

# 100th WMGA Match Play Championship

Fairmount Country Club, Chathan, NJ • June 9-12, 2003

With the 2002 champion electing not to defend her title, competition among the 54 qualifiers for the top seed in the 16-person Championship Flight—as well as for the 16 places in the Sanford Cup Flight—was intense.

There was no clear favorite. The field included the 2002 Player of the Year, Adrienne MacLean, who in her teens captured two WMGA Junior Girls' titles (nee Gilmartin, 1982 and 1983); several past champions—Barbara Israel (1975), Ann Probert (1985), Lee Ann Lewis (nee Vogel, 1993 and 2000) and Gail Flanagan (1998); previous Stroke Play champions—Probert and Flanagan, each with 4 titles; as well as two other former Junior champions—Probert (nee Linen, 1956) and Becky Pernicone (2000). Little notice was taken of a late entry—Valerie Melvin, playing out of a new member club, Hamilton Farm, who had a starting time deep in the field.

The night before the qualifying round, an additional 2 inches of rain fell on the already-saturated, par-75 Fairmount course, which was set at 6,038 yards, about 105 yards longer than it normally plays. Twelve inches of rain in two weeks and the added yardage proved to be an exhausting combination. Even with "preferred lies," generally anathema for the WMGA, it was difficult to find a clean lie. It was so wet, in fact, that the ground crew had to squeegee several fairways.

Nonetheless, play progressed under gray skies and several impressive scores were returned early—an 84 by Maura Waters, a pair of 83s by MacLean and Probert—and then, an absolutely unexpected round of 78 by the newcomer Melvin, playing in her first WMGA event.

As it turned out her impressive showing was no fluke. A native of Scotland, who moved to the US two years ago and who is affiliated with the putter manufacturer, Frankly Golf, Melvin recently qualified as the third seed in Scotland's Women's Amateur and advanced to the second round of Match Play. Undaunted by the conditions, saying she



(l to r): Match Play Runner-Up Valerie Melvin with Match Play Champion Adrienne MacLean

for Tuesday, which dawned in a shroud of fog—but fortunately no rain—and by the end of the day the semi-finals were set: Melvin would meet Flanagan in the upper bracket and MacLean would face Mary Eichhorn in the lower. In the Sanford Cup, it would be Gacos versus Young in the upper bracket and Lisa Jame against WMGA Board member Laurie White.

Perhaps the most heroic effort of the day was put in by MacLean, whose husband John is an assistant coach with the New Jersey Devils ice hockey team that captured the Stanley Cup the previous evening. On only two hours of sleep following a night of celebration, MacLean recorded decisive wins over Sheila Wall in the morning and Allison

## Match Play Championship

1 Melvin, V vs 16 Israel, B	Melvin, 4 & 3	Melvin, 4 & 2	Melvin, 2 & 1
8 Budden, S vs 9 Lewis, L	Budden, 6 & 5		
4 Waters, M vs 13 Hoffman, S	Hoffman, 1 up	Flanagan, 3 & 2	
5 Flanagan, G vs 17 Gerndt, K	Flanagan, 3 & 2		
2 MacLean, A vs 15 Wall, S	MacLean, 8 & 6	MacLean, 6 & 4	MacLean, 6 & 5
7 Kucinski, A vs 10 Hershberger, M	Kucinski, 3 & 1		
3 Probert, A vs 14 Brudner, G	Probert, 5 & 4	Eichhorn, 2 & 1	
6 DeKalb, S vs 11 Eichhorn, M	Eichhorn, 2 & 1		
			<b>CHAMPION</b> Adrienne MacLean 5 & 3

was "used to playing wet conditions which made the greens very receptive," Melvin's round included 7 one-putt greens.

With the top seed identified, Fran Gacos, Barbara Israel, and Kathleen Doyle Sullivan, who had returned scores of 90, began a play-off for the final spot. After tying the 502-yard, par-5 first hole, all three hit the fairway on the 357-yard, par-4 2nd. Israel hit last, using a fairway metal from 170 yards, her ball landed 12 feet from the flagstick and she holed the putt for a birdie to claim the 16th slot. Based on their order of finish in the qualifying round, Gacos was the first seed and Sullivan the second in the Sanford Cup Flight.

Two rounds of Match Play were scheduled

Kucinski in the afternoon.

In the semi-finals, MacLean continued her stellar play, rarely missing a fairway or a putt, and subdued Mary Eichhorn 6 & 5. A rueful Eichhorn commented about MacLean's 3-under par effort, "It's hard to win when you need birdies to tie." Despite needing roadside assistance to reach the course in time for her match, Flanagan gave Melvin a good run for her money before succumbing 2 & 1. And, while White required three extra holes to shake the tenacious Jame, Young posted a 3 & 2 decision over Gacos in Sanford Cup competition.

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(l to r): Sanford Cup Champion Donna Young with Kathy Light, WMGA 1st Vice President and Competitions Committee Chairman, and Sanford Cup Runner-Up Laurie White

## Sanford Cup

1 Gacos, F vs 16 Brucker, D	Gacos, 3 & 2	Gacos, 7 & 6	
8 McGorrry, K vs 9 Hulke, B	McGorrry, 2 & 1		
4 Young, D vs 13 Bernstein, H	Young, 2 & 1	Young, 4 & 3	
5 Pernicone, B vs 17 Lederman, D	Pernicone, 5 & 4		
2 Sullivan, K vs 15 Rogers, C	Sullivan, 3 & 1	Jame, 19 holes	
7 Jame, L vs 10 Lamb, B	Jame, 5 & 3		
3 White, L vs 14 Pura, S	White, 2 & 1	White, 7 & 5	
6 Siipola, L vs 11 Daniels, C	Siipola, 3 & 2		
			<b>CHAMPION</b> Donna Young 4 & 2