



SWANSTON LADIES' NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2018

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Opportunities for playing golf have been few and far between this year. Here's hoping that Spring will soon be in the air! But first of all we will have to wait for all this snow to disappear. Meanwhile a good number of the Winter Greensome ties on the Templar have already been played, with a few more organised for this month. A group of ladies attended Steven's lesson on the course at the end of February and found it useful – now we want to be able to practise what we learned before we forget! The planned second lesson with Stephen has been postponed until 31st March, just before he leaves Swanston for Turnberry.

The **Club Prizegiving** took place on Friday 2nd February, when seven ladies attended. It was unfortunate that several of our prizewinners were unable to be there for the presentations. Those who came along enjoyed the celebration, with tasty snacks provided by the Brasserie. The Three Susans (Sue, Susie and Susan!) still have to collect their mementos. A couple of photos are on the website and Stephen posted several on Facebook, with one attached at end of the Newsletter.

The **Committee met** on 24th January when we decided that we will organise a "forum" type meeting for the Ladies Section in the autumn. Provisional date set is Tuesday 25th September. This is to give our members an opportunity to raise and discuss matters ahead of the Ladies AGM. Such as, ideas for raising extra funds for the Ladies Section. Thank you to those who did respond to my suggestions in the January Newsletter. There were 10 replies, out of which 5 ladies were in favour of paying an extra £10 at the start of the season; most would not want to pay an extra £1 for playing in a competition and others would not want to pay anything at all over and above their Swanston GC subscription. So, no change to our present arrangement for the time being. **This year's chosen charity** is The Eric Liddell Centre which offers daycare for dementia sufferers, support for carers, and various other very helpful "caring" programmes. The Committee decided that money raised at our raffles at the Janice Sutherland Trophy game and Ladies Greensomes Open will be for this charity. However, whatever I choose to organise on Lady Captain's Day in June will raise funds for Swanston Ladies. The Planting Fund has £300 remaining after the planting carried out in the autumn in the bed above the putting green; and in a couple of months, further container planting can be done ahead of the Morison Millar. Gardening volunteers contact me!

Our **Handicap Review** was carried out at this Committee meeting and any ladies who have been recommended for a change in handicap have since been informed by Andrea.

The **Ladies' Fixture List** is now on the website in the Members'/Ladies' Section. One change from the Club Fixture List is that our 3-Club Competition is to be on Saturday 1st September, with an 18-hole Stableford on Saturday 8th, the same day as the Par 3 Open on the Templar. We have also added a date for our Christmas game – the Christmas Pudding Scramble on 8th December – that's a long way off! There are a few printed copies of the Ladies' Fixtures available in the Changing Room but you can, of course, print off your own or download from the website. **Conditions of Competition** and information about the Eclectic, OOM, etc can also be viewed on the website. Details will be posted on our noticeboard in due course and will be e-mailed to members of the main course before the end of March. Please note that you will be invited to pay £2 into the Eclectic "purse", which will be awarded to the winner at the AGM (note: the Eclectic runs April-September). Scores from the 9-hole Stablefords are not counted in the Eclectic but the results do qualify for OOM. The Birdie Board will be back in action from 1st April. The course has been remeasured and new scorecards will be ready for the start of the season. Please take note of the changes to our Stroke Index. Though our Standard Scratch remains the same at 71, the Ladies Par is now 72 as the 10th has been upgraded to a Par 5. The new Ladies tee at the 10th should be ready soon; and hopefully the steps to the 1st tee will have been renewed by April.

You will be invited to enter our **Hareburn Trophy** matchplay competition, for which the draw will be made at the end of March. Please e-mail Elizabeth if you wish to enter. Please note that Limited and 5-Day members are excluded from entering this competition.

Information has already been circulated about **The 9 Hole Challenge** – please contact Nan or Joan before 14th March regarding this competition. You may leave your £2 subscription in an envelope posted into the padlocked box in the Ladies' Locker Room. Remember to address to Nan or Joan and add your name.

Planning for the **Morison Millar** is underway behind the scenes and shortly a sub-committee will be set up to organise the event at Swanston. Soon we will be asking for volunteers to help on the day – spotters, car parking, marshalling, catering, etc. The dates to remember are Thursday 5th July, with Thursday 12th July as back-up. Swanston Ladies' team (4 players) will not be confirmed until the end of April/early May, to give our members time to get back into the swing after the winter lay-off. In this foursomes competition over 36 holes, only handicaps of 20 and below are recognised; so anyone playing with a handicap of 21 and above will play off 20 for this competition – hence the reason we will be aiming to enlist our lower handicap players!

Friendlies – unfortunately, the game with Edinburgh University in May has been cancelled and so far we have been unable to re-arrange. Names are still required for the four remaining Friendlies, so please add your name to the sheet in the changing room or contact Nan who is organising the teams. We always need reserves!

Onwards to April when golf really gets going again! Have you put your name down for the opening Club Texas Scramble on Saturday 7th April? If not and you want to play, speak to the Shop. There are also the Club Greensomes on Sunday 15th April, so find your partner (another member – male or female) and book in; then you may want to enter (as a pair) the Club Netta Turner 4 Ball on Saturday 28th April. The Janice Sutherland Trophy will be another Texas Scramble with the Seniors on Tuesday 17th April (a separate reminder about this will be sent out mid-March). Plus, we have our own Swanston Ladies' competitions starting again in April:

Thursday 5th April	18-hole Stableford
Saturday 14th April	18-hole Stableford
Saturday 21st April	Medal
Sunday 29th April	Coronation Foursomes (stableford scoring) qualifier

A separate invitation/reminder will be sent out early April for the **Coronation Foursomes**. For more information, you can look online by “googling” Coronation Foursomes 2018. Entry for the qualifying round at Swanston is through Ladies' Section and there is a fee of £3 per pair (payable on the day), which is ultimately paid to the R&A. Before entering, please ensure (should you be our winning pair) that you and your partner will be available to play in a choice of two Area Finals. The nearest option is at Ratho Park on Wednesday 18th July, though you can choose to play in any of the Area Finals. Again, all info is available on the R&A website.

Then we have our **Ladies' Greensomes Open** on Sunday 27th May. You can book via the website. £15 per pair. Please invite a friend from another Club to be your partner. I have asked former Swanston members to contact me if they would like to play and I can try a bit of matchmaking – or you could ask one of them yourselves! Think of all those ladies at Kingsknowe and Liberton!

Our Templar members – and many of the rest of us – will be pleased that “normal service” resumes on the 9-hole course from 8th April. Also, we can all look forward to making use of the new driving range facilities later in the season.

Suddenly it will be all “go” and we will be juggling dates and events – desperately hoping for fine weather. I hope you are looking forward to getting back to playing golf. Remember to do some exercises and warm ups before you head out on the course. There are roll-ups at 11.30am on Saturdays through March – add your name to the tee sheet in the usual way. If enough of you turn up, you can always play some sort of competition to liven up the round. I will not be available for Saturdays 17th and 24th – and Elizabeth is off on her hols too!

Please note that there is a Club Forum planned on Tuesday 27th March at 7pm.

Here's to a successful golfing season!

Fiona

Prizegiving February 2nd 2018

