

Junior Golf Newsletter – Autumn 2011.

Cheshire County Junior Golf has had another exceptionally busy season. We would like to thank all Junior Organisers across the County whose work and enthusiasm provides an essential and invaluable contribution to the success of our junior golfers.

Cheshire Boys Match Reports:

Boys Pre-season

The Boys Pre Season event took place at Warrington Golf Club on the 6th March. A total of 32 boys from clubs throughout the county had their first run out of the season.

Those attending were drawn from the U18 and U16 squads, together with promising younger players. This event was used to assess the players' form in readiness for the Four Counties Tournament which was held at Crewe Golf Club 20th / 21st April.

To add some competitive edge a Stableford event was run for the players. Matt Taylor (Crewe GC) won the best gross with Jordan Jones (Delamere Forest GC) runner-up. Joseph Madden (Royal Liverpool GC) won the nett prize.

At the presentation, Mike Jones (Boys Team Manager) announced the following team for the Four Counties Junior Tournament:

Oliver Carr (Heswall GC), Joshua Garside (Prestbury), Jordan Jones (Delamere Forest), Joseph Madden (Royal Liverpool), Cameron Massey (Chorlton cum Hardy), James Newton (Prestbury), Matt Taylor (Crewe) and Daniel Young (Prestbury).

Boys v Cheshire Seniors

A practice match was arranged at Crewe Golf Club prior to the Four Counties Tournament. The boys enjoyed a narrow 2 ½ – 1 ½ victory. The matches were all closely fought and it proved an extremely worthwhile exercise. A notable half was achieved by Cameron Massey and Jordan Jones against Phil Jones and Ron Harrison – the boys birdied the last 2 holes to gain their half.

The Four Counties Tournament

The annual event took place in heat wave conditions at the excellently presented Crewe GC. Cheshire swept to impressive victories over Lancashire, Nottinghamshire and Shropshire and Herefordshire in the round robin match play format. This gave Cheshire a record 15th victory in the tournament. There was some outstanding golf played throughout the Tournament – none better than that in the match between fellow England Internationals Oliver Carr and Paul Kinnear (Lancashire) whose match finished all square with both players birdieing the last hole to finish 6 under par.

Boys v Bromborough GC

The boys lost 13 ½ - 4 ½ to a strong Bromborough team which included 4 professionals. The boys' team was weakened by the absence of the 2 England squad members (Oliver Carr and James Newton). The match provided a wakeup call for the boys as the golf played by Bromborough was of a very high standard.

Cheshire Boys v Lancashire Boys

The annual Cheshire Boys match against Lancashire Boys was played at Dunham Forest Golf Club on Monday 27th June 2011. The match was closely fought with the last match proving decisive in giving Lancashire a narrow victory by 9 ½ - 8 ½. Dunham Forest was in excellent condition and our thanks to all concerned in providing an outstanding venue for the fixture.

Cheshire Boys v Derbyshire Boys (MA) at Hale GC

This was a mixed age match and resulted in a narrow 9 ½ - 8 ½ victory for Cheshire. The morning foursomes went Cheshire's way by 4 - 2. Derbyshire battled well in the afternoon and wins late in the order by John-Paul Ralph (RLGC) and Joe Nono (Ringway GC) secured victory for Cheshire.

EGU Northern Group Championship at Wilmslow GC.

Cheshire finished a disappointing fourth behind Yorkshire, Lancashire and Durham. Each County is represented by 6 players who play 36 holes of medal golf. The best 5 gross scores in the morning and afternoon sessions count and the winner is the County with the lowest aggregate score for the 10 rounds. The morning session saw Lancashire leading with a combined score of -7. Cheshire were lying third with a score of +2. Oliver Carr (Heswall GC) had the best Cheshire score of 67 (-5) with Ryan Jackson (Reddish Vale GC) the only other player under par (-2).

The afternoon brought a remarkable turnaround with Yorkshire storming through to a narrow victory. Yorkshire's combined afternoon score was -9 with all their players under par. The overall total was -3 with Lancashire finishing a close second at +2. Cheshire fell away in the afternoon with a combined score of +14. Oliver Carr again excelled with a 71 gross and Ryan Jackson also had an impressive Championship and finished at -1 for the 36 holes. Several other Cheshire players did not bring their best game to the event and we finished 16 over par. The format is a difficult one for the players and it is a stiff learning curve.

Cheshire Boys v North Wales Boys at Caernarfon GC

An exciting day was experienced in North Wales. Cheshire were trailing 4-2 after the morning foursomes. The afternoon brought a spirited fight back by the Cheshire team. They started well with wins for the top 4 players and a half from Cameron Massey (Chorlton-cum-Hardy) at number 5. The next 5 matches went to North Wales 3-2. This left Cheshire in a losing position with the last 2 players both 1 down standing on the 18th tee. However, Joe Armitt (Prestbury GC) and Simon Smith (Leasowe GC) both birdied the last hole to gain a ½ point each and give Cheshire victory by 9 ½ - 8 ½.



Players back L to R: Matt Darwent, Simon Smith, Josh Dye, James Hornsby, Alex Pritchard, and Cameron Massey

Front: Joe Armitt, Rob Potter, Dan Young, Josh Garside, and Adam Charnock.

Cheshire Boys v Staffordshire Boys (MA) at Brookfield Golf Club

Cheshire lost to Staffordshire Boys in this mixed age match. Teams consisted of 4 players U 18, 4 players U16 and 4 players U14. The morning foursomes went to Staffordshire by 4 ½ - 1 ½. Despite losses for the top 2 Cheshire players in the afternoon, there was a partial recovery with 3 of the U14 games going Cheshire's way. However, a loss by 10 ½ - 7 ½ was a disappointing result.

Cheshire Boys v Lancashire Boys (MA) at Wigan GC

Cheshire were outplayed by an excellent Lancashire team losing 13 - 5. Several of our players played solidly but were beaten by opponents who were playing subpar golf. However, there were some excellent performances again from our U14 players who contributed the majority of the points won by Cheshire. The teams for this match consisted of 4 players U16, 4 players U15 and 4 players U14.

Cheshire Boys v Yorkshire Boys at Shipley Golf Club

Cheshire Boys travelled to Shipley Golf Club and took on a typically strong Yorkshire team. Cheshire won the morning foursomes series by 4 - 2 and were strongly placed for the afternoon series of singles. Injury to Cheshire Boys' Captain Oliver Carr (Heswall Golf Club) meant a walkover to Yorkshire in the first game. With Cheshire losing the next two games Yorkshire had the advantage. A spirited fight back resulted in the Cheshire Boys' winning five of the remaining nine games thus ensuring a halved match overall at 9 games each. Joe Armit (Prestbury GC), playing at number 12, was 2 down with 3 holes to play. However, he won all 3 holes thereby giving Cheshire a well-deserved draw.

Cheshire Boys v Cheshire Girls at Heswall Golf Club

The annual match was played in cold, windy conditions and resulted in a narrow 5-3 win for the boys. There were several close games which all eventually went the way of the boys. The boys had to give the girls full handicap difference and with the lads playing off the back blue tees they had to be at their best to win. A very enjoyable day was had by all and in addition to the golf being of the highest order the match was played in an exemplary spirit.



Back L to R: Sophie Blackwell, Poppy Finlay, Ella McClintock, Catherine Bedford, James Hornsby, Ollie Carr, Will Pennington, Cameron Massey.

Front L to R: Charlotte Leathem, Emily Andrews, Abbie Cowland, Gemma Clews, Josh Garside, Matt Jordan, Dan Young.

Details of the above matches can be found on the website - [Junior Golf Results link](#).

The Matthew Brown Cup

The mixed Cheshire Boys/Girls Junior Team won the fifth Mathew Brown Cup against the Balearics Team at Son Parc GC in Menorca over the weekend of 22nd/23rd October. The boys were represented by Cameron Massey (Chorlton-cum-Hardy) and Jack Duncalf (Sandiway). Charlotte Leathem (Styal) and Poppy Finlay (Vicars Cross) made up the girls' team. The team also played within the Menorcan U16 Open, where Cameron won the individual championship with rounds of 68+69 = 137. Cameron was 3 shots clear of the Lancashire player, Haydn McCullen. Charlotte was third with 73 +70 = 143. The Mathew Brown Cup is decided by the best gross plus the best two nett scores over each of the two rounds of the U16 Open and Cheshire won by a convincing margin – 423 against 447.



L to R: Barbara Baird (CCLGA Girls Team Manager), Poppy Finlay, Charlotte Leathem, Win Heath (Captain CCLGA), Jack Duncalf, Cameron Massey and Mike Jones (Boys Team Manager).

Son Parc was in great condition and we are again extremely grateful once again to Hugh Brown for his generosity in funding the event which is held in memory of his grandson, Matthew.

Championship reports:

The second Cheshire Junior Champion Club Team Championship was held at Stockport Golf Club on Friday 3rd June. There were thirty four participating teams - each represented by 3 players. The format is based on the EGU National Junior Club Finals event with the two best individual stableford scores counting.

Alsager Golf Club represented by Harry Livingstone (handicap18) 39 points, Marcus Mac Guillray (14) 38 points and Tom Lawton (9) 34 points were this year's Champions with a team score of 77 points. Alsager represented Cheshire at the national finals which were held at Woodhall Spa on 20th & 21st August 2011.

Portal Premier, Prestbury and Upton by Chester were joint runners up with 76 points. Disley Golf Club, represented by Robert Potter, Tom Christie and Matt Oxley won the Bob Meston Trophy for the best gross score of 60 points.

The 47th Cheshire Boys Championship was held at the Delamere Forest Golf Club on Friday 29th July and some outstanding golf was played. James Newton (Prestbury GC) scored consecutive rounds of 66 for a two round total of 132 (12 under par) to comprehensively beat the field. Robert Potter (Disley Golf Club) was runner up with a score of 139 which included a course record equalling second round of 65. Defending champion, Oliver Carr (Heswall Golf Club), was third with a score of 140. Joseph Nono (Ringway Golf Club) won the nett prize with a score of 138 playing off a handicap of 5.

In addition to the low scoring by the winners, Thomas Johnson (Congleton Golf Club) recorded an albatross 2 on the 18th in the morning round.

James Newton represented the Cheshire Union of Golf Clubs in the Junior Champion of Champions Tournament at Woodhall Spa on 17th September 2011.

The 28th Junior Championship (U 16 years) was played at Helsby GC on Wednesday 3rd August. The players ranged in age from 9 to 16 years. The standard of play was impressive and augurs well for the future of junior golf. Cameron Massey (Chorlton-cum-Hardy GC) was crowned Junior Champion with a record equalling score of 68. Joe Nono (Ringway GC) was runner-up with a score of 72. The Under 14 Champion was Jack Duncalf (Sandiway GC) also with a 72. Runner-up in the Under 14 group was Harry Barnes (Caldy GC) with a 76.

The Under 16 best nett winner was James Kempster of Stamford GC, with his club mate Archie Palmer winning the Under 14 prize. Theo Whitely (Bramall Park GC) won the Under 12 nett prize.

Winter Coaching:

The County U18 and U16 squads have been announced and the boys will receive coaching from Alan Thompson and Peter Barber at Heswall Golf Club over the winter. The programme will also include sessions for each squad at Formby Hall Golf Academy.

U18 squad: James Newton (Prestbury), Jordan Jones (Delamere Forest), Matt Taylor (Crewe), Josh Garside (Prestbury), Thomas Lawton (Alderley Edge), Matt Darwent (Sandiway), Will Pennington (Heswall), Sean Millward (Caldy), Cameron Massey (Chorlton), Rob Potter (Disley), Dan Chapman (Sandiway), Matt Robinson (Eaton) and Dan Swales (Sandiway).

U 16 squad: Matthew Jordan (RLGC), Lewis George (Delamere Forest), Sam Turner (Stockport), George Osborne (Ringway), Curtis Brokenbrow (Reddish Vale), Ben Richards (Sandiway), Jack Duncalf (Sandiway), Jo Nono (Ringway), Harry Barnes (Caldy), Rhys Nevin-Wharton (Sandiway), Matthew Myers (Portal) and Benjamin Hallam (Wychwood Park).

The Sandfield Driving Range Assessment sessions took place from the 7th -15th November. In the region of 90 boys were invited to take part with a number being offered further coaching (3x2 hours) from the County coaches – Alan Thompson, Peter Barber, Scott Booth and Robin Thompson.

The following boys have been selected to receive EGU sponsored coaching in the North West England region - Lewis George, Matthew Jordan, Jack Duncalf, Rhys Nevin-Wharton, Jo Nono and Matthew Myers.

We are pleased to announce that Oliver Carr has now progressed to the England A squad and James Newton has retained his place in the England Boys squad.

Representative Honours:

Oliver Carr (Heswall) represented England on several occasions at U18 level and as a member of the England team for the Boys Home International Championship he gained 5 ½ out of a possible 6 points in this match play series.

Cameron Massey represented the England U16 team against Wales and Scotland.

Daily Telegraph Junior Golfer

Oliver Carr, James Newton and Will Pennington qualified for the final of the Daily Telegraph, Junior Golfer of the Year tournament in Abu Dhabi. Oliver qualified through his score of 65 in the Junior Open at Delamere Forest G.C., James scored 66 in the first round of the Cheshire Boys Championship and Will went around Heswall in 67 at their Junior Open. Congratulations to the boys.

Boys Captain 2011:

James Newton has been appointed the Junior County Captain for 2012 and we wish James and his team a successful year.

Other Junior Golf Activities in the County:

The Junior Leagues which run across the County continue to thrive. There are seven leagues in total with as many as twenty four clubs in the biggest (Mid Cheshire Junior League) which is itself subdivided into four leagues. Graham McCormack (Birchwood) continues to coordinate everything and our thanks to him for his continued hard work and enthusiasm and also to the other League organisers. Whilst the County have no direct role in the operation of the Leagues we are kept in touch by Graham who is now a member of the County Executive Committee. There is no doubt that League competitive golf is of immense value to the development of juniors in the County and we remain extremely grateful to all those involved in its success.

The Cheshire Schools Golf Association has had another busy year under the guidance of Allan Boswell and Darren Christian. Cheshire fielded strong entries in the North of England Schools Championships (Whickham GC, Co Durham) and the English Schools U 16 National Championships (Bolton Old Links GC). The event at Bolton had to be cancelled due to extreme weather conditions which was a great disappointment for everyone involved. As a result of the Championship at Whickham, Cameron Massey (Chorlton) was picked to represent the North at the National Championships at Belton Park (Lincolnshire) in June. The County would like to voice their appreciation for the work carried out by Allan and Darren in the running of the CSGA events. We are particularly grateful to the Liverpool and Manchester Societies of Golf Club Captains who provide financial support, in addition to the County, for the CSGA activities.

The County Academy Programme is entering its second year. There are 120 children who have been offered places for 2011/2012 (70 players from the first year will continue). An additional 2 coaches have been appointed giving a total of 10 who will each coach 12 players. The groups of 12 will be split into development and advanced squads and each coach will provide 12 hours of coaching over the period from October 2011 to March 2012 to both the squads. This Programme remains a County Golf Partnership (CGP) initiative. The CGP receives funding from Sport England via the English Golf Partnership to promote grass roots golf. It should be noted that of the 50 new players chosen in the region of 60% do not have a golf handicap and the coaches feel that several of these players show great potential.

The Programme could not have progressed as well as it has without the tremendous amount of work carried out by Craig Thomas, Mel Flude, Danielle Wilkinson and Iain Seath (County Academy Co-Ordinator). The coaches have shown tremendous enthusiasm in their work with the youngsters and the coaching sessions we witnessed were of high quality. The 2010/2011 season culminated in a series of four mini-tour events and, again, at the courses we attended the standard of golf was good but the enthusiasm of all involved was outstanding. The Academy had a tremendous first year and hopefully it will stimulate young people to stay in golf and also provide the County with a further stream of elite players in the future.

Ray Simm - November 2011