

Ladies' Golf Captain's Blog – 9th May 2024



Peter Bradburn's Guided Golf Course Walk

I had the pleasure of joining Peter Bradburn's golf course walk on a beautiful sunny morning during the mid-May maintenance week. A dozen of us were captivated by Peter's knowledge and information on the history of the course, the resident and visiting wildlife –badgers, bees, bats, the growing family of foxes and the local buzzard to name but a few. We learned about the age of some of our magnificent trees, as well as the planting programme of species that will withstand the

changing climate in the future. Do watch out for future walks with Peter – not to be missed!

Captain and Pro

My fourth Captain and Pro match was held in partnership with Will Hancock against Sandra Drum and Helen Maguire who proved to be a formidable partnership, dovetailing their scores all the way. The less said about my supporting role to Will on that day, the better ... Sadly, we lost but we had a lovely fun afternoon and I'm so grateful to the challengers for taking us on in support of this year's charity, Small Steps. Well played ladies!

A few more Captain and Pro dates have been added to the schedule – see the notice in the ladies' locker room – or contact me if you want to find another date. Please note that all challengers are invited to enter a special 4BBB competition on Thursday 12th September when you will be trying to beat Ricky's / my score on that day. More details will be supplied to all concerned in due course.

Competition results

On Tuesday 23rd April, we played the Ping 4BBB. The cold weather had returned with a biting North wind. However, this did not deter some of our hardy players coming in with some great scores. Val Patten and Lucinda Cormack were the winners with 43 points. Second place was taken by Astrid Drayson and Astrid Woloszczuk with 42 Points and Jane Peel and Cathy Staveley also with 42 points, but pipped on countback on the back 6.



A week later we assembled for the Jollyheim Cup – Roehampton Ladies' version of England v Rest of the World (ROW) – comprising 9 holes played as foursomes and 9 holes as 4BBB. We met at the flagpole as our captains, Trish Boyington (England) and Jane Peel (ROW) announced the teams, after which we spread around the course for a shotgun start.



It was a very jolly affair with matches played in good but nationalistic spirit. The winners were the ROW, wresting away the trophy from England who won in 2023. Huge thanks to Trish and Jane for running a really fun competition and to the Club for providing some refreshing Pimms during the prize giving.

This week's Tuesday event was two foursomes competitions played simultaneously, being the postponed Australian Spoons (caused by a wet Tuesday course closure!) and the annual Coronation Foursomes. 29 pairs ventured out on a beautiful sunny and warm spring day and the course was looking perfect. This was the day after the Bank Holiday Monday when we were drenched in the Ladies vs Men Competition (see below). Therese Swanson and Henrietta O'Shea came first with 35 points on countback with Lucinda Cormack and Astrid Drayson as runners up, also scoring 35 points. Congratulations, ladies – I can only assume you stayed safely on the fairway for the round!

The early May Bank Holiday Monday weather was typically wet for the annual Ladies vs Men match. The pairings were announced by the Captains in the Piazza and all dispersed to their nominated tees for the shotgun start. The ladies were defending their title for this competition and came in with a resounding win of 11-5 to retain the trophy. The buzz in the Bar afterwards suggested that everyone had a great time and enjoyed the gender challenge! Thanks to Louis for organising a fun morning and to the catering staff for providing some wonderful refreshments and snacks at the halfway hut.



Team News

Centenary Bowl: a disappointing away loss 4/1 at Puttenham gave the team a tough target when playing the return home match last Saturday. But in true Roehampton Club spirit, the ladies rose to the challenge and returned the compliment by winning 4/1 at home. Another tense moment after the match as the captains totted up the games won, resulting in Roehampton Club slipping through to the next round. Congratulations ladies – a wonderful result!

Pearson Trophy / Surrey Cup: the team secured its place in the quarter final after successfully winning over West Surrey. As we go to press, the team will be playing the RAC at home on Thursday 9th May. The away match is scheduled for 15th May.

Wallis Trophy: having won the preliminary round, the Wallis team are ready to play Woking in the first home / away knockout. The matches are scheduled for 18th and 26th May.

Kyocera (formerly Annodata): the first round was played at home against our good neighbours from Royal Mid Surrey. Both teams fielded some extremely strong players, but Roehampton Club are through to the next round with a convincing 4/1 win and we await news of the next opponents.

Daily Mail Foursomes: Lou Wills and Cassandra Spalding are representing Roehampton Club and won the second round against Coombe Hill in extremely testing conditions, playing through a hailstorm and high winds. The next match is against Hampton Court Palace GC.

Interclub Foursomes: Tessa Ringrose and I played a very enjoyable match at the RAC Old Course for the first round of this competition on a lovely sunny Sunday afternoon. We played a decent game of foursomes, but our delightful opponents were in top form and sadly we were defeated.

External Events and Opens

We are very spoilt with our lovely home course at Roehampton Club, but don't forget there are always some great opportunities to visit other golf clubs by entering open competitions during the summer months. Claire Martin, our Lady Vice-Captain is organising this year's Club Away Day at Blackmoor Golf Club on Friday 5th July. Sign up on Intelligent Golf – but be quick as space is already very limited!

Surrey Women's Golf have two events in their calendar. First, the Bronze Day is to be held on 11th June at Addington Palace. Teams of three are invited to join in the handicap range of 21.0 – 40. And for our newer golfers, a great opportunity to step out and experience an external competition at Strawberry Hill GC On 15 August, Open to players within handicap range of 36.0 – 54.0. Entrance is £30pp. Team of three with two scores to count, so no pressure! More information on these events from www.surreywomensgolf.org Please note there is also a longer list of open competitions posted in the ladies locker room.



New Lady Golfers

Our New Lady Golfers group are a keen bunch, with 18 attending a 'Rules and Etiquette' session held yesterday on the short game practice area. Led by committee members Kathleen Bacon, Jackie Beedle, Emma Angood and Yours Truly, practical demonstrations highlighted many important aspects of the game. Huge thanks also to Oscar Isaac for taking the time out of his regular teaching schedule to join the team in running this informal training session.

Upcoming Programme

The Spring Meeting competitions will be in full flight over the next couple of weeks. First, we have the Weekend Ladies' Spring meeting next Saturday 11th May. The following Tuesday, the Ladies Medal competition is on 14th May and Foursomes on 21st May. Prize giving will be held after the Foursomes event along with an informal lunch. Lunch options will be sent out by Louis / Matt soon for pre-ordering.

The Captains' Charity Day will be held on Saturday 25th May. Another fun mixed golf day with on course prizes and charity auction after. Sign up on 11th May. And sign up for the Ladies' Invitation Day to be held on Tuesday 11th June. Such a wonderful occasion to invite our friends to come along and play our fantastic course at its best!

After the Spring meetings we have loads of summer golf planned. The calendar of Tuesday events has been updated and is to be found on Intelligent Golf (and the noticeboard). Although four of our greens are being refurbished during July and August, we will continue to run qualifying competitions during this period, along with a few fun outings.

I look forward to seeing many of you on the course over the coming weeks and let's hope for a lovely sunny period ahead.

Caroline Dewar, Ladies' Golf Captain

