

## **Competition Report – Annual General Meeting 2020**

It gives me great pleasure to present the SLCGA competition report for 2020.

Sadly, this year we have a very different picture to previous reports where we've reviewed a full calendar of meetings and knock out competitions that run throughout the year. Unfortunately, due to Covid 19 we've had a hugely reduced diary, and to some extent we feel lucky to have been able to play any golf at all!

With lockdown restrictions beginning in March we were sadly unable to go ahead with the Championship events (County, Senior and Junior) nor could we run the ever-popular Druce Trophy – normally our largest event.

By July we were back on the golf courses, and some events were able to run in line with strict protocols laid out by England Golf. This meant that we were able to return to the New Zealand club for the Summer Foursomes, albeit with a slightly reduced attendance - 80 players (40 pairs) rather than the normal 100. And, observing England Golf's guidelines, we were able to contest the two trophies over 27 holes. This year's winners of the The Molly Gourlay trophy are Maria Diegan and Delia Perry from Wimbledon Park, while the Pam Barton trophy was won by Sally Parrish and Rosemary Wallis of Burhill and West Hill respectively. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed being out and supporting the competition despite it being one of the wettest days that we had over the summer season!

Happily, we were also able to run the Autumn Meeting at Surbiton in September. And such was the appetite to play competitive golf and to support the SLCGA events, it was hugely over-subscribed and booked to capacity within a week of the announcement that it would go ahead! Congratulations to Julie Clark and Judith MacFarlane who won the competition.

Our knock-out competitions also suffered badly this year. The Winter Knock outs from 2019-2020 normally culminate in a Finals event in April but we were only able to complete them in October after a long lay-off. This included the Derry Cup, the Helme Shield (team knock outs) and the Rothschild Trophy and Monk Plate. The Finals were held at the RAC and, although a little different (no spectators or supporters), everyone enjoyed a lovely day and were well-looked after by the team

at the RAC. The Autumn Matchplay final was held at Walton Heath who were kind enough to accommodate the match at the last minute as one of the finalists was from the RAC and a neutral venue was therefore required.

Details of all winners can be found in the Awards and Certificates document on the website.

The Summer knock outs (team and individual) were all cancelled. No sooner had the draws been made than the announcement came that we had to go into lockdown. It was not feasible to relaunch them due to uncertainty around future restrictions and also difficulties in gaining access to golf clubs for matches. Most clubs have confirmed that they will be playing in 2021 and fees were rolled over. As normal, communication will go out in January to announce the new competitions.

You'll remember that Surrey were due to host Junior County Match Week at Puttenham GC this summer. Of course, that was also cancelled, but the good news is that County events have been rolled over, so this will still take place in Surrey in 2021, again scheduled to take place at Puttenham in August.

The dates for the 2021 events have been secured with venues – many will take place at the venues that should have hosted them in 2020. Details are listed on the website under the Events section. The entry forms will be available in the New Year. They will be emailed to Delegates and will be available to download from the website in January.

I would like to thank the Delegates for sharing our updates with their members and supporting events where it has been possible this year. It has been the strangest of years and your ongoing support and understanding is very much appreciated. We look forward to a return to our normal form next year.