



## SLCGA AGM – Saturday 23 November 2019

### Captain's Report

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Madam President, Vice-Presidents, Past Captains and Ladies of Surrey Ladies County Golf Association. It is hard to believe that a year has passed since I took over as your Captain. It has been a very busy year but I think it is fair to say that it has all gone smoothly and for that I must give thanks to Val Howard, our President, Sue Wild my vice-captain and all the members of the Executive Committee who work so hard running the different events and knockouts for you the members of Surrey Ladies County Golf Association. I must also thank Sarah Brown our new County Secretary who took over at the beginning of April. Sarah's first week on her own was the week of the County Championship which was very much a baptism of fire, but she was still smiling at the end of it all and has been very quick picking up all that needs to be done.

I will start with the results from the various Surrey teams. The Surrey 1<sup>st</sup> team retained the South Region Trophy at County Match Week which was held at Hendon. We got off to a good start on the Monday beating Sussex 6.5/2.5 and then beat Middlesex by the same margin on the Tuesday. We won our match against Kent 5.5/3.5 on the Wednesday, so it was all down to our final match against Hampshire on the Thursday. Although we were 2-1 up after the foursomes the singles were very hard fought and we needed to win the last two matches to clinch victory. This meant that by the time we got to our rest day on the Friday we had already won the trophy! This was a tremendous achievement and ensured that we went to County Finals for the second year running – this time at Delamere Forest in Cheshire.

Last year's County Finals were plagued by appalling weather, so anything was going to be better this time. Fortunately, the weather held fair, there was no rain and the wind was challenging but not disruptive. This is always a long week, a marathon rather than a sprint and we got better as the week went on. We finished 3<sup>rd</sup>, beating Yorkshire and Norfolk, halved with Bucks and lost to Gloucestershire (the eventual winners) and Lancashire. We were unlucky not to be 2<sup>nd</sup> but there is always next year. Thank you to Val, Sue and John Noble our coach for all their help and support during that week.

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> team, captained by Sue Wild my Vice-Captain retained the Stovold Trophy with victories against all the other Counties - Sussex, Hampshire, Kent and Middlesex. Again this is a real achievement as these matches are played over a two months period so it is always a difficult getting a team together for each match and maintaining the momentum. Thirteen players played in the 4 matches with convincing wins over all the four counties.

Our Senior team competed in the Senior Inter-County Team Championship which was played this year at Woburn. Ten counties competed – Sussex were the winners with Surrey 4<sup>th</sup>.

The Surrey Senior League team was again captained by Scynthia Larsen. They did not have such a good year this year, but I know that they are already planning on how to improve performance next year.

Our Surrey Senior Friendly matches have been run this year by Jan Gilkes and I would like to thank her for taking on this mantle from Sheila Stirling. It is always a challenge trying to give as many people as possible a chance to play in a match and she seems to have managed it admirably.

We have three new County Champions. Lottie Woad (Farnham) won the Ladies County Championship at the age of 15 in a thrilling final against Lauren Gooding (Roehampton) another junior. It was a tremendously high standard of golf and Lottie was a worthy winner. Jackie Kingswell won the Senior Championship at Sunningdale – it was a horrible day, very wet and cold but Jackie had an excellent 81 to win the Scratch and Nett prizes. Our Junior County Champion is Rafiah Bandy – again a worthy champion who shot -7 round Woodcote Park to win the championship. Congratulations to our new Champions.

We have just had our finals weekends for all the knockout competitions which we have been running over the Spring and Summer. It is always good to see a wide range of clubs being represented at the finals and this year has been no exception. Apart from the wet and windy weather on both days of the first weekend these all ran smoothly. This was the first year of our new Bronze team knockout the Wallis Trophy which has been very well supported and all the feedback we have had from participants has been very positive. It sounds as if we shall have even more clubs participating next year.

Other notable achievements this season are Leatherhead winning the Surrey Cup and the Pearson Trophy. Surrey won the County Shield at the South Region Championship. Debbie Richards captained the winning England team at the European Senior Ladies Championship.

Next year we shall be hosting Junior County Match week at Puttenham so I hope very much that you will try and come and support the home team there. If anybody would be interested in helping, please do get in touch with me.

We continue to engage with the Surrey Delegates who are a very important link between the County and Clubs. We have held two Delegates meetings and two coffee mornings. At the meetings we have had presentations on the new WHS, the new Rules of Golf, Disability Golf etc. The coffee mornings have proved to be a good forum for the delegates to discuss issues in informal surroundings and help us the County to understand the challenges which clubs are facing. All these meetings are also opportunities for us to hear if we are providing the right events for our members and listen to ideas for new events. The Wallis Trophy is a perfect example of a suggestion which came from one of the delegates.

We also held the annual Vice-Captains lunch which was a great success. This is a good opportunity for Vice-Captains to talk to each other and swap thoughts and ideas on an informal basis as they prepare to take on the role of Captain of their club.

It is always a pleasure to meet the Surrey Ladies at our different events and I have to say I am delighted to have met a number of ladies who have played in a Surrey event for the first time this year. I do hope that they will return next year and perhaps encourage their friends to play as well.

We try and provide something for everybody in the County. We run the Association for all the ladies in Surrey not just the elite or the very good golfers, so do come and support us. I have enjoyed my first year as your Captain and hope that next year will be an even more successful year for the County

Lorna Robey – SLCGA Captain