



SLCGA AGM – Monday 30 November 2020

Captain's Report

Madam President, Vice-Presidents, Past Captains and Ladies of Surrey Ladies County Golf Association. I have to say I never expected that I would be presenting my final report as your County Captain talking to everybody on the computer!

To say this year has been something of a disappointment is an understatement. In January and February the weather was terrible and many of our courses were closed for days on end. By the time we got to March we were all looking forward to the Spring and some golf. All the fixtures were organised, we had an enthusiastic Executive team in place and I had high hopes for our Seniors, Ladies and Junior Teams. On 12 March we held our annual Vice Captains lunch at Sutton Green. This was a great success as usual with lots of lively discussion and all the ladies looking forward to their year of captaincy. Then on 23 March life as we had known it changed and we went into lockdown.

The next few months were spent cancelling all our events. The Summer knockouts were cancelled early on, when we realised that it was going to be too difficult to run the competitions over the summer as many courses were restricting guests and tee times were in short supply.

By the time we got to June we were wondering if we would be able to hold any events this season. So you will understand why we were delighted when New Zealand confirmed that they could host the Summer Foursomes at the end of July. This was our first event of the season. Not surprisingly everybody was a little nervous about ensuring that we were following all the government guidelines about social distancing and the organisers were very enterprising with their collection of scorecards in separate sealed plastic bags! In the end it was a very successful day and it was lovely to see so many people out supporting the event.

Our Autumn Meeting was held at Surbiton in September with a full field of 72 ladies. The club provided an excellent lunch and there were some good scores. All in all another enjoyable day. By now we were all very used to social distancing, so I am pleased to say that when the police arrived following a tip-off they had nothing to report!

Thank you to all the ladies who supported these two events and to those of my Committee Members who ran the events so smoothly and efficiently.

We decided that we would try and finish the knockouts which started in Autumn 2019 as they were all nearing completion at the time of lockdown. We managed to play the finals in October when we would normally hold the Spring knockout finals!

All the Inter-County events were cancelled this year. At a South Region Captains Meeting in July it was agreed that the County Rota would be rolled over. This means that Surrey will host JCMW in 2021 at Puttenham Golf Club with accommodation at Surrey University and County Match Week at Burhill in 2022. England Golf had hoped to run a County Finals event open to all Counties, but that too was cancelled in August. This was all very disappointing. I had such high hopes that we would retain the South Region Trophy we won at County Match Week last year as we have some very talented golfers in Surrey at the moment. I can only wish them good luck for 2021 and make sure that I am there to support next year.

There have been some individual successes in Surrey which I must mention – Annabell Fuller won the English Open Amateur Stroke Play and was Runner-up in the Women's Amateur Championship, Lottie Woad won the Frilford Heath Scratch and Abbi Rowlands was runner-up in the English Girls Stroke Play. Congratulations to them.

All that is left for me now is to give my thanks and farewells. I enjoyed my two years as Vice-Captain with Rosemary Wallis (past President) and Sally Parrish (past Captain). During my two years as Captain I have been very fortunate to have the support and advice of our President Val Howard and Vice-Captain Sue Wild. We had a lot of fun last year and I was looking forward to more of the same this year, but it was not to be. Thank you also to my Executive Committee. They have been such a great group – always helpful, efficient, well organised and ready to pitch in to do whatever was necessary. Sarah Brown has been a very efficient secretary and has managed admirably despite the difficulties of working from home during these strange times. I could not have managed without all of you.

I have also enjoyed meeting so many of you, the Surrey ladies, over the last four years. I hope our paths will still cross at Surrey events once life returns to some semblance of normality.

Surrey is a County with a long and distinguished history and it has been a great honour and a privilege to be your County Captain. I am sorry that it was in effect only for one year but it was a year I shall always remember – not least for the fun and the friendship which is such an important part of the game we all love.

I know I am leaving the County in very capable hands and I wish everybody the very best for next season – hopefully Covid free!