

Sixty-one ladies took part in the events on offer at the Isle of Wight Ladies' Golf Championships Meeting at Shanklin & Sandown GC on Monday and Tuesday, 8&9 May 2017. The course was beautifully presented but not easy in the chilly spring breeze for the 18-hole medal qualifying rounds. The trophy winners from the qualifying rounds were Dawn Hodge (Shanklin & Sandown) who took the trophies for both the best scratch score and the best nett score in the Championship division; Ruth Stockley (Freshwater Bay) won the Silver Division 2 trophy for the best scratch score; and Chris Ellis took the best scratch score trophy in the Bronze Division.

After some very close matches in the quarter finals of all three events on Monday afternoon, on Tuesday morning the four Championship semi-finalists again produced some fine golf to give this year's Island Championship a high standard final to anticipate in the afternoon. Dawn Hodge (Shanklin & Sandown) won her semi against thirteen times Island Champion Maggie Ankers (Cowes), and Sammi Keen (Freshwater Bay) won through against ten times Champion Gillian Fahy (Osborne) - ending that match in fine style with a birdie, birdie finish. Both 2017 Championship finalists, Dawn and Sammi, are members of the Isle of Wight team for the NatWest Island Games to be held in Gotland in June. The Silver Division 2 trophy semis produced a home club final between Catherine Bachelor and Lorrie Hawkins. In the Bronze Championship the final was between Shanklin & Sandown's Jackie Stephen and Ryde's Marion Johnston.

All interested parties had been right in their expectation of an exciting Island Ladies' Championship 2017 final. With the match all square after two, Sammi Keen edged ahead to be 2up at the turn. Pegged back to 1up after fourteen and despite Dawn's continuing determined fightback, Sammi's rhythm never faltered and she closed this year's final out on the seventeenth for her hat trick as Isle of Wight Champion having won in 2015 and 2016, and now 2017.

In the Silver Division 2 we again enjoyed much exciting matchplay before Catherine Bachelor took the trophy against Lorrie Hawkins in the final. Catherine absolutely shot out of the starting blocks in that final and, fight as she did, Lorrie had perhaps sensed that it was to be the runner-up spot for her this year.

In the Bronze Championship both semi-final matches pitched a Shanklin & Sandown player against a Ryde member, and so did the final when Shanklin's Jackie Stephen came up against Ryde's Marian Johnston. After a strong tussle the Bronze Championship honour went to Marian.

As in the Championship itself, in the Bronze final the second seed from the qualifying rounds snatched the trophy from the first seed. In Silver Div 2 it was the third seed who prevailed with the trophy over the first seed – but that's an excellent indication that all our event finalists had played fine golf over both days of the Meeting. Congratulations to all.

On the second day of the IWLGA Championships Meeting there is also a Stableford competition for the Sibyl Browne Vase. The scores in this event were outstanding. Christine O'Brien (Shanklin & Sandown) took third place with 37 points, pipped on countback for second spot by Alix Goddard (also Shanklin & Sandown), but it needed 41 points to win the trophy this year – and that great score ensured that Viv Williams (again Shanklin & Sandown) took home the Sibyl Browne Vase.

After the very enjoyable and successful 2017 two-day meeting, IWLGA President Margaret Butler (Osborne) and Captain Jackie Evitts (Freshwater Bay) presented the trophies and prizes.