

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY GOLF LTD - ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

It has been a busy and successful year since our last report, with 13 county competitions, 42 county team matches, along with 89 Winter Knockout matches, and finals. Without the support and involvement of clubs and their members this would not have been possible.

Our thanks to Tony Edwards, Honorary Vice President of Worcestershire County Golf, who retired as our Chief Referee after many years of leading our County Rules Officials and supporting our clubs, competitions and matches. Thanks also to Mark Hewlett who stepped down from the junior team setup.

Our new format, electronic newsletter was introduced early in the year. The new format will enable us to provide members with more regular and accessible updates on County golf and news generally. We also continue to provide news regularly through our Facebook feed and have made some changes to the County website, which will hopefully allow members to find information more easily.

Golfing

Adam Norman (Moseley GC) takes over as County Captain and Simon Green (Worcester G&CC) takes over as 2nd team captain; Anthony Hill continues to lead the seniors team. They are joined by Junior Captains, Nicholas Campbell (U14), Oli Badger (U16) and Mark Hewlett (U18). The organisation of Junior golf continues to develop. Anthony Hill our Director of Golf co-ordinates Junior golf matters working with team managers Luke Perry (U14), Mark Evans (U16) and Kevin Fee (U18).

Details of County competition results and other notable achievements are attached to this report, including the outstanding performance by our under 18 boys' team in qualifying for the England Golf county finals by winning the Midlands region qualifying event involving nine other counties.

Our current coaching and development programme is delivering 54 hours coaching to our U14 players in conjunction with the England Golf Talent Pathway and 16 hours to our U18's, including both on course and technical coaching. We have initiated a review of our development programme and are working with England Golf to develop our programme going forward.

WHS & Course Rating

With the introduction of the new rules under the World Handicapping System (WHS) we have supported clubs in understanding the changes, answering queries, and offering advice to clubs in both Worcestershire and Herefordshire. We have also delivered rules of golf presentations to clubs on request.

Over the last twelve months, the County Course Rating Team has provided eleven clubs with updated or additional course ratings. These have included additional ratings for tees for men and women, winter course ratings and full re-ratings for three clubs. In 2024, plans are in place to fully re-rate courses at five clubs as part of the current 10 year rating cycle. Further details of the provisional course re-rating schedule for all Worcestershire clubs can be found on the County website.

Working with Worcestershire & Herefordshire Ladies County Golf Ltd

While we have not yet reached the stage of being able to recommend merging into a single county body, we continue to seek opportunities to work together where beneficial. As well as operating a joint course rating team we now have a single WHS County Advisor and this year the county boys' and girls' championships will be played together at Bewdley Pines GC. We have also rationalised the process by which England Golf U14 coaching grants are managed.

Policies Mandated by England Golf

We have adopted England Golf ratified Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, and Disciplinary policies as part of the affiliation agreement with England Golf. We have also renewed our England Golf SafeGolf accreditation.

2023 RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

County Championship	
Champion (Centenary Putter)	Steve Lane (The Worcestershire GC)
Philip Padmore Trophy	Jack Belli (Stourbridge GC)
Youth Champion	James Ilsley (Stourbridge GC)
GD Carr Cup	Steve Lane (The Worcestershire GC)
Thomson-James Cup (A Teams)	Worcester G&CC and Hagley GC Joint Winners
Jubilee Shield (B Teams)	The Worcestershire GC
Senior County Championship	
Champion (Nevil Carroll Salver)	Grant Wilson (Kings Norton GC)
Runner Up	Duncan MacPherson (Worcester G&CC)
Best Nett (Denis Hayes Salver)	Terry Martin (Rose Hill GC)
Boys' County Championship	
Champion (Mansell Cup)	Cassius Blake (Moseley GC)
Runner Up	Mark Hewlett (Gaudet Luce GC)
Best Nett (Rigbey Cup)	Teddy Fee (Gaudet Luce GC)
U16 Champion (Brian Peplow Trophy)	George Stephens (The Vale GC)
U14 Champion (Jim Gray Trophy)	Alex Perry (Gaudet Luce GC)
Winning Club (Miram Salver)	Gaudet Luce GC
Worcestershire Open Championship	Not played
Worcestershire Matchplay Championship	
Champion (Derek Greey Cup)	Steve Lane (The Worcestershire GC)
Runner Up	Ben Wadley (Blackwell GC)
Senior Matchplay Championship	
Champion (Senior Matchplay Salver)	Chris Gadd (Kings Norton GC)
Runner Up	Laurence Hawker (Kings Norton GC)
Boys' Matchplay Championship	
Champion (John Fraser Cup)	Phillip Krone (Moseley GC)
Runner Up	Elliot Jones (Droitwich GC)
Senior Fourball Championship	
Champions (Wharrad Jugs)	Mark Dunkley (Moseley GC) & Chris Norman (Moseley GC)
Best Nett (Aberdovey Salvors)	John Mangan (Hollywood GC) & Trevor Perry (Hollywood GC)
Redditch Trophy (Club Knockout)	
Winners	Little Lakes GC
Runners Up	Dudley GC
Droitwich Shield (Club Knockout)	
Winners	Hagley GC
Runners Up	Kings Norton GC
Kidderminster Cup (Club Knockout)	
Winners	Kings Norton GC
Runners Up	Moseley GC

R&A Salver (Club Knockout)	
Winners	Bransford GC
Runners Up	Halesowen GC
Boulton Salver	
Winners	Steven Clarke & Matt Ruffinato (Kidderminster GC)
Runners Up	Stephen Hull & Joshua Rose (Hagley GC)
Brandhall Gold Vase	
Winners	Gaudet Luce GC
Best Individual Nett Score (EGU Salver)	Tom Leatherbarrow (Gaudet Luce GC)
Club Team Handicap Tournament	
Winning Team (Dave McDermott Bowl)	Bransford GC
Individual Winner (Brenda Smith Cup)	Ben Upfield (Gaudet Luce GC)
County Mixed Competition	
Mixed Salvors Winners	Lesley & Andrew Lammas (Bransford GC)
Runners Up	Sally Smith & Alex Emms (The Vale GC)
Captain & Guest	
Winners	Simon Markey & Neil Barrett (Stourbridge GC)
Runners Up	Dean Pointon & Chris Hobbs (Gaudet Luce GC)
Peter Adams Trophy	
	Dudley GC
Presidents Shield (most 1st team pts)	
	Nathan Slater (Bewdley Pines GC)
Chandler Shield (most 2nd team pts)	
	Mark Hewlett Jnr (Gaudet Luce GC)
Bolton Shield (most Senior team pts)	
	Phil Dyke (Bromsgrove GC)
Cunningham Trophy (most Boys team pts)	
	Tom Blizzard (Droitwich GC)
Bill Thompson Trophy (most U16 boys team pts)	
	Alex Perry (Gaudet Luce GC)
Senior Rookie of the Year	
	John Mangan (Hollywood GC)
Worcestershire Boys Order of Merit	
John Moreton Trophy	Joint winners: Jake Tipper (Gaudet Luce GC) & Leo Edwards (Gaudet Luce GC)

In addition to the above County results there were many notable golfing achievements in 2023, including:	
Selection for England U18 International Teams	Hugh Adams (Hagley GC)
MGU Boys County Champions 2023 and England Golf County Championship Qualifier Winners	Cassius Blake, Hugh Adams, Tom Blizzard, Mark Hewlett Jnr, James Ilsley, Phillip Krone
English Golf Boys' County Championships Finals	4th place
U16 West Midland League Winners	Oliver Badger, Euan Choi, Harry Evans, Harry Fall, Teddy Fee, Joesph Lonergan, Alex Perry, Callum Jones, Hayden Sarfo, George Stephens
U14 Midland County Cup Winners	Alex Perry, Haydon Sarfo, Harry Evans, Oliver Badger, Jake Jeff-Johnstone, Max Wesley
U16 League Tri-Match Trophy Winners	George Stephens, Teddy Fee, Harry Evans, Alex Perry, Oliver Badger, Harry Fall, Joseph Lonergan, Callum Jones
Midland U14 Champion of Champions winner	Alex Perry (Gaudet Luce GC)
MGU Senior Pairs Winners	Bill Thompson (Kings Norton) & Steve Green (Rose Hill)

Other Notable Achievements (cont)	
MGU Midland U16 Boys Stableford Winner	Harry Evans (Gaudet Luce GC)
Stowe Putter 2023 Winner	Hayden Sarfo (Worcester G&CC)
English Open for Players with a Disability Championship Runner Up	Tom Blizzard (Droitwich GC)
English Open for Players with a Disability Nett Competition Runner up	Robert Parsons (Kings Norton GC)
Justin Rose Telegraph Junior Championship Runner Up	Phillip Krone (Moseley GC)