

# The Tradition of the Griscom Cup

## Interview with Griscom Cup First-Timer Tara Fleming

### What were your thoughts on the Griscom Cup before playing in it?

Well to be completely honest, I have been out of competitive golf for a while so I didn't even know the event existed, but once I did some reading, I was really excited to be asked to play. Great players play in this event each year and I was looking forward to playing with the best from Massachusetts and Philadelphia.

### How did you prepare for the Griscom Cup?

I work a crazy amount of hours and played professionally a few years ago, so now I just want to have fun playing. I am fortunate to be able to maintain a certain level of play, and I didn't want to do anything outside what I normally do. I used the same game plan as everything else I play in.

### Which match was the toughest for you?

I think the individual matches were harder. A match play format with two different competitions going on is very different. You have to change your strategy immensely and have a different perception based on what match you are looking at. It is hard to determine how to play putts, because you'd have a 5 footer to tie one opponent while the same putt could be to beat someone else.

### What was your favorite memory of the Griscom Cup?

Being four down to both the ladies I was playing against and making a decision at the turn to do something different. I turned things around and came back to beat both of my opponents and get two points for our team.

I really appreciated the opportunity to meet and play with the different women from Met section, both young and old. It was a nice opportunity to meet people who still love to golf and compete, but who have done other things with their lives besides golf, which is what I am trying to do now.



2013 Griscom Cup Team, Left to Right: Scotland Preston, Sue DeKalb, Kuriko Tsukiyama, Denise Martorana, Laura Algiero (Captain), Phoebe Timpson, Frances Gacos, Ellen Oswald & Tara Fleming

In 1898 and 1899, a group of women from the Morris County Golf Club received an invitation from the Women's Golf Association of Philadelphia to play for the Challenge Cup. This cup is more commonly referred to as the Griscom Cup because of its donor, Clement A. Griscom. Originally, there were eighteen players per team, but throughout the years, that number has decreased to eleven and then to seven and one alternate, as it is today. The tournament has also been scored many different ways in the past and is now scored using the three point Nassau scoring system. The tournament takes place in one of three different regions and each year the place of the competition is rotated between them. The Cup's centennial was played at Merion Golf Club in Pennsylvania.

The 110th Griscom Cup matches between the Women's Met, Women's Golf Association of Philadelphia and Women's Golf Association of Massachusetts were played May 29 and 30, 2013 at the prestigious Essex County Club in Manchester, Massachusetts. Essex County Club was home to the Curtis sisters, pioneers in women's golf in the early 1900s and donors of the Curtis Cup. The Curtis Cup matches are played every other year between women amateurs from the United States vs. Europe. Essex County Club is steeped in tradition, they have been extremely generous to women's golf, and were very proud to be hosting the 2013 Griscom Cup matches.

The 2013 Griscom Cup team members were Laura Algiero (captain), Sue DeKalb, Tara Fleming, Fran Gacos, Denise Martorana, Ellen Oswald, Scotland Preston, Phoebe Timpson and Kuriko Tsukiyama.

The night before the matches and the morning of the practice round saw heavy rain and, unfortunately, the practice round was rained out, although some of the team members were able to get out and play 9 holes before the afternoon alternate shot matches commenced. The Women's Met team found themselves with a total of 12 points after the alternate shot matches, 6 points behind the Women's Golf Association of Philadelphia. The next day brought sunshine along with very windy conditions for the singles matches. The Women's Met posted an additional 20 points, but the Philly women proved to be too tough, and they ultimately won the Griscom Cup. The Women's Met finished second and the Women's Golf Association of Massachusetts finished third.

Next year's matches will be played in the Met area, we'll get 'em next year on our home turf!!

Congratulations to the team on a job well done!

**Laura Algiero**  
Team Competitions Chair