

Swanston Ladies AGM – Friday 6th November

Ladies Captain's Report

Normally I would be welcoming you to our AGM evening but not to be this year, but hopefully everyone and their families are staying well and safe.

Seems no time since the 2019 AGM and my 1st year as Ladies Captain. Not quite sure what I can say about my 2nd year as your Captain, been quite a challenge and not quite what I envisaged, don't think anyone could have forecast what was to happen this year but we have survived, baked lots of cakes, put on a few pounds, found new hobbies, supported each other but best of all managed, albeit late on, playing golf.

In these difficult times 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 and although we had a late start, not being able to play golf till end of May, we have managed to play nearly all our competitions. We did extend the playing season till end of October which allowed us to have some additional competitions which made up for April and May's lost ones.

Unfortunately the Putting competition, Friendship Cup, Lady Captain day and Lady Captain v Vice captain were all cancelled this was due both to Covid restriction but also the Brasserie wasn't open so we couldn't socialise afterwards and these are social events where we can all get together, all the Swanston lady members, both Academy and main Course, it is so nice to meet up and chat.

Friendship competitions also couldn't be played but hopefully we can get these played in 2021.

Trips to Arran and an outing to Gogarburn also had to be cancelled. Arran rebooked for October 2021 and Gogarburn hopefully for Spring 2021.

Golf in Scotland also had to be cancelled in the Spring as we were in lockdown, hopefully we can get this rescheduled for spring 2021. We did manage to have some very successful group lessons over the winter with Adam, the outstanding ones were completed on the main course after this was reopened.

Midlothian ladies Autumn meeting at Swanston also was cancelled but this has been rescheduled for 2021.

Our Ladies Open along with the Mixed Open were also cancelled, and we had no Janice Sutherland or Jim Mcleod. Normally we raise money for charities at these competitions so not only did we lose out on a fun day, but the charities also lost out. Must raise double in 2021.

I think cancelled or rescheduled have been my most used words this year.

The weather at Swanston can be a challenge at time and a particular torrential storm the week of the championship played havoc with the 2nd hole, the power of water is a force to be reckoned with but thanks to the green staff and volunteers the debris was cleared but on the path on the 6th you can still see the damage the water caused. We have been relatively lucky this year with only a couple of games being lost to weather.

Susan Greenfield report will cover all winners of trophies, medals and stableford played over the year, see attached. But well done to all who have supported and played in all the competitions and bounce games, and well done to all the winners, commiserations to the losers.

Do have to mention that championship final, and a huge thank you to all who came along on the day to support the ladies, many more than was supporting the gent's finalist. Very close match between Linda Tse and Susan Greenfield with Linda retaining her title. The Bronze finalist were Zoe Norton and Margaret MacConnachie, with Margaret winning for the first time,

We still have the Wednesday roll-up, but must book your names into BRS system, but thank you to Fiona, Nan and Joan for organising this, depending on numbers and weather determines what type of games are played. Did miss our cuppa and chat after the games for a while but now Brasserie is back open these can continue.

Did manage the Winter Greensomes played on the Templar up to lockdown and it is a lovely way to get us out playing and socialising over the winter months as once played we retire to the club house for a well-deserved cuppa. These have been scheduled for again this year and for the moment we are getting the cuppa afterwards. Long may that continue.

Unfortunately, the 9-hole challenge over the summer fell afoul of Covid but many thanks to Nan and Joan for organising both competitions.

Thanks to all the ladies who dressed up for our Xmas pud scramble which was to be played on the Templar, the weather won on that day for the golf but not to be beaten we had a fun Xmas quiz in the Brasserie with chokies, cuppa and mince pies. Note to self for this year, make sure you stipulate that it is Xmas mince pies on the order although the meat mince pies with brown sauce went down very well.

Over this year there has only been a couple of Board meetings which I have attended which have been useful to find out both what is going on within the club but any concerns you may have can be raised and discussed. During the year Mike, Graham and the shop are good at answering and resolving where possible any of our issues. One change which was asked for this year was to have the yellow stakes moved at the 3rd, it was decided that they could be completely removed making the hole the same as the 6th where there are no stakes and the ball must cross the gorse and the burn.

If you have any issues, recommendations or helpful hints that we can take to the board, please let us know.

Due to Covid restrictions the committee have been unable to meet to have a formal committee meeting since February but thanks to emails, txt and phone calls your committee has continued to do an excellent job supporting me in my role as Lady Captain and for that I must give them a huge thank-you.

Delighted that Andrea Johnstone has agreed to be Vice Captain from 2021 and Ladies Captain from 2022. Maggie Smith has agreed to come onto the committee but unfortunately Susan Greenfield has decided that she can no longer do the Handicap secretary role and will leave the committee after the AGM. Normally Andrea and Maggie would be proposed and seconded at the AGM but Joan and Nan have done this via email. Hope this is acceptable to all.

We are still in need of a secretary and a handicap secretary if you feel you would like to help please let me know.

We have one of the best golfing facilities in Edinburgh, the academy is always very busy, and now that the new turf has been laid there are a few more additional outside tees. There has been an increase in membership to the club with a couple of new lady members which we hope to see a lot more of over the coming months. We also have quite a few of extremely good junior girls which we were due to play with during the October break, but this has now been put back till Spring break.

Finally, I have to say huge thanks to the all the shop staff for all their help also Mike and Graham who have been very supported. Thanks also to Wylie and the brasserie, although not seen as much of them this year, but who have looked after us when we have, also all to the committee who have helped tremendously.

Normally at this time of year I am packing my suitcases getting ready to jet of somewhere warm and exotic but like most of us holidays have been cancelled with no new ones booked. This has been a year of 'stay at home' but hopefully next year we can look forward to more golf, lower handicaps and good weather and jetting off to exotic locations