

Lady Captain's Blog – February 2025



Goodbye, January Blues—welcome February with lighter mornings and the promise of spring ahead! We've had some stunning crisp, frosty mornings, which may mean carry-only until the frost lifts, but the beauty of the course more than makes up for it.

Changes to Handicap Requirements

To ensure fair competition and align with **Surrey Women's Golf** regulations, we are **increasing the minimum number of qualifying cards** required for our **Trophy and Knockout Competitions**

Effective immediately:

- Players must submit **at least two qualifying competition rounds** plus one other card within the last 12 months to be eligible for **trophy competitions**.
- Players who do not meet the requirements may still participate but **will not be eligible to win a trophy**.
- Knockout competitions will require the same **minimum criteria to enter**

From the autumn, ahead of the Winter Knockouts, this will increase to **three qualifying competition rounds**. The Committees will regularly review the minimum number of qualifying cards required

Many clubs require significantly more qualifying rounds—some up to **12 per year!** While we aren't suggesting such a high number, this modest increase will help ensure fairer competition and more accurate handicaps.

Copper Knockout and Mixed Knockout

We are **reintroducing the Copper Knockout** for players with handicaps between **29.0 and 36.0**. The same handicap requirements apply: two qualifying cards plus one other.

For the **Mixed Knockout**, if you need a playing partner, let me know—I'll do my best to find you a suitable partner!

New Senior Ladies Winter Competition - Trial

With the wet and muddy conditions making golf more challenging, we know some players aren't enjoying their rounds as much. So, on **Tuesday, 4th March**, following the Stableford, with separate competition and tee times, we will trial a **non-qualifying Stableford for the Over-70s**, playing from the beginning of the fairway.

If it proves popular, we will look to run more of these events in the winter months.

Surrey Knockouts

Entries for the **Surrey Knockouts** are now open until **Friday, 7th March**. These competitions are a fantastic way to meet new players and experience different courses in Surrey. All players who wish to enter a SWG competition must be in possession of a current, registered WHS handicap. They must have played three qualifying rounds (not including cards used to gain their Initial Handicap Index) in the previous 12 months prior to the date of each match.

Categories include:

- 4BBB
- Singles
- Foursomes
- Burditt Salver (for 60+)
- Thornhill Trophy (Mixed Foursomes)

More details: www.surreywomensgolf.org

Charity Foursomes and Bridge Charity Day – Tuesday, 21st January

This year, we hosted the Lady Captain's Golf and Bridge Charity Day in January due to the clubhouse refurbishment. I was a little worried about the weather and the number of Members escaping to sunnier climes, but I needn't have been—the weather was fine! We had 48 players for the shotgun foursomes and a full house of 64 for bridge.

I teamed up for golf with my Vice Captain, Jo Thesiger, and had a lovely round with Fiona Pollard and Liz Dodds—though we didn't trouble the winners!

Golf Results:

- **1st Place:** Angela Atkins and Siobain Rolston – 35 pts
- **2nd Place:** Linda Hamilton and Caroline Leslie – 34 pts
- **3rd Place:** Astrid Drayson and Tricia Morgan – 34 pts



Before bridge, Richard Williams, the chair of my chosen charity, **FiSH**, spoke about the importance of fundraising. A huge thank you to everyone who bought raffle tickets—we raised an incredible **£1,010!** Special thanks to Danny Gesua, who shared his experience of volunteering for **FiSH** and helped us recruit two new volunteers.

After twelve hands of Chicago Bridge, we all enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea, complete with sandwiches, scones, and cakes—a perfect way to round off the day.

Bridge Results:

- **1st Place:** Ellie Elliot
- **2nd Place:** Gunilla Huldt
- **Highest Slam:** Ellie Elliot and Lorna Robey
- **Last Trick with a Two:** Barbara O'Boyle



Competition Results

Mixed Stableford – Sunday, 26th January

- **1st Place:** Andreina Townsend – 37 pts
- **2nd Place:** Justin Thesiger – 33 pts
- **3rd Place:** Ben Thesiger – 30 pts
- **4th Place:** Emma Angood – 28 pts

Stableford – Tuesday, 28th January - The course was very wet underfoot, so we ran a nine-hole non-qualifying competition.

- **1st Place:** Lou Wills – 20 pts
- **2nd Place:** Lorna Robey – 18 pts
- **3rd Place:** Andreina Townsend – 17 pts

Four Club + Putter – 15 holes – Tuesday, 4th February

- **1st Place:** Amanda Campbell Lambert – 35 pts
- **2nd Place:** Lynn Rowland – 30 pts
- **3rd Place:** Jo Thesiger – 29 pts

Fun Club Competition – Saturday 8th February

Despite the dark, damp, drizzly, muddy conditions, spirits remained high for a fun-filled competition. Armed with coffee and pastries, players set off in a shotgun start, all teeing off from the reds. With a throw, a kick, and a gimme at their disposal, strategy played a key role. Some used their freebies wisely, leading to impressive scores and plenty of laughs along the way.

- 1st Place: Ben Wilson and Greg Whitaker - 51 pts
2nd Place: MG Gurbaxani and Gautam Samarth – 47pts cb
3rd Place: David Birn and Niels Verbeek – 47 Pts cb

Nearest the pins: Sandra Drum and Rick Kimber

Captain and Pro Challenge

Lydia Roper and Andreina Townsend took on the challenge against Oscar and me. With a fantastic effort—including an eagle on the ninth from Oscar—we managed to secure the win!

If you'd like to challenge Donny and me on **Tuesday, 19th March**, please let me know or sign up on the board in the locker room. All proceeds go to **FiSH**.

Course Care and Pace of Play

With the soft ground, **divots and pitch marks** are more common. Please **repair them when you see them**—not just your own! A pitch mark repaired within **24 hours** recovers quickly, but left unattended, it takes **over three weeks** to heal.

Did you know? **Repairing three pitch marks brings good luck!** If you want extra luck, you now know what to do!



Additionally, the **Course Marshalls** have been using **Tag Marshall** to monitor pace of play. A good pace of play benefits us all—we need to aim for rounds of **3 hours 45 minutes**. If you consistently find yourself playing slowly, please consider **teeing off later in the day** to avoid holding up the field.

Pearson Trophy Update

I am delighted to announce that Kathleen Bacon will be stepping into the roll of Pearson Captain and Kasandra Spalding as Vice-Captain. Thank you, Therese Swanson, for your leadership and determination for the last two successful seasons. Best of luck to Kathleen and Kasandra for the year ahead.

Library update

Thank you for your ongoing support of the library. We are now able to accept more books—but **please, no hardbacks**. We only accept **current fiction in very good condition**.

Happy golfing to you all and remember, it doesn't matter how badly you played; you could always have played worse!

Claire Martin, Ladies' Golf Captain