

IRENE GEDDES MEMORIAL TROPHY



The Irene Geddes Memorial Trophy was presented to the section by the club's first secretary Audrey Wemyss in memory of her sister. This is normally one of the first competitions to be played each season as Audrey wanted it to be played as near her sister's birthday on the 13th March as possible. Initially it started off as a medal competition, but as the course was never playing to its full length it was altered to a stableford.

The trophy was first played for in 1988 and it was one of the first competitions that I ever entered. I must have been a bit of a bandit at the time because I won!

Audrey was one of the founder members of the club and Anne Sales tells a good tale about the first ever "committee meeting" of the section which was held at Audrey's house. She had a lovely home in School Aycliffe and enjoyed having guests round and always made sure that everything was perfectly arranged and organised for such an event.

At that time George Golightly used to run the golf club which still belonged to Aycliffe and Peterlee Development Corporation from a portacabin. As an experienced golfer he was trying to get the sections started off and as far as I am aware invited those ladies who he had seen on the course to take part in the first meeting to try and get the ladies section off the ground. Anne turned up rather late for the meeting and as soon as she arrived realised that she was very under-dressed for the occasion as the other ladies had turned up in their finery (fur coats etc.). Anne immediately hid her rather shabby anorak under her chair and then forgot about it as the discussions got going about how to set up the ladies section of the golf club. The upshot of this was that Kath Golightly (George's wife) was nominated to be the first captain with Pam Heslop as vice-captain as she was an experienced golfer and had played regularly at Whitburn golf club before moving to Woodham. Audrey was nominated as secretary, Jean Hall as treasurer and Margaret Belshaw as handicap secretary. Once all the business had been completed Audrey provided tea (in china cups of course) and cakes after which everyone got ready to leave. Of course by this time Anne had completely forgotten where she had hidden her anorak and could not find it. She then had to get everyone to search and I don't think she really wanted it to be found as she was embarrassed about its condition. She was sure that no-one would have taken it by mistake, but it took ages before the scruffy article was eventually found behind the sofa (no-one knows how it got there).

YEAR	WINNER		YEAR	WINNER
1988	A. Maxwell		2016	M. Brown
1989	P. Usher		2017	M. Brown
1990	M. Madgwick		2018	C. Quinn
1991	J. Hall		2019	M. Brown
1992	J. Edmenson		2020	A. Maxwell
1993	A. Brooks		2021	M. Brown
1994	M. Madgwick		2022	P. Armstrong
1995	P. Woodward		2023	L. Luke
1996	P. Usher		2024	T. Hahn
1997	P. Usher			
1998	J. McKenna			
1999	A. Rowntree			
2000	M. Nisbet			
2001	E. Greenwell			
2002	E. Nelson			
2003	E. Nelson			
2004	C. Quinn			
2005	T. Bowles			
2006	A. Sales			
2007	R Railton			
2008	M Russell			
2009	M Nisbet			
2010	M Brown			
2011	R Horner			
2012	M. Russell			
2013	E. Nelson			
2014	T. Bowles			
2015	C. Quinn			