

Ladies' Golf Captain's Blog – 19th March 2026



At last, *Here Comes the Sun* – a welcome change after what felt like weeks of *Raining Again*. It was a real joy to be out on the course at the beginning of March, playing in a qualifying Stableford, without waterproofs, while catching a few long-awaited rays. Even my four frustrating short, missed putts could not dampen my mood.

Remarkably, you could feel the healing power of nature, with the course bouncing back extremely well after the longest period of continuous rain on record. Although, that recovery would not have been possible without the hard work our head greenkeeper, David Howe, and to his credit, his careful management – keeping the course open whenever possible while applying the right protective measures – has ensured we are in such good shape for the forthcoming 125th celebrations, which begin with the Gold Cup Centenary Pro Am on Friday 10th April, the day before the main event itself.



It promises to be an exciting two days of competition, with Ella Butteriss of Beaconsfield returning to defend the title she secured last year with a pair of 73s, becoming the first amateur since 2012 to lift the trophy. Lauren Horsford, the leading professional in 2025 with rounds of 74 and 76, is among several players returning for both the Pro Am and the Gold Cup. One lucky team may also draw Annabell Fuller in the Pro Am, as she is home for a brief hiatus from the Women's European Tour, following a strong performance at the Australian Open, where she finished joint 10th with a 72-hole total of three-under-par!

A special VIP lunch is being held at the Gold Cup to welcome back distinguished past champions and long-standing competitors. It will be a nostalgic reunion as they watch the class of 2026 in action during this historic 100-year milestone of the competition.

We are particularly honoured that Scottish golfing legend Belle Robertson will be with us. Among her countless achievements, she represented Great Britain and Ireland in the Curtis Cup on seven occasions from 1960 to 1986 and won the British Amateur in 1981 and the Gold Cup in 1979, 1981 and 1982. The lunch will be even more special as Belle joins us to celebrate her 90th birthday on the day itself.



Alan Scott Trophy

The Alan Scott Trophy was a particularly poignant occasion this year following the sudden loss of Alan in January, and the day began with a minute's silence in his memory. Despite a torrential downpour the night before -which meant it was carry-only – the weather finally cleared and the field was almost full when the shotgun fired for the first major competition of the season, a testament to the event's importance in the Club's calendar.

Claire and Justin introduced the new tradition of the Captain and Ladies' Captain playing alongside the defending champion which meant I thoroughly enjoyed my round with Bob and one-handicap, Bryn Rocke, who produced some exquisite shots but couldn't quite replicate the 37 points he posted to lift the trophy last year.

The last time I saw Alan was when he presented the trophy to Bryn. Alan's interest in the event was as enthusiastic as ever, and he told Bob he would be back in 2026. Sadly, he didn't quite make it, but he would have been delighted to know the outstanding winning score of 41 points from Rob Cutler, who produced a superb level-par round. Simon Prince was close behind with an excellent 39 points, while Keith Duncan's Blackpool-orange attire seemed to bring him enough luck to secure third place on the podium. Top lady was Cathy Staveley, who returned a credit-worthy 35 points on a day when the course was in full, unforgiving winter mode and playing at least a club longer. Many congratulations to all the winners.



Captain and Pro

You win some, you lose some! Huge congratulations to Jane Peel and Henrietta O'Shea on a convincing 3&1 victory over Wes and me on Friday 13th March – clearly not the best date to choose! Henrietta was on fire from the very first hole, finding the sweet spot with every club, including her putter, and rolling in more net birdies than we could handle. Jane's solid ball-striking and exquisite short game also kept the pressure on all afternoon. It was a formidable pairing on a day when my own game felt decidedly shaky. Aside from draining an unexpected 35-footer up the slope on the 11th for birdie, nothing went very well for me, leaving poor Wes with a herculean task. He nearly pulled it off with birdies at the 5th, 6th, and 10th, but in the end our opponents were simply too strong. Nonetheless a fantastic and enjoyable match for a very good cause!

Other Competitions:

Tuesday 17th March – Stableford

- 1st Cathy Staveley 37 points
- 2nd Kathleen Bacon 36 points
- 3rd Fiona Hockless 33 points (countback)
- 4th Catherine Cooper 33 points

Tuesday 3rd March – Stableford

- 1st Siobain Rolston 38 points
- 2nd Kasandra Spalding 37 points
- 3rd Caroline Nettel 36 points (countback)
- 4th Fiona Pollard 36 points

Tuesday 10th March – Bowmaker

1st Kate Emanuel, Jane Peel and Cathy Staveley 80 points

2nd Lucinda Cormack, Astrid Drayson and Tessa Ringrose 78 points (countback)

3rd Sandra Drum, Helen Maguire and Clodagh Taylor 78 points

Winter Foursomes Trophy – Sunday 15th March

After a false start in February when torrential rain stopped play, there was a good turn for the Winter Foursomes a month later, on a sunny but very breezy day making the conditions challenging. Congratulations to Henrietta O'Shea and Therese Swanson on a meritorious 36 points narrowly beating Catherine Cooper and Siobain Rolston on 34 points.



Team Golf

Well done to our **Derry Cup team**, holders of this Surrey scratch team competition, for reaching another semi-final by defeating Westhill, one of the stronger clubs in Surrey. It was virtually impossible for the Captain, Jane Peel, to find times to play amid the relentless rain and course closure. However, Issy Simpson, Alice Pharo and Jane Peel bravely stepped up for home match in torrential conditions on Sunday 15th February. Westhill only managed to bring two players due to the trolley ban, giving Jane a 10/8 victory without stepping foot on the course.

Alice had to venture out in the revolting weather but was luckily back in after the 11th hole with an amazing 9/7 victory, only 2-over-par! Issy, playing in the number one spot also had a confident victory over her Surrey teammate, Amelia Matthews by 4/3. That meant Issy, Alice and Jane went into the away match that was never in doubt, but it still had to be completed. The 2–1 loss at Westhill was more than enough to see Roehampton Club safely through to the semi-finals — with Issy managing to beat another of her Surrey teammates, Lottie Woodhams, in the process. Roehampton Club now face Burhill semis – keeping fingers firmly crossed.

Roehampton Club's **Pearson Trophy** campaign resumes in March as they face The Drift in the first round of the knockout stages. The home leg is scheduled for 26th March, with the return fixture away on 20th April. With strong player availability for both matches, the club is well-positioned to build on the momentum they established during a successful group stage. We wish them the best of Luck!

Baked Bean Zumba

A huge thank you to the fantastic Zumba Beans – Charlie, Daniel, Nicola and Danny – and to their brilliant dance teacher Lottie, for bringing such infectious enthusiasm and wonderfully swinging Latin moves to a group of Roehampton Club lady golfers.

An hour of high-energy fitness had everyone forgetting inhibitions, letting loose, and dancing along to some favourite tunes! A big thank you also to all those who attended for their generous donations. Luckily, they are returning for one more session on Friday 27th March at 3pm.





And **Thursday 28th May** is another date for your diary! [The Baked Bean Theatre Company](#) will be back for a magical evening of humour, powerful monologues, singing and dancing in the sunken garden. Details will follow.

Rules Event

Kathleen Bacon (assisted by Cathy Staveley, Claire Martin and me) lead a very enjoyable rules explanation aimed at new lady golfers with and without handicaps. There was a decent turnout of about ten golfers and in truth, we all refreshed our knowledge of a few rules we weren't absolutely sure about! [Please click here to see the rules we demonstrated](#) – you might want to have a quick read!



Notes

Therese Swanson has agreed to oversee mixed liaison for the ladies, so if you are looking for a partner in a mixed event, please do contact her and she will speak to the men's mixed liaison – namely Justin Thesiger – and they will do their best! Contact here at: therese.swanson36@gmail.com

Please look out for all the communications on the 125 Festivals of Golf.

[Click here for the 125 Festival of Events brochure](#)

And just a quick heads-up about the Mixed Invitation on Saturday 30th May, which is a special addition to the calendar. You may also want to get organised for the festival finale on Sunday 7th June — teams of four will compete in a Druce-style event, with a morning pair playing 4BBB to set a Stableford score for their teammates to try to improve in the afternoon, all followed by cocktails and canapés. What's not to like!

Jo Thesiger, Ladies' Golf Captain