

Ladies' Section Report for 2021 AGM

In a very difficult year, with the course closed for so many weeks due to corona virus related lock downs, it seems important to be thankful for something positive. Thank goodness for golf! Our sport allowed us a safe space to meet friends, be in the fresh air and enjoy the magnificent surroundings of Durham City Golf Club, often in glorious summer weather. The Ladies' Section would like to thank the green keeping staff, the bar and catering staff and the team in the professional's shop for all their hard work in enabling us to play golf and keep safe.

When golf resumed in May we all scrambled to book tee times. Competitive golf resumed in July just in time for the club championship, which was won by Louise Richardson, with Danielle Harper Brady winning the Silver net trophy and Lorraine Gallagher the Bronze. The ladies' major competitions were well supported over the summer, and we saw many reductions in handicap.

The virus meant that it wasn't possible to go ahead with the Ladies' July open, but the autumn open went ahead with a new 'waltz' format, and was very well supported. Thank you to all those who helped to make this event a success. Money raised through a successful raffle went to the Ladies' Section funds.

The March lockdown meant that all team fixtures were cancelled, and the draw from last year has been carried over to 2021. When County events resumed, however, we hosted the DCLGA Vine Trophy, which was won by a Durham City team consisting of Chris Pullan, June Natrass and Angela Emmerson. Well done ladies!

Our 2020 Ladies' Captain, Elaine Marshall, worked tirelessly with great good humour to ensure that some social events were able to go ahead as normal. In March a 'Murder Mystery' evening at Lumley Castle was a great success and in August we enjoyed an away day in beautiful sunshine at Close House. It was possible to hold a 'Return to Golf' dinner for the ladies at Durham City before another lockdown closed the clubhouse and Christmas celebrations became impossible.

Sadly, we marked the death of two former lady members in this last year, Linda Boggan and Joyce Blamire. Joyce became an honorary member of Durham City Golf Club when she reached her 80th birthday. She was Lady Captain in the year the club moved from Mount Oswald to Littleburn, and served on the ladies' committee for many years as treasurer. She also served as a member of the Durham County Ladies' Golf Association committee. Joyce loved to compete and continued to play golf well into her 80s.

The Ladies' Section wishes our 2021 Ladies' Captain, Sheila Smith, every success and less disruption in the coming year. Good luck to our team players when matches resume, and happy golfing to all!

Joan Robson (Ladies' Secretary)

