



Women's Metropolitan Golf Association

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Previous Winners

- 2016 New York
- 2015 Philadelphia
- 2014 New York
- 2013 New York



(L TO R) ALLY STEFFEN, KAITLYN LEE, MALINI RUDRA, ALICE HODGE, CAROLINE HODGE



JUNIOR INTER-CITY TEAM AND JUNIOR GIRLS' CHAIR, DIANE MOCK

Editor's Note: The first Junior Intercity match took place between the WMGA and the Women's Golf Association of Philadelphia [WGAP] in 1934 thanks to incredible efforts of Junior Girls chairman, Mrs. Robert Ackerman. Mrs. Frank Enos, the "mother" of WMGA junior golf, donated the trophy, which bears her name for the competition. In 1955, Boston [WGAM] fielded a team and the three-city rotation commenced. Each team is comprised of 5 players, 18 years of age and younger. Today, the Enos Cup is considered a revered event as it brings some of the very best in junior girl's golf together "to meet, compete, win and lose gracefully."

The 2017 Enos Cup was played on July 6th and 7th at the Concord Country Club in Concord, Massachusetts, on a beautiful and difficult Donald Ross design. Caroline Hodge (16), Alice Hodge (14), Malini Rudra (16), Kaitlyn Lee (15), and Ally Steffen (18), were invited to represent the WMGA. While the exceptional golf played by all these girls will be noted, the real story lies in the journey which got them to Concord to compete. The prestigious Junior North & South Championship was held at Pinehurst in North Carolina on July 3rd- 5th and all, but Kaitlyn, participated. Russell Hodge, father of Caroline and Alice, flew with his girls and Malini from North Carolina to Logan airport in Boston and then "ubered" it to Concord on the evening of July 5th. While Ally and her mom, Missy, flew back to New York so that they could pick up Kaitlyn on the morning of July 6th and drive to Concord. Feeling the commitment!

With no real rest or break from play, the girls headed out in the afternoon of July 6th, day one of the event, for a competitive sweepstakes round (stroke play) which serves to familiarize the players with the course and help determine order of play for the singles matches. Alice Hodge, younger sister of Caroline, was the low medalist winner of the day with a 74 and big sister came in second with 76. After a lovely dinner hosted by the WGAM for all participants, the girls went back to the hotel to strategize and bond with Junior Chair Diane Mock. Diane has led WMGA teams to victory in 6 out of the last 7 years. Her success lies in her ability to know when to coach and when to let her players take ownership in their playing and strategy. Caroline, a veteran from last year's victorious team, suggested that maybe she should take the more pressured filled one spot for the singles matches and let Alice play number 2 even though she had been that day's low scorer. All agreed.

On day two, like the Griscom Cup, the girls played in threesomes in a match play format with Nassau scoring. Each player is essentially playing 2 matches at one time; one against her WGAM opponent and the other against her WGAP opponent. Neither the intensity of this format nor the rainy conditions factored as deterrents, as all five players dominated with outstanding play winning 29 out of the available 30 points. A new record for the WMGA; improving upon their 2013 victory of 28 1/2 points\*. The line-up strategy clearly worked! Ally Steffen, in her third and final appearance at Enos, not only played beautifully with a full sweep of 3 points but spoke brilliantly on behalf of the team as Captain when accepting the Cup for the WMGA at the awards ceremony. The pride of winning the event is truly special for Junior Chair Diane Mock but not nearly as satisfying as the resulting joy created by the genuine friendships developed amongst her players.

But not quite done, the journey was not over. While Kaitlyn Lee did not fly from North Carolina to play at Enos, she did, upon her return to New York from Concord, board a plane to go directly to Ireland where she participated in the Kerry Cup, a unique event open to only 64 aspiring collegiate players. Kaitlyn also had success in earning a spot as an alternate for the 2017 USGA Women's Amateur.

The WMGA wants to thank the WGAM for their gracious hosting and everyone that attended, volunteered, and supported this exciting event. We look forward to hosting next summer's Junior Inter-City Team Matches in New York.

\*\*In non-partisan spirit; Philadelphia still holds the record of earning 29 1/2 points in 1958.