

Ladies News

BARBARA SIGNS IN AS COUNTY CAPTAIN

NEW Cheshire Ladies captain Barbara Baird is looking forward to a busy 2017 season.

The retired teacher took up the role in November and is confident it will be a successful campaign for the county's ladies when they tee it up for the Northern Counties Match Week at Morecambe in June.

"We have some excellent prospects coming through and we already have two England internationals in 22-year-old Gemma Clews and 17-year-old Isobel Wardle," said Barbara.

"Our junior captain, Lucy Jamieson, who is our current county champion, plays off one and she, along with a few other juniors, are members of the full County team.

"Prior to selecting the team all training and practice matches have to be organised. We are very fortunate that we have the services of Maureen Madill to lead our coaching programme. The practice matches are against the Cheshire county

BY GEOFF GARNETT

men's team, Derbyshire, Wilmslow men, Delamere Forest men and Cheshire Senior ladies."

The role involves much more than being a selector of the county team though.

"I will be responsible for overseeing all aspects of ladies' and junior girls' golf within Cheshire and will be required to attend golfing events and meetings during my year of office," added the Vicars Cross member.

The 18-handicapper joined the Chester club in 1976, when she first took up golf and she hasn't looked back since.

She has since served on the committee at Vicars Cross for many years and was lady captain in 1990.

Barbara is a native of Pembrokeshire and attended Cardiff University, where she read Zoology and Geology and also represented the University hockey team for three years. Following her marriage to

John, they moved to the Chester area where she taught at Ellesmere Port Girls Grammar School and continued her hockey career with Chester Ladies as well as representing the Cheshire B team.

When she retired from hockey she joined John at Vicars Cross where she found the transition to golf relatively easy and within a few years became a single figure handicap player and won the Club Championship on a number of occasions.

She represented the club in various team competitions for many years, being a member of the teams, which won the Percival Trophy in 2010 and the West Cheshire Shield and also the East West Shield in 2012.

All her family are golfers and each has won the Vicars Cross Club Championship; John once, daughter Karen on three occasions and scratch golfer son, Richard 17 times!

Karen has also represented Wales at Junior and U21 level and in addition to representing Cheshire as a junior she has



Barbara Baird.

also played for Glamorgan, Essex, Oxfordshire and Northumberland.

Barbara's interest in the administrative side of the game was quickly recognised at the Club and she soon became competition secretary and later ladies club secretary. She has also served as the West Cheshire Shield secretary and in 2013 was invited to be the captain of the West Cheshire Past Captains' Society.

In 2008 she joined the Cheshire Executive and served as county junior organiser for five years during which time both Bronte Law and Gemma Clews were members of the junior squad.

Barbara added: "I feel very honoured to have now been invited to be county captain for 2017 and I am very much looking forward to the coming year and working with our new president and vice-captain."

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