

English Women's County Finals / Stoneham Golf Club, 16th to 18th September 2022

A fabulous result for Bucks - we were second at National Finals - our best result ever. At one point we thought we could win, but Essex won all their matches and were worthy winners.

Final Table

	Win	Loss	Tie	Match Points	Game Points
Essex	5	0	0	10	16.5
Buckinghamshire	4	1	0	8	14.5
Nottinghamshire	3	2	0	6	12
Cheshire	1	4	0	2	11.5
Somerset	1	4	0	2	11
Kent	1	4	0	2	9.5

Buckinghamshire Team:

Ella Butteriss (Beaconsfield)
Megan Dennis (Woburn)
Ciara Egan (Woburn)
Thalia Kirby (Harleyford)
Alice Kozlowski (Ellesborough)
Lulu Leetham (Buckingham)
Georgia Lloyd (Buckingham)
Rachel MacKinlay (Harewood Downs)
Lily Robinson (Buckingham)
Roisin Scanlon (Woburn)

Captain's Report

Women's County National Finals were held at Stoneham GC from 16th to 18th September 2022. This is the competition for the winning counties from each of the regional County Match Weeks. Buckinghamshire represent Midlands South and the other counties are:

North - Cheshire

Midlands North - Nottinghamshire

East - Essex

South - Kent

South West - Somerset

Friday Morning

We started with a match against Essex, who have won National Finals on several occasions and proved to be very strong opponents. Alice & Lily took their match to the last hole but lost 1 down. Megan & Ciara tied their foursomes. Thalia had a great 7&6 win, but Roisin and Ella both lost their singles, so a loss 1½ to 3½.

Friday Afternoon

In the afternoon we played Cheshire. Alice & Rachel lost their foursomes and Roisin & Lulu tied their match. On the 7th hole, a short par 4, the Cheshire pair chipped in for an eagle 2 and Lulu then holed a putt from the edge of the green to half the hole in eagle! In the singles, Thalia and Megan both won on the 16th hole. Lily had a great comeback from 6 down after 9 holes. On the 18th tee Lily was 1 down and being the final match of the day, both teams were following the match. When they go to the green, in front of the clubhouse, Lily holed a 15 foot downhill putt to half her match and give Bucks a win by 3 to 2, to resounding cheers from all the Bucks team and supporters.

At the end of Friday, Essex and Notts had won 2 matches, Somerset and Bucks won 1 and lost 1, and Cheshire and Kent lost 2.

Saturday Morning

On Saturday morning we played Somerset, who were runners up in the 2021 National Finals. Alice & Lily lost 1 down, but Ella & Ciara won their foursomes 6&4. In the first singles it was Wales v Ireland, with Harriet Lockley from Somerset & Wales against Roisin from Bucks & Ireland with Roisin winning 4&3. Thalia won her match 5&4 but Megan lost 4&2 to another very strong opponent. Overall a win 3 to 2.

Saturday Afternoon

On Saturday afternoon we played Kent. Megan & Ciara won their foursomes, but Lulu & Georgia lost 2&1. In the singles all the girls won. Ella won 7&6 and Alice won on the 17th. Roisin was 1 up on the 18th tee, put her second shot on the green (460 yard steeply uphill par 5), just missed her eagle putt but won the hole with a tap in birdie. Overall a 4 to 1 win.

At the end of Saturday, Essex had won 4 matches, Bucks and Notts had won 3 matches, Somerset and Cheshire had won 1 match and Kent had lost all 4.

Sunday Morning

After the four matches we were in second place on countback from Notts, who we were playing on Sunday. Essex were paying Somerset, so both Bucks and Notts still had a chance of winning National Finals, so our match was key to the final results. If Somerset beat Essex then the winner of the Bucks v Notts match could win if they won by a sufficient margin.

Everyone was checking the scores as they came through, and initially it looked good – we were up in most of our matches and Essex were down. Then the Somerset v Essex match turned around and Essex came back to lead in three of the matches, and we went behind in a couple of our matches.

Thalia won her singles 7&6 so we had one win confirmed. Megan & Ciara and Alice & Lily both lost their foursomes, so it was 2 – 1 to Notts with the final two singles being crucial.

Roisin was 2 up playing the 16th which was halved in pars and then she halved the 17th to win 2&1, so it was 2 -2 – all on the final singles match. Ella had a very tough opponent in Amelia Wan, a member of the England Girls team, who so far at Stoneham had played 4 singles and won all easily. Ella's short game was working well, and she was 3 up on the 16th, but lost the hole, so on to the 17th. Amelia was on the green in 2 and Ella was in another bunker. Ella managed a half on the hole to win the match and give Bucks and overall 3 to 2 win.

Final Result

In the end, Essex beat Somerset 3 to 2, so were worthy winners of National Finals with wins in all their matches.

Bucks were runners up, winning 4 of our matches, our only loss being to Essex. This is the best we have ever managed in National Finals – 4th place was our previous best on a couple of occasions.

Thanks for all the cards and good wishes from Bucks ladies, and thanks to all the supporters and especially parents who came along to watch and to caddy.

Well done to all the team. The standard of golf at national finals is extremely high, with lots of players who have won national competitions and/or are part of the England national teams.

It was a pleasure to be captain – the girls were delightful and all the matches were played in great spirit and there were lots of smiles and laughs.

Finally I must thank four very important people:

Tony Bowers, our county coach, who was our team advisor on the course, dashing round in his buggy keeping an eye on the matches and giving words of advice and encouragement as needed

Lynda Hilton, our county president, who spent the whole time out supporting the girls and, with Helen, was responsible for the fabulous buggy decorations

Helen Mines, who sorted out all the logistics – getting everyone from the hotel to the club, making sure we all had the right shirts to wear, and arranging all our meals and accommodation

Susanna Mitterer, my vice-captain, who caddied in every session and dashed to the shops if we were ever short of essential supplies (mainly Maltesers & chocolate).

Janet Beal

County Captain

September 21st 2022