

Captain's Report

Women's County National Finals were held at Denham GC from 17th to 19th September 2021. This was the first time National Finals has been run using the 'short' (2½) day format. Each match consists of 2 foursomes and 3 singles games.

Friday Morning

We started with a match against Yorkshire, traditionally one of the strongest counties. Daisy Kennedy & Lily Robinson had a great win, but Grace Rigby-Walden & Ella Butteriss lost their foursomes, and Olivia Lee, Roisin Scanlon and Alice Kozlowski all lost their singles matches.

Friday Afternoon

In the afternoon we played Lincolnshire. Daisy & Lily lost their foursomes, but Ciara Egan & Lulu Leetham had a great win 8&6 in their foursomes. A great start for Lulu in her first match for the county first team. In the singles Olivia, Alice and Roisin all won their matches.

Saturday Morning

We started with a match against Surrey, who had won both their matches on Friday. Rachel Mackinlay played her first match for the first team in the foursomes with Grace and lost a very tight match. Ciara & Lulu halved their match. In the singles, Lily played Lottie Woad and lost her match, Ella had a great win and Olivia lost her match.

Saturday Afternoon

The afternoon's match was against Somerset, who had won Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, and proved to be very tough opponents. Ciara & Lulu lost their foursomes, Alice & Daisy played together and won their match. In the singles, Ella and Grace both lost their matches, and Roisin had a great win.

Sunday Morning

After the four matches we were at the bottom of the leaderboard and were keen to improve our position. The forecast was for heavy rain, but fortunately this didn't arrive and we just had some light showers around midday, when the last match had a couple of holes to play. Our foursomes pairs of Alice & Ciara and Grace & Lily both won their matches. In the singles, Ellie Lichtenhein played her first match for the first team against a very experienced and in form opponent and lost her match. Olivia Lee managed to win the last 2 holes to tie her match, and Roisin Scanlon had an excellent win.

Final Results

We ended up in 4th place, losing out on 3rd place on countback to Yorkshire. Surrey won all 5 matches, and Somerset were second with 3 wins.

Thanks for all the cards and good wishes from Bucks ladies, and thanks to all the supporters who came along to watch. It was great to see so much red around the course.

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. We had 3 girls who had not played for the county first team before, and they all proved that they deserved their place in the team.

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 three very important people:

Tony Bowers, out 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 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

Janet Beal

County Captain

September 20th, 2021