

Lady Captains report

Club AGM via zoom Monday 14th December 2020 6.00pm

Club Captains, Past Captains, Committee members and Members of SWGC

When I took up this post last November my main worry was the weather, what happens if matches and events are cancelled due to rain? I had no idea what was to come!!

The weather at the beginning of my year started well, we had dry crisp days for the Captains Drive In, New Captains and Mince pie Mix-Ins. A cosy evening was spent in the bar area for the Presentation and Christmas dinner. I missed playing golf in December and January due to the metal work being taken out of my ankle but I thought I was lucky to get this done in the winter and be able to play golf in the spring! All going well, then the rain came! It seemed to rain for most of January and February. Numbers were down on signups for our lady stableford/medals but this was no surprise as the course was often waterlogged. However, we seemed to be the only open course in Hampshire which we could see by the amount of footfall on our course. I was lucky enough to get away to the Canary Islands to find some sun and just managed to get back into the UK before Spain went into lockdown!

Then the fun really started.

The Golf Course and much of the country closed on 24^d March for 7 weeks.

Spring lunch, all lady and mixed friendly matches, Not the Ryder Cup, Summer Knockouts, St. Georges Cup and Dinner, Ladies Invitation, Lady Captains Day, Club Captains Day, Ducks and Drakes Stoneham Cup, Hayling Trophy, Autumn Lunch and most of Hampshire competitions were all cancelled.

Knight Cup, SWGC Coffee morning, North Hants Trophy, Daily Mail Foursomes were postponed.

I may have forgotten a few!

During Lockdown we all learnt new IT skills. The committee managed to host a "zoom "coffee morning. Pilates for golf was introduced to our ladies via zoom. There are a few of us still attending remotely every Thursday morning. Many of our ladies were kept busy during those very strange few months making scrubs, delivering medicine and prescriptions, shopping for the vulnerable and many more worthy tasks. There was a sponsored walk around the golf course in aid of a charity. Ladies bought and we delivered plants providing much needed income for our ladies' section.

The IG app certainly helped us to book tee times when we returned to 2 ball golf in May, sign up sheets in the locker room became a thing of the past. Then we moved slowly back to 4 ball golf and the bar and restaurant opened. No touching of the flag, no rakes in the bunkers, no ball washers, no swopping of cards, no hugging or shaking hands on the 18th and for the first time being allowed to change your shoes in the car park were some of the new ways of playing golf in 2020.

A big thank you to Jane O'Hara who has never felt so popular! She was inundated with WhatsApp's, texts and emails of Ladies score cards for our Summer Eclectic. I think you will all agree it was a great way to get us back to golf before competitions started again.

We finally got our Lady Section Tuesday tee time slots back on 16th June. Then competitive golf resumed for us all at the end of that month.

I was thrilled that our 2 Ladies Championship competitions were able to take place and that 45 Ladies took part in them. What a difference to our entry numbers when there aren't any holidays or other activities to interfere with our golfing calendar. Again, a zoom presentation for prize giving, but I guess we may have to get used to this for a little while longer. Just look at us now!

I was very glad that I only postponed our Ladies Coffee morning and not cancelled it. The rearranged date of 15th September was a beautiful sunny day and the event was a great success. As Carol Bradshaw our Treasurer has highlighted in the accounts over £1300 was raised for the Ladies Section. It was strange to not have all our South Winchester ladies there welcoming our visitors but this year it had to be run in a different COVID safe manner. 107 ladies from all over Hampshire and Dorset visited our Club. They were all impressed with the course, our handling of the COVID19 restrictions that had to be in place, staff, food, our starters, flowers on the tables and the few friendly SWGC ladies in their pink and navy polos. Thank you again to everyone who donated prizes for the raffle. An amazing £568 was raised for our Charity "Simon Says" Let us hope that in 2021 we are back to normal.

A big thank you to all the ladies who took part in this year's Captain and Vice Challenge. £225 was raised from entries, all proceeds going to "Simon Says" The winners will be announced at our presentation evening which we have postponed until Spring next year.

Steve Parrett, our Club Captain and I would like to thank all the lady members who have supported our Charity this year. The Ladies section has raised over £1600 which has been transferred to the Club Charity account. Steve and I had no hesitation in awarding the prestigious Title of Clubman/Clubwoman of the Year to Vicki Dunlop. Vicki's Tandem Sky Dive raised over £5300, and was our main fund raiser for the charity. Thank you again Vicki and for also trying to repair our Charity Flag! The overall final figure will be announced later but it should be just over £9500. I know "Simon Says" are so grateful for our donations especially this year.

I would like to thank Jos Kerr for all her hard work in organising our new team colours. It was not an easy decision. We were all happy with our pink jumpers but when Glenmiur could only offer "shocking pink" for future orders we knew it was time for a change. Our polo shirts/fleeces should have been with us much quicker but unfortunately orders got held up in India when factories were affected by COVID 19 lockdowns. The final fleeces are now in Lockdown in Andover waiting to be embroidered, so they will be with us just after we return to golf. I think everyone agrees that the team strip was worth the wait. Jos, I will miss our many trips to the embroiders in Andover!

Just before 2nd Lockdown, 7 fairly new Lady Members attended a Rules and Course Management morning. I was able to arrange socially distanced coffee and pastries, which we all enjoyed in the Lakeside room while we discussed various rules and tips regarding golf, followed by 9 holes of golf with Jos, Jane O'Hara and myself. Thank you, Jos, for organising and preparing the handout sheets. Jane and I now have a better idea how to read the greens and what club to take in high winds etc.!

I would like to pass on my thanks to Roger and his team who have had a difficult year managing our Golf Course. I know the course is suffering with Rook/Crow damage at the moment but please be aware your Greenkeeping Staff are doing everything in their power to alleviate this problem. Hopefully next year the chemicals needed will be correctly ordered and used to treat the course earlier. Thanks also, to Alex and Adam and the bar staff. All of the above have always been so helpful to me this year and nothing was ever too much trouble. Thank you again.

A big thank you to my Team Captains this year. Jane O'Hara and Jane Parrett for Hayling Trophy, Lorraine Morgan and Carol Bradshaw for Stoneham Cup, Jos Kerr, North Hants Trophy and Jane Fenner for the Annodata. A lot of work was put in by these ladies in preparation and it was very sad to then have the competitions cancelled. I still have the Brasso ready to clean the silverware that our ladies were going to bring to South ready for next year. I will pass it on to Denise, who I'm sure will have more luck than I did, especially with all our Ladies in our Pink and Navy team strip.

I would like to thank all my committee who have helped me through this difficult year. They have all worked tirelessly, ensuring we got back out and played golf safely.

The Ladies of South Winchester have been a great support to me this year. I received many emails, texts, WhatsApp's, after events to thank and compliment me and my committee. It has been an honour to be your Lady Captain this year. It wasn't the year I had planned. I still have a box of footballs at home for my Lady Captain's Day Euro 2020 competition and a magician booked to perform at the St. Georges Dinner! I have led us back to a normal Ladies Section to the best of my ability given the guide lines I was always working within. I hope that you will support Denise in the same way, as things are going to be this "new normal" for a while longer.

Now to Denise. Denise has been there to listen, discuss and advise me through this very strange year of being Lady Captain. I have no doubt she will be a First-Class Lady Captain and I know you will all support her and her new committee. Thank you, Denise, and enjoy your year. I never thought I would be passing over Captaincy to you during Lockdown Number 2. However, a little advice for you..... please don't worry about the weather. I remember Past Captains saying the same to me, worry about what you can change. I certainly had no ability to control or change the things that happened this year!

Also, a huge thanks to Steve my husband. He has been a great support to me this year as I knew he would be. He has listened to me moaning and stressing about how we could do things. Unfortunately, COVID 19 was not covered in any of the Past Captains folders! I certainly could not have done this job without him. Thank you, Steve.

We had falls, injuries and surgery amongst our ladies this year. All of which were made more complicated by COVID19. I am glad to say that everyone is recovering and it was great to see them back on the golf course. Lots of family weddings were postponed, many special birthdays were not fully celebrated, 5 new Grandmothers, including me, quite a few 2nd and 3rd grandchildren were born, most of us have cancelled holidays and not celebrated birthdays with families. Let us hope that 2021 will be the year of family celebrations, holidays, lots of golf and more importantly good health for all when all restrictions are lifted again.

Sue Gibbs

Lady Captain 2020.