

Swanston Ladies AGM – Friday 1st November

Ladies Captain's Report

Good evening ladies and welcome to the 2019 AGM, and thank you all for coming.

When I started this report, my goal was to keep it short but that just didn't seem to happen. Why use one word when I can use 10.

Seems no time since we were all here a year ago, and a very interesting year it has been for my 1st year as Ladies Captain. I thank you all for all your support and help throughout the year, it has made my job a lot easier.

We are, but a small, select group of golfing ladies but we have managed to play nearly all our competitions, a couple have fallen by the wayside due to adverse weather conditions, but hae! this is Scotland after all.

The weather at Swanston can be a challenge at time but when the sun comes out and the wind drops it is one of the most glorious courses to play, nothing quite beats the view from the top of the 7th tee looking over to Fife and the bridges and down to the Bass rock, even the Highland coo's are picturesque and a great tourist attraction.

The Ladies section has had a busy year, no Morison Millar this year, which for Andrea would be a relief but the ladies section does owe her a huge vote of thank you for all her work over this, and the past few years on the MM committee. We did manage to field a team, Fiona, Margaret, Zoe and Linda, who did extremely well given that the handicap limit for the competition is 20 which only Linda is under. Not the easiest of games either given they must play over 36 holes. Well done ladies. Next year's game is at Baberton.

The weather did impact 3 of the medals and Stablefords but we still managed to play 7 medals, 4 x 9-hole and 7 x 18-hole Stablefords, with a mixture of players, one game only had 2 players but another 10, also managed to play for 7 trophies. A few ladies continue to have the Wednesday roll-up, depending on mood and weather they either play on templar or main course.

Winter Greensomes were again played on the Templar which is a lovely way to get us out playing and socialising over the winter months as once played retire

to the club house for a well-deserved coffee. I'm sorry to say that I didn't manage a hole-in-one this year. Many thanks to Nan and Joan for organising this and the 9-hole challenge played over the summer. Delighted to see that this year's winter games have several Templar members signed up to play.

We did manage to get our Open played this year, with 46 ladies scheduled to play, there were a couple of call offs on the day as the weather forecast was certainly not encouraging, the rain stayed off for most of the time, think the wind kept most of it away but the players who went off in the afternoon got the worst of it. It was great to see so many ladies from other clubs coming to play as well as ex-Swannay ladies. We had sponsorships on all the holes which was great, with a £100 voucher from Miss Designer Golf which was won by a lady from Deer Park. Sorry to say missed out on my money from 'you've been framed' as my dive from the buggy and nose slide down the course was not recorded and for that I am thankfully, luckily the only things that were hurt were my pride and backside.

An addition this year was sponsorship for one of our medals by Alex Erskine the top four winners to go through to the final at Craigmillar park, only 3 of us dually turned up to play and the rain came down in droves, competition was postponed and rescheduled, poor Fiona and Margaret weathered the rescheduled game and despite the miserable day did finished the course, well done both.

The Opening Match Captains v Vice Captain was won by the Captains team, I unfortunately was on Vice Captains team, but the buffet served up afterwards made up for it.

The Janice Sutherland Trophy and Jim McLeod Trophy are always enjoyable events and was good that some previous lady members came to join us. The Senior gents Captain won both matches AGAIN this year, bit like my school report card, "Elizabeth needs to do better," but as always, the generosity of all members never cease to amaze me, with monies from the Janice Sutherland going to Oxfams Care Centre and Jim McLeod to Marie Curie.

Ladies Captain Day – not a lot I can say about this match, love the format of Bingo, Bango Bongo. 7 colourful ladies set out but by the 3rd and 4th hole, drowned rats didn't cover us, looked like someone had just turned the cold-water hose over us. Sensible outcome was to abandon game and retire to clubhouse for tea and scones. Which is just what we did.

We do try and have a few fun competitions over the season and one such is the putting competition, which this year was delighted to welcome some of the new Templar ladies, was good fun and Muriel retained the trophy, but she was good and did share her liquorice allsorts.

The Friendship Cup, played as a Stableford this year, much more 'user friendly' is played on a Friday evening and this year we had 8 Swanston ladies and partners playing, quite a few of the partners were due to Fiona digging through her little 'black book, and for getting these ladies thank you, I think a couple hadn't played at Swanston before, hopefully they will return. Muriel and her partner Susan from Liberton came out winners.

Bad weather again this year disrupted our Championships qualifiers but, fortunately the finals got played on the given day. The Tse family certainly did well this year with Linda winning Silver and husband Stephen winning A Senior Section and Fiona winning the Bronze, it is always a shame that there are winners and losers but well done to all who played and qualified.

8 Ladies had a great time when they went over to Arran to play in the Arran Challenge on the 12 hole Shiskine course, which was very quirky and challenging course but must have enjoyed it as provisionally booked to go back next year.

Over the year the ladies have been represented at all the board meetings and we do raise any concerns that have been brought to us by the ladies, and one of these days we will get proper signage on the holes where we are well away from the gent's tee's, particularly 10th and 11th. If you have any issues, recommendations or helpful hints that we can take to the board, please let us know.

We have one of the best golfing facilities in Edinburgh and now that Scottish water is nearly finished down at the academy and the new practice bays now up and running it should be all steam ahead for the future of the golf. We do still have the occasional Footgolf on the Templar but not sure if you are aware but the rules for the players mean there is no fancy dress or alcohol on the course and any unruly behaviour they will be asked to leave. Unfortunately, the club does still need the revenue to subsidy funds but hopefully by next year with the academy fully functional the monies that they bring in will mean they are no longer needed.

Hopefully over the coming year we can attract more ladies to join Swanston but also the ladies who have joined the Templar and Academy will continue and join in with playing some of the fun competitions that we have. Our next one being the Xmas pud scramble, where teams of 3 play for the much-coveted Xmas Puds, Fancy dress for this is optional but it is always great fun to dress up in your tinsel and xmas jumpers.

Every couple of months I send out a newsletter giving the ladies and club news but also this year, little bit at the end, change from my holiday stories, I've been going green, well I have tried my hand at growing some veg in the garden, thoroughly enjoyed it and the produce although don't think I want to see a runner bean again for a while. Carrots and beetroot the slugs loved so never mind the beer traps all out war on them next year with the slug pellets.

On a sadder note just last week the funeral took place of our former ladies Captain Trudie Webster who passed away at the age of 92, Trudie apparently was some character and was very instrumental in growing the ladies section away back in the ???. And for that we thank her. Also talking about past captains, I have to apologise to them all as unfortunately none of them were invited to the AGM dinner until very late on, it is not added to the list of AGM tasks so will not happen in the future.

Finally, I have to say thanks to the shop, Bob, Spike and Malcolm for all their help also Mike and Graham who have been very supported. Thanks also to Wylie and the brasserie who have looked after us well over the year, also Fiona who I have picked her brains on quite a few occasions, but most of all to the committee who have helped tremendously.

Just look forward to more golf, lower handicaps and better weather, although if you are to believe the weather forecaster the beast from the east is coming again. Think I will book another holiday.