

Ladies' Golf Captain's Blog – 13th November 2025



It was quite a week taking over the reins as Roehampton Club Ladies' Golf Captain.

What an enormous privilege and a huge thank you to Claire, who mentored and guided me all year, so I could feel as prepared as possible. I greatly appreciated working with such a dedicated and fantastic captain; winning the foursomes at the Autumn Meeting together was the 'icing on the cake' and symbolic of the strong partnership we had developed.

But a year goes in a flash – watch out Cathy! It seemed like only yesterday that I watched Claire bravely cream her drive off the first at the start of her captaincy in October 2024 and if I am being completely honest, it had been a little gnawing anxiety in the back of my mind ever since! The public mortification of a terrible drive, or even an air shot became a recurring nightmare for the catastrophiser in me. To quote Sam Snead, 'Of all the hazards, fear is the worst.'

As it turned out, I felt so grateful to be surrounded by kindness, support and encouragement that the worst golfing gremlins lost their power! Thank you to everyone for all your good wishes; it meant so much. Given the circumstances, I was relieved to send my ball, albeit a little right and landing in the rough, 189 yards down the first hole and added to Bob's very respectable 208 yards, our combined 397 yards made Susan Major and Gareth Owen the astute winners of guess the length of the drives!



Drive-in team four-BBB competition

Cloaked in relief, Bob and my captaincies were welcomed by the most beautiful sunshine, as we joined the outgoing Captains (Claire and Justin) for a glorious afternoon – golf at its very best! Our 42 points pipped our playing partners by one shot but was not good enough for a place on the podium. Many congratulations to the top three prize winners, with some fantastic scores:

1st Paul Taylor and Therese Swanson - 46 points

2nd Saun Erasmus and Peter McGovern – 45 points

3rd Kasandra Spalding and Henrietta O'Shea – 44 points



After the last putt was sunk, everyone retired to the 19th hole to enjoy the convivial mood on our wonderful new terrace soaked in autumn sunshine. It was a perfect moment to sing happy (80th) birthday to a Roehampton Club sporting legend, Danny Gesua. A truly happy start to my year in office as we celebrate Roehampton Club's 125th Anniversary and The Gold Cup also marks its centenary in 2026.



Annual Meeting Mixed Trophy winners

Trophies for mixed knockouts and events were awarded at the Annual Meeting earlier in the day. Aisling Wilson managed to do the double, not only winning the Frankland Moore Married Foursomes with husband, Ben, but also pairing up with Greg Whitaker to claim the mixed knockout! Well done to Viv Harris and Cathy Staveley for making the final of the Mid-week Mixed Open Championship an all-female affair and congratulations to Viv for playing so well in the final to lift the trophy! The seasoned and lethal, mother and son, partnership of Will and Susan Major took the Syd Scott Mixed Foursomes, and Ben and Emma Angood successfully held their nerve in the married foursomes to beat us Thesiger's on the 18th.



Mixed knockout - Greg Whitaker and Aisling Wilson

Mid-Week Mixed Open Championship – Viv Harris

Syd Scott Mixed Foursomes – Susan and Will Major

Frankland Moore Mixed Foursomes – Bob Mitchell and Cathy Staveley

Frankland Moore Married Foursomes – Ben and Aisling Wilson



The Centenary Bowl

The next day, it was straight to work doing a bit of car parking while welcoming Surrey County, who were hosting the Centenary Plate final between Worplesdon and West Hill at Roehampton Club. Indeed, the Centenary Bowl final was supposed to have been played alongside, but our Roehampton Club players put a little spanner in the works by reaching the final, so a neutral course had to be found. Once the Plate was underway, I nipped in the car to Burhill to watch the final of main event between Roehampton Club and Hankley Common.

It had been an amazing run for Cathy Staveley in her first year as Captain. Some incredible golf and tremendous team spirit eased the side through four rounds (home and away) to reach the final. In the

build-up to the finale there were a few medical issues, with Lorna injuring her shoulder and Cathy suffering from an infected foot. Luckily Cathy's foot had recovered enough for her to play but sadly Lorna had to call on Astrid to step in on the day. In the end, Kate Emanuel, Steffie Williams, Trish Boyington, Cathy Staveley and Astrid Drayson represented Roehampton Club brilliantly in the final with the supporters and caddies out in force. In the closest and most exciting of encounters, an experienced Hankley Common side edged ahead at the very last minute to beat Roehampton Club 3/2 (with the deciding match finishing on 17th hole)! Huge congratulations on a brilliant campaign to Cathy and the whole squad that also included: Emma Angood, Angie Atkins, Catherine Cooper, Astrid Drayson, Sian Bayliss, Astrid Drayson, Charlotta Lyckeus, Helen Maguire, Lorna Robey, Kasandra Spalding and Heather Webber.



Greensomes and Fashion Show

A very big thank you to Ricky and Joe for organising a fantastic fashion show and greensomes competition, with the most incredible prizes!! I felt more than lucky that Andreina and I had one of those days when we gelled perfectly to literally walk off with a beautiful pair of Ecco golf shoes with our winning score of 41 points. Make sure you sign up next year as points make wonderful prizes! I didn't realise there was such an art to strutting your stuff on the catwalk, but at least my efforts caused some amusement! Thankfully, I was joined by Cathy Staveley (who struck some great poses), Trisha Morgan (an experienced strutter) and Kasandra Spalding (an absolute natural!).



Afterwards, with all the main brands selling their winter collections, the Garden Room was a buzz of shoppers hunting for brilliant bargains.

End of Season Finale Stableford

No sooner had I driven in as captain, I was on the first tee with Jinni and Cathy competing in the end of season finale. A qualifying Stableford played in 3-balls with a team-prize awarded to the aggregate of each group's scores. The leafy carpets lining the fairways were no problem for the top five individual winners. Many congratulations to Patrick Stuff with an incredible 41 points, while also contributing to the winning team score with his dad, David and Simon Prince on 106 points.

1st Patrick Stuff 41

2nd Luke Gorman 38 (Countback)

3rd Trish Boyington 38

4th Paul Igoe 37 (Countback)

5th Paul Taylor 37 (Countback)

(Craig McLean, Henrietta O'Shea and Greg Whitaker all on 37)



Tuesday 28th October Stableford results:

Silver Div:

1st Cathy Staveley 37 points

2nd Kate Emanuel 36 points (countback)

3rd Jo Thesiger 36 points

Bronze Div:

1st Jules Sanderson 34 points

2nd Caroline Dewar 33 points

3rd Patricia Morgan 31 points

Jackie Keane remembered

It is with great sadness that I announce the death of Jackie Keane. Jackie left the Club in 2018 due to deteriorating health problems but had been a longstanding Member. An avid golfer, tennis and bridge player, Jackie was an active part of the business ladies' section during her varied career with her final posting being PA to the High Master of St Pauls. She enjoyed a few tours to Portugal with her weekend golfing pals including Jean Halliday, Libby Dand and Audrey Milsom (pictured below). Caroline Leslie, another close friend, said that Jackie will be remembered for her positivity, lovely smile and great sense of humour.



Library

A reminder from the librarians, who have been inundated with donations lately, to say they are **unable to accept** books that are **hard back or in poor condition**. Suitable books for donation include fiction, (auto)biographies etc.

And finally, don't forget to sign up for:

The Mixed Charity Golf Competition and Auction on Saturday 13th December and **The Ladies' Christmas lunch on Tuesday 16th December**. Look forward to seeing everyone over the festive period!

Jo Thesiger, Ladies' Golf Captain

