



SWANSTON LADIES' NEWSLETTER – January 2018

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A very Happy New Year! Now that the festivities are past and over-indulgence is off the menu for another 12 months, it is time to trim down (speaking for myself!) and get into shape for the 2018 golfing season. It was fun having an almost white Christmas, provided the snow did not interfere with your travel plans – and I trust there have been no slips and bumps on the ice.

I hope as many of you as possible will participate in as many events as you can at Swanston during the course of 2018. Hopefully we will gain some new members as the year progresses. The 2018 Fixture List was circulated in December by the Club. As he did last year, Stewart Kerr is going to print off a few fixture lists showing only the Ladies' competitions and events, which I found very useful. I will let you know when these are available. Meanwhile I will aim to put the full Fixture List and the Ladies' abridged version on the website (Members/Ladies Section).

Fund Raising: I meant to raise the following item at the AGM but we ran out of time that evening. In order to bolster the Ladies Section funds on an annual basis, my suggestion is that we each pay an extra £1 when playing in a competition. In other words, you would be asked to pay £3 instead of £2 (£1 for the winner; £1 for Two's; and £1 to funds). So, if we each paid an extra £1 at a competition, based on an average of 8 ladies playing in approximately 4 competitions per month during April-Sep, that should raise around £190. The average annual expenditure by the Ladies' Section over the last few years has been around the £200 mark, spent on prizes for non-qualifying competitions during the year, NTP prizes, gifts, general expenses like stationery, ink, etc. An alternative would be to ask each member of the main course to pay £10 a year into the Ladies' Section funds, which would raise around £180. Running raffles are fine, I think, on certain occasions but I do feel the proceeds should be for charity. Currently we hold raffles at the two competitions played with the Seniors, Spring and Autumn; and another at the Ladies Open and I think that is enough, especially as we have to request donations each time (which you very generously provide); also someone has to organise and run the raffle. At the next Committee meeting, we will choose a charity to support in 2018 – your suggestions would be welcome. Also, please let me know your thoughts on the above by e-mail – before our next Committee meeting on 24th January.

Roll-ups: Right, let's kick (tee?!) off 2018 with the roll-ups each Wednesday (all year) at 10am (just turn up) and each Saturday at 11.30am (please add your name to the tee sheet in the normal way - as you would for a competition so we can see in advance how many ladies are likely to be playing. The Saturday roll-ups will run during January, February and March and again in the Autumn, provided there is sufficient support from our members. We will aim to play over 9, 10 or 12 holes (weather dependent), though you can of course continue to play the full 18 holes if you wish. I hope to organise some form of informal competition for at least two of the four Saturdays per month. There was a suggestion to bring our Saturday tee time forward to 10 or 10.30am but this conflicts with tee times available for the Gents' weekend Stablefords. However, you are free to book yourself an earlier tee time on a Saturday in the normal way if that suits you better.

Coaching: At my suggestion, Stephen Speirs has agreed to provide coaching to the Ladies at our Saturday roll ups on 24th February and 3rd March. He will charge £40 per day and he will play over 9, 10 or 12 holes with us (depending on numbers and weather), the Ladies probably playing in two's, teeing off at our usual roll-up time. He will follow each pair for a couple of holes and advise as we play; and he may suggest concentrating on long game one Saturday and short game the next, for instance. I would need to know beforehand if you were interested in participating, so please let me know. Steven's fee will be split equally between the number of ladies playing, e.g. 10 playing = £4 each; 8 playing = £5 each; 6 playing = £6.66 each, etc.

Friendlies: Nan has posted a sheet with provisional dates for the Friendlies on our noticeboard. Please add your name to the sheet or contact Nan directly – pgilhooly@mac.com or 07762 953282 - if you would like to play. I know the dates seem like a long way off at the moment! We are hoping that some of the matches can be played earlier in the afternoon.

Provisional dates as follows:

Tuesday 1st May -v- Lochend (H);

Wednesday 9th May -v- Merchants (H)

Monday 21st May -v- Edinburgh Uni (H)

Wednesday 6th June -v- Craigmillar (H)

Tuesday 10th July -v- Carrickvale (A)

Christmas Charity game: Thank you to all who participated on 9th December – you will have seen the group photo on the website. We raised £70 for Oxfams Care Dementia Group. Margaret won the prize for most imaginative outfit (photo at end of Newsletter) – she does put a lot of effort into her creations!

Board Meeting: The next one is on 9th January. Let me know if there is any matter you wish to raise.

Club Prizegiving: Friday 2nd February at 7.30pm in the Brasserie. Everyone is welcome to attend to support the prizewinners. Please let me know if you plan to come along that evening, so we know how many seats to request at the Ladies' table.

Morison Millar: Thursday 5th July. Andrea and Kay (sadly no longer a Swanston member but she will continue to assist with MM) – they will attend a meeting later in January and after that Andrea will advise us about setting up a sub-committee to manage the event.

Start of Season: The Ladies' first qualifying competition of 2018 will be an 18-hole Stableford on Thursday 5th April. The main golfing season at Swanston will open with a Texas Scramble on Saturday 7th April - all Sections can participate. Ladies can also take part in the Club Greensomes on Sunday 15th April and the Netta Turner 4-ball on Saturday 28th April. It's never too soon to be considering who to ask to be a partner or team member for these events and it doesn't have to be another lady – any member. However, Swanston Ladies may wish to enter an all female team (or teams) for some of these competitions. Also, at the end of April we will hold our Coronation Foursomes (Stableford scoring) and the winning pair will go forward to the area final in July. The Janice Sutherland Trophy competition with the Seniors takes place on Tuesday 17th April. Every Wednesday during the summer months, the Club will run an 18-hole Stableford (qualifying for handicap) which is open to **all** Club members. More details will be included in the next (March) Newsletter – remember the Newsletter will be issued every two months this year.

If there are any matters you wish to discuss, do not hesitate to phone or e-mail. Also if you have new ideas for golfing events, ways of attracting new members, etc, please share with the Committee. Best wishes for a happy and successful golfing year.

Fiona

Margaret MacConnachie, winner of the most imaginative outfit at the Christmas Charity game. The 25th December pocket was on her back and each pocket contained chocolates which she shared out. A few extra calories on top of the mince pies!

