

## CAPTAIN'S REPORT 2022

Good evening ladies, welcome to our 2022 AGM and lovely to see so many of you here. Happily I think that we can say that most of this year has been free of restrictions and has allowed us to get back to our normal golfing life. Wonderful! I can't actually believe that one year of my captaincy is over already, what a quick 12 months.

First of all I think that I can safely say that the Ladies section at Swanston has changed almost beyond recognition over the last 12/18 months. Since I joined Swanston in 2014 the number of lady members has remained fairly constant however thanks to the Academy, we are now seeing a huge growth in members which would have almost seemed impossible a few years ago. We currently have around 110 ladies.

I am absolutely delighted about this and while there are some who are happy to always remain as Templar ladies and that's absolutely fine, we are seeing a few graduating to the main course. This is really encouraging and hopefully will continue for 2023.

Fiona will be expanding more on this in her report later.

We have enjoyed a very good summer again with not too many competitions falling foul of the weather although we had two which were not played due to lack of numbers.

This is a bit of a problem when we have so few ladies who are full or 5 day members but hopefully given time we may see a few new faces joining us for our competitions. In fact we have one junior girl, Alannah, who is keen to play with us and is more than capable of showing us a thing or two about playing the course despite only being 11 years old! I for one will be looking forward to that.

We began in March with a Rules evening which was well attended. Thanks to Muriel for all her help with that. It's difficult to know just what to focus on as there are so many rules in golf but hopefully what we covered was beneficial to both the new and seasoned golfers who came along.

To allow us to hold a prize giving in 2022 it was decided that it would be combined with a welcome event for all the new Academy lady members and this took place in April. It was a good opportunity for those who came along to meet new faces and proved to be a successful evening. Going forward however, as with tonight, the prize giving will take place at our AGM in November .

Our joint fun/charity events were all very well supported this year so a big thank you to everyone who came along and especially to some of the Academy ladies who joined us for the Lady Captain's day in June which was held on the main course. Luckily it was a lovely day with no wind so probably one of the better days to play it.

Unfortunately, this year, one of the competitions unable to be played was the Coronation Foursomes qualifier which is held in April. To enter this event which is sponsored by the R & A and runs over the whole of the UK, clubs must have at least three pairs taking part in their competition at the club and we were unable to meet that requirement this year due to low numbers and some ladies being unavailable etc. It was disappointing given our success in last year's event however I am really hopeful that we will manage to enter a team for 2023.

This year's Morison Millar event was held at the Braid's golf course in July and Susan, Margaret, Zoe and Elizabeth represented Swanston this year. I want to personally thank Elizabeth for agreeing to be a last minute replacement for me as I very conveniently had Covid. It was an extremely hot day and for those of you not familiar with the Braids, it's a fairly challenging course to play once without having to play twice round in the one day in the baking hot sun. We didn't manage a win this year however the team played well and came middle of the field so well done to everyone.

Both charity events with the Seniors were able to be played this year although the Jim McLeod Trophy had to be rearranged for September after the August date turned out to be one of the wettest days we had over the summer.

The results were a win for lady captain's team in April and the Seniors won in September. Both events raised well over £220 for each of their respective charities.

**The ladies charity for this year was again the Oxfangs Care Centre at Firrhill who are always very grateful to receive our donations. We have been invited to pay them a visit to see the work that they do and hopefully a few of us will be able to do that next year should we continue to support them.**

**Nan will cover the Friendly matches in her report but I would like to say a huge thank you to her for all her hard work in organising these games which are always very enjoyable. I do believe however that she will be looking to stand down after this year so if anyone is interested in taking on this role, she will be very happy to show you the ropes.**

**Friendlies are a really important part of the playing season and are a perfect way to meet and play with ladies from other clubs in a relaxed environment. For less experienced golfers they are very good way of building up confidence in your game as you are playing with a partner and I think Maggie would agree with that.**

**Our putting challenge in June was a great success despite almost losing out to the downpour beforehand. It was a well deserved win for Sue Walker and you will be able to see your name on the Trophy later.**

**We also managed to hold our Friendship Cup this year after it had been cancelled in 2021 due to the weather and we had 16 ladies playing.**

**It was a windy evening but dry at least and the winning pair were Norma Millar and Joy McDougall. Well done ladies. I have the engraved Trophy for you to admire.**

**Our Championship day this year was again one of our hottest days and after playing in many finals over the years and just missing out, we were all delighted to see Susan Greenfield triumph at last. Worth the wait. Commiserations to our new mum Zoe who was the other finalist but who I'm sure at this moment happily has more on her mind.**

**This year's Bronze Championship was won by Margaret MacConnachie who beat Norma Millar in the final. Well done to Margaret who now has her name on the Trophy twice and commiserations to Norma who played really well in her first final.**

**This year's Open Greensomes was held in September for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time and with the numbers we had, 27 pairs, together with the lovely weather it would seem that this has been a good decision to move the date.**

**No snow, no fog, but hopefully I haven't just jinxed it now.**

**The winning pair were Catriona Duncan and Elaine Moffat both Academy members so that was also a bonus.**

**We had a great team of people on the day helping out and without them it would not have run so smoothly. Thanks to Janice, Sonia, Joy, two Ann's, Gillian and Maggie. Also to Peter the starter, and Dorothy who I hijacked into being a marker and who saved the day after one couple called off at the last minute. Apologies if I have missed anyone out.**

**I also must mention Muriel who sponsored all the welcome refreshments that were available after the 12<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks.**

**Our 9 Hole Challenge competition was again a great success with 12 ladies taking part and culminating in a lovely lunch in the Brasserie last month. A very close final between Elizabeth and Norma with Elizabeth just winning in the end. Again thanks to Nan and Joan for all their work in organising this.**

**As we head into winter and all the delights that come with it, temporary greens, winter tees and biting winds we can perhaps look forward to playing a bit more on the Templar course with our Winter Greensomes all set up and ready to go.**

**Finally, I would like to say that I have enjoyed my first year as Captain, and I am looking forward to seeing what 2023 brings. It's exciting to be part of Swanston at the moment with the constant influx of new ladies all of whom are keen to take up golf to whatever level they choose and hopefully that is going to continue in 2023.**

**I would like to thank the committee for all their support this year and also to Fiona and Adam who have both put in a tremendous amount of work on the Templar course and helped enormously to get Swanston ladies to where they are today.**

**Thank you.**