

## COUNTY HONOUR THEIR 'JUNIOR SUPERSTARS'



**Ciara Kelly age 14 from Hagley G.C .Worcs** - at Mentmore Golf Club Bucks, (July 24th- 26th 2011) won the Abraham Trophy as 'The Most Improved Player' with the round of her life one under par gross 71 net 64. She reduced her handicap from 7 to 5 in the three days.

Ciara's interest in golf started when she was 8 years old. Her father took her to play at Harbourne Church Farm G.C. and she soon started on the Birdie training program in Warwickshire. When she moved to Worcestershire Ciara, aged 11, joined our county coaching program. Her handicap was 36 and at the end of the first year her handicap was 21. In her next year her handicap fell to 8 and it is now 4.8.

Her rapid progress has been partly due to the support she has received from Paul Johnston and his team and to the County coaching program. She was selected to join the EWGA Coaching program last winter and hopefully she will continue this year.

She has been very determined to improve her golf and to this end she has entered many Opens with great success. She won her first Open at Walmley in 2008, has won Kings Norton Girls Nett in 2009 and 2010. In 2009 and 2010 she won the Nett prize at the Droitwich Girls Open. This is the biggest Open for girls in the Country. This year she has travelled to Scotland to play in the under 14's competition and came 2<sup>nd</sup>. Last year she entered the Ladies County Championships and won the Grace Bolton Trophy. She has represented the County playing successfully for the Junior girls, the ladies County 2<sup>nd</sup> team and has played in 1st team friendly matches. She has entered the Midland South Competitions and this year made the cut at The English Girls under 15s Championships and after one bad round fought her way back to be 32<sup>rd</sup>. (The bad round came the day after her wonderful round in the Abraham Trophy.)

Ciara sets herself strict targets which she achieves through regular practice; support from her coach and of course her family. Her target for this year was to reach a handicap of 5. This she has done!

Although she was a keen swimmer and still uses swimming as part of her fitness program, she has now decided to concentrate on her golf.

Her future in golf looks very promising.

**Lucy Walton from The Worcestershire G.C.** came 3rd in the U13 National Girls Championships playing three medal rounds from a field of 40 players with scores of 79,75 and 76. She is aged 12 and has reduced her handicap from 11 to 6 this summer.

Lucy came to live in Worcestershire 3 years ago when she was 9 years old. She had been introduced to golf at the age of 7 at a Tri Golf Junior Day at Foxton Hall. After the session the Lady Pro contacted the family to say that Lucy showed a lot of potential. The family do not play golf but Lucy went to Junior days at the Club and County fun days and after 18months she gained her Congu handicap of 36.

Lucy started County coaching where Graham Farr quickly recognise her potential. During the first year her handicap dropped to 22, the next year it dropped to 11 and this season she has dropped to 6. A great achievement for someone who is still only 12.

Her successes at her Club, The Worcestershire have been many, winning 4 Ladies Club trophies, finishing 4<sup>th</sup> in the Us Kids Championships and qualifying for the Callaway Junior World Finals and scored a hole in one. This year she has played successfully for the County Junior girl's team, the County ladies second team and has played in the friendly matches for the County 1<sup>st</sup> team. In order to gain more competitive experience she has played in Junior Opens, County competitions and Midland South Competitions as well as entering the under 14's Scottish Girls Championships. She is our Junior County Champion this year with 2 rounds of 79 and 74 at Gaudet Luce playing off a handicap of 10. But her greatest achievement this year is coming 3<sup>rd</sup> in the English Girls under 13,s Championships in Buckinghamshire. Lucy in addition to playing golf also plays hockey, lacrosse, netball and tennis.

Lucy was selected to be part of the EWGA Birdie coaching program last year and hopefully she will continue this coming year.

Lucy Walton is a name to watch out for in the future.