordshire Ladies' County Champion 2013

Held at Enville Golf Club, the Semi-Finals must have looked like a South Staffs v Trentham league match as Holly (South Staffs) played Emily Coleman (Trentham) and Sam Meese (South Staffs) played Madeleine Winnett (Trentham). Holly and Sam won through 2/1 and 5/4 respectively to an all South Staffs Final with Holly victorious 3/2

South Staffs Members Olivia Raybould and Annette Deeley also played in the Championship. Olivia went out of the tournament after the 36 hole qualifying rounds and Annette lost 3/1 to eventual Semi-Finalist Emily Coleman (Trentham) at the last 16 stage.



Photograph: (Left to Right), Emily Coleman, Holly Langford and Sam Meese.

St Andrews Junior Ladies' Open Champion Tuesday 6th to Friday 9th August 2013 Strathrum Course, Eden Course and Old Course.

South Staffs Member, Samantha Meese has won the St Andrews Junior Ladies' Open. An 18 hole qualifying Scratch Matchplay Tournament - for Ladies under 23 years of age on 1st January 2013.

Established in 1989 to complement the Boys' Open and to recognise the increasing level of interest in competitive golf for junior ladies, the ladies compete on the Strathrum Course and the Eden Course with the Semi finals and Final played over the Old Course.

Sam qualified for the last 16 of the matchplay with a Level Par 71 in the Scratch qualifying round played on the Statthrum Course.



In the first round of the matchplay, played over the Eden Course, Sam defeated Lucy Walton (The Worcestershire) 7&5, then defeated Sofia Berglund (Varbergs, Sweden) by 2 holes in the quarter final. The Semi final and Final were played on the Old Course and Sam defeated Lianna Bailey (Notts Ladies) 1 up in the Semi final and then defeated Rachel Walker (Dumfries & County) 5&4 in the Final.

Sam was awarded the Golf Monthly Scratch Trophy - many congratulations on a superb performance.

Captain's Early Bird, Champagne Shotgun

On a bright 6th July morning, forty four Lady and Gentlemen Members arrived early for the 6.30am Shotgun start and enjoyed the course in excellent condition.

Some fine scoring was in evidence from a mixture of all male teams, all female teams and mixed teams, thoroughly enjoying the team Stableford format.

At the end of the competition the players were rewarded for such an early start with a wonderful breakfast provided by Hughie Campbell and of course, the odd glass or two of champagne were also consumed.

Result:

- 1st:** J. Mackie, R. Hewitt, S. Terry and R. Jones **87 points** (BB9)
2nd: K. Aston, M. Bartlett, P. Williams and A. Edwards **87 points**
3rd: N. Weaver, F. Wilson, D. Franklin and S. Bowdler **85 points**

Captain's Day

Captain's Day on Saturday 13th June was a particularly happy event, with a full field for the morning and afternoon Shotgun Starts, and the Captain and his wife Kate, the Lady Captain, jetting around the course serving chocolate and drinks.

Prize Winners:

- 1st:** Matt Jacques & Bob Barrett **44pts***
2nd: Roger & Matthew Humphreyson **43pts**
3rd: John Gough & Simon Bowdler **42pts** (B6)
4th: Richard & Tom Hewitt **42pts**

AM Top 3 Pairs:

- Roger & Matthew Humphreyson **43pts**
John Gough & Simon Bowdler **42pts**
John Eaves & Mark Brennand **41pts**

PM Top 3 Pairs:

- Matt Jacques & Bob Barrett **44pts**
Richard & Tom Hewitt **42pts**
Russell Wood & Chris Gammon **40pts**



**The 44pts scored by Matthew Jacques and Bob Barrett, won them the Captain's Cup, which they were presented with at the Club's Prize Presentation Dinner in November.*

Junior Golf at South Staffs

Junior Golf at South Staffs continues to thrive under the tutelage of Peter Baker and Shaun Ball, along with the able assistance of members Ian Guest, Tom Hewitt Snr and Jeremy & Liz Harris.

The achievements of Sam Meese are well documented in this Newsletter, but there are a number of Juniors showing great promise for the years to come.

The U16's Junior County Team has seen regular appearances from Matt Jacques, Dan Meese and Jack Smith and all three receive County Coaching.

The South Staffs Junior Team plays in the Staffordshire West Region Junior League with Reece Ford Jones, Will Dunn, Thomas Bryan, Nick Cox, Cameron Kalare, Jack Harris and Jack Price representing the Club through the year.

Matt Jacques has again had a very eventful year, besides representing the South Staffs Junior and Scratch Teams he finished 2nd in the Club's Junior Open, 2nd in Club Championship and won the Captain's Cup with Bob Barrett.

Matt Jacques County & National Achievements in 2013:

Played for the **Under 18 Staffordshire team** 5 times and the **U16 Staffordshire team** 4 times.

Member of the **U18 Boys National County Finals Winning Team**.

Member of **MGU's U18 League Final Staffordshire Team**

National Events in 2013:

The Single Figure Golf Final at Leeds Golf Club (finished 4th).

English Schools National Championship;

Matt qualified at Brocton Hall GC and then played 2 Stage 1 qualifying rounds at Northampton GC and then played 2 rounds at Notts GC (Hollinwell).

English Boys Under 16 Open Strokeplay (McGregor Trophy) at Seacroft GC, Skegness.

Competed in the **North of England Under 16 Open Amateur Strokeplay Championship** for the Pannal Trophies at Heswall GC, The Wirral.

Qualified for the **Andalucian Junior European Open** in association with the Daily Express at Ingestre Park GC. Then finished 4th in the final stage after 2 rounds at the Alcaidesa Links, 2 rounds at the Alcaidesa Heathland and the final round at Finca Cortesin in Andalucia.



Matthew Jacques

Men's Invitation Day Results

There have been two cracking Invitation Meetings, where we have been able to show off our excellent course and greens to friends and colleagues.

Spring Invitation - Saturday 18th May 2013

South Staffs Members' names first.

- 1st:** Howard Percival & Charles Henn-Allen **44pts**
2nd: Colin Evans & Martin Blood **41pts** (B3-8)
3rd: Reg King & Philip Cowell **41pts** (B3-7)
4th: Richard Green & Nick Mills **40pts** (B9-23)
5th: Richard Hewitt & Greg Giggott **40pts** (B9-19)
6th: Roger Humphreyson & Mick Baker **40pts** (B9-18)

Autumn Invitation - Saturday 14th September 2013

South Staffs Member's' names first.

- 1st:** John Mumford & Phil Jones **42pts** (B9-20)
2nd: Simon Bowdler & David Bowdler **42pts** (B9-19)
3rd: Jeremy Harris & Andrew Carter **40pts**
4th: Tom Hewitt Snr & David Lester **39pts** (B9-20)
5th: Phil Barnfield & David Barnfield **39pts** (B9-16)

South Staffs Club Championship

The 36 hole Club Scratch Championship and Members' Challenge was held on Saturday 20th July.

Alex Berrow, playing off +1 won the Scratch Championship, with Jack Smith winning the Members' Challenge.

Scratch Championship (Gross Scores):

- 1st:** Alex Berrow (+1) 75-73 - **148**
2nd: Matthew Jacques (3) 74-76 - **150**
3rd: Roger Humphreyson (3) 73-79 - **152**
4th: John Mackie (4) 73-79 - **152**
5th: Tom J Hewitt (1) 76-76 - **152**

Members' Challenge (Nett Scores):

- 1st:** Jack Smith (7) 72-72 - **144**
2nd: Matthew Jacques (3) 71-73 - **144**
3rd: John Mackie (4) 69-75 - **144**
4th: Terry Walsh (18) 74-70 - **144**
5th: Gareth Smith (6) 74-72 - **146**

Turkey Competition

On Saturday 7th December, 44 pairs arrived on a bright but chilly morning for the 9.00am Shotgun Start, for the annual South Staffs Turkey Competition. Everyone in hope of winning a Robinsons the Butchers Voucher and bottles of festive cheer.

Result:

- 1st:** Duncan Reeves & Noel Smith **43pts** (B6 14pts)
2nd: Martin Spencer & Henry Beaumont **43pts** (B6 13pts)
3rd: David Dumbell & Malcolm Amos **43pts**
4th: Richard Hewitt & John Mackie **42pts**
5th: Howard Percival & Jeremy Harris **41pts** (B9 22pts)
6th: Shaun Guest & Andy Price **41pts** (B9 19pts)
7th: Paul Snape & Peter Williams **41pts** (B9 41pts).
8th: Dave Spittle & Martin Barnett **40pts** (B9 21pts)
9th: Greg Freeman & Matthew Jacques **40pts** (B9 19pts)
10th: Chris Wright & Philip Sims **40pts** (B9 17pts)
11th: Richard Green & Russell Wood **39pts** (B4 10pts)
12th: Steve Charlton & Eddie Charlton **39pts** (B4 9pts)

Monthly Medals

Congratulations to Steve Holden who won the Mercedes Car for a weekend, courtesy of sponsors Mercedes of Wolverhampton who have kindly sponsored several of the monthly medal competitions throughout the year.