

SUFFOLK FINDS A NEW YOUNG CHAMPION

Lottie Whyman won the Suffolk Ladies Matchplay Championship at the first attempt beating Sharon Luckman by 2 holes in a hard-fought final match at Felixstowe. The semi-finalists were all Ipswich members which illustrates the strength in depth that the club has acquired in the last few years.

The semi-final matches, in which Lottie beat Vicki Inglis and Sharon put paid to Abbie Symonds' hopes of making further progress, were both exciting and absorbing, exhibiting a high standard of ball striking and really close encounters. Luckman showed Symonds the way, reaching the short twelfth hole at three up and looking secure. Symonds was having none of it, though, and she came back to win fourteen and fifteen. Sharon steadied the ship at sixteen to remain one up then whacked an enormous three-wood up seventeen and made five against Abbie's six which took Luckman into the final.

Lottie Wyman and Vicki Inglis were both in good form and a string of halves over the front nine found Lottie one up after twelve. Vicki made birdie across the sloping thirteenth green to go all square. While the skylarks filled the air with their melodies, Lottie produced a birdie of her own at fifteen and moved to two up after sixteen. At seventeen Lottie's par went unmatched by the Inglis putting stroke and the young lady claimed the final place by 2/1.

As the final match unfolded, it seemed that Lottie's putter had cooled a bit. Several chances for a win went begging but she made her first move at five where her par to Sharon's bogey took her to one up. She sank a telling putt at six to go further ahead and, though she lost eight when Sharon dyked a four-footer for a win, Lottie kept her nose in front, staying at 2 up for several holes before once again making progress with a fine shot to about twelve feet below the hole at the short twelfth where a par took her advantage to three. She survived a tricky shot from a bunker at thirteen when the ball was in the sand and her feet outside it.

Luckman made a jumble at fourteen, finding a bunker in two and coming out too well which effectively cost her the hole and moved Lottie to four up with four holes to go. How hard it can be to close out a match even when there's a big advantage! Sharon, ever the fighter, hit two good shots to fifteen and sank a putt to save the match. Lottie back to three up. At sixteen, both players were substantially short of the pin and someone needed to do something drastic! Lottie missed her line and Sharon, no doubt through gritted teeth, put the ball in the hole. Lottie two up.

Seventeen was a nervy business and, once again, it was the Whyman putter that bore the brunt of the pressure. Her approach putt came up very short and three putts couldn't compete with Sharon's par five. Lottie one up going to the eighteenth tee.

This, though, was where Sharon's heroic comeback came to an end. She really needed to chip in from the edge of the eighteenth green to take the match further and, when the ball curled round and slid past the hole, she held out her hand to the young lady and conceded.

Later, Lottie explained that it was a massive privilege for her to play in the Championship, her first time because school work has previously taken precedence. She was delighted that she had proved she could 'keep it together' and play under pressure. She was grateful to her fellow competitors for playing in such lovely spirit and had thoroughly enjoyed the experience. She will

now, of course, lead out the Suffolk team when they go to County Match Week to be held this year at Chigwell Golf Club (22nd - 26th June).

County President Ann Graves, thanked Felixstowe for their kind use of the golf course and clubhouse facilities and thanked Mr Detmar Hackman and Sabona for their generous sponsorship of the SLCGA.

See article below that appeared in East Anglian Daily Times on 12 May 2015

Lottie is the new Suffolk Ladies' champion after victory at Ferry

Lottie Whyman, a promising 19-year-old from Ipswich Golf Club, is the new Suffolk Ladies' champion. She carried off the Churchman Challenge Cup after beating the experienced Sharon Luckman in the final at Felixstowe Ferry.

Whyman seemed to have the match under control when four up with four to play. It was then that Luckman showed her dogged determination. She won the 15th, 16th and 17th holes to be only one down on the final tee. Luckman's poor tee shot out to the left allowed Whyman to close the match out for a well deserved victory.

In the semi-final Whyman had claimed the scalp of former champion Vicki Inglis while Luckman ended the dreams of another youngster, Abbie Symonds, who had defeated stroke-play champion Amanda Norman at the first play-off hole in the quarter-final.

In the senior ladies' final Lottie Edmunds (Aldeburgh) beat Helen Bray (Ipswich) 2 and 1, reversing last year's result.

The stroke play on Friday was settled on the second play-off hole when Norman won the Woodbridge Challenge Bowl with Inglis having to settle for the Maggie Ivor-Jones Plate. Norman established a two shot lead over Whyman after the opening round with Inglis four shots off the pace.

In the afternoon round, when it became cool and breezy, Inglis produced the best round of the day which included five birdies. Her 72 took her into the play-off. She seemed to have the momentum.

The first play-off hole was halved in bogey. On the 18th Norman had a



■ Suffolk Ladies' champion, 19-year-old Lottie Whyman, left, holds the Churchman Challenge Cup, with sponsor Detmar Hackman (Sabona) and losing finalist Sharon Luckman with the Lady Eddis Silver Box. Photograph: CONTRIBUTED

safe par which Inglis, after missing the green with her approach, was unable to match. Last year's top two, Luckman and Lils James (Rookery Park), finished well behind in fourth and fifth places. In the senior stroke play championship 10-handicap Rachel Trotman of Aldeburgh won with a round of 83. Helen Bray (Ipswich), the former England hockey international, was runner-up with 87. County ladies' championships are decided on match play. The stroke play is the qualifier.

After the presentations, county captain Sarah Sagers announced

her squad for East County Week at Chigwell between June 21 and 26.

The squad is: Whyman, Aldous, Barlow, Bell, Howe, Inglis, James, Lily Kent (currently in United States), Luckman, Symonds and Sagers.

Suffolk Ladies' stroke-play
At Felixstowe Ferry. Ipswich members unless stated.

152: Vicki Inglis 80 72, Amanda Norman (Felixstowe Ferry) 76 76. (Norman won at second play-off hole).
153: Lottie Whyman 78 75, 158: Sharon Luckman 82 76, 164: Lils James (Rookery Park) 82 82, 165: Vanessa Bell 81 84, Sarah Howe 85 80, 166: Sarah Sagers 84 82, 167: Alice Barlow (Newton Green) 82 85, 169: Abbie Symonds 83 86, 171: Trudy Read (Rushmere) 86 85, 172: Pippa Neall (Woodbridge) 86 86, 173: Emily Penfold (Newton Green) 83 90,

Eloise Aldous (Newton Green) 85 88, 178: Tanya McGregor (Bungay) 90 88, 185: Wendy Wilderspin (Stowmarket) 96 89, 191: Jenny Howlett (Bungay) 92 99, 184: Sarah-Jane Barker (Bungay) 90 94, 202: Diane Taylor (Woodbridge) 97 105.

Suffolk Ladies' Championship

First round: Norman beat Wilderspin 4 and 3, Symonds beat Barlow 5 and 4, James beat Aldous 6 and 4, Luckman beat Penfold two up, Whyman beat McGregor 4 and 3, Neall beat Howe 4 and 3, Bell beat Read 3 and 2, Inglis beat Barker 5 and 4.
Quarter-finals: Symonds beat Norman at 19th, Luckman beat James at 20th, Whyman beat Neall 7 and 5, Inglis beat Bell 2 and 1.

Semi-finals: Luckman beat Symonds two up; Whyman beat Inglis 2 and 1.

Final: Whyman beat Luckman one up.

Suffolk Senior Ladies' match play

First round: Ann Maskell beat Ann Graves two up; Teresa Wardlaw beat Jo Moore two up.

Semi-finals: Helen Bray beat Maskell one up; Lottie Edmunds beat Moore 5 and 4.

Final: Edmunds beat Bray 2 and 1.