

# HERTFORDSHIRE GOLF 2025

**CELEBRATING  
EXCELLENCE AND  
INSPIRING THE FUTURE**



[www.hertfordshiregolf.org](http://www.hertfordshiregolf.org)





# INTRODUCTION

Following the positive response to our 2023 and 2024 end-of-year publications, we're excited to bring you the third edition, celebrating the highlights of another memorable year for Hertfordshire Golf.

This review gives the opportunity to shine a spotlight on the winners of our major events. Thanks to the work of the Championships Committee, headed up by Alan Thomson, our county programme continues to offer something for everyone—whether you're competing in handicap or scratch events, Junior, U35, Mid-Age, Men's, Women's, Seniors, Mixed or Team events and it is encouraging to see that most of these events had a full playing field. Congratulations to all our 2025 winners.

Our eight team managers, supported by Player Development Director, Karen Bond, and her committee, do an outstanding job selecting and supporting the best teams possible to represent Hertfordshire at inter-county level. It's hard to quantify just how much hard work goes on behind the scenes to support the players in their quest for victory - organising fixtures, managing kit and coaching, budgeting, attending matches and, not least, providing moral support – and all delivered by volunteers.

It's been a season of near misses with our U18 Boys narrowly missing out on a national title. Their attitude, sportsmanship and demeanour even in defeat were a credit to Hertfordshire and they represented us extremely well. The U16 Boys also performed well, reaching the South Eastern Group, Eastern Division Regional Final. A highlight of the season came from the Women's Seniors, who capped off a glorious season with a resounding 6–0 victory over Cambs & Hunts in their final match, to win the East Region Golf League. Huge congratulations.

We are also pleased to give you an insight into the work carried out by the Golf Development Committee, chaired by Rowena Hemmings and supported by our full-time employee Matt Crowhurst, which continues to do amazing work to grow the game at grass-roots level. Their work with Girlguiding, the UK's largest youth organisation for girls, has given many young girls the opportunity to develop their golfing skills. In addition, the iTour and Futures Tour programmes, run by Matt, offer inclusive pathways for junior golfers of all ages and abilities.

We know that recognising and nurturing talent by providing structured pathways can pay dividends and

don't quite make it to these heady heights, we hope the county's support engenders a lifelong love for the game in a fun and inclusive environment.

We thank our team of staff for all their dedicated work, Matt Crowhurst, County Development Officer, Clare Mulvaney, our new office administrator, Matt Clarke, Assistant County Secretary, and of course Louis Matamala, our County Secretary, whose knowledge and professionalism is second to none. But, of course, their good work could not be achieved without our team of volunteers - from starters, referees, team managers, Board Directors and many more who help to deliver our events and support the game at all levels - and we are indebted to them all.

“Our county programme continues to offer something for everyone - whether you're competing in handicap or scratch events.”

we are proud of the county's young players who have gone on to enjoy success at national and international level. We are delighted to celebrate and share in their success, so please read on to find out more about Harry Cox, Ben Sessions and Sophia Fullbrook, whose achievements this year have made us proud. Some of our amateur golfers go on to have successful careers as professionals on tour, while many others have found fulfilling roles in the golfing industry. And for those who

We hope you enjoy this special edition and share in celebrating another fantastic year for Hertfordshire Golf.

**Janet Biscoe**  
Marketing and Communications Director

**Cover features**

Will Lyons, Hanbury Manor  
Antoni Hawkins, Sandy Lodge  
Mawgan Vater, Porters Park

Darcie West, Sandy Lodge  
Amiya Raja, Moor Park  
Deborah Lear, Hadley Wood

# BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF



**Bobby Kendall**  
Chair



**Jane Walter**  
President



**Janet Biscoe**  
Marketing & Communications



**Karen Bond**  
Player Development



**Jane Clarke**  
Club Services



**Rowena Hemmings**  
Golf Development



**Liz Perrottet**  
Without Portfolio



**Simon Shepherd**  
Without Portfolio



**Alan Thomson**  
Championships



**Suzanne Thrower**  
Without Portfolio



**Don Ward**  
Finance



**Louis Matamala**  
County Secretary



**Matt Clarke**  
Assistant County Secretary



**Matt Crowhurst**  
County Development Officer



**Clare Mulvaney**  
Office Administrator



# HONORARY MEMBERSHIP FOR JOHN AMBRIDGE



John Ambridge of Moor Park was elected an Honorary Member of Hertfordshire Golf at the county's AGM in March. The award recognises John's longevity of association with the county which spans over 55 years and includes outstanding playing contributions both as an individual and team member. John has represented the county at all levels - boys, men and seniors.



John Ambridge receives Honorary Membership badge from outgoing President Robin Colbourne



Herts Team circa 1978

Lord Warden Rye 36 hole course record 1996



County Championship Moor Park June 1982



Herts 1985 English County Finals Team

**John's achievements include:**

- Malcolm Reid Trophy winner 1972 for best Under 16s score at County Boys Championship at Porters Park GC
- Three times Men's County Champion: 1980 at Knebworth GC, 1982 at Moor Park GC and 1988 at West Herts GC and made the final in 2011 but lost to Jamie Rutherford at Moor Park GC
- County Men's Seniors Champion - 2014, 2016 & 2021
- Part of winning Moor Park Men's Champion Club teams - five times since 2000 (2000/2002/2005/2010 and 2014) and winner of Men's County Foursomes Championship title
- Numerous amateur course records, including best 36 hole total at Rye for the Lord Warden men's scratch in 1996
- Played in two Open Championships, 1981 at Royal St Georges GC and 1987 at Muirfield GC and 2014 Senior Open Championship at Royal Porthcawl GC
- Represented England at Senior Men's level – Home Internationals 2012 and 2013
- Member of winning Hertfordshire Men's team at English County Championship 1986 at John O'Gaunt GC
- International Seniors Championship wins in Europe and Asia/Pacific Region
- Member of winning Hertfordshire Senior Men's team at English Senior County Championship 2012 at Heworth GC
- Honorary member at West Herts and Centenary Club Captain at Moor Park GC

# YOUR COUNTY NEEDS YOU

Are you looking to give something back to this wonderful game we all love? There are many ways you can help us in our mission to support, develop and grow the game in Hertfordshire.

If you would like to learn more about the opportunities to help out and the training provided then please take a look at our website or email our County Secretary, Louis Matamala - [secretary@hertfordshiregolf.org](mailto:secretary@hertfordshiregolf.org)

Opportunities to get involved range from on-course roles such as starters, ball spotters and referees to more administration and strategy-based committee work. There's something for everyone. Our Director of Golf, Rowena Hemmings, a volunteer for over 20 years would love to have more support at the events she and her team put on to grow participation and make golf in Hertfordshire more accessible to all.

**“VOLUNTEERING IS SO REWARDING. YOU WOULD BE AMAZED AT WHAT A DIFFERENCE IT COULD MAKE TO SOMEONE'S LIFE AND THE ENJOYMENT ON THEIR FACES WOULD MAKE YOU WANT TO DO EVEN MORE.”**

**Rowena Hemmings**  
Director of Golf Development







Boys Champion Patrick Donovan with June Morgan, President of the ESGA



# MARVELLOUS MARCH



Junior Champion Club winners Louie Avci, Ronnie Shinkwin and Finlay O'Connor with President Jane Walter



Eve Warren  
Schools Mid Handicap  
Champion

The **2025 County Golf** season teed off in style with the rescheduled Herts Schools Rosebowl taking place at Mill Green Golf Club, after the original October 2024 date was postponed due to heavy rain.

The Herts Rosebowl is a prestigious scratch competition open to players with handicaps of 12 or below for boys and 18 or below for girls. This year's tournament drew an impressive field of 68 talented young golfers, showcasing the depth of junior golf talent in the county.

The **Girls Championship** saw Tala Clarke of Marriotts School shoot 76 to regain the title she previously held in 2022/23.

In the **Boys Championship** Patrick Donovan of Richard Hale School took the title on countback from schoolmate Louie Bloxham and Callum McCarthy of Hitchin Boys School after the trio all carded 72s.

The **Girls U16 Championship** was won by Amelie Stewart of Richard Hale School while in the **Boys U16 Championship** 12-year-old Jack Wilkins of Roundwood Park School posted a one-over 73 to beat 13-year-old Rhian Morjaria of Sir John Lawes School by one shot.



Girls Champion Tala Clarke with June Morgan

In mid April the individual Junior Spring Meetings were played in conjunction with the Junior Champion Club event, with a full field of 72 boys and girls taking part at Redbourn Golf Club.

Tom Norman of Mid Herts won the Boys Spring Meeting Handicap prize with a best individual score of the day 42 points. Lilly Newton of Bishop's Stortford took the Girls Spring Handicap Cup on countback after she tied on 38 points with Keira Johnston of Harpenden.

The best scratch scores on the day were achieved by Tala Clarke of Knebworth for the girls with 39 points and 33 points from George Lancaster of Sandy Lodge for the boys.

Only five points separated the top six teams for Junior Champion Club. Aldenham's team of Louie Avci, Ronnie Shinkwin and Finlay O'Connor were crowned champions on countback.

Later in April, Mill Green Golf Club hosted the Schools Mid-Handicap Championship, which was won by Eve Warren. Eve, a student at Freman College and member at Knebworth, posted a fantastic winning score of 42 points to beat a 50 strong field of students from across the county.

Brocket Hall Golf Club hosted our County Fourball Championship, played on the Melbourne Course and a back six countback was required to determine David Miles and David Watson of Rickmansworth the winners with 43 points.



David Miles and David Watson  
County Fourball Champions



George Lancaster - Best  
Scratch score in Boys Spring  
Meeting with President Jane  
Walter



Lilly Newton - Girls Spring  
Cup Handicap winner with  
President Jane Walter



Tala Clarke - Best  
Scratch score in Girls  
Spring Meeting with  
President Jane Walter



Tom Norman  
Boys Spring  
Meeting  
Handicap winner



Girls U16 Champion Amelie Stewart with June Morgan



Boys U16 Champion Jack Wilkins with June Morgan

“THE GIRLS CHAMPIONSHIP SAW TALA CLARKE SHOOT 76 TO REGAIN THE TITLE SHE PREVIOUSLY HELD IN 2022/23.

THE BOYS CHAMPIONSHIP WAS HOTLY CONTESTED WITH PATRICK DONOVAN WINNING ON COUNTBACK.”



# MEMORABLE MAY



Ethan Akpan of Letchworth made good use of local knowledge to fire a three-under-par 68 and win the Men's Herts Salver. This event has always been kindly sponsored by the Society of Hertfordshire Golf Captains and is played at the home club of the current Captain of the Society, for 2025 Mr Nick Brookes.



Ethan Akpan with Nick Brookes

Mill Green Golf Club hosted the Schools' Team Championship which attracted a field of 21 teams and players with a handicap range from +4 to 27. St. Clement Danes School triumphed on the day.

The Men's Champion Club tournament was won for a third successive year by Letchworth. Over 36 holes strokeplay with all three players' scores counting, the defending champions fired an aggregate eight-under-par 430 at Stocks Golf Club. Phil Dormer, Dan Banbury and Niall Johnston secured the hat-trick of titles with a winning margin of 19 shots from The Hertfordshire.

Weather was unfortunately the winner at the Women's Spring Meeting when much to the frustration of 60 players from 13 clubs severe storm warnings meant play had to be abandoned after only seven holes at Sandy Lodge Golf Club.

A team of three, Tom Kilbey, Paul Nancarrow and Nick Davis from Old Fold Manor made the short trip across north London to Brookmans Park Golf Club and left with the title of Men's Senior Champion Club.



Tom Kilbey Paul Nancarrow and Nick Davis  
Men's Senior Champion Club winners

All players counted in the scratch 18 hole tournament and Tom Kilbey's best of the day level par 71 was key to the victory margin of two shots over Berkhamsted.

Sandy Lodge Golf Club enjoyed better weather for the rearranged Centenary Mixed Event which was originally scheduled for September 2024 to celebrate 100 years of county golf. Winners on the day were Matt Phillips and Julia Bashford of Aldwickbury Park with an amazing 48 stableford points in the better ball format.

Hertfordshire Boys retained The Cheshunt Salver when they defeated Essex Boys at West Essex Golf Club. This annual fixture sees six U18 boys and six U16 boys represent their county, playing foursomes in the morning and singles in the afternoon.



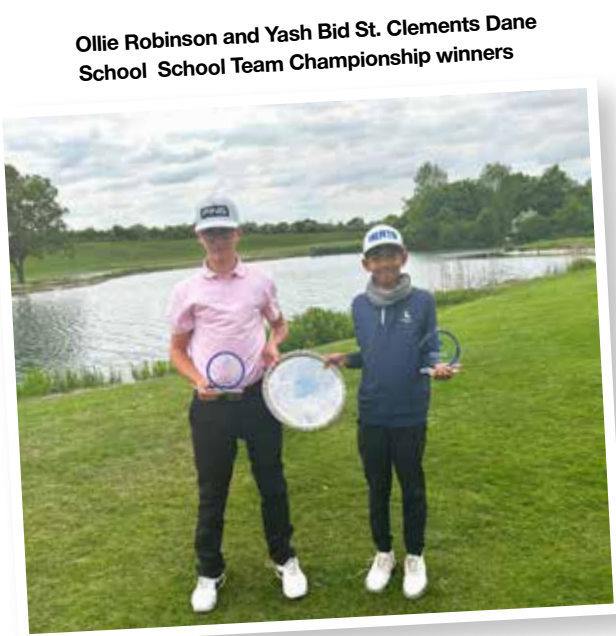
Matt Phillips and Julia Bashford  
win Centenary Mixed Event



Phil Dormer, Dan Banbury and Niall Johnston  
Men's Champion Club winners



Hertfordshire Boys retain The Cheshunt Salver



Ollie Robinson and Yash Bid St. Clements Dane  
School School Team Championship winners



# COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Our flagship Men’s and Women’s County Championships were competed for over four consecutive days at Berkhamsted Golf Club before Laurie Owen of Harpenden Common and Zainab Jeppe of Brocket Hall won their respective titles on Finals Day June 1st.

Laurie led after 36 holes of stroke-play but a play-off was required to determine 16th spot as the format moved to matchplay. In the women’s qualifying, Mawgan Vater of Porters Park took top seeding and with it the Scratch Aggregate Cup to lead the way moving into the last eight knock-out stage.

Both Laurie and Zainab came through extra holes in their semi-finals. Laurie holed a clutch putt on 18 before pipping county teammate Connor O’Brien of Brocket Hall on the 19th hole. Zainab was taken even further by Mawgan before she eventually triumphed on the 21st hole.

The afternoon finals attracted good spectator interest and they saw Zainab reverse her 2020 final defeat by Jackie Foster with a comfortable win. In the men’s final Adam Berg-Capin of Sandy Lodge rallied from four down with four to play but a par four on the 17th secured Laurie the title.

The 2026 Championships will be held at Ashridge Golf Club.

“BOTH SEMI-FINALS WENT TO EXTRA HOLES FOR LAURIE AND ZAINAB TO SECURE THEIR PLACE IN THE FINAL.”



June Laurie Owen and Zainab Jeppe  
Men’s and Women’s County Championship

## Women’s Final

Zainab Jeppe, Brocket Hall beat Jackie Foster, Bishop’s Stortford 5&4

## Women’s Semi-Finals

Zainab Jeppe, Brocket Hall beat Mawgan Vater, Porters Park 21 holes

Jackie Foster, Bishop’s Stortford beat Janine Cicchirillo Essendon 3&2

## Women’s Quarter-Finals

Mawgan Vater, Porters Park beat Riya Chandaria, Essendon 2 up

Zainab Jeppe, Brocket Hall beat Ava Gadsby, East Herts 21 holes

Jackie Foster, Bishop’s Stortford beat Amelie Stewart, Brocket Hall 1 up

Janine Cicchirillo, Essendon beat Haley Yerxa, Bishop’s Stortford 2&1

## Men’s Final

Laurie Owen, Harpenden Common beat Adam Berg-Capin, Sandy Lodge 2&1

## Men’s Semi-Finals

Laurie Owen, Harpenden Common beat Connor O’Brien, Brocket Hall 19 holes

Adam Berg-Capin, Sandy Lodge beat Thomas Turner, Harpenden Common 3&2

## Men’s Quarter-Finals

Laurie Owen, Harpenden Common beat Tony Wilkins, Harpenden Common 4&3

Connor O’Brien, Brocket Hall beat Harry Eames, Berkhamsted 4&3

Adam Berg-Capin, Sandy Lodge beat Joss Gosling, Harpenden 2 up

Thomas Turner, Harpenden Common beat Daniel Stannard, The Hertfordshire 3&2

## Men’s Round of 16

Laurie Owen, Harpenden Common beat Jason Mitchell, Porters Park 6&5

Tony Wilkins, Harpenden Common beat James Kee, Moor Park 1 up

Harry Eames, Berkhamsted beat Jack Bircham, Berkhamsted 5&4

Connor O’Brien, Brocket Hall beat Jamie Lacy, Stocks 5&4

Joss Gosling, Harpenden beat Harry Cox, Welwyn Garden City 20 holes

Adam Berg-Capin, Sandy Lodge beat Tomasz Boniek, South Herts 1 up

Thomas Turner, Harpenden Common beat Steve Standing, The Hertfordshire Walkover

Daniel Stannard, The Hertfordshire beat Daniel Ramsay, Harpenden 4&3



# JUBILANT JUNE



Jackie Foster,  
Women's Seniors  
Champion, with  
President Jane  
Walter



**Jackie Foster of Bishop's Stortford won the Women's Seniors Championship for the seventh time with a superb round of gross 72 -1 to finish six shots clear of her nearest rival, defending champion Sarah Marley.**

In the nett competition, Breda Franzmann of Hadley Wood had the round of her life and won the Tatham Cup with a terrific nett score of 66, also winning the Veterans Trophy for the best gross score in the veterans' category.

**The Family Cup** at Mid Herts Golf Club needed countback to separate four pairs on the winning score of 42 points. The mixed fun format allows an entry of any combination of related pairs. Father and son Daniel and Alfie Kitteridge of Bishop's Stortford topped a field of 32 playing fourball better ball. Scoring was exceptional with only one point covering the top seven.



Gill Winter Ava Gadsby Sophie Brooke  
and Sally Close from East Herts  
Women's Interclub Foursomes Champions

**Dyrham Park Golf Club** hosted the Women's Interclub Foursomes which attracted 44 pairs from 22 clubs. East Herts, represented by pairs Gill Winter & Ava Gadsby and Sophie Brooke & Sally Close took the main scratch Interclub Challenge Cup. The Handicap Cup for the best cumulative team nett score was won by Bocket Hall. Essendon pair Sarah Marley & Riya Chandaria's best gross of the day 78 secured The Herts Maps, while the best nett score on the day (70) was achieved by Sandra Fagan & Liz Audley of South Herts to claim the Herts Coasters prize.

**The Pearson Trophy** finals day was hosted by East Herts Golf Club and Bocket Hall women's team triumphed. Bocket Hall beat Hadley Wood in the final after a semi-final victory over Essendon in the morning. Bocket Hall went on to represent Hertfordshire in the Inter County Finals Day but lost out to Middlesex in the semi-final.



Bocket Hall Women's Team win Pearson Trophy

# JOYOUS JULY



**Niall Johnston of Letchworth won the Men's Mid Age Championship** on home soil. Johnston took the 36 hole medal for players aged 35-54 with a six-under-par total. Johnston's 136 aggregate included a best of the day 67 in the afternoon. The handicap prize with a winning net 141 was taken home by Glenn Evans of Great Hadham.

**Bradley Robinson** of Bishop's Stortford came through the field with a second round best of the day 69 to win the Men's Under 35s Championship. Bradley's aggregate level par 144 total at Ashridge Golf Club was enough for a one shot win over Jack McGregor of Welwyn Garden City.

**The third Mixed Golf Challenge** was played at Porters Park Golf Club where 10 teams battled it out to take first prize. The format of best female and best male score on each hole ensures everyone gets a chance of contributing. John Baines, Lorraine Baines, Julie Binns and Peter Uri from the home club topped the leaderboard with a magnificent 86 points on countback from Lee Edwards, Pete Laurence, Elaine Meagher and Linda Reeve from Aldwickbury Park.

Niall Johnston, Men's Mid Age Champion



Bradley Robinson Men's Under 35s Champion



Winners of the Mixed Golf Challenge with President  
Jane Walter and Club Services Director Jane Clarke





# JOYOUS JULY

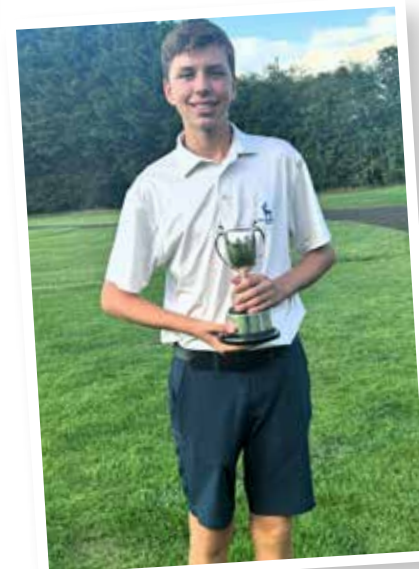
**Ben Sessions of Bishop's Stortford aced the eighth hole of his second round as he eased to a comfortable six shot victory in the County Boys Championship at Knebworth Golf Club. Ben recorded back-to-back 68s, maintaining the good form that saw him shoot a course record 62 in the Carris Trophy at Luffenham Heath Golf Club in Rutland.**

Ben's dominant performance alongside teammates Euan Hardie and Eddie Cook helped Bishop's Stortford to an eight shot win for the Team Championship.

River Gardiner of Porters Park, was second overall with a 144 total – enough to take the Malcolm Reid Trophy for the best U16 score of the day.



Boys Team Champions, Ben Sessions, Euan Hardie and Eddie Cook



River Gardiner  
wins U16 Trophy



Boys Champion, Ben Sessions

**Hertfordshire Boys produced a dominant display in the England Golf Boys County Qualifier at Clandon Regis Golf Club in Surrey.**

The championship is played by teams of six players over 36 holes, with the best five scores from each round making up the team score. Hertfordshire led the field after the first round, with Essex and Surrey in joint second place, 10 strokes behind. The Hertfordshire players continued to dominate in the afternoon and won by 12 strokes over Essex.

**“AN EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE FROM THE HERTFORDSHIRE BOYS SAW THEM WIN THE SOUTH EAST REGIONAL QUALIFIER BY 12 STROKES.”**

Although the team prize and opportunity to represent the South East in the national finals was the main priority, there was some standout individual play by members of the Hertfordshire team. Louie Bloxham of Welwyn Garden City won the individual title with rounds of 68 and 66. The morning four-under-par round included six birdies on the back nine.

In the afternoon Harry Cox, also of Welwyn Garden City, had an amazing round to equal the course record 65. Harry's round included three twos and incredibly

the twos were for a birdie, an eagle and the rarest of birds, an albatross.

Later in the year the boys came agonisingly close to the national title at Elsham Golf Club in Lincolnshire, when Cheshire pipped Hertfordshire by just half a point.



Herts Boys At South East Qualifier





Lenny Key  
U14 County  
Boys Champion



Tala Clarke and Al  
McCulloch win Mixed  
County Foursomes



Tala Clarke  
Girls County Champion



David Lang  
Men's Seniors Champion

# AMAZING AUGUST

**Tala Clarke of Knebworth regained the County Girls Championship at The Hertfordshire Golf Club. Tala, who was also champion in 2023, fired a one-over 71 for a three shot win over Letchworth's Amelia Parker. The handicap prize was won by 12-year-old home club player Abigail Fleming with a fantastic net 61.**

**Tala claimed another title in August**, teaming up with fellow Knebworth member, Al McCulloch, for victory in the Mixed County Foursomes scratch event at Moor Park Golf Club. The pair posted a fine morning round of 70 on the West Course to hold a seven-shot lead at halfway. An afternoon 77 was enough to take the title by five strokes.

**The County Men's Seniors Championship** produced a home winner with David Lang winning the tournament at Hanbury Manor Golf Club by two strokes. Lang shot a first round 73 to lead the 36 hole competition at halfway. The field was cut to 35 for day two and Lang produced another consistent display to card a two-over 74. Doug Montgomery

of Bocket Hall finished second in the scratch but won the Terry Trude Trophy for the best handicap aggregate score.

**Lenny Key** of The Hertfordshire was another home soil winner. Key included a run of four successive birdies in his title winning one-under-par 69 at the Boys U14 County Championship. Jack Wilkins of Harpenden Common won the U13 title with a 74 and Johnny Marriott took the U12 trophy with a 72. In the handicap category, Sam Sellers of Harpenden collected the overall nett winner prize with a 61.

**Bishop's Stortford trio** Harriet Buchan, Jackie Foster and Haley Yerxa were in fine form as their overall score of +1 secured the English Women's Champion Club title at City of Newcastle Golf Club. Haley racked up four birdies and an eagle to post 70 (-3) on the second and final day, while Jackie shot 72 as their two counting scores accounted for the only under-par score from any team across the two days of action.



Bishop's Stortford win England Golf Women's  
Champion Club Final

The trio earned their spot in the national final by winning the County Women's Champion Club title at Berkhamsted Golf Club in May, where they topped the aggregate scores in the strokeplay qualifying rounds.

# SEPTEMBER SUCCESS

**Junior pairing Will Lyons & Freddie Raven of Hanbury Manor came out on top of the 30 pairs who contested the 36 hole scratch medal Men's County Foursomes at Sandy Lodge Golf Club.**

After 18 holes Will and Freddie held a two-stroke lead after a two-over best of the day 72. The pair added a steady afternoon 74 to claim the title by four shots from nearest challengers Tommy Baker & Jon Sutherland of East Herts. The home club picked up the Peggy Harkett Team Trophy with overall third placed finishers Adam Berg-Capin & Antoni Hawkins combining with James Lennon & Ryan Georgiou for the best cumulative team score.

**Peter Crawford made the short trip from his home club Arkley to Old Fold Manor Golf Club and left with the Bear Tusk Veterans Trophy for the winner of the County Men's Senior Challenge Trophy.**

Peter's total of 38 points in the stableford format secured victory by one point from Hartsbourne's Graham Goodkind. Despite the challenges of super fast greens, scoring was good with 36 points winning 75+ age category for Bishop's Stortford's Terry Croker. Claus Crede of Essendon went one point better to lift top prize in the 65+ age category.



Will Lyons and Freddie Raven with Sandy Lodge  
Club Captain, Louise Tucker



Peter Crawford wins Men's Senior Challenge  
Trophy



# OUTSTANDING OCTOBER

**County Finals Day took place at Brickendon Grange Golf Club with six titles contested and four different formats of play. Two of the finals needed extra holes.**

The first final of the day saw Hadley Wood win the Powell Cup for the first time this century as Julie Nedza & Debbie Lear defeated Aldwickbury Park's Elaine Meager & Lucinda Mileham 5&3 in the Women's Scratch Foursomes final.

Ashleigh Davis & Alison Cunningham of Brookmans Park fought back from two down with two to play to overcome Hadley Wood duo Lena Wang & Nitu Bajeka on the 20th hole in the Women's Fourball Knockout.



Women's Powell Cup winners  
Julie Nedza and Debbie Lear

The Herts Team Cup was the other final to require extra holes and Moor Park Artisans emerged triumphant, playing against The Shire. The fourball better ball format finished 2-2 so the first pairings were required to play extra holes. A birdie on the downhill par five first hole clinched the title for Moor Park Artisans.

The next two finals were both handicap singles events, the Members Cup for the Men and the De Paula Cup for the Women. The men's final went all 18 holes with Mark Wiley of The Hertfordshire eventually triumphant over Sandy Lodge's Eugene Meehan two up. In the De Paula Cup Carolyn Andrews played consistently and despite giving nine shots won 5&3 over Cindy Xhang of Brocket Hall.



Women's Fourball Knockout winners  
Ashleigh Davis and Alison Cunningham



Men's Members Cup winner  
Mark Wiley



Moor Park Artisans win Herts Team Cup

In the Mixed Greensomes defending champions Michelle & Andy Gardner of Brookmans Park retained their trophy with a strong 5&4 win over the Old Fold Manor pairing of Birgitte Karle & Neil Hewitt.

The inaugural Women's Senior Challenge produced a home soil winner with Essendon's Liz Crede coming out on top with 39 points on the New Course. The event attracted 34 players and had four other titles being contested. Aldwickbury Park's Julia Bashford took the Division One prize while Division Two was won by Cindy Xhang of Brocket Hall. Sue Borella of Brickendon Grange picked up the 60+ age group prize and Anne Bagshaw of Essendon was the winner in the 70+ group.



De Paula Cup winner  
Carolyn Andrews



Women's Senior Challenge winner  
Liz Crede



Mixed Greensomes KO winners  
Andrew and Michelle Gardner

**The vagaries of the English weather** and academic year meant the second of two Herts Schools Scratch Championships was contested at Mill Green Golf Club. Despite being only seven months after the delayed 2024 championship, the 2025 tournament was oversubscribed with a ballot being required to reduce the 100 entries down to the field size of 72 students.

So a full field took to the course to compete for four individual prizes. Boys and Girls overall Scratch Winners and Boys and Girls U16 Scratch Winners.

Ava Gadsby, Home School, completed the double with her 79, enough to secure the overall Girls Championship as well as the Girls U16 Championship.

Jaego Gardiner of Parmiter's School was the Boys Champion with a two-under-par 70 for victory by one stroke from Luca Ibekwem of Queens' School and James Andrews of The Highfield School.

The Boys U16 Champion went to year 10 student, Alfie Kitteridge of Avanti Grange School with a fine score of 75.

The Boys and Girls Year 10 and below champions are guaranteed a place at the England Schools U16 National Finals in 2026.



Boys and Girls Overall Champions  
Jaego Gardiner and Ava Gadsby

**“A FULL FIELD TOOK TO THE COURSE TO COMPETE FOR THE SCHOOLS SCRATCH CHAMPIONSHIP.”**



# AUTUMN ACTION

**West Herts Golf Club hosted the final competitions of the season - the Boys Under 16 Championship and the Girls Autumn Meeting.**

William Paas of Knebworth won the Boys U16 Championship, firing four birdies on the back nine to recover from two over at the turn and post a gross score of one-under-par 71.

Daniel Carlin of Bishop's Stortford claimed the overall and U16 handicap prizes with a net 65. Ronnie Seagroatt of Hanbury Manor took the U16 Boys scratch prize with a 79. Charlie Parker of Knebworth won the best handicap score while clubmate William Paas added the U15 age group title to his overall success. Jack Wilkins of Harpenden Common shot a gross 74 to lift the U14 title. Ryan Amin of Sandy Lodge recorded a net 68 to win the U14 Handicap Trophy.

**In the Girls Autumn Meeting Alecia Ibekwem of Sandy Lodge** completed the double with her gross 32 stableford points converting to net 37 points to win both the scratch and handicap prizes.

Tala Clarke of Knebworth won The Cunningham Salver for the best gross aggregate score over both the Spring and Autumn Meetings, while Lily Wrangle of Mid Herts won the aggregate Handicap Plate. The Ann MacLaurin Trophy, awarded for the player with the lowest placed cumulative finishes at the Girls Championship, Spring and Autumn Meetings, was presented to Letchworth's Amelia Parker.



William Paas wins Boys U16 Championship



Alecia Ibekwem wins Girls Autumn Meeting and Barbara Quirk Shield



Lily Wrangle wins Girls Handicap Plate



Amelia Parker wins Ann MacLaurin Trophy



Tala Clarke wins Cunningham Salver



Jack Wilkins wins Boys U14 Scratch

# COUNTY WINNERS 2025

Men's County Championship: Laurie Owen of Harpenden Common  
Women's County Championship: Zainab Jeppe of Bocket Hall  
Women's Scratch Aggregate Cup: Morgan Vater of Porters Park  
Women's Anne Pyke Trophy: Breda Franzmann of Hadley Wood  
Boys Champion: Ben Sessions of Bishop's Stortford  
Malcolm Reid Trophy winner: River Gardner of Porters Park  
Boys Team Flag Champions: Bishop's Stortford  
Girls Champion: Tala Clarke of Knebworth  
Men's Champion Club: Letchworth  
Women's Champion Club: Bishop's Stortford  
Men's Senior Champion: David Lang of Hanbury Manor  
Men's Senior Handicap Champion: Doug Montgomery of Bocket Hall  
Women's Senior Champion: Jackie Foster of Bishop's Stortford  
Women's Senior Handicap Champion: Breda Franzmann of Hadley Wood  
Women's Veterans Trophy winner: Breda Franzmann of Hadley Wood  
Men's Under 35 Champion: Bradley Robinson of Bishop's Stortford  
Men's Mid Age Champion: Niall Johnston of Letchworth  
Men's Scratch League Champions: Harpenden Common  
Women's Scratch League Champions: East Herts  
Junior Champion Club: Aldenham  
Men's Senior Champion Club: Old Fold Manor  
Schools Scratch Boys Champion 2024/25: Patrick Donovan of Essendon  
Schools Scratch Girls Champion 2024/25: Tala Clarke of Knebworth  
Schools Mid Handicap Championship winner: Eve Warren of Knebworth  
Boys Spring Meeting winner: Tom Norman of Mid Herts  
Girls Spring Meeting winner: Lilly Newton of Bishop's Stortford  
Girls Autumn Meeting winner: Alecia Ibekwem of Sandy Lodge  
County Fourball Championship: David Miles & David Watson of Rickmansworth  
Men's Foursomes Championship winners: Will Lyons & Freddie Raven of Hanbury Manor  
Men's Peggy Harkett Trophy winners: Sandy Lodge  
Women's Interclub Foursomes: East Herts  
Women's Powell Cup KO winners: Hadley Wood  
Men's Herts Salver winner: Ethan Akpan of Letchworth  
Family Cup winners: Daniel & Alfie Kitteridge of Bishop's Stortford  
Boys Under 16 Champion: William Paas of Knebworth  
Boys Under 14 Champion: Lennie Key of The Hertfordshire  
Mixed Foursomes Championship: Al McCulloch & Tala Clarke of Knebworth  
Men's Senior Challenge Trophy winner: Peter Crawford of Arkley

Lorna Hall Spring Salver winner: Tala Clarke of Knebworth  
Barbara Quirk Shield winner: Alecia Ibekwem of Sandy Lodge  
Cunningham Salver winner: Tala Clarke of Knebworth  
Girls Handicap Plate winner: Lily Wrangle of Mid Herts  
Girls Ann MacLaurin Trophy winner: Amelia Parker of Letchworth  
Men's Herts Team Cup KO winners: Moor Park Artisans  
Men's Members Cup KO winner: Mark Wiley of The Hertfordshire  
Mixed Greensomes KO winners: Andrew & Michelle Gardner of Brookmans Park  
Women's Da Paula Cup KO winner: Carolyn Andrews of West Herts  
Women's Fourball KO winners: Alison Cunningham & Ashleigh Davis of Brookmans Park  
Men's Order of Merit winner: Laurie Owen of Harpenden Common  
Boys Scratch Order of Merit winner: Nicholas Curran of The Shire London  
Boys Handicap Order of Merit winner: Eisa Nawaz of Sandy Lodge  
Girls Scratch Order of Merit winner: Tala Clarke of Knebworth  
Girls Handicap Order of Merit winner: Amelia Parker of Letchworth  
Boys Junior Challenge Trophy winner: Ben Sessions of Bishop's Stortford  
Junior League Champions – Ver Shield winners: Bishop's Stortford Ver Plate winners: Cainoe Wood (Beds)  
Women's Mary Oliver Brooch: Kelly Cooke of Panshanger  
Mixed Team Challenge winners: Porters Park

## MEN'S SCRATCH DIVISIONAL WINNERS:

Division 1: Harpenden Common  
Division 2: Hanbury Manor  
Division 3: Sandy Lodge  
Division 4: East Herts  
Division 5: Whipsnade Park  
Division 6: Bocket Hall  
Division B1: Harpenden  
Division B2: Ashridge

## WOMEN'S SCRATCH DIVISIONAL WINNERS:

Division 1: East Herts A  
Division 2: Hadley Wood  
Division 3: Letchworth  
Division 4: Bishop's Stortford B



# MEN'S

This season was one of great progress and pride for our Men's County Team. In a very strong competitive league campaign where all the counties have improved, the team narrowly missed out on clinching the title, falling just short to Essex on the final day. Despite the disappointment, the team's performances throughout the season were a clear reflection of their talent, determination, and unity.

From the very first match, the squad showed a very high level of consistency and competitiveness. Whether playing at home or away, the players rose to every challenge, delivering results that kept us firmly in the title race until the final match. The narrow defeat highlights the high standards the team has continued to set over recent years and the fine margins that define county golf at the top level.

One of the standout positives from this season has been the continued growth and development of the squad. We saw several players from the Under 18s programme step up into the men's set-up, showcasing the strength of the county's junior pathway. Their integration not only added depth and enthusiasm but points to a positive future for Hertfordshire as we build on core values of opportunity, development, and the trust in our young players coming through.

I would like to thank Brookmans Park Golf Club for hosting our home fixtures. Their support and hospitality provided an excellent base for the team and played a vital role in our success this season.

Finally, a big thank you must go to everyone in the Hertfordshire Golf office. Your hard work, organisation, and support behind the scenes are deeply appreciated



Men's Team at SEG Qualifier

Team Manager: Phil Dormer

“FROM THE VERY FIRST MATCH, THE SQUAD SHOWED A VERY HIGH LEVEL OF CONSISTENCY AND COMPETITIVENESS.”

# WOMEN'S

This year Bedfordshire hosted the East Region three-day tournament, which was played at John O'Gaunt Golf Club.

The format of three singles and two foursomes matches against each opposing county was played in temperatures mostly above 32 degrees. With news of our hotel boiler bursting two days before and cold showers only available the squad had more than one challenge on their hands!

First up were reigning champions Norfolk who led with Nellie Ong, fresh off her victory representing GB&I. Mawgan Vater had a tremendous battle, narrowly losing on the 17th. Despite strong efforts, Norfolk won 3.5–1.5 and went on to retain their title.



The afternoon we secured a determined 3–2 victory over Cambs & Hunts and after cold showers, faced hosts Bedfordshire on day 2. Darcie West led the singles line-up and fought back impressively from three down to earn a well-deserved half against their County Champion, Ixie Axpan, playing at her home club. Both our foursomes claimed 2&1 victories, sealing a strong 3.5–1.5 win for Hertfordshire.

Next was a formidable Essex side and despite a superb win from Tala Clarke over Irish international Zoe McLean Tattan, the other matches slipped away. A 4–1 loss to Essex once again ended our hopes of contending for the title.

Wednesday morning was a battle for third place against Suffolk. Despite great efforts, with the foursomes winning 6&5, exhaustion took its toll and Suffolk narrowly edged the contest 3–2.

This year the Mary Oliver Brooch was awarded to Kelly Cooke, in recognition of winning four of her five matches.

A huge thanks to the squad who once again gave everything representing Herts.

Team Manager: Aly Nedza



Kelly Cooke receiving the Mary Oliver Brooch from Aly Nedza

# MEN'S SENIORS

Herts Seniors Men commenced the season with four friendlies and a mixture of results but giving the squad plenty of early season matchplay experience.

Our league campaign got off to a great start with a sizeable away victory against Middlesex followed by a solid win over Essex at home. With a 100% record we faced our most challenging fixture away to BB&O. Despite some close matches we lost overall meaning a title win could only be achieved on match points. The required large win over Bedfordshire was duly delivered but it wasn't quite enough and so we fell short of the championship by a single match point.

The Senior team competed in the South East Group qualifier at Chelmsford Golf Club. We had some excellent performances from David Lang, John Ambridge, Paul Nancarrow and Paul Marshall as the team finished in a very commendable third place

West Herts Golf Club hosted August qualifying for the SEG foursomes and although home soil helped us to a very credible 6.5 points we could not match an outstanding performance by Kent who won nine out of 10 of their matches.

It was a season of near misses but a great effort by the whole squad where the quality of golf on the senior circuit continues to excel.

2025 brings an end to the captaincy and management of myself and Bob Peacock. Bob's enthusiasm and push for team excellence has been unwavering. It's been a great five years but it's time for fresh ideas and impetus for the team. A big thank you must go to all the team members who always show a great desire to play for the county and of course the support we receive from everyone throughout the year.

Team Manager: Simon Kay



“WE HAD SOME EXCELLENT PERFORMANCES FROM DAVID LANG, JOHN AMBRIDGE, PAUL NANCARROW AND PAUL MARSHALL AS THE TEAM FINISHED IN A VERY COMMENDABLE THIRD PLACE.”



# WOMEN'S SENIORS

This year we will go in reverse order and declare a winning end to the season! After a 6-0 victory away to Cambs & Hunts at Gog Magog Golf Club, the Senior Women won the East Region League for the second time in four years. Thank you and congratulations to all who have played or been reserves in these matches.

Way back in April the team got off to a great start with a win against Buckinghamshire in the BBHH&O League at East Herts Golf Club who generously agreed to again host the home matches. A big thank you to the whole team who did a fabulous job looking after us.

A new smaller squad system was trialled this year and proved successful from a team building and management perspective. This restructure helped us to a second-place finish in the BBHH&O league. The final match was away to Hampshire at Tylney Park Golf Club where for the second successive season we had the pleasure of crowning them champions. It's a habit the team really want to break and perhaps we can reverse roles in 2026.

The Ten Counties Championships were hosted by Kent and again the cold and windy conditions made for high scoring. This clearly did not affect the hosts as much and they were victorious on their home soil of Sittingbourne & Milton Regis Golf Club. Hertfordshire finished seventh. Thanks to Jackie Foster, (Bishop's Stortford), Sandra Moses (Knebworth), Holly Lovell (Centurion Club) and Sally Close (East Herts) for playing.

Overall a total of 17 clubs were represented in either the league or friendly matches - thanks to every one of the players who has played for the team in either league or friendly matches, it's an awesome group of highly competitive and committed golfers who look forward with relish to the 2026 season.

**Team Manager: Lindsay Murray Gray**



Team getting ready to face the elements

# GIRLS

Following winter coaching from Jo Oliver, Glenn Gardiner and Beth Sellars the U18 Girls started in fine form, beating Bedfordshire and Cambs & Hunts in friendly fixtures and a game organised against an alumni team. It was great to see our past players supporting the girls in this way - an honourable draw being the result and many friendships rekindled.

The girls travelled to Wensum Valley Golf Club in Norfolk for County Match Week in June and with Storm Floris blowing through, it was a baptism of fire for our first-timers - Amelia Parker, Amelie Stewart, Lily Hertz and Lily Wrangle. However, the squad was complemented by more experienced players, Alecia Ibekwem, Ava Gadsby and captain Caitlin Garrard. The team fought hard losing only one of their five matches to eventual winners, Essex.

Only two points separated the top three places and ultimately draws with Bedfordshire and Norfolk proved costly. Another day, a different lie, a drop in the wind and, of course, a holed putt could have made the difference.

The girls go out in handicap order and 13-year-old Ava Gadsby, playing in only her second County Match Week led the team out. She had three tremendously close games, sometimes competing against plus handicap girls. Amelia Parker, also aged 13, won four out of her five matches displaying matchplay resilience beyond her years.

The Eastern Region Trophy was held at Saffron Walden Golf Club this year. It is a competition which requires a mixture of handicaps and allows the bleeding of new county players. Our team finished in third position and a fantastic score of 44 points by Lali Marler saw her handicap cut by seven shots the next morning!



The Summer Series continues to provide girls with an opportunity to meet up and play with other girls in a relaxed and fun environment which due to the generosity of the Ann MacLaurin family, are free of charge.

**Team Manager: Clare Mulvaney**

**“ONLY TWO POINTS SEPARATED THE TOP THREE PLACES AND ULTIMATELY DRAWS WITH BEDFORDSHIRE AND NORFOLK PROVED COSTLY.”**



# BOYS UNDER 18

**Expectations were again high as the season began and with such a talented crop of players within the squad and others knocking on the door from the U16 squad we embarked on what promised to be an exciting year.**

In early July, a squad of eight players travelled to the England Golf Boys County qualifier in Surrey. We had high expectations of qualifying for the county finals for the first time since 2015. Clandon Regis Golf Club was the host venue and the six players selected to represent Hertfordshire after the practice round gave one of the most inspiring performances by any county team in this event since its inception, eventually being crowned champions by a staggering 12 shots.

The squad consisted of Ben Sessions and Eddie Cook (Bishop’s Stortford), Antoni Hawkins (Sandy Lodge), Harrison Preston and Will Lyons (Hanbury Manor), Louie Bloxham (Welwyn Garden City) and team captain Finlay Rennie (The Centurion).



Days one and two saw comfortable victories over Wiltshire and Cambridgeshire which set up a final day decider against Cheshire. Despite opening a narrow lead after the morning foursomes, we were unable to claim the elusive 2.5pts from the six singles matches that would have given us the overall win and so the title headed back to Cheshire.

Despite the obvious disappointment of a narrow defeat, players, officials and supporters all left with heads held high, safe in the knowledge that each and every member of the squad contributed to the team total and overall result and were proud to be Hertfordshire team members.

**Team Manager: Gerald Duddy**

# BOYS UNDER 16

**It’s been a long, but rewarding season, for the County Boys U16 squad. It started back in February, with several new faces in the group playing a friendly at Berkhamsted Golf Club against the County Boys U18s. It concluded at the end of September, with the boys reaching the Regional Final at Haywards Heath Golf Club, where they finished runners up to Surrey.**



We secured our place in the Regional Final by remaining unbeaten in six matches – four wins and two draws against Suffolk and Norfolk. Thank you to Welwyn Garden City Golf Club who hosted our home matches.

Our opponents at the Regional Final were Surrey, who topped the Southern Group with a 100% record and BB&O, who were victorious in the Central Group.

Our boys were locked in a tense struggle against BB&O. Louis Batrick-Wren and Oliver Bannister both delivered early points, but this was quickly offset by defeats for Billy Paas and George Lancaster, who between them in the group stages had won seven of their eight matches. With captain River Gardiner also going down it needed a strong performance from our three remaining players, each of whom took their matches to the final green. A vital half point was acquired by 12-year-old Marcus Karim, which was followed by Oliver Ockelford and Ronnie Seagroatt closing out their victories, which enabled Hertfordshire to beat BB&O by the smallest margin of 4.5 – 3.5.

Ronnie, playing at No.1 was our only points scorer against Surrey and it was a fine scalp to take as he defeated England Junior International Aaron Moody by 3&2.

My personal thanks go to the coaching duo of Mark Day and Matt Spencer who have helped enormously in making this year so successful.

**Team Manager: Graham Oram**

# BOYS UNDER 14

**The season has been a rewarding and progressive year for the U14 team. While we narrowly missed out on a place in the SEG County Final, our performances across the summer clearly reflect the strength of our development pathway and the long-term benefits of consistent squad management.**

Unlike last year, when we fielded a much younger side with higher average handicaps, this season saw the return of a more experienced and technically mature squad. That continuity paid dividends, not just in results, but in the confidence, resilience, and composure our players displayed in every match.

Our triangular fixture at Langdon Hills Golf Club in June set the tone, with a well-earned 4–4 draw against Essex and valuable lessons learned from a strong Kent side. The improvements were evident as the season progressed. In July at The Darenth Golf Club, we convincingly beat Essex 6–2, before repeating that winning scoreline in August at home venue Knebworth Golf Club. While Kent continued to edge us in closely fought contests, including a narrow 4.5–3.5 loss, the gap is closing.

**“OUR TRIANGULAR  
FIXTURE AT LANGDON  
HILLS GOLF CLUB  
SET THE TONE,  
WITH A WELL-  
EARNED 4–4 DRAW  
AGAINST ESSEX AND  
VALUABLE LESSONS  
LEARNED FROM A  
STRONG KENT SIDE.”**

A standout highlight this year has been Marcus Karim’s phenomenal achievement - attaining a handicap of 1.6 at just 12-years-old and earning selection to the England squad. Marcus has set a superb standard, and we congratulate him on this national recognition and wish him every success in his golfing career.

As we close the season, we say a fond farewell to 11 squad members graduating from the U14 ranks. Their contribution to Hertfordshire Golf over the years has been outstanding, and we are proud to have supported their development. At the same time, we warmly welcome the next generation of players stepping up, a group full of energy and promise, ready to learn and contribute.

This season has shown what can be achieved when long-term planning, quality coaching, and team spirit come together. The Hertfordshire U14s are not just playing matches, they’re building something special.

Thank you to all players, parents, clubs, and coaches. We look forward to another strong season ahead.

**Team Manager: Sudip Roy**





# SCRATCH LEAGUE WINNERS

**Harpenden Common has etched its name in Hertfordshire's records once again, securing the Division One title of the Men's Scratch League for a record fifth consecutive year.**

Champions in 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and now 2025, Harpenden Common becomes the first club in the history of the Hertfordshire Scratch League to win the top division five years in a row. This remarkable achievement underscores the club's consistency, depth, and high-level performance year after year.

But 2025 brought another milestone: Jack Wilkins, just 13 years old, became the youngest ever player to represent Harpenden Common's scratch team.

Jack partnered his father, Tony Wilkins, in the morning foursomes and went on to win his singles match on the 17th hole in the crucial match against Stocks - a memorable debut on a championship - winning day. Congratulations, Jack!

The title was secured in emphatic fashion on home soil, with a dominant 9.5 – 2.5 victory over Stocks in the final match of the season.

This latest triumph also marks Harpenden Common's seventh Division One title since 2012, further cementing their legacy in the county's premier men's matchplay competition. Team Captain Ryan Hodges, shared his pride: "What a season's performance to make it five in a row in the

top division. The quality of golf is amazing. A big thank you to all the players who represented the club in the scratch team in 2025."

Harpenden Common celebrates this unprecedented success as a testament to the strength in depth and team spirit needed to consistently overcome the best golfers in Hertfordshire.

**East Herts A retained** the Women's Scratch League crown, the home side defending their 2024 title with victory over Essendon A. As is often the case, home advantage again proved decisive.

In Division Two, Hadley Wood emerged victorious over South Herts. The Division Three final was a tight affair, Letchworth prevailing 2-1 against Brocket Hall after winning both matches that went to extra holes. Division Four was awarded to Bishop's Stortford after Ashridge A were unable to raise a side.

A huge thank you to Golf Holidays Direct for sponsoring the men's and women's scratch leagues.



Harpenden Common - winners of Men's Scratch League



East Herts retain Women's Scratch League trophy

# ENGLAND SUCCESS

**Hertfordshire continues to provide talented golfers to England squads and this year we have been proud to see Sophia Fullbrook of Brocket Hall, Ben Sessions of Bishop's Stortford and Harry Cox of Welwyn Garden City helping to secure wins in the Home Internationals.**

Sophia, who has been a member of England Women's Team since she turned 18 in 2023, played a key part in England's success at the Men's and Women's Home Internationals in August. Sophia was hailed as 'a star of the side' when she took five points from a possible six at Woodhall Spa Golf Club in Lincolnshire to help the team reclaim the title from Ireland.

**This victory came hard on the heels of victory for the Girls and Boys England Team in Ireland.** England won the Girls' & Boys' Home Internationals for a fifth consecutive year at Cork Golf Club, thanks in part to two Hertfordshire golfers, Harry Cox of Welwyn Garden City and Ben Sessions of Bishop's Stortford, who showed formidable form, winning eight

out of nine of their matches and halving one to secure 8.5 points for England.

**Hertfordshire pair Kris Aves of The Shire and Chris Foster of Hanbury Manor** have been named by England in the disability squad for the 2025/26 season.



Harry Cox



Sophia Fullbrook



Ben Sessions

**Karen Ellam of Harpenden** has been selected by GB Deaf Golf to represent Great Britain at the Summer Deaflympics 2025, taking place in Tokyo this November. Karen is one of just five deaf golfers nationwide to have met the strict eligibility, handicap, and performance criteria required for selection. She will be flying out to Japan to compete at the Wakasu Golf Links, where she will take on some of the world's best deaf golfers.



# FUTURES AND iTOUR 2025

Kyle Patel of Moor Park enjoyed a fantastic season on the Futures Tour and deservedly finished top of the Order of Merit. The tour is a series of seven events held on par three courses around the county. Kyle won five of the events and included an impressive one over par 28 in his victory at Aldwickbury Park Golf Club.



Kyle Patel Futures Tour OOM Winner with Matt Crowhurst, County Development Officer

The Futures Tour is the first step on Hertfordshire Golf's 'junior development' pathway and offers the perfect opportunity for young golfers to develop their skills and playing experiences while making friends on a course appropriate to their size, strength and ability.

The iTour, where Kyle will continue his golfing journey in 2026, is the natural second step for young players moving from the Futures Tour and par three layouts to more challenging full size courses. It's where players with no, or high, handicap index can improve their golfing intelligence and confidence through greater and more varied playing experiences.

This year saw a first for the iTour with two players finishing tied top of the Order of Merit. Hanbury Manor's Taylor Buckley and Rio Allen of The Hertfordshire collected eight trophies between them. Taylor and Rio now will step up to junior opens in 2026.

**"IT'S WHERE PLAYERS WITH NO, OR HIGH, HANDICAP INDEX CAN IMPROVE THEIR GOLFING INTELLIGENCE AND CONFIDENCE."**



Rio Allen joint winner of iTour OOM



Taylor Buckley joint winner of iTour OOM

## GROWING THE GAME

**Our County Development Officer Matt Crowhurst reports on another successful year for the county in its role of creating opportunities for all to get involved with the game we love.**

Building on the success of our partnership with Girlguiding, 2025 marked the launch of three dedicated Girlguiding Golf Clubs at Berkhamsted, Chesfield Downs and Essendon GCs. These hubs are designed to provide a clear pathway for Girlguiding members who had enjoyed the introductory golf sessions delivered by Hertfordshire Golf at local Rainbow, Brownie, and Guide units. They also offer opportunities for the girls to progress and complete their Golf Challenge badge in a supportive and familiar environment.

Each venue attracted around 50 girls and ran four stations: chipping, putting, driving/irons and golf knowledge. After the first session, each club offered those who attended a follow-up six week Guiding-only programme. Berkhamsted had 28 girls sign up for the programme and the girls have progressed so well that the club plans to introduce an intermediate programme. The girls also had the opportunity to attend a Master Class from major winner and Ryder Cup star, Justin Rose, at the Rose Ladies Open held at Hanbury Manor Golf Club.

We will be looking to create more Girlguiding golf hubs next year and already have several clubs eager to get involved and help increase the number of girls in Hertfordshire playing golf.

This year, the county has also introduced Women's Academy roll-up sessions. These events aim to provide Women Academy members with more playing opportunities and a chance to connect with fellow academy members from different clubs, fostering friendships throughout the county and

creating more chances for participants to organise their own away days.

Five events were run in 2025, with numbers increasing at each one. Feedback has been very positive - the opportunity to meet like-minded women at the beginning of their golfing journeys and playing new courses have been highlighted as reasons why the days are so enjoyable.

**"I LIKE GOLF BECAUSE I CAN PLAY WITH MY NEW FRIENDS AND WITH DADDY. I WANT TO WIN AGAINST HIM SOON."**

In 2026, we will be looking to run one event every month from April to October and will get more women academy members from clubs across Hertfordshire involved.

### Golf for Deaf Players

This year Hertfordshire has supported an initiative for deaf women and girls, backed by funding from Sport England's National Lottery, by helping Essendon Golf Club to set up a Hub.

Eight women joined the first session, creating a welcoming, lively, and supportive atmosphere. For many, this was their first time trying golf, and the response was overwhelmingly positive.

All involved expressed enthusiasm to continue, which is really exciting, and will help build a long-term community of female deaf golfers in the county. Well done to Elaine Ratcliffe and her team at Essendon for making this initiative such a success in its first summer.

**"I AM SO PLEASED MY DAUGHTER IS PLAYING - SHE IS MAKING FRIENDS AND LOOKS FORWARD TO IT EVERY WEEK."**





# HERTFORDSHIRE GOLF

## 2026 CHAMPIONSHIP DATES & VENUES

EVENT	VENUE	DATE
SCHOOLS TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP 25/26	MILL GREEN	Monday 23rd March
MEN'S CHAMPION CLUB SEMI FINALS	BROOKMANS PARK & MID HERTS	Sunday 29th March
JUNIOR CHAMPION CLUB	CHESFIELD DOWNS	Wednesday 1st April
BOYS & GIRLS SPRING MEETINGS	CHESFIELD DOWNS	Wednesday 1st April
SCHOOLS MID HANDICAP CHAMPIONSHIP 25/26	MILL GREEN	Thursday 23rd April
MEN'S CHAMPION CLUB FINAL	PORTERS PARK	Sunday 26th April
WOMEN'S EAST REGION FOURSOMES	LETCHWORTH	Wednesday 29th April
HERTS SALVER (MEN'S COUNTY CHAMP Q)	WELWYN GARDEN CITY	Sunday 3rd May
WOMEN'S TEAM CHALLENGE	SOUTH HERTS	Monday 11th May
MEN'S SENIOR CHAMPION CLUB	VERULAM	Tuesday 19th May
COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS (MEN'S & WOMEN'S)	ASHRIDGE	Thursday 28th May to Sunday 31st May
WOMEN'S SENIORS CHAMPIONSHIP	ASHRIDGE	Thursday 28th May
FAMILY CUP	EAST HERTS	Sunday 7th June
WOMEN'S INTERCLUB FOURSOMES	LETCHWORTH	Monday 15th June
MEN'S UNDER 35 CHAMPIONSHIP	BRICKENDON GRANGE	Sunday 28th June
MEN'S MID AGE CHAMPIONSHIP	KNEBWORTH	Monday 13th July
MIXED TEAM CHALLENGE EVENT	ESSENDON - NEW	Sunday 26th July
BOYS CHAMPIONSHIP	OLD FOLD MANOR	Monday 27th July
MEN'S SENIORS CHAMPIONSHIP	SOUTH HERTS	Wednesday 5th & Thursday 6th August
BOYS UNDER 14 CHAMPIONSHIP	BROOKMANS PARK	Thursday 20th August
GIRLS CHAMPIONSHIP	BROOKMANS PARK	Thursday 20th August
MIXED FOURSOMES CHAMPIONSHIP	MID HERTS	Friday 28th August
COUNTY FOURBALL CHAMPIONSHIP	BISHOP'S STORTFORD	Monday 14th September
MEN'S COUNTY FOURSOMES CHAMPIONSHIP	HARPENDEN COMMON	Sunday 20th September
CLUB OFFICIALS CHALLENGE	TBC	TBC
MEN'S SENIOR CHALLENGE TROPHY	THE HERTFORDSHIRE	Monday 28th September
COUNTY FINALS DAY	STOCKS	Sunday 4th October
WOMEN'S SENIOR CHALLENGE EVENT	DYRHAM PARK	Monday 5th October
WOMEN'S SCRATCH LEAGUE FINALS DAY	TBC	Sunday 11th October
SCHOOLS SCRATCH CHAMPIONSHIP 26/27	MILL GREEN	Monday 12th October
BOYS UNDER 16 CHAMPIONSHIP	SANDY LODGE	Thursday 29th October
GIRLS AUTUMN MEETING	SANDY LODGE	Thursday 29th October