



## SWANSTON LADIES' NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2017

*Produced by: Fiona Shepherd – [fjsheps@gmail.com](mailto:fjsheps@gmail.com)*

As you know, our Swanston Ladies' AGM was held on Friday 3rd November and afterwards we enjoyed a delicious meal in the Brasserie. Twenty-one members attended the AGM and 24 ladies were at the Dinner, which was a pretty good turnout. For those of you who could not attend, attached below is an abbreviated version of my speech with paragraphs containing information and dates that could be useful. All the AGM Reports and Minutes will eventually be posted on the website. After the dinner, prizes were presented to the Stableford winners; plus presentations for Eclectic (Margaret), Order of Merit (Susan) and Birdie prize (Susie, who was absent).

### **Swanston Ladies' Committee:**

<b>Lady Captain:</b>	Fiona Shepherd
<b>Vice-Captain:</b>	Elizabeth Anderson
<b>Secretary:</b>	vacant
<b>Handicap Secretary:</b>	Elizabeth Anderson
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Nancy Arnott
<b>Friendlies Organiser:</b>	Nan Gilhooly
<b>Committee Member:</b>	Andrea Johnstone
<b>Committee Member:</b>	Margaret MacConnachie

I shall continue to hope that someone will step forward to act as Secretary. Meanwhile, I welcome Elizabeth as Vice-Captain and she will ease into the Handicap Secretary post with help from Andrea and advice from a previous Handicap Secretary, Susan Greenfield, who has offered to assist from the sidelines. We welcome Margaret who has nobly come back to serve on the Committee. Nancy will continue keeping an eye on the pennies; Nan will start organising the Friendlies early next year; and Andrea will be kept busy planning the Morison Millar event.

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Extracts from Lady Captain's Report at AGM:

*I am pleased that we now have an updated Constitution in place for the Ladies Section and hopefully this version will stand for a number of years (please note that an additional paragraph 8.2 is to be added – this was agreed at the AGM. The final version will be issued in due course). Situations and priorities change from year to year in any golf club, so both the Constitution and our Conditions of Competition should be reviewed on a regular basis by the Committee to ensure they are up-to-date and relevant.*

*Early in the year, the Committee produced Rules of Competition which were circulated to all members of the main course. I hope you all read this! However, I find myself repeating some items over and over again! The main one being that you should have your name on the tee sheet by 4pm the day before any competition. Having spoken to Bob, we hope that next year he will have a system in place where it is not possible to add or remove your name after that cut off time. If you have put your name down and then decide not to play, please telephone the Shop at least half an hour before the first tee time – or text or phone someone who is on the list to play to let them know. The Rules of Competition will be updated by the Committee early in 2018 before the start of the playing season and a copy will be sent to all members of the main course.*

Looking ahead to 2018, the Committee has reviewed the number of Scottish Golf Women's Medals currently played at Swanston and has taken into account the views of many of our members. The Committee has decided that Alternative Medals will no longer be played. Instead next year there will be 9 Scottish Golf Women's Medals on our fixture list which will run in tandem with Swanston Ladies' medals. There will be one each month April through to September played on a Saturday; and the June and July Saturday Medals will be our Championship qualifiers. Plus, there will be 3 Thursday Medals played in May, June and July. It is hoped that ladies who work during the week will still be able to participate in these Thursday Medals as there should be sufficient daylight in the evenings. In the months when there are two Medals, these will be played on consecutive weeks towards the end of each month. We will continue to have blocked tee times for both Saturdays and Thursdays and we encourage members to play at those times, though a member can choose to play a Medal outwith these times provided she can arrange for a suitable marker approved by the Committee. For Stablefords, we will offer 6 Saturday events through April to September; plus 6 Thursday Stablefords, 4 of which will be 9-hole Stablefords (May, June, July & August). Again we will attempt to run these on consecutive weeks so that members are not playing two Stablefords in quick succession. We also have four Trophy competitions which qualify for handicap, so we are not short of opportunities to maintain our handicaps. The Club Championships will again be played in August; and **Swanston Ladies' Open is scheduled for Sunday 27th May.**

For the remainder of 2017, we do have as promised qualifying Stablefords and Medals. However, from January to March 2018 there will be no qualifying competitions. Instead, the Committee plans to block book some Saturday tee times from 11.30am through the winter months, so we can meet up and play some form of modified competition to suit the weather and state of the course. The Winter Greensomes will take place once again on the Templar course and Anne Renshaw, who kindly agreed to organise, has issued the Draw – so warm gloves and woolly hats at the ready!

On the Planting Scheme front, the bed above the Putting Green was recently planted up and we will keep an eye on this area and hope the shrubs and heathers survive the winter. All this is being done not only to enhance the frontage at the Clubhouse for members to admire but to improve the look of the place for next year's **Morison Millar** competition. I would really like to feel very proud of Swanston Golf Course and Club – and the Brasserie – that day – **Thursday 5th July 2018 with an alterative date one week later, 12th July.** Andrea and Kay represent Swanston on the Morison Millar organising Committee but, as I have mentioned before, we will require to form a sub-committee at Swanston with volunteers helping in various roles.

Sadly, we now know of 5 more ladies who have decided not to renew membership at Swanston in 2018, citing difficulty of the course because of physical limitations – or just that it is very difficult to reduce one's handicap given some tricky holes. We will be very sad to say goodbye to Louise, Carole, Trudy, Sandra and Irene. Mike has promised that he will offer some incentive to any new lady members, probably in the form of free lessons or something like that.

*This is a team effort – and your assistance is needed to help the Ladies' Section go forward.*

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Nan and Joan recently conducted a survey regarding the popular 5 over 12 competition and, as promised, the names of those who replied were put into a draw. Anne Renshaw was the lucky winner in the draw made at the Dinner on Friday evening. Their report is on next page:

**5 Over 12 Questionnaire**

The questionnaire was completed and returned by 10 ladies with a variety of responses which were both interesting and helpful. Thank you, Ladies, for doing this.

A brief summary is as follows:-

- 3 ladies who regularly take part said that they thought everything should remain the same.
- 2 ladies who have taken part said they were happy to go along with whatever is decided for next year.
- 1 lady who would like to participate next year is happy to go along with whatever is decided for next year.
- 1 lady said there should be no limits to the timings i.e. either hours of the day or days of the week.
- 1 lady who takes part regularly wished for a change to 9 holes.
- 2 ladies who have not taken part before would like to participate if the competition is changed to 9 holes.

Comments included:

- The old layout of the course suited the 12 hole competition i.e. 6 holes on one side and 6 holes on the other finishing at the clubhouse. The present first 12 holes is not so convenient for some ladies who find holes 10 and 11 long and tiring.
- In 2018 we are losing at least 5 ladies who usually take part in this competition and we must therefore ensure that the competition in the future is as attractive, friendly and enjoyable as possible.

With your good will and approval we suggest changing the name of the competition to '**The 9 Hole Challenge**', a matchplay knockout competition to be played over the first 9 holes of the course. The competition will be played during the months March to September, on any day of the week and at any time of the day. The rules and regulations will remain the same as for the 5 over 12 but will be updated to reflect the changes above.

Please respond to Nan if you have any further comments:

[pgilhooly@mac.com](mailto:pgilhooly@mac.com)

Many thanks, **Nan and Joan**

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On **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December**, we will hold our annual **Christmas Fancy Dress** event on the Templar course, teeing off at 10.30am. £5 to play for charity – we will let you know before the event which organisation we will be supporting. Format will depend on numbers – it will be a shotgun start. No handicap required and this fun game is open to all ladies. Fancy dress optional but we hope everyone will join in the spirit of the game! A wee prize for the best outfit. You will require only a small bag with a few clubs (best to check the website to find out if trolleys are allowed that day). Afterwards we will meet up in the Brasserie for prizes and mince pies (around 12 noon). A separate e-mail will be issued later this month asking for names. Hope you can play!

There will be a Board Meeting on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November when representatives of the various sections at Swanston will work on the Fixture List for 2018. Elizabeth, Andrea and myself are working on a framework. The Ladies' Committee will meet on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November, when we hope to plan some golfing events for January, February and March.

Looking ahead to next year, the **Club Prizegiving** will be held on **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**. As well as the Prizewinners, all ladies will be invited to attend to support our winners.

**Fixtures in November and December:** please note that our Christmas game on the Templar replaces a Stableford on the main course.

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November – Alternate Medal

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November - Medal

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December - Stableford

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Charity game on Templar

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Alternate Medal

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December - Medal

A Newsletter will not be issued in December - and during 2018, expect a bi-monthly edition. Please forward ideas, suggestions, etc for inclusion in Newsletters – and if anyone can offer to take on producing the Newsletter, do get in touch!

Look out for membership renewal notices which will be issued by the Club in the near future. Membership year is now January-December.

So, we say “goodbye” to Louise, Carole, Trudy, Sandra and Irene – we are very sorry that they are leaving Swanston but wish them well. At the end of November, Zoe will be heading off to the ski slopes in France for the winter and we will look forward to seeing her again in the Spring. As for the rest of us – just keep golfing when weather permits – and continue to roll up on a Wednesday at 10am, organise your Winter Greensome games – and play golf as long as weather permits!

**Fiona**