

Lady Captain's Report 2021

Dear Ladies

I would like to start off by thanking everyone for their support this year, and especially in May after my father died. I was really quite overwhelmed by how many cards and messages I received, I really did feel part of a supportive golfing community.

So here is my Lady Captain's Report 2021

January, February and March was spent mainly on zoom, designing the website and taking pictures of a waterlogged or snow covered course. The one good thing was that I had already raised £1,160 from auctioning the Lady Captain's parking spot for my Captain's charity Youth Talk. Thank you to all who contributed and have continued to contribute throughout 2021 by buying raffle tickets, selling jams and generally donating. I will be presenting a cheque to Youth Talk on the 18th January and their representative is coming in to give a short chat about how our money has helped local youngsters.

So... Monday 29th March was the start of our golfing year. We had the challenge of getting our reserved tee times back. It was a bit of a battle, but we did succeed. 2020 was a year of changes and it was how to make 2021 work with the new WHS, with course bookings and with covid restrictions. Everything that had worked as a well-oiled machine in our Ladies Section for many years had to be looked at with a fine tooth comb to fit in with all the changes. I feel as a Section we have risen to the occasion and hope that, moving forward our new Lady Captain Carol Campbell will be in a good place to carry on with the support of our knowledgeable and busy Committee.

As a Section we have managed to run most of our competitions for the year. Our Scratch Team run by Gillian Hansen managed to play all their matches and won enough to stay in the Division they had recently been promoted to. Our Pearson Team led by Ginny St John Glew and Linda Nicoll had their 2020 season cancelled, but 2021 is now in full flow. We played all our Friendlies thanks to Sue Cooper for all her fine organisation. Harpenden Common **finally** won the Diamond Jubilee Cup against HGC in a new format of just one day. Alison Sexton and I won the Millie Cochrane Cup which was a highlight for me, thanks Alison for playing brilliantly that day.

We played our Club Championship (the Hudson Trophy) on Saturday this year, to be inclusive to all our ladies and Juniors. It was won by Sophia Fulbrook who shot a new ladies course record of 69 in the afternoon. She has since gone on to be selected for the England U16 and the EG regional squad. She also won the Champion of Champions in October and will go forward to represent Hertfordshire next year. These are just a few of her many accomplishments. Well done Sophia.

I had perfect weather for my Lady Captain's Day ... Ooh what is that... glasses on ...are yes it was great fun with Ladies wearing some spectacular 'cocktail' themed costumes.... I also had a lovely day at East Herts for my Away Day. The course and weather were perfect, it was a shame that one of our ladies had her car damaged in a carpark accident (not her fault), but of course in this year, there had to be a drama.

The weather was shocking for our Invitation day, but we managed to play it, unlike our Autumn meeting which sadly could not take place. Our Ladies Open was a success and well organised by Gill Taverner. The County Autumn meeting was also held at the Common and proved to be very popular.

Numbers remain fairly constant in the Ladies Section. Sadly Janet Curruthers, Pauline Reddington, June Hamer, Doris Carroll and Beryl Kerry have passed away this year and we have a number of ladies with injuries who I hope will come back next Spring. However, we have been able to welcome 4 new ladies and 2 ladies who have rejoined. Hopefully our Academy will be up and running next year. Rob Leonard has already started a group lesson for beginner ladies.

I could not have got through the year as Lady Captain without the support of our Committee. So many thanks to Glenys Rainbow our Lady President, Carolyn Richmond our treasurer, Jane Walter, our Handicap Secretary, Gill Taverner, our Secretary, Annette Quinlan and Denise van der Welle who have run our competitions, Sue Cooper, our next vice captain and of course my Vice Captain Carol Campbell. I would also like to thank Tracy Walker for organising the Saturday ladies, Karen Ellam for being our County Representative, Felicity Burgess for organising the card checking, Pam Henson for her hard work on our handbook (soon to be seen) ,Barbara Kemp for looking after our changing room and Ann Harrison for all her help with our Charity raffles. At this point can I also thank everyone who volunteers to do small jobs like the draw, so vital to keeping our Section going.

Thank you to Craig Delves our manager for patiently listening to me (and for trying not to look too surprised when I have explained some of our competitions) and to Beth and Dawn for being so efficient in the office and sending out my wordy missives. I have tried to make communication a key facet of my captaincy, especially as so much was virtual to start off with. Many thanks to my husband Graham for his continual support and for creating and running our website.

<https://ladycaptainhcgc.co.uk>

Thanks to Matt Hignell for always being kind. We haven't managed to play too many Competitions together, but Matt has been well supported by other ladies from the Section, in particular Wenna Allen and Sheila Stewart.

Thanks to the greens staff who have been busy this year with the fast greens and the rough. This definitely helped us win the Jubilee but didn't help me when we finally did our drive in at the end of June. Although the Course was more challenging this Summer, we were kept informed of developments by our representative on the Course Development Group, Jane Walter, thank you Jane

Thank you to Julia and her bar staff; and to all the Catering Staff from Martinas at the start of the year to our new in-house caterers Dan and his chefs.

Finally thank you to Pat Eames who gave me some sage advice. She said I would grow 7 dress sizes by the end of the year (I think I looked suitably horrified) ...as I would grow some very thick skin. So I have had a little chuckle everytime I have had to make a difficult decision which may or may not have been the right one, and just thought... oh another dress size!!

I have enjoyed my challenging year as your Captain and now Carol, I would like to wish you a very happy year as Lady Captain 2022. I think you will do an amazing job. So my final task is to hand over this brooch to you