

The Love Twins part of winning County Team



Gillian & Sophie Love from Skelmorlie Golf Club

Gillian and Sophie Love from Skelmorlie Golf Club were recently selected to be part of the Ayrshire Junior County Team to compete in the inter-county match for the Kennedy Salver to be played at Erskine GC. Ayrshire has quite a reputation in this particular competition having won it nine times since 1989 and many of the girls involved over the years have gone on to play golf at senior County and National level. The inter-county format consists of morning foursomes followed by afternoon singles with full handicap allowance. Gillian played in the foursomes, partnering Rachel Irvine from Largs GC and they defeated a Renfrewshire pairing 4 and 3. At the end of the morning games played in a persistent blustery drizzle, Ayrshire, Renfrewshire and Dumbarton & Argyll were level each having won two of the three games in each section.

After lunch, the rain cleared but the wind increased in force and variability, so playing conditions were challenging to say the least. Both girls were drawn to play towards the end and so had a lengthy wait on the first tee, but they remained calm and composed and did so for the rest of the afternoon. Gillian played Mhairi Grey from Williamwood GC, a 16 handicapper with formidable driving power, but a tendency to be more than a little wayward. Gillian was far from intimidated though, and when they reached the 17th tee she was 1 up. Her opponent's drive and second shot, though long, went right leaving her having to take a drop near the right side water hazard, while Gillian calmly plotted her way along the middle of the fairway and was on the edge of the green in 3. She puttied out for a well deserved 2 and 1 win. Meanwhile in the game behind, Sophie was 1 down against her fellow 28 handicapper, Fiona Rattray from Dumbarton & Argyll. However she won the 17th and so they set off up the steep 18th hole all square. Unfortunately Sophie's drive went right into rough and she was forced to chip out sideways, giving her opponent a 1 shot advantage which she maintained to win the hole and the game.

As spectators we were still unaware of the overall state of play, although Renfrewshire were looking hopeful and expectant of victory with three wins in the bag. When the final result was announced they were therefore disappointed to be piped by Ayrshire by a mere 1/2 point.

So the young Ayrshire girls won the Kennedy Salver for the tenth time - a formidable record - and our two Skelmorlie stars impressed all watching with their composed, disciplined play and their ever-cheerful attitude even when under pressure. They are a credit to the club, their parents and themselves. Well done, girls!



The winning Ayrshire Team

FINAL RESULT.

AYRSHIRE- 5 1/2 pts.

RENFREWSHIRE - 5 pts.

DUMBARTON & ARGYLLSHIRE - 4 pts.

LANARKSHIRE - 3 1/2 pts.

Article by Jenny McGee