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## Teen triumph at PING

Abbie Spence and Laura Harrison, Ping Grand Final winners



County Durham teenagers **Laura Harrison** and **Abbie Spence** became the youngest-ever winners of the Grand Final of the PING Fourball Betterball Tournament of England.

The 16-year-olds scored 40 points at Gainsborough in very strong winds and snatched victory on countback from Hampshire golfers **Chris Fisher** and **Debbie Brown**. Third place was taken by **Debbie Warren** and **Hayley Noel** of King's Norton, Birmingham.

The girls, from Hobson Golf Club, came through an initial field of 17,500 competitors in the tournament, which is run by EWGA. As well as winning the title they also booked their places in this month's UK final of the Volvo Masters Amateur Tour at Turnberry.

Meanwhile the Plate Final, played a day earlier, was won by Kent golfers **Philippa Mason** and **Samantha Reagan** who defied wind, rain and cold to score 45 points. The pair, from Shooters Hill, played the course in one-over par gross, helped by five birdies, and they finished three points clear of a very competitive field.

Their final birdie came on the 18th hole, where Philippa holed a long putt from the front of the green, and was watched by European Solheim Cup captain Alison Nicholas and vice-captain Joanne Morley, who presented the prizes on both days.

Full details: [www.pingchampionship.com](http://www.pingchampionship.com)



Philippa Mason and Samantha Reagan, Ping Plate Final winners

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**LA MANGA CLUB**

# Lincolnshire crowned county champions



The Lincolnshire Team

Lincolnshire are England's champion county. They won the title for the first time - amid much celebration - on the last day of County Finals at Thorndon Park, Essex.

*"It is just fabulous, we are so pleased,"* said county captain **Julia Sales** after her team completed a clean sweep of five wins from five matches.  
*"The team came here wanting to win and they really stuck to it and looked out for each other. It's been a great performance and they have all been wonderful."*

The tournament was contested by teams representing each of EWGA's six regions and the final positions were:

- 1 Lincolnshire (Midlands North) 5pts
- 2 Lancashire (North) 3½pts
- 3 Gloucestershire (South West) 3pts
- 4 Sussex (South) 2pts
- 5 Hertfordshire (East) 1½pts
- 6 Northamptonshire (Midlands South) 0pt

Lincolnshire are pictured with the trophy. Standing, from left: **Emilee Taylor, Holly Clyburn, Sophie Beardsall, Helen Hewlett, Cindy Ireland** (vice captain), **Emma Tipping, Jess Wilcox, Emily Slater, Helen McDougall**. Sitting: **June Miller** (chairman), **Julia Sales** (captain), **Sue Bassindale** (president).

On a more informal note: the county's supporters include a quartet known as the Lincoln Imps who brightened up the regional final by popping out of the trees wearing the masks of captain Julia Sales! On the last day of County Finals, Julia's buggy was "dressed" by supporters with banners and stars celebrating her birthday, which fell immediately after the event.



Lincoln Imps

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## Ami is County Champ

Ponteland's **Ami Storey** is the 2011 Northumberland county champion, regaining the title at Arcot Hall.

Ami was also runner-up in the Pleasington Putter.



Ami Storey

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 3rd & 4th Prize: bottle of Champagne

The Australian Spoons finalists with the winners, Brenda Lord and Gilly Cullen in the centre.



# Australian Spoons success for Essex pair

Essex golfers **Gilly Cullen** and **Brenda Lord** won the national final of the Australian Spoons competition at Thorndon Park Golf Club in their home county.

They scored 30 points to beat five other pairs of regional winners in the final of EWGA's stableford foursomes competition for club golfers with handicaps 21-36.

Gilly, who plays off 36, and Brenda, a 25-handicapper, are members at Clacton-on-Sea and hope their achievement will inspire other women to enter the competition. Brenda said:

*"It would be great if this encourages other ladies of our age to play. I say get out there!"*

The finalists each represented one of EWGA's regions. They were:

- EAST: Gilly Cullen and Brenda Lord of Clacton-on-Sea, Essex
- MIDLANDS NORTH: Pat Hewitt and Jean Dawson of Willesley Park, Leicestershire
- MIDLANDS SOUTH: Judith Jones and Margaret Priddey of Cocks Moors Woods, Worcestershire & Herefordshire
- SOUTH: Barbara O'Boyle and Fiona Hockless of Roehampton, Surrey
- SOUTH WEST: Helen O'Loughlin and Gillian Hepburn of Teignmouth, Devon
- NORTH: Angela Blackhall and Joan Shutt from Morpeth, Northumberland



## Ruth wins northern seniors

Hartlepool's **Ruth Lindley** scored a six-shot triumph in the 36-hole English senior women's Northern regional tournament at Ramside, Durham.

*"I'm delighted, really, really chuffed,"* said Ruth, who also cut her handicap back to three.

Ruth Lindley

England ladies' team



Picture LGU

## Magnificent hat trick of titles for England

England has pulled off a magnificent hat trick by winning all three of the 2011 Home International titles. The girls' team led the way and now they've been followed by the ladies' and seniors' teams.

The ladies won the title for the first time since 2007 at Hillside, Lancashire, and their performance was described by captain **Chris Pascall** as *"truly wonderful."*

The team was probably the youngest ever to represent England in the Ladies' Home Internationals and included five teenagers, aged from 15 to 19. **Georgia Hall** (Remedy Oak), English strokeplay champion **Charley Hull** (Woburn), **Bronte Law** (Bramhall), British champion **Lauren Taylor** (Woburn) and **Kelly Tidy** (Royal Birkdale) were joined by **Holly Clyburn** (Woodhall Spa), **Charlotte Ellis** (Minchinhampton) and **Charlotte Wild** (Mere).

The seniors successfully retained their crown at Tramore, Ireland, where they defeated both the opposition and the weather, which ranged from thick fog to torrential rain. *"We are ecstatic,"* said captain **Hilary Smyth**.

The team was: **Roz Adams** (Addington Court Ladies'), British senior champion **Felicity Christine** (Woking), English senior champion **Sue Dye** (Delamere Forest), **Caroline Marron** (Bromborough), **Janet Melville** (Sherwood Forest), 2010 British senior champion **Beverley New** (Lansdown), English senior strokeplay champion **Chris Quinn** (Hockley).



England seniors' team

Picture LGU



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## Latest highlights

Charlotte Thomas

Singapore-based **Charlotte Thomas** won the inaugural Annika Invitational at Mission Hills, China, when she was six-under par for the last round, 10-under for the 54-hole event – and one shot clear of the field. She earned an invitation to the fourth annual Annika Invitational in January in Florida. Charlotte, 18, makes a regular summer golfing trip to England, where she was born.

Worcestershire youngsters **Ciara Kelly** and **Lucy Walton** were honoured by their county ladies' association for their 2011 achievements. Ciara, 14, (Hagley) won the Abraham Trophy for England's most improved girl golfers with a round of one-under par gross. Lucy (The Worcestershire) was third in the English U13 girls' championship and, at the age of 12, has reduced her handicap from 11 to six.

Lancashire county player **Sarah Cousins** and her father Ian Hunter proved a winning combination in the inaugural Fathers and Daughters competition at Tadmarton Heath in Oxfordshire. The pair play at Silverdale Golf Club in Carnforth, where Sarah's husband, Alyn, is the club professional.

A string of successes from English students in the USA. **Abbey Gittings** (Walmley/Nova Southeastern) and **Jess Schiele** (Kenwick Park/Oklahoma City) have both won, while English girls' champion **Hayley Davis** (Ferndown/Baylor) has had two second places. There have also been top five finishes for **Rosie Davies** (Coombe Hill/Indiana) and **Tiffany Hewetson** (East Brighton/Grand Canyon).

Leicestershire golfers **Cath Arter** and **Alison Mason** (Rothley Park) booked a place in the pro-am for next year's Women's British Open when they won the grand final of the 2011 Peugeot LGU Coronation Foursomes on the Eden Course, St Andrews. The competition attracted an initial entry of 34,000 competitors from 1,400 golf clubs in Great Britain and Ireland.

Norfolk's **Amber Ratcliffe**, 15, (Royal Cromer) made a dramatic defence of her East region women's title when she set a new course record of five-under 69 at Cambridge Meridian. She added it to her morning 78 for a one-shot win.

The USA retained the PING Junior Solheim Cup in dramatic circumstances when they came from behind to earn a 12-12 draw against Europe. England's **Charley Hull** and **Lauren Taylor** (both Woburn) were in the European team.

**Bethan Popel**, the Gloucestershire and South West women's champion, added another title to her tally when she won the girls' event at the weather-shortened North of England U16 championship at Pannal in Yorkshire. Her excellent three-under par 71 in the third round moved her to the top of the girls' leaderboard.

England girl international **Brogan Townend** was crowned girls' champion at the Faldo Series Grand Final, at the Lough Erne Resort in Northern Ireland and will be offered a start in a professional Tour event and an invitation to the sixth Faldo Series Asia Grand Final in China next March. In 2009 Brogan (Pleasington) won the girls' U16 title when the Grand Final was held in Brazil.

Essex teenager **Charlotte Thompson**, 19, (Channels) won the 20th Liphook ladies' scratch cup by seven shots from Hampshire's **Georgie Mundy** and **Tara Watters** of Middlesex. She was level par for 36 holes, playing over the layout used for previous English girls' championships.

England international **Charlotte Wild** (Mere) shot nine-under par over 36 holes to win the Royal Birkdale Scratch Trophy by a stroke. She opened with a two under par 73 and then produced a superb 68 which included eight birdies and just one bogey. The 21-year-old also won this trophy in 2009.



Charlotte Wild



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## Sammy makes history

English U13 champion **Sammy Fuller** made history when she won her fourth Wee Wonders title at St Andrews.

The 12-year-old from Roehampton - who plays off three - is the only player in the 17-year history of Wee Wonders to win the British and Irish championship in four different age groups.

She started in 2005 when she won her first title at the age of six, and signed out this year with her victory in the 11-12 year section.



Sammy Fuller

# British title for Felicity

Surrey's Felicity Christine marked a rapid rise to the top when she won the British senior championship at Belvoir Park, Belfast.

She took up golf seriously only when she was in her 40s and is now a senior international, having previously been an England hockey international. Felicity, a member at Woking in Surrey, gives credit to her husband, Jim, who is the professional at Worplesdon Golf Club.

*"Whatever I achieve at golf is down to my husband. He had to convert a flattish hockey backswing into a more upright golf swing and we've both worked hard at it."*



## Youngsters show off winning skills

Eight young golfers stole the show when the national final of the 2011 Skills Challenge, supported by FootJoy, was held at the National Golf Centre, Woodhall Spa.

They each won their category of the Challenge, which is organised by EWGA and the EGU. The winners were:

### ROOKIE 8 YRS AND UNDER

Top Boy – Jack Barker, Tapton Park Golf Club, Derbyshire  
Top Girl – Lily Rendell, Clacton on Sea Golf Club, Essex

### ROOKIE 9 TO 11 YEARS

Top Boy – Hugo Kedzlie, Spalding Golf Club, Lincolnshire  
Top Girl – Chloe Rose, Clacton on Sea Golf Club, Essex

### TOUR 12 TO 14 YEARS

Top Boy – Josh Robertson, Ufford Park Golf Club, Suffolk  
Top Girl – Megan Cullen, Heysham Golf Club, Lancashire

### TOUR 15 TO 17 YEARS

Top Boy – Liam Copp, Farrington Golf Club, Somerset  
Top Girl – Amy Gaertner, Burford Golf Club, Oxfordshire



## Pat bows out as England's junior coach

Pat Smillie has retired as EWGA's national junior coach after 13 years spent successfully nurturing and encouraging the country's best young players.

During that time England's girls have won four European championship medals - one gold, two silvers and a bronze - and they've won the girls' Home Internationals 10 times.

Some have become winners on the Ladies European Tour, such as **Melissa Reid** who was in Europe's winning Solheim Cup team. Others are making their way in the USA, such as **Jodi Ewart** - who was one of the top college golfers - and **Rachel Connor**.

Pat, the head professional at Wilton Golf Club in Yorkshire, will remain involved in England coaching by taking charge of two northern Birdie squads, working with the youngest girls in the EWGA training programme.

EWGA chief executive Jim Robinson said: *"Pat has been brilliant as national junior coach, we shall miss her tremendously and we offer her our very best wishes for the future."*

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# Silver Rose Spoon awards

The latest winners of our Silver Rose Spoons have returned superb scores. The awards recognise the best strokeplay scores returned in the country each month by club players. For full details visit [www.englishwomensgolf.org](http://www.englishwomensgolf.org)

## Division One (up to 10 handicap)

### Nicky Alexander

(Sandy Lodge), 9 handicap, scored net 64, nine-under SSS.

## Division Two (11-20)

### Sharon Garrity

(Botley Park) 16 handicap, scored 51 stableford points, 17-under SSS.

## Division Three (21-30)

### Belinda Martin

(Eaton, Cheshire) 23 handicap, scored net 62, 11-under SSS.

### June Mullen

(Blankney) 23 handicap, scored net 61, 11-under SSS.

### Wendy McGrath

(Swinton Park) 27 handicap, scored net 62, 11-under SSS.

## Division Four (31-36)

### Hayley Newcombe

(Walmley), 33 handicap, scored net 60, 14-under SSS.

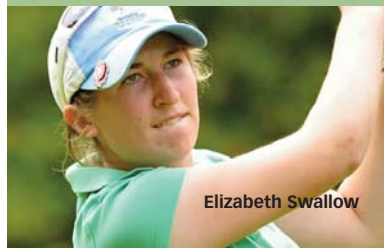
## Best gross score

### Elizabeth Swallow

(Newbury & Crookham) 67

**Gill Whitehead** (Exeter) 67

**Jerri Sewell** (Shooters Hill) 67



Elizabeth Swallow

Jerri Sewell



## How well do you know the rules of golf?

Test yourself with these questions...

1. In a match, Sue hits her ball into deep rough. She searches for it and finds a ball that she assumes is hers. She swings at the ball but misses it completely. She then finds that the ball is not in fact hers.

**Which of the following is true?**

- a) There is no penalty as Sue did not strike the ball.
- b) Sue has a 2 stroke penalty for making a stroke at a wrong ball.
- c) Sue has incurred a penalty of loss of hole for making a stroke at a wrong ball.

2. Sue and Liz are playing a match. Sue sinks a long putt for 5. Liz has played 4 and just as she is lining up her putt, Sue advises her on the amount of borrow required.

**Can Liz claim the hole?**

- a) No, Sue cannot be penalised loss of hole after she has holed out.
- b) No, but as she had a putt for a half the hole is halved.
- c) Yes, the hole had not been completed and breach of Rule 8-1 (Advice) incurs a loss of hole penalty.

## Just Ace!

**Annette Stringer** is the latest winner of our monthly prize draw for golfers who score a hole-in-one. She aced the 142-yard 12th hole at Chesterfield Golf Club.

The prize, sponsored by Titleist, is a dozen golf balls. For details on how to enter the monthly draw see the EWGA website:

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



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