



SLCGA AGM – Monday 30th November 2020

Junior Report

This has been my first year as the Junior Organiser and I felt positive and empowered to help young girls playing golf in Surrey. I sought support from Joanne Woodham, Alison Baber and Pam Mace and we have met a couple of times to discuss how best to support the Performance and the Development Squad this year. We agreed that we needed to organise more friendlies to help the girls gain experience and also to encourage peer connections.

At the beginning of the year I was able to attend the Laura Davies day at Hoebridge GC on 5th January. Laura very kindly gave up her time to coach 12 of our girls covering both the Performance and Development squads. Annabelle Dimmock came along and helped with a putting coaching session and has also given a huge bag of ex sponsored clothes to hand out to the girls. This was a great opportunity to chat with the girls and also meet the parents.

My main prerogative was to meet as many of the juniors in both squads in the first few months and I attended coaching on the 8th March and 13th September. As a Psychologist, I was able to deliver an informal mind-set skills training session on the day which was good fun and helped me to get to know the girls better.

Then I think we all know what happened.....

So, the rest of the year has mainly been very difficult and a lot of events have been cancelled. My thanks to Joanne Woodham for organising a 12 a-side match against Hampshire scheduled for 19th April which was subsequently cancelled. We had also been in discussion with other counties and will continue to find some dates next year to arrange friendlies.

I worked with England Golf to organise a development day at Foxhills Golf Club for 26th April. We had 85 girls who were signed up to come along which also meant being able to meet some of the professional women who were there on their practice day before a qualifying event for the British Open and such a shame for it to be cancelled. However, we have a great format and it was good to see such a great sign up so hopefully we will organise again for next year.

Personally, I really felt for Lorna when junior county week was cancelled having put so much time and effort in to organising it and I was also gutted for our performance squad not to have the chance to compete at a prestigious level.

It was good to see that 14 Surrey Golf Clubs have been signed up to the Girls Rock initiative with England Golf which encourages girls to play at grassroot level and hopefully next year we will be able to report on how this is progressing.

As far as individual performances, where golf has been allowed there have been some individual successes during the year:

- Abbi Rowlands (Foxhills) shot a superb opening round of 69 in the English Girls Amateur Stroke Play competition and ended up in second place following a play off.
- Annabel Fuller (Roehampton) winning the English Women's Open Amateur Stroke Play (only just turned 18 so sneaking this in to my junior report!) and Runner-up in the Women's Amateur Championship.
- Lottie Woad (Farnham) was selected for the England Girls Squad
- Heidi Man who started the year with a 23 handicap, has come down to 12 and recently played in the IMG World Junior Qualifier and won and has qualified to play in the IMG World Championship at Torrey Pines in July 2021

So all in all a very frustrating year but what I have seen is how many talented and up and coming girls we have playing golf in Surrey and hopefully next year we I can report back on a more upbeat and successful year.

Karen Francis
Surrey Junior Organiser
November 2020