

## Morrisburg Juniors Meet Brooke Henderson at the Canadian Pacific Women's Open

Photos and Story by Carolyn Weegar, Club President



MGC joined the Ontario Golf Association Junior Links Program this year and as a result we received a \$500 grant which was spent on some much needed junior golf sets. We were also invited to join the CP Women's Open Pro Am at the Ottawa Hunt Club Golf & Country Club on Wednesday, August 23.

Eight lucky Morrisburg golfers were randomly drawn to attend: Zoë McMillan, Katherine Lough, Kyrstin Fawcett, Rhubi McMillan, Peyton Caron, Michael Millward, Alex Van Delst, & Victoria Lough (Junior Chaperone).

We reached the park and shuttle at 1:30 pm. Upon arrival we were offered golden tickets which allowed us exclusive access to the club house.

Our excitement built!

Once at the Hunt Club everyone participated in the CP challenge to hit a hole-in-one on the 155 yard par 3. All of us tried, valiantly, but without success – no one came home with a new Accura car but the experience is forever embedded in our brains.

We were informed that Brooke Henderson had already completed her round. All juniors were very disappointed, yet myself and, parent chaperone, Eric Millward, had already explained to our juniors that the odds of getting Brooke's autograph and walking with her in the Pro Am were very slim. They handled this like the little professionals they are! Eric and I were very impressed.

We went to a putting green and watched the pro's putt and were able to obtain autographs as they arrived and departed the green. Enthusiasm abounded – an amazing opportunity to meet and talk with many professional golfers.

We visited the driving range to observe the ladies' skill and expertise at their craft hitting their stack of balls. We told the juniors that with practice they could do this one day! The ladies were phenomenal and hit the balls "a million miles" as our juniors described. True. Very, very true! "Ooh's" and "ah's" were whispered, just like watching fireworks.

There was a larger putting green beside the driving range and that's when we spotted Brooke and Brittany Henderson! We were blown away and gradually worked our way down to a vantage point where we could watch Brooke putt. The kids waved at Brittany and she kindly walked over and had her picture taken with us and signed autographs for all. They asked her if Brooke could come over and she said yes when Brooke was finished. Kids from seven to 12 were intently awaiting her visit – when after 15 minutes – Brittany came back to us and asked us to move to a remote spot. Everyone was freaking out. We waited another what seemed like an hour (10

minutes) and true to her word – Brooke started heading towards us! Sensational!

Our juniors were so well behaved and understood the environment they were in. Brooke arrived! We were mind-blown! Everyone got their hats, flags, books and/or their personal t-shirts signed. She graciously embraced the enthusiasm of her tiny fans – took a few pictures and thanked our juniors for their patience! Seriously. Very classy!

Brittany and Brooke are known for their beautiful smiles and kindness to their fans. An amazing sister act! They are truly beautiful inside and out, and also amazing role models and professionals at such young ages – very inspirational!

Once finished we all had to run to the 15th hole where we were participating in the Pro Am. Each junior had the opportunity to walk with a professional on the par 3 and putt for them! The kids were ecstatic! Once each putt was sunk – the small crowd roared with applause making them feel like rock stars they were! A once in a lifetime experience!



The Pro & MCG Junior pairings were as follows:

Katherine Kirk & Zoë McMillan  
 Mi Hyang Lee & Katherine Lough  
 Jenny Shin & Kyrstin Fawcett  
 Lorie Kane & Rhubi McMillan  
 Sei Young Kim & Peyton Caron  
 Pornanong Phatlum & Michael Millward  
 Laura Diaz & Alex Van Delst

Victoria Lough was our Junior Chaperone who met the golfers on the 15th green.

Photos were taken with all the above LPGA professionals which were so wonderful with our juniors, chatting and answering questions throughout their inspirational walk, and providing putting lessons.

We finished the day by heading with our golden tickets to the club house where we were in awe of the beauty of the building and the locker room area. We sat on the patio, discussed the day's events and everyone shared their thoughts - raising their hands to speak as everyone was exhilarated - as were the chaperones! One junior, Zoë, asked if we could come again next year and Eric and I explained that next year the Open is in Regina, Saskatchewan. The last time it had been held at the Hunt Club was in 2008. We asked how old they would be in 9 years – which is the likely return to the Ottawa area – and the average answer was 18! We said, by then we would be following them on the tour! Excitement, laughter, & dreams continued.

The juniors and chaperones LOVED every minute of this wonderful opportunity. The car rides home were full of “loud” chatter regarding the day. Such enthusiasm and passion for the great game of golf! Everyone met at my house at 9:30 pm and then the discussions erupted again as each parent arrived to pick up their child. Energy abound!

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