



# Stockport Ladies' Club Spring Newsletter 2016

## Welcome to the Spring 2016 Newsletter

### MESSAGE FROM THE LADY CAPTAIN

Since becoming Lady Captain last October I have been overwhelmed by the support given to me by my Committee, members and the superb staff of Stockport Golf Club.

The year ahead looked a little daunting with lots of planning, the Diary to attend to and social events to arrange. This was made somewhat easier with the help and encouragement of The Captain, David Hall and the Hon. Secretary, John Bolt, and I thank them for their support.

The arrangements for Christmas were all in hand and I like to think that the members of the Club were delighted to see the Clubhouse looking so festive.

I really enjoyed my Christmas Competition, all the Ladies went to a lot of trouble to look the part, there were penguins, turkeys, Christmas presents, circus entertainers all over the course, a sight for sore eyes.

The Christmas Lunch was attended by 87 Ladies who entered into the spirit of my theme "Sparkle and Fun" and we had plenty of both. Thank you to all my Committee for your help with this. Thanks also to Penny Murison who proposed my health and Wendy Mitchell who said grace.

All the Christmas Dinners were well attended and enjoyed by all.

I would like to make a special mention about the New Year's Eve Dinner Dance. This was one of the best nights I have ever had at Stockport Golf Club. The food, entertainment and general atmosphere were amazing. Thank you to all who gave their time to work that evening, you certainly made it a special night. All I can say is get your tickets early this year.

January got off to a bad start golf wise; the course had taken a battering from the exceptionally bad weather. Hopefully with the care of our excellent Greens staff it will be ready for the spring and at its legendary best for all the major events we are to hold throughout the spring and summer.

The Ladies Committee are hoping to encourage Team fellowship and bonding this year. There are match practices arranged and Tracy Royle has arranged a Sunday Driver for our Team members to get together and do some Team building. I am hoping for some good team results this year and thank you to all who turn up time and again to play on behalf of Stockport Golf Club.

May I wish you all a very happy golf season and may we have fine weather all summer long.

Lady Captain, Linda Smethurst



## LADY VICE CAPTAIN



I am still a little shocked that I accepted the position of Lady Vice Captain of Stockport Golf Club. Now that I am going ahead I fully realise what an honour it is.

I joined the Club in 2002 from Hazel Grove Golf Club and have never regretted the move. The companionship and friends I have made have been so worthwhile and meaningful.

After five years I was asked to join The Ladies Committee and served for four years in various roles, finishing as Competition Secretary in my final year. I am really looking forward to working with Lady Captain and learning as much as possible under her guidance.

*Diane Jowsey*

## MESSAGE FROM THE RETIRING LADY CAPTAIN

I have so many wonderful memories of a fabulous year as Lady Captain. The enormous enthusiasm shown by the lady members for the entertainment and events which my Committee and I put on, the good rapport with Mr Captain, Tom Clarke and all the gentlemen of the Club Committee, and the strong support from my husband Geoff. I felt we needed to integrate closer with the Gentlemen's section and we made a small step in this direction with the mixed golf competitions.

I was also able to see the strong support our lady members give to each other which makes our Club

what it is, the best in the area.

Thank you all for your support and my charity St Ann's Hospice are extremely grateful for all your £6,032 donations. My best wishes for the present Lady Captain and all future ones, I wish you all an excellent year.

Sylvia Hamilton, Past Lady Captain

## LADIES COMMITTEE



Joining the Ladies Committee are Alison Booth, Trish Bennett and Gill Hudson

On behalf of the new members Alison says -

I personally felt it was quite an honour to be asked. Both Trish and I were a little apprehensive and daunted at the task ahead. We have embraced the challenge, so watch this space!! Our role being "House" involves keeping the Ladies Locker Room shipshape and well stocked of essential toiletries. Keeping the books donated to our Library tidy. Setting up the Ladies Lounge/Davenport Room for the weekly Bridge Club. Flower arranging which has become a new hobby and importantly making sure the clock in the Ladies Lounge is wound up!

I've found being a new member on Committee has given me a great insight of behind the scenes to how Stockport Golf Club runs.

Committee Roles:-

Irene Hegarty – Hon Secretary

Mary Carrier – Competitions Secretary

Gill Hudson shadowing Mary Carrier

Tracy Royle - Handicaps Secretary

Linda Gregory – Treasurer

Amy Shonfeld – Juniors and Marketing

## Highlights so far!

There are two events early in the Lady Captain's term, which epitomises the ladies section - The Christmas Waltz and the Christmas Luncheon.

The ladies excel themselves in their imagination and creativity in the design of their Christmas outfits and this year was no exception.

The winners this year were again the creative team of Linda Bolt, Ruth McCulloch and Glynis Hodgson who despite the cold and rain were very snug in their costumes, with a little assistance from the odd "nip".



A photo opportunity



Guess who?



## The Christmas Luncheon themed room

### "Fun and Sparkle"



As is one of the many traditions of the Club, new Committee members are asked by the Lady Captain to put on a cabaret act for the Ladies Christmas Lunch which usually brings wails of dread from those involved! Unfortunately for this year's team they were slightly depleted as one new member was unable to take part due to pressure of work. Undaunted and after a week of intensive rehearsing, Di, Alison and Trish managed to put a show together turning it into a comedy by replacing Gill with a cardboard lookalike. With the help of our invaluable pianist, Helen Kennedy they incorporated the theme of 'Sparkle and Fun' with an enthusiastic rendition of 'There's No Business Like Show Business' complete with glittering outfits, bowler hats and feather boas which brought a rapturous applause from the audience!

Also in December the Captain and Lady Captain hosted an evening of carols and Christmassy songs sung by the Just Sing choir of which the Lady Captain is a member.

The evening was a great success with audience participation and was enjoyed by all who attended. Thanks to the generous donations of raffle prizes, the evening raised £562 for the Teenage Cancer Trust this year's joint Charity of both Captains.

## Business Ladies Matches

Stockport Ladies have been in the Business Ladies Cheshire Shield for the last 4 Seasons, the first two of which we managed to win. Unfortunately the last 2 years have been less successful but we are hoping for a good result this year.

2016 we have drawn Dunham and Hazel Grove in the group rounds, tough teams!!

The matches are played at the weekend either Friday night, Saturday or Sunday allowing working ladies the chance to play in matches who would normally be unable to do so on a Monday.

It is a great experience and a good way to get into playing match play. We only have 3 ladies in each match so I try and spread this equally to those who are available.

If you have slipped under the radar then please let me know as it far easier to arrange with more ladies willing to play.

*Natasha Brown*

## External Competitions

We have been given a bye in the first round of the National Mail on Sunday competition.

In the regional Bell Cup we should very soon have the draw and will need to play our first round by March.

The Elisabeth Wilson Scratch competition will commence after April. Match play practice has been arranged and we hope to progress through many of the rounds in all these competitions.

*Valerie Garrett*

## JUNIOR LESSONS

For the juniors this year I will be running the coaching sessions on a Sunday morning 10am to 1100am, looking to expand to more groups into the summer months.

The juniors will be receiving a folder and be given feedback sheets from every session. I will be using a system called smart pro coaching. This includes putting and chipping games. Cost will be £30 for 5 sessions.

We will also be looking into beginner group sessions that will include the price of a golf club to get them started.

I will also be looking to continue the boot camps started last year. £30 for the day (6 hours) which includes lunch.

*Nick Grime*

## Sunday Drive at Carden Park

This has been organized for the end of March just before the matches against other clubs start. The event will include a group lesson for an hour with two professionals before the Stockport Ladies Teams Ryder Cup begins. An 18 hole match play competition on the Cheshire Course. Followed by relaxation in the Spa before dinner and a golf quiz. On Sunday there will be some driving and putting practice on the Nicklaus Course, again a team format of match play. Followed by a presentation.

The aim is to try and encourage new team players and up enthusiasm and commitment to the teams this season.

*Tracy Royle*

## Message from The Captain

It is now four months since the Lady Captain and I were installed into our respective offices at Octobers AGMs and I have to say that the time has flown by and has been most enjoyable indeed with the social events over Christmas and New Year being the undoubted highlights. We are now in the middle of the winter projects on the course and much needed work is about to commence on the roofs of both the clubhouse and outbuildings. Our thoughts will soon be turning once more to golf, and the first "Mixed" of the year is scheduled for Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April. I have only started playing mixed golf over the last couple of seasons, but have to say it is great fun. The monthly competitions are very well supported by the members throughout the summer and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at these, and the various forthcoming social events.

You all have my best wishes for the golfing season, and here's to a significant improvement in the weather.

*David Hall*



## BRIDGE



During the winter months members at Stockport have the chance to play bridge. On Tuesdays there are impromptu Rubber Bridge sessions for ladies who play golf early or choose not to play at all if the weather is really bad, and for social members who can arrive for lunch and then play some Bridge. On Wednesday afternoons at 12.30pm there is organised Duplicate Bridge. There are usually 5 or 6 tables and ladies have a pleasant afternoon with a break for tea and biscuits. On Friday afternoons the ladies also play competitive bridge matches against ladies from other local golf clubs. On Thursday evenings mixed Bridge starts at 7.30pm. There are bridge drives, Chicago and Duplicate Bridge. All of these bridge sessions start at the beginning of October and continue until the end of March when the golf season recommences.

### Stockport Ladies' Club Bridge Matches

We have bridge matches each year from October to March where we compete against local clubs. The team from each club is made up of 12 ladies (6 pairs) and the matches are held on a Friday afternoon. This season we have 12 matches of which 6 have been played and we have won 3 of the matches. They are very friendly and certainly competitive. We compete against Bramhall Park, Bramhall, Davenport, Prestbury, Ringway and Wilmslow. We have lots of fun.

*Norma Stewart, Team Organiser.*

## PILATES



Pilates, an exercise enjoyed by all. Pilates classes have now been running successfully at Stockport for 3 years, this year expanding to the gentlemen's section. The men have learnt to 'Thread the Needle'. The ladies have been left 'Holding the Plank' and as for the 'Downwards Dog' well, we just can't get enough.

The benefits are endless. With Chin nodded and Hook in the head, many of the members look taller, leaner, and definitely more mean on the golf course.

Keep Up the good work!

### Social dates for the Diary

Mr Captain and Lady Captain hope that as many members as possible will join in with the social events. The Club needs your support and they are very enjoyable!

Ladies Invitational Bridge Drive	9 <sup>th</sup> February
Valentines Dinner	13 <sup>th</sup> February
Lady Captain's Coffee Morning	11 <sup>th</sup> March
Quiz night	12 <sup>th</sup> March
Race Night	9 <sup>th</sup> April
Stockport's Got Talent	7 <sup>th</sup> May
Ladies Day Dinner and Dance	4 <sup>th</sup> June
(It is hoped that all members may attend and not just the competitors from the Competition).	
Summer Dance	2nd July
Autumn Dance	29th October
Christmas Dinners and New Year's Eve as per the diary.	

We have planned a Ladies Taster Day on 7th May and there will be a Family Fun Day again this year on 15<sup>th</sup> May due to the success of last years, so please come along.

The Lady Captain and Mr Captain's Charity Golf Day for Teenage Cancer Trust will be on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

## New Recruits for The Committee

Please speak to The Lady Captain if you would be interested in joining the Committee in October. We are specifically looking for a Treasurer and a Shadow Handicap Secretary.

We do have lots of fun and treats and meetings are monthly. Just look at the delights at our last meeting.



## Information about Golf

It is worth looking at the Cheshire Golf and England Golf websites.

[www.cheshiregolf.org.uk](http://www.cheshiregolf.org.uk) –Information for golfers of all levels, age and gender in the Cheshire area.

[www.englandgolf.org](http://www.englandgolf.org) -The Governing body for amateur golf in England. Includes details of the organization's activities and responsibilities.

## Fun Golf Facts

Don't feel bad about your high handicap, 80% of all golfers will never achieve a handicap of less than 18.

The chances of making two holes in one in a round of golf are one in 67 million.