



COUNTY WEEK REPORT

Match: MNR County Week
Venue: Notts Ladies – Hollinwell (Hosted by Nottinghamshire)
Date: 25 – 29 June 2018 (practice day 24 June)

Attached: Squad Photo / Final Results Table / Team List for each County

What a week, it was hot, it was tense, it was exciting, down to the wire. Are you ready, Here we go :-

The Format : 3 x Foursomes matches a.m. and 6 singles matches p.m. each day for 5 days. Each day playing a different County. Participating Counties: Derbyshire, Leicestershire & Rutland, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Shropshire & Staffordshire.

Sunday 24 June 2018

Practice Day – the majority of us assembled and were off yet again to test and gain more knowledge of the course – it was drying out, the pink grass had grown another few inches and the ball was bouncing well – crucial that those tee shots hit the right areas. We were delighted that Hatti and Livvy had made it back from Wales to join us on the Sunday (it was so close to them getting through to the Sunday in the Welsh Team Championships, our emotions were tied in wanting them to do well but also wanting them back at Hollinwell with the squad – what a dilemma – being selfish, Janet and I were glad they were back with us). The Course tried and tested, we were excited, albeit nervous for the week ahead.

The Captains' Mtg, Drinks Reception, Photo Session and Welcome Dinner was enjoyed by all. We were introduced to our Hostesses for the week Chrissy Hargreaves (no introduction required) and Di Abbott – what a great pair (a right pair!) – lovely to have them with us for the week. It was back to the Premier Inn for a good night's sleep – it takes time to settle in for sure, getting to know the location, your way around, the road to and from the Course, etc, etc.

Monday 25 June 2018

Derbyshire v Staffordshire. Early start for a 7am breakfast at the club, 8.15am first tee. Jenny (the Staffs Captain) and myself shook hands and the first pairing was off. After the Morning foursomes we were 3-0 down – what happened there – we could still do it but we obviously needed 5 of the 6 games in the afternoon – a tall order, and unfortunately, yes, you've guessed, we lost – final score 7-2 to Staffs. Kim Bradbury and Debbie Deakin both halving and Frankie winning 3&2 meant we'd only acquired 2 points in the singles. It was back to the drawing board – was it just bad luck on the day, we had a great squad out, the score couldn't be ignored so a few conversations were had and changes were made before going into Tuesday. It was sorted. We hoped.

Tuesday 26 June 2018

Derbyshire v Lincolnshire. A 09:07 tee. Birdie (the Lincs Captain) and myself shook hands and the game was on. The team were fired up and two pairings changed. The Foursomes commenced with a new pairing of Hatti & Frankie (and what a pairing that turned out to be – they never lost a match for the rest of the week) and with Debbie Deakin & Debbie Eaglefield halving their match we ended 1½ - 1½ going into the singles (far better than 3-0) we had a chance going into the afternoon.

The singles were dynamic from the start - solid, determined and focused, two fresh players of Catrin Russell and Alison Smith going into the afternoon – nobody lost, we won the singles 5½ - ½ – Janet and I couldn't ask more of them – fantastic to watch – we'd won our first match 7-2 against Lincolnshire (what a difference from a 7-2 loss the day before) – we were still in with a good chance for the week – what a fighting talented team.

Wednesday 27 June 2018

Derbyshire v Shropshire. An 08:41 start. The Foursomes were proving to be the most difficult part of the week. We lost 2-1 with Frankie & Hatti putting in an impressive performance winning 4&3 to bring in that all important point for the team. So into the singles, another fully focused, determined afternoon by Derbyshire bringing in 3 wins and 2 halves – wow, we'd won the singles 4-2 and we'd won the match 5-4 – our team had turned into warriors, great team work – Janet and I were so proud of their fighting spirit. We were sure it had to do something with all the water, cold flannels and neck coolers we were dashing around the Course with (but probably not!!) – awesome win, such determination.

Thursday 28 June 2018

Derbyshire v Leicestershire & Rutland. 1st Match and early to the Club again 7am breakfast for an 08:15 tee. Again Frankie & Hatti came up with the point winning 2&1 against Helen Lowe and Gemma Parkes-Walley. So we'd lost the Foursomes 2-1 – we'd been there before and knew we could fight back in the Singles. We won 3 singles and halved 2, winning 4-2 and winning the match overall by 5 games to 4 – so close again, down to the wire, the team kept their nerve and dug deep – a tense and exciting afternoon – well done Team.

Friday 29 June 2018

Derbyshire v Nottinghamshire. It turned out that if we could win this match, we could win County Week – it was that close – but we knew Nottinghamshire would come out fighting, and so would we. What a match that was and it wasn't without drama and rulings – we certainly made use of the referees. 2-1 up in the foursomes, 1 win and 2 halves and the first time we'd been ahead in the Foursomes all week – a battle to the end. We were then into the singles. It turned out that early on in the singles a Notts player had announced that she'd got 15 clubs in her bag (all credit to her for owning up to it) and that that extra club had been in her bag for the morning match also. It was an immediate 2 hole loss for the Notts player in the singles (what a mistake to make, we learn the hard way). The referee and Captains' met to discuss the ruling for the morning match and all agreed that it was a DQ giving Frankie & Hatti the win, as we thought.

So onward we went, the match was down to the wire. We'd won the Foursomes 2-1 and lost the singles 3½ to 2½, meaning the match was a draw 4½ - 4½ - down to the last match and the last putt - so close.

Having halved the match we hadn't won County Week outright but Derbyshire, Lincolnshire and Staffordshire were all on 3½ points at the end of the week. Derbyshire lost out on games won, we had 23½ to Lincs & Staffs both on 25 - they couldn't be split. Unfortunately the ruling of England Golf for this

competition is to either toss a coin or draw a name out of a hat – a name was drawn out and it was Staffordshire that had won.

So Staffordshire 1st, Lincolnshire 2nd and Derbyshire 3rd - all 3 on 3½ points, with Derbyshire losing out on games won.

What a close and tense competition it was.

Summary

A great week and magnificent effort from the squad. Janet and I send our personal thanks to you, the players, for your determined and focused co-operation throughout the week – you did Derbyshire proud. We said at our Team Meeting be encouragers, encourage each other, with encouragement comes results, and you certainly did that, well done.

Two players also received their County Colours during County Week – Hatti Evans 1st Team and Debbie Eaglefield 2nd Team – congratulations to both. Debbie's colours were outstanding from 2017 due to new colours being designed under the umbrella of DCG.

Our thanks go to Hollinwell for all their sterling efforts at the Club and on the Course – a successful competition at a wonderful location.

Thank you to all the DCG officials, especially our President Paul Longden and our Immediate Past President Maggie Wyld for the support both before and during County Week, to all the caddies and visitors who supported us by walking those fairways and to Jan Young for the life-saving neck coolers which were much needed and appreciated – you were all tremendous. Thank you also for your cards, messages of support and assistance – which was a real boost to the Team.

Of course, my personal thanks to Janet Carlin our Vice Captain – great support both before and during County Week, in fact by my side throughout the entire process – I can't find the words to say exactly how much I appreciate your help Janet – but you were 100% magnificent and all bodes well for County Week in Shropshire for 2019. Derbyshire gets stronger and stronger and with you and JT at the helm – all looks positive.

Judy Gascoigne
County Captain 2018
6 July 2018