

LADY CAPTAIN’S FINAL SPEECH 2018

Before I begin I would like to thank Madhu for all her hard work last year. After one of the most challenging and difficult periods in my life, I was grateful to have the distraction of being Vice Captain during her tenure and subsequently Lady Captain.

**Drive in**

At my drive-in I included the whole club, men, women, juniors and academy members. It was a great day with lots of fun and I was delighted to see so many at this event. We had drinks and a meal which was well received.

**Awayday**

The Awayday was great fun and Bletchingly GC looked after us well. This event was supported again by men, women and Academy Members, not forgetting friends of mine from years gone by who also joined in and came from distant parts of the country. It was lovely to see everyone enjoying the day. I most certainly did. Thanks to Steve Murphy for checking the cards for me.

**Lady Captain’s Day**

Lady Captain’s Day was another great day for me and for the first time it was held over two days to include ladies who work. Congratulations to the winner Sally Barton.

**Competitions and Matches**

We entered the Druce Trophy this year and this is one of Surrey Ladies’ most prestigious events and keenly fought for. My congratulations to our team of Emma Clarke, Chris Carrington, Barbara Cleary and Rebecca Webb who secured 13th place out of 60 teams from all around surrey. 5 of us trotted off to Tyrells Wood for this event all nervous and as non-playing captain I was more nervous than them and nearly got through 2 packets of smokes that day! They had to play their best and didn’t they just do that. I was so proud of the team and their enthusiasm for SPGC was second to none.

Congratulations to Shannan Keen and Stephen Coyne who are our respective champions this year. The format for the Ladies’ Championship changed this year and the Silver Strokeplay Championship and Don Gregory Trophy (handicap) were held together for the first time over 36 holes on the same day. The winner of the Don Gregory was Barbara Cleary. Congratulations on a great golfing season Barbara.

The Midweek Friendlies were well supported and out of 10 fixtures we won 5, lost 2, halved 2 and one was not played due to bad weather. Thank you to all those who continually support this.

To all the winners this year, congratulations. But, most of all, to those who enter the competitions thank you. Without you we wouldn’t have competitions.

**Ladies’ Open**

The Ladies’ Open was another very successful day with 57 ladies from 19 clubs taking part. Some even came from as far away as Littlehampton and beyond to participate in one of our prestigious events. Absolute sincere thanks go to Chris Carrington, the organiser, without whose continuous efforts we would not be able to hold this. She was like a terrier chasing everyone on her list! And, I think, we all agree, that it was hugely successful. Thank you Chris.

**Charity**

The Lily Foundation was chosen as the Club Charity. With the generosity of all members I raised £3,370. The funds will be handed over to Liz Curtis (CEO of the Lily Foundation) at our Christmas lunch on December 13th to which Barry (Captain), Dave Smith (President) Martin (Past Captain) and Len (Past President) have been invited. It’s good to know that Barry and Dave Smith have agreed to continue with the Lily Foundation as their chosen charity. At this time I am unable to let you have figures for the Captain and President.

**Thank yous**

Finally, I would like to thank the Board for continuing to make Shirley Park a vibrant club (there’s always something going on) and that can only be good for us. Steve, Tonia and Claire for all their advice and work for me and keeping me in check!! Iv’e been known to stray off the track occasionally!!

Thanks to Richard, for a great golf course, especially through the heatwave, and for keeping the greens in brilliant condition. After all, maybe we can attempt to hit the ball but can we putt? So Richard and his staff made sure we could putt on our greens which has been the envy of a lot of clubs around the area and beyond.

Thanks to Mick for being so patient and looking after our golfing needs both with equipment and lessons. I occasionally cover when Mick is short of staff and see what he does. I don’t think I have ever met anyone so patient and obliging with customers. Thanks to Jordan for his quick fire advice. I even managed to get out of bunkers and dropped my handicap by 2 shots. Thanks Mick and Jordan.

Finally, thanks to the Committee for all your help and advice and for keeping me on the straight and narrow with their advice and help. It didn’t always work but mostly it did!

Special thanks to Jan Murphy and her staff for keeping us watered and especially for helping me arrange events, and Norm, our new catering franchisee, for feeding us.

If I’ve left anything or anyone out, Sorry.

So Now, it’s goodbye from me and hello to your new Lady Captain.

**Mira Lobo**