

Madam President, Vice presidents, Past captains and Ladies of Surrey

Well what an amazing year we've had! it's difficult to know where to start - so I'll start at the beginning – the year started slowly as we had a lot of rain and terrible weather resulting in lots of courses being closed several of the early matches planned just didn't happen.

But then it was April and time for the County Championship. We were amazingly lucky that the 3 days booked for the Championship were the only 3 days that West Hill was open in that fortnight. There were some exciting matches on the way to the final which eventually resulted in Katie Laud and 16 year old Jess Adams playing for the title. On the day Jess was triumphant; consistently out driving Katie to claim the title.

St George's Hill hosted our seniors championship where we saw a relative newcomer Heather Kitson from Cranleigh taking both the over 60s and seniors title.

County Match Week took place at Hockley golf club just outside Winchester at the end of June. You may recall it was blisteringly hot at that time this year and our biggest enemy for that week with the heat. But our team were fantastic – by the Thursday evening we had beaten Middlesex, Sussex and the holders Hampshire, and had already won the title by that point. However we wanted to ensure a clean sweep and beat Kent on the last day; which we did!

So as South Region Champions, we headed to County finals at the oldest club in England - Royal North Devon at Westward Ho! in September. On the first day we beat Buckinghamshire comfortably but then the weather made itself felt and with gale force winds forecast the rest of the week's play was reduced

to just 18 holes a day. On the Tuesday we lost to Gloucestershire although with two very close matches going against us. We went on to beat Norfolk and Yorkshire but by then Gloucestershire couldn't be beaten. We struggled unsuccessfully for second place on Friday against Staffordshire.

It was a great week though despite not achieving our aim of becoming national champions the experience was amazing, the standard golf incredibly high and I am very proud of every single member of the squad who gave 100% for Surrey that week.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the supporters who came both to Hockley in June and to Devon in September - it really is appreciated - thank you.

Being captain of the 1st team was something I took on with great trepidation, my own golf not being anything close to the level of our teams. I would like to thank Katie Shepherd for helping me through, and to thank Katie Laud and Alice Spani Molella for being invaluable lieutenants, as well as our coach John Noble, along with all the players who made 2018 so successful for Surrey.

I am delighted to report that the second team under the captaincy of my valiant vice captain Lorna have won the Stovold trophy. The squad was a good blend of youth and experience, and 13 players played in the 4 matches. The team had convincing wins against Middlesex and last year's winners Sussex, but then lost in a close match to Hampshire. We went on to beat Kent resulting in a 3 point tie with Sussex, but beating them easily on games won to take the Trophy.

At national level no report would be complete without mentioning the fantastic achievements of Annabell Fuller. At just 16 she was selected to play in

the Curtis cup team this year and her achievements nationally are too many to mention. Annabell is now studying in Florida. In recognition of her selection for the Curtis Cup Squad Surrey Ladies County golf Association is pleased to award her with honorary membership of our Association.

Debbie Richards continues to captain the English Seniors Ladies team, taking them to the European event in Belgium where they finished 6th, and to Burnham and Berrow in September for the Home Internationals where they finished second to Ireland.

For the senior golfers in the county there are opportunities to play in both friendly and slightly more serious matches. The friendly matches have been captained again by Sheila Stirling and I must thank Sheila for her many years in organising these matches. Sheila is now stepping down and for next year these friendly matches will be organised by Jan Gilks.

Thank you Sheila and thank you Jan.

The senior league, playing for the Mulligan Larsen Bowl, is continued to be organised by

Scynthia Larsen and this year we finished a very close second to Sussex.

So what else has been going on this year? A fair bit of my time along with our treasurer Jane has once again been taken in trying to sort out the change in affiliation fee collection. We do this in conjunction with Surrey men but they have had significant personnel changes during this year and as you will hear from our treasurer it is not been an easy ride.

We continue to look for ways of being more efficient and sharing processes with our male counterparts but due to the changes I just mentioned they have not had a lot of time to spend working out how we can do things better.

However I expect them to have an almost entirely different board in place for next season with fresh faces which will enable us to look to the future together.

As you know we continually review the various events that we run and tried to run what you want us to. This year we introduced the four ball better ball knockout and that has been very well supported. At your suggestion next year Lorna will introduce a bronze team knockout competition to run through a summer. I hope this event will also get your club's support.

Keeping all this going is only possible due to the hard work of a large number of people, and we could do with some more. However I would like to thank Rosemary and Lorna and Amanda they have been amazing support over these two years. My committee are great, dependable and always enthusiastic. So, I would like to thank all of them for their significant contribution over the last two years of my captaincy; for the fun and the friendship we've had during this time. I've met some lovely people and all of you and I would like to thank those who were responsible for asking me and electing me to this wonderful role. It has been a great honour and privilege to be your captain over these 2 years, and I will miss it!

Thank you.