



# Ladies' Golf Captain's Blog – 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Although I'm envious of all those returning from their summer holidays in warmer climes, I do enjoy London in August. The roads are quieter and while my journey to the Club is no quicker at 20mph, at least the driving time has been more predictable and relaxing.

The newly refurbished greens have also been quietly settling in during the last six weeks. They look fantastic and are now fully open for us to enjoy. It's up to us all to help look after the course so please remember to repair those pitch marks and divots.

## Tuesday Competitions

In July and August we have been running fun competitions and Stablefords on alternate weeks. Before you read on to see the results, I should highlight that the fun competitions have been individual sign up and partners randomly allocated. It's therefore especially pleasing to see some terrific scores achieved by teams who may not usually play together.

The Stablefords have been played over 16 holes as only two temporary greens are permitted in qualifying competitions. Whilst not particularly enjoying the two temp greens in play, we have had the benefit of being awarded a nett Par score on the two holes which were bypassed: the 6th and 14th.

A fun **Yellow Ball** competition was played on 13th August. A beautiful warm morning with a gentle breeze. The yellow ball is a bit like a hot potato as it rotates around the team and gives double score when held. I was very fortunate to play with Polly Lewis and Clodagh Taylor who both played fantastic golf, bringing us in with the winning score of 128 points. My lucky pitch into the 2nd for a birdie while holding the yellow ball probably helped a little! In second place was Lindy Evans, Astrid Drayson and Margaret Swain with 118 points and third, Caroline Williams, Jinni Featherstone-Witty and Catherine Cooper with 110 points.

The following week was a **Stableford**. Some great scores – winning with 42 points was Suzanne Collins and second, Andreina Townsend with 39 points (countback) and Shirley Keane in third place also with 39 points. Special mention also to Susan Major with 37 points and Emma Niven scoring 35. Congratulations to all.



On 27th August we played **4BBB** on a warm but slightly blustery day. My partner and I were rather pleased with our 43 points, but our spirits were soon dampened when we found we had not done nearly enough! Polly Lewis and Patricia Morgan scooped first prize with 48 points, followed by Caroline Williams and Jenny Gaskin with 44 points. Third place was taken with 43 points (countback) by Lindy Evans and Elena Del Aguila.

This week's **Stableford and Senior Ladies Trophy** was back on all the new greens and attracted a nearly full field of 63 players. The competition for top place was fiercely fought with four ladies scoring 40 points. Henrietta scooped first prize on countback and Yours Truly managed to secure second place plus the Senior Ladies' Trophy. Results as below:

### *Silver Division*

- 1st Harriet Prince – 39 points
- 2nd Lorna Robey – 38 points
- 3rd Therese Swanson – 38 points

### *Bronze Division*

- 1st Henrietta O'Shea – 40 points
- 2nd Caroline Dewar – 40 points
- 3rd Anna Tingle – 40 points
- 4th Valerie Patten – 40 points

### **Captain and Pro Matches**

My 10th Captain and Pro match was against Cathy Staveley and Gill Edmonds on 7th August. I was partnered by Will who had been defeated by this pair by a small margin last year, so he was up for a return match. And he played fantastically well, scoring 64 – BUT it was still not enough. This formidable team were just that ... hitting straight and long and raising the victory flag on the 17th. A great match and great fun. I feel another return bout will be on the cards for next year's Captain and Pro programme!



Last week, Oscar and I were challenged by Tricia Morgan and Jackie Beedle. There's a bit of a recurring theme here ... wonderful play by the Pro and Challengers, but once again we were pipped to the post on the 17th.

As ever, I would like to thank the challengers for their very generous donations to Small Steps and to Will and Oscar for giving their time to play.

### **Team News**

The Hicks team are through to the semi finals. Team captain, Lorna Robey reports that the last time Roehampton Club made it this far in the Hicks was in 2017, so this is a fantastic result. The semi final matches will be played against Hindhead – away on 15th September and home on 29th September.

And congratulations to the Wallis team who are through to the semi finals for the first time in this relatively new Surrey competition.

They will now play Windlesham away on 23rd September and Home on 26th September.

Very best of luck to both the Hicks and Wallis teams.

### **Surrey Scratch Foursomes**

Issy Simpson and Katy Preston represented Roehampton Club in the quarter finals at Hankley Common on 21st August. The opposition was tough and sadly they didn't make it through. Congratulations to the Scratch Foursomes squad for a sterling effort this season.

### **Bowmaker**

The August Bank Holiday Bowmaker was a fun mixed competition. With everyone playing from the Red tees, this made for a very sociable round; it was a pleasure for me to partner Peter McGovern and we teamed up with Emma and Ben Angood. Congratulations to the winning team with 94 points – Bob Mitchell, Jo Thesiger, Justin Thesiger and Lucy Dickson. Runners up with 93 points were Suzanne Collins, Jack Collins, Jo Cochrane and Nicola Pearson and in third place with 90 points, Tricia Morgan, Todd Morgan, Astrid Drayson, Tim Drayson. Jane Peel took the prize for nearest the pin on the 13th.



## **Bletchingley Ladies Open**

Teamed up with Tessa Ringrose, Shirley Keane and Pippa Walker, we all had a lovely day out at the Bletchingley Ladies Open on 23rd August. On arrival, we were greeted by some very jolly male members who guided us into parking spaces and helped with unloading our cars.

The Men's Captain was starting us on the 1st tee, ball spotters were hiding in the trees all around the course. And the best bit – the prosecco boys, smartly dressed in their tuxedos and riding in their golf buggy were dispensing glasses of bubbly on the course!

The day finished with a delicious rolling buffet lunch. Opens are a great way to play at other courses, but Bletchingley get a top rating for being among the best hosts!



## **SWCGA Surrey Knockouts**

The Autumn Match play is now open for sign up. This is an annual singles handicap match play competition and a great opportunity to play other courses. Open to players with a handicap index of 34.0 or less. Sign up by 13 September, [entry link here](#)

As we enter September, we are now getting down to business with many qualifying competitions. First, good luck to those playing the 36 hole Pearson Salver this coming Thursday. Next week we have the George Gadd and Grannies Vase, followed by the Autumn Meeting competitions, including the Summerside Cup for weekend players.

## **Know the Rules of Golf**

Don't get caught out on the course! It's important to know the rules. Some of us cannot remember everything (me included), so do make sure you download the R&A app to your phone which can give you instant answers to all the updated rules as printed booklets are no longer available.

When playing in the upcoming qualifying competitions, please keep a good pace of play. If you are losing ground, encourage your group to speed up between holes. At the same time, if you are waiting for the group in front, please be respectful and patient. Qualifying competitions are important to us all and there's nothing worse than feeling pressurised by the group behind. There is a fine balance but there is no excuse for being discourteous to your fellow players.

## **Save the date**

Enjoy your September golfing and good luck to everyone playing in the various competitions. A note for your diary – on Tuesday 24th September we will have the Autumn Meeting prize giving after the foursomes. The summer knockout prizes will also be presented on this occasion, so if you are a winner, please make sure you are there!

## **Caroline Dewar, Ladies' Golf Captain**