

Pearson Inter County Trophy Finals Day Report

Sundridge Park Golf Club Wednesday 15th July 2026



After a winter of golf comprising of 143 clubs taking part in the Pearson Trophy with matches being played across Hertfordshire, Kent, Middlesex and Surrey in sometimes treacherous wintery conditions, we arrived at 6:30am to set up for the day at Sundridge Park Golf Club.

Even after a few weeks of extreme dry weather, the course looked amazing and in tip top condition thanks to all the hard work of the green keeping staff.

The vibe in the clubhouse was buzzing and everyone started off the day with breakfast rolls and coffee while the captains were busy swapping team lists so that cards could be completed.

The 4 semi-finalists were expertly started off by Ingrid Long - Kent County President and a Sundridge Past Lady Captain. The teams teed off alternately from 8.00am and played in the following order. Middlesex (Grim's Dyke) v Kent (Tenterden) and Hertfordshire (Brocket Hall) v Surrey (Worplesdon).

Our Kent County referees, Ciaran Burns - Sundridge Park past captain and our very own Helen Johnson - Kent Pearson Deputy positioned themselves at appropriate spots around the course and the information about matches started to flow in.

We were also very grateful to the ladies of Sundridge Park for their exceptional ball spotting. We know it can be a long day looking for balls and we appreciated them helping the players to find their balls and get them back into play quickly.

Middlesex and Kent were the first to have 3 matches come to a conclusion, with 2 wins to Kent and 1 win to Middlesex. The next match between the 2 teams was close, but then Kent took the lead and ended up with another win. This then meant Kent had the 3 wins in the semi-final to bring it to a conclusion meaning they were through to the afternoons' final. Their third and the last match ended up all square on the 18th but as Kent had the 3 wins required, they had no need to go on to the 19th!

In the other semi-final between Hertfordshire and Surrey it was very exciting too. Hertfordshire started with a great early win, which meant we were waiting for a while for the other matches to conclude, especially as there were some matches going to the wire.

Their next match finished on the 19th with a win for Surrey. This match truly was impressive after the upset first thing in the morning, as the Hertfordshire lady had had her car stolen so she was playing with borrowed clubs, shoes and balls!

All matches soon wrapped up with Herts securing 3 wins to take their place in the afternoon finals and bringing the morning semi-finals to a conclusion.

We then all came in for a quick turn around and Aran and his team at Sundridge provided an excellent buffet lunch which was enjoyed by players, caddies, supporters and officials.

Thanks also went to Peter Long, who negotiated on our behalf enabling us to hold the Inter County Finals at Sundridge Park.

A lunchtime presentation was held, with Middlesex and Surrey being presented with their Semi-Finalist Certificates, awards and mementos. Many thanks to Wendy Durrant Pearson Chair for presenting the trophies.



Middlesex



Surrey

It was now time for the Final between Kent and Hertfordshire. The day was hotting up as the sun was now shining, players were applying sun protection and play commenced at 2:15pm.

In the first match and still with borrowed equipment, the Hertfordshire lady took the lead after 11 holes which then resulted with a win in the bag to give them the first result.

After 11 holes the next three matches were in Kent's favour, but all very close and the other match was all square. Hertfordshire went on to turn the matches around with some great golf being played by both sides.

Hertfordshire's number two lady hit a great chip onto the green which hit the flag giving her the win securing Herts second match.

In the next match Hertfordshire were 1 up playing the 17th and their player had 3 great shots giving her the par she needed to secure the third win.

Kent were naturally disappointed as both the remaining matches were certainly in their favour being 3 up after the 13th and 14th holes. We will never know what the result would have been in those matches as they were called in as it was all over.





This photo of the finalists sums up the players friendliness and the spirit in which the matches were played with both teams, caddies and supporters celebrating together and enjoying bubbles. They were toasting each other's victories in reaching the finals and being the last 2 teams standing out of the 143 that started the challenge back in October 2025. The spirits were high and big congratulations to both teams for reaching this stage. Commiserations to Kent and well done Hertfordshire for your fantastic win!



Well done to Kent in reaching the final

We would like to thank again Ciaran and Helen the Kent Golf Referees for giving up their time, being on hand all day assisting and advising with rulings. We couldn't run this competition without their expertise.

Sundridge Park were the perfect hosts presenting an excellent course and facility with Nick Parrot helping us to ensure everything ran smoothly and to plan in coordinating the golf and catering.

Nick had a great team working with him on the day, so special thanks to Aran too for ensuring the hospitality side made the day special and he and his team couldn't do enough to help us.

Sundridge ladies' captain Julia Lowe was present throughout the day along with Shela - Sundridge Pearson Captain. Other members of the Sundridge ladies' section were also very welcoming, fantastic helpers and ball spotters.

Big thanks too to all the County Pearson Managers and deputies for all their time, energy and hard work in putting this competition together and getting us to the point we are all at in the Inter County Finals. So, a special mention to Hertfordshire (Anita and Sue), Surrey (Kate and Lesley), Middlesex (Heather) and to our Pearson Chair Wendy Durrant for all her support and advice throughout the year.

And lastly a special mention to Grim's Dyke, Tenterden, Bocket Hall and Worplesdon for representing their counties and it was great to watch some fantastic golf being played in great spirits.

Thank you all for your continued support in the Pearson Trophy which only can exist with you all taking part.

Lynn (Kent Pearson Manager) and Helen (Kent Pearson Deputy)



CONGRATULATIONS again to Team Hertfordshire (Bocket Hall) : Pearson Inter County Trophy Winners 2025/26