

Lady Golf Captain's Blog – 29 September 2022



At this time of year, I have heard every Captain exclaim that she couldn't believe how quickly her term of office had come to an end. And even though I was determined to enjoy every minute of my year, and I believe I did, I am no different than my predecessors. The twelve months have positively flown by. I will give a general recap of the year at the AGM but would like to just say now what an absolute pleasure and honour it has been to be the Ladies' Golf Captain at Roehampton Club and to represent a section which is arguably one of the finest in Surrey (although of course I am biased!). I will very much miss my role but am leaving you in Charlotta's most capable hands. I trust you will be as kind and supportive of her as you were of me.

I must apologise to those who were awarded trophies at last week's prizegiving. There was a bit of confusion about when you would be presented with the engraved glasses which commemorate your win. It was my error as I did not specify that I wanted them on the day instead of at the Ladies AGM. They will be available at the AGM or may be collected from the office by making arrangements with Louis Laville.

The Ladies section send our best wishes to the Hicks squad who playing against Sunningdale Golf Club for the Hicks Plate this Saturday 2nd October at Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club

Members gathered last week to say goodbye to Tristan McIlroy who left Roehampton Club to take up an exciting new role at St George's Hill Golf Club. The Ladies section presented him with a generous voucher from Design Holidays so he and his family can have a much-deserved vacation after looking after us so well and for so long.

COMPETITIONS

Autumn Meeting Foursomes

Congratulations to the winners:

1. Vivien Harris and Alison Post (39)
2. Kathleen Bacon and Astrid Woloszczuk (37c/b)
3. Ali Jacobs and Therese Swanson (37)

Challengers Day and Fashion Show

This event was new to the calendar, but I sincerely hope it will become a Roehampton Club tradition. The format was 4BBB, with two competitions running concurrently. The first involved pairs who had challenged in a 'Beat the Captain and Pro' match. I offered prizes to the top two teams to thank them for supporting me and Regenerate. All players in the field were also competing for fabulous prizes provided by Head Professional Ricky Pharo. There were awards for the nearest to the pin on all par threes, and overall winners of the day. After the golf and a quick lunch, the Sports Shop team organised a fashion show. Therese Swanson, Angela Atkins, Caroline Dewar, Inga Kempton and I were all rebranded as "models" and we strode the catwalk with varying degrees of confidence, while Ricky took on the role of compere. Representatives from the different brands were also on hand to showcase their autumn/winter collections. With the



Member loyalty discount as an added incentive, I think we will be seeing some flattering new outfits on the course in the coming weeks.

Congratulations to all who played, but particularly to:

Captain and Pro Challengers:

1. Sally Gesua and Lorna Robey (41)
2. Jane Peel and Trish Boyington (38)

Fashion Show Fourball Better Ball:

Nearest the Pin on 7th: Ali Jacobs

Nearest the Pin on: Mary Barlow

Nearest the Pin on: Kathleen Bacon

Nearest the Pin on: Jo Thesiger

1. Jackie Beedle and Lucinda Cormack (43)
2. Sally Gesua and Lorna Robey (41)
3. Nicola Pearson and Kathleen Bacon (40 c/b)



Beat the Captain and Pro Matches

I had my final two Captain and Pro challenge matches this past fortnight.

I partnered with Jake to face Caroline and Stephanie Williams in what was another very special pairing for me. When I joined Roehampton Club, I didn't know a soul. I decided to enter a roll-up, which was being ably organised by Caroline. I remember having a dreadful morning. First, there was an accident on Wandsworth Bridge, making me late for the school drop off and in a real rush to arrive at the Club. When I entered the car park, I dropped my brand new club card between the seats and struggled to retrieve it. When I finally ran breathless into the Club Café, all the other players had gone out, but lovely Caroline was waiting patiently for me. She showed me the course for the very first time and didn't comment when I landed in the greenside bunker on 13 and couldn't get out! In the challenge match, I managed to par the 13th, which I secretly patted myself on the back over. However, that was perhaps my crowning moment of the day, as Jake and I were defeated on the 16th by the Williams girls' stellar and very steady play.

The final match of my captaincy was also filled with meaning for me. Ricky Pharo and I faced Vivien Harris and Melanie Schreyer. Viv was Ladies' Captain when I joined and her patience and goodwill towards a very clueless new Member were boundless. Melanie and I have been friends since our oldest children were born. She has tutored me in bridge, and I have helped her get into golf. She is definitely a better student than I! On the day, the luck finally ran with the Captain. I had two very long putts roll in and was three under my handicap at the turn. Ricky was a star as always and was four under par when we shook hands on the 16th.

An enormous vote of gratitude to all who challenged me. In total, £690 was raised for Regenerate, with kind donations from both the victors and the vanquished. These matches were one of the highlights of my year, and I hope the challengers also enjoyed their rounds. I encourage as many ladies as possible to get involved next year to support Charlotta and her charity.

Rules:

The following are rules which I have covered at various times during the year, but which still raise questions.

1. Rule 6: Wrong Ball Played

- a. In stroke play and stableford, if a player plays a wrong ball, she incurs a two shot penalty. She must go back and find the correct ball and play from the original spot. Strokes made with the wrong ball do not count. If the mistake is not corrected before making a stroke to begin



another hole, the player is disqualified. There is an exception for stableford play under rule 21.1, in that if the player fails to correct her mistake, she is not disqualified but simply gets zero points for the hole where the breach happened.

- b. In match play, there is immediate loss of hole. If the opponents play each other's balls, the first one who made a stroke at a wrong ball gets the penalty (loss of hole). If it is not known which wrong ball was played first, there is no penalty and the hole must be played out with the balls exchanged

2. Rule 19: Relief for unplayable ball in Bunker

- a. When a player's ball is in a bunker, she may take unplayable ball relief for one penalty stroke by using any of the options laid out in Rule 19.2, i.e.:

- i. stroke and distance relief, by going back to the spot of her original shot (outside of the bunker)
 - ii. back-on-the-line relief, dropping the ball IN THE BUNKER, in a relief area that is based on a reference line going straight back from the hole through the spot of the original ball
 - iii. lateral relief, measured by two club lengths, IN THE BUNKER, in any direction from the spot of the original ball, not closer to the hole
- b. in addition, there is an extra relief option, for a penalty of TWO Shots, the player may take back-on-the-line relief OUTSIDE of the bunker

3. Final bit of rules advice: either **carry a rule book or download the R&A app** to your phone. No one can know all the rules by heart, but at the same time if a situation arises and you are unsure how to proceed, you shouldn't be guessing. If your round is important, stop and find the answer. Don't let an opponent bully you into taking a penalty you don't deserve or giving herself an advantage she isn't entitled to. If you are playing socially, look up the correct course of action over a cup of tea after your game, so you will be prepared the next time the situation arises. The rules are there not just to punish infractions but can also protect you from unusual situations where it would be unfair for you to proceed without correcting your lie.

When your ball is in a *bunker*, you may take unplayable ball relief using one of four options shown in Diagram 19.3.

Penalty for Playing Ball from a *Wrong Place* in Breach of Rule 19.3: *General Penalty*.

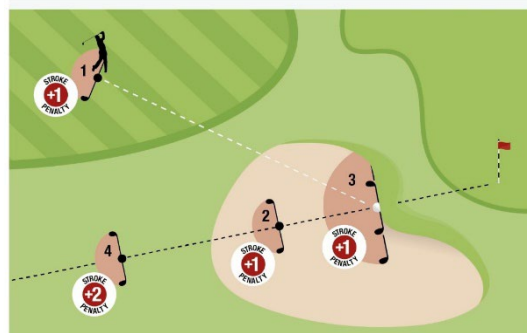


DIAGRAM 19.3: RELIEF OPTIONS FOR BALL UNPLAYABLE IN BUNKER

A player decides that his or her ball in a bunker is unplayable. The player has four options:...