

# Ladies' Golf Captain's Blog – 19<sup>th</sup> June 2026



**Well done Issy Simpson, 2026 Club Champion, making it three-in-a-row! Also, congratulations to all who competed and the prize-winners:**

- 1st Issy Simpson 79, 81
- 2nd Nicki Fillingham 86, 78 (countback)
- 3rd Alice Pharo 84, 80
- 18 holes AM: Kasandra Spalding 84
- 18 holes PM: Katy Preston 83

## 125 Festival of Golf

In August 2024, Liz Collins called Bob and me for a meeting about the 125th celebrations and opened with the straightforward but slightly alarming question: 'So what do you want to do?' We weren't even vice-captains at that stage, and shared a flicker of trepidation, as I'm not sure either of us had fully adjusted to that sense of

responsibility. Notwithstanding this, the creative juices did start to flow, even if it all felt a little like jotting down thoughts on the back of a cigarette packet. Then with the excellent project management of Liz Collins, those simple ideas formed structure of the 125 Festival of Golf, that was brought to life in magnificent style last month.

## Captain's Charity Day

It all kicked off with the Captain's Charity Day on Saturday 23rd May, supporting my charity, [The Baked Bean Charity](#), and Bob's, [Home-Start Wandsworth](#). It was a beautifully sunny day, and we were delighted to see a full start sheet, with teams of four working together – the best two scores counting on each hole, except the par 3s where three were needed.

There was also a kick, a throw, a piece of string and a mulligan to help things along, although by all accounts they were often more of a hindrance than a help. My throw, rather embarrassingly, didn't even make it out of the bunker before the 8th green. In the end, it was the Galvin Green boys, resplendent in team colours, who shared the spoils with an outstanding 105 points.





- 1st Luke Gorman, David Birn, Rob Findlay and Oliver Hunt 105
- 2nd Shaun Feldon, Craig Wallace, Mark Gradwell and Shaun Erasmus 103
- 3rd Katy Preston, Nicki Fillingham, Lou Wills and Kasandra Spalding 101

Together with an auction full of exciting prizes (including hospitality overlooking the 18th hole on the final day of the BMW Wentworth, courtesy of the DP World Tour and a 1994 Solheim Cup cap signed by the entire team kindly donated by Trish Johnson ) the day made just over £2,000 for each charity which was an incredible achievement, and we can't thank everyone all enough!



### Ladies' Golf Captain's Day

Then on Tuesday 26th May, the mercury shot up to an astounding 36 degrees Celsius – the hottest day in May for the last 125 years, not to mention the hottest on record. Even the red weather warnings couldn't deter the 92-strong field, many of them in their eighth decade and all determined to support this lovely annual golf club tradition. I didn't think I would ever hear Lorna Robey proudly admitting to standing in a sprinkler fully clothed but who could blame her!

Cathy and I waited at the 7th to lend some support where everyone could buy a charity putt off us that didn't count towards their score on the hole. I have to say I found the responsibility of putting for others much harder than for myself and don't think I holed anything. Luckily Cathy did!



Oli and Matt were both on good form with their drivers launching the ball miles down the 8th hole to offer more assistance for charity! And we had a new addition instead of 'Beat the pro' it was 'Beat the husband', as last year's men's captain, Justin Thesiger, kindly stepped in to help and by all accounts did annoying well only giving away 9 sleeves of balls.

All-in-all, despite the high temperatures, it was a very happy day full of goodwill with over £1,500 raised for The Baked Bean Charity, for which I am hugely indebted to all those who participated.



Many congratulations to the winners: Emma Angood, Lucinda Cormack, Livi Mayell and Inga Kempton, who were the first winners of the beautiful 125 commemorative Rose Bowls donated by the Club.

1st Inga Kempton, Emma Angood, Olivia Mayell and Lucinda Cormack 101 points

2nd Danit Birn, Sally Gesua, Tricia Culliford and Anette Timms 97 points (countback)

3rd Shirley Keane, Linda Dalling, Sue Lefroy and Pippa Walker 97 points



Nearest the pin in two on 1st – Lucy Dickson

Straightest Drive on 8th – Barbara O’Boyle

Nearest the Pin on 14th – Gilly Webb

Wilson

Longest Drive on 16th – Vanessa Morphet



### Mixed Invitation

On we went and next came a new event in the calendar thought up especially for the 125 — the Mixed Invitation on Saturday 30th May.

This pairs better-ball competition proved to be an enormous success, helped by another beautiful day and a delicious informal barbecue in the garden afterwards. I invited my former foursomes’ partner from the 1990s, James Tweddell, who was last year’s captain of Royal Mid Surrey. It was a lovely, nostalgic round,



and we were rather excited by our 24 points on the front nine. Unfortunately, the wheels came off a little on the back nine, and our 42 points was edged out of the prizes on a countback.

However, very well done to Anna Tingle and her partner, Adam Burke (St George’s Hill), who produced a fantastic 44 points to win this inaugural event - one which, judging by the enthusiasm, may well return next year by popular demand. Oh and Liz Collins had the idea of throwing in a couple of fun surprise prizes; one was for the neatest card won by Kasandra Spalding and her partner (of course it was actually marked by Richard Spalding, who apparently is renowned for his beautifully neat cards!)



1st Anna Tingle and Adam Burke (St George’s Hill) 44 points

2nd Emma Angood and Chris James (Royal Wimbledon) 42 points (countback)

3rd Therese Swanson and Allan Collins (RAC) 42 points

## Family Fourball Competition

The family fourball took place the following day. I enjoyed a brief breather, as all three of my children were unavailable to play, but there was a healthy turnout of juniors and adult Members. Any family combination was eligible, except for spouses.

In the end, it was Sophie Fox who combined brilliantly with her brother-in-law, James Stratton, to finish at the top of the leaderboard. Sophie's mother, Tricia Culliford, is a lifelong Roehampton Club Member and was Ladies' Golf Captain during the Club's centenary year in 2001, so it seemed extremely fitting to witness the golfing baton being passed down generations, and Sophie may well continue that tradition herself, having welcomed her second daughter in March. Wishing her many congratulations on all fronts!

1st Sophie Fox and James Stratton 47 points

2nd Dai and Edward Clement 42 points (countback)

3rd Kate Clarke and Daniel Griffin 42 points



## Friends Day

Friends Day took place on Wednesday 3rd June and this was the occasion where we reached out to our neighbours like Rosslyn Park, Ibstock School, Roehampton University, our golfing friends from the different clubs and societies that we play against in matches, plus England and Surrey Golf representatives.

Andreina and I were delighted to partner two inspirational ladies leading England Golf. Martha Brass, who became the first female Chair in 2024 and Debbie Richards, who became president back in April. I have known Debbie since my junior days as we were both members of Royal Mid Surrey in the 1980s, so it felt very special to play together. Bob and Judy Gowing entertained Judy's brother, Richard Venables and David Hall (aged 82 and playing off 7.8!) from the Seniors Golf Society in recognition of a longstanding match between Roehampton and the Seniors that dates back 91 years. A younger cohort made time in their busy lives to join us from The South Eastern Juniors, London University and the Oxford Divots. Another nostalgic moment as I remembered playing for the SEJs against Roehampton Club in 1992 and the match was already well established.

The whirlwind of the 125 had swung from extreme heatwave to mini-hurricane, but thankfully the rain mostly stayed away, and all our guests entered into the spirit of the celebrations with enormous warmth and enthusiasm, making it a truly special occasion. The format was the familiar one: the best two scores to count, with three on the par 3s. In the end, it was another force of nature who took first place – alongside her partner Greg Whitaker and representatives of Surrey Golf. A Club Member for over fifty years and a stalwart of the first team throughout, she was absolutely delighted to win a 125 commemorative Rose Bowl. Of course, we are talking about **Jane Peel**.



1st Jane Peel, Greg Whitaker with Caroline Hardy-Evans and Colin Barr (Surrey Golf) 90 points

2nd Justin Thesiger, Cathy Staveley with Bill Boucher and Nicky Russell (Richmond Golf Club) 89 points (countback)

3rd Viv Harris, Charlotta Lyckeus with Ann Waite and Mandy Hiscocks (Surrey Women's Golf) 89 points

### 125 Festival Finale

I would love to say I bounded into the 125 Festival Finale on Sunday 7th June, but in truth I was running on empty at this point after all the festivities. The idea for this final event was devised by our Vice-Captain elect, Emma Angood, to play a Druce-style competition with teams of four. In the morning, two players in a pairs better-ball format would set a score, and in the afternoon their teammates would head out to try to improve them. I felt rather lucky to be playing in the morning – laying down the first scores seemed far less pressurised. The prize-giving genuinely felt like a festival bringing together representatives from every corner of the golf section and culminating in fish and chips and Pimms on the terrace for the big reveal.

I was delighted during this historic time that both longstanding members and newer members found themselves on the podium with some outstanding scores.



Many congratulations to:

1st Gunilla Huldt, Caroline Williams, Kristoffer Huldt and Nigel Brown 51 points

2nd Gill Griffiths, Barbara O'Boyle, Pippa Walker and Caroline Nettel 50 points

3rd Phillipa Addison, Lou Savage, Vanessa Walker and Luke Walker 49 points (countback – 27 on back 9)

4th Angie Atkins, Astrid Drayson, Siobain Rolston and Sara Morgan 49 points (countback – 29 on back 9)

### Ladies' Invitation

And just when I thought it was all over, the Ladies' Invitation popped up a couple of days later on Tuesday 9th June. Despite the non-stop golfing fun, I was delighted to see the start sheet full to the brim in no time. It was fantastic to welcome so many guests who had travelled considerable distances to join us for the 125 Invitation – from Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Bath, Oxfordshire, Dorset, Devon, Hertford, Hereford and Hampshire. Well ... perhaps not Hereford, but I couldn't resist slipping in one of my favourite *My Fair Lady* tunes.

Unfortunately, the weather was not quite as I had imagined when all the planning took place. My vision of a balmy June day quickly turned into the reality of all four seasons in a single round of golf: wind, downpours, brilliant sunshine – and even a touch of lightning for good measure. Luckily, it passed as quickly as it arrived, and a burst of brilliant blue sky saw it off, allowing everyone to stay out on the course. Everyone seemed to end up having a happy day despite the weather with some good scoring and congratulations to the winners:

- 1st Pippa Walker & Jo Mills (Hankley Common) 41 points
- 2nd Nicki Fillingham & Jo Allchurch (Royal Mid Surrey) 40 points
- 3rd Naomi Laundry & Corrine Pringle (Royal Wimbledon) 39 points



### Hickory event

What a brilliant idea from Liz Collins to have us all dress in Edwardian costume and attempt a competition using hickory clubs – which, rather unnervingly, twist and flex under the weight of the clubhead far more than modern steel or graphite shafts. Initially, balls seemed to be flying in all directions for our group; mine went straight out of bounds on the 1st!

Fortunately, it was a four-ball scramble, giving us four attempts at every shot. Amazingly, the team of Jackie Beedle, Andreina Townsend, Elena del Aguila and Therese Swanson opened their round with a gross birdie two on the 7th, which happened to be their first hole. And then I discovered they weren't the only ones – it sounded as though putts were dropping everywhere for birdies with some incredible scoring.

In the end it was Livi Mayell, Caroline Nettel, Julian Nettel and Greg Whitaker who stole the show with a net 32 on the front nine. Then came the group putt-off, using a historic



putter that looked more like a piece of farming equipment than anything resembling golf technology, but apparently it had been banned in its day for making putting too easy.

The challenge was a sweeping, right-to-left 40-foot putt. Giles Sanderson set the early mark by rolling his effort to 14 inches. Despite recently grumbling about my putting, I somehow managed to finish 7 inches away ... and then, blow me, last year's Captain (AKA my husband) stepped up and knocked it straight into the hole ... show off!

### Captain and Pro

I had another very enjoyable Captain and Pro with Sam against a couple of his pupils, Fiona Anderson and Karine Gloux, in their first Captain and Pro encounter. Sam launched the ball some 290 yards down the second hole which was a mighty impressive sight. Karine and Fiona also hit some scorching drives but, in the end, thankfully Sam and I prevailed to put an end to a hat-trick of losses for the Lady Captain!

### Team golf update

I am very pleased to say the Hicks team have made it into the quarterfinals of this Surrey scratch knockout team event, with a comfortable victory against Hankley Common.

Issy Simpson, Alice Pharo, Nicki Fillingham, Jane Peel and Polly Gammon had a resounding victory at home 4-1 and then then same team, except I swapped in for Alice, halved the match away 2.5-2.5. Issy lead the team brilliantly with her usual flurry of birdies to overwhelm her opponent, Maggie Lowe, both home and away and Nicki played incredibly away in her first outing at Hankley Common and was 2-under-par when she won 6/5.

I am sorry to report that the Wallis team, who also played at Hankley Common, found the away leg more challenging. Despite leading 3-2 at home, they ultimately finished in second place on aggregate. However, a huge thank-you to Captain Caroline Dewar, assisted by Tessa Ringrose, for leading the team with superb organisation and enthusiasm, and to all the players who dedicated their time and made such valuable contributions throughout this season. I know you'll be back fighting next year!

Well done to Andreina, who has made a brilliant start to captaining the Academia (that used to be the Kyocera, that used to be the Anodata). We are through to the fourth round beating Surbiton convincingly on a very wet day last Thursday.



And congratulations to Jane Peel and our course marshal, Ken Brundenell who recently finished 3rd in the Romsey Golf Club Mixed Open, with a fantastic 43 points (on countback) they were only 3 points off the winning score!

Don't forget the Bridge and Golf Day on Friday 31st July. Sign-up on the bridge noticeboard.

**BRIDGE AND GOLF DAY**

**Friday 31st July 8.30am-6pm**

Meet at the Club 8.15am for tee times from 8.30am.  
ABBB team event with best two Stableford scores to count on each hole.  
Men: yellow tees, ladies: red. Handicap allowance will be on the cards.  
Lunch is not provided but you can pre-order sandwiches using the QR code.  
Bridge starts 2pm in the same teams as for the golf. 16-20 boards.  
Combined scores for golf and bridge. Prizegiving 5.30-6pm.

Please add your name to the list on the board and / or email [linda.wareham@gmail.com](mailto:linda.wareham@gmail.com)

## **Goodbye to Matt and Oli**

We are very sad to be saying goodbye to Matt and Oli at the end of this month. Matt has been with us since November 2022, initially as an assistant, before stepping up to manage golf among a wider portfolio of sports.

He has worked incredibly diligently, carrying a heavy workload, particularly with the 125 this year and fielding a never-ending stream of requests from the ladies' section with a calm courtesy! Matt is off on a two-year adventure to Australia, so we wish him the very best of luck and every happiness!



Oli has done a great job assisting Matt for just over a year. We will miss his friendly nature, not to mention long drives when he has stepped up on Lady Captain's Day! Oli is looking forward to an exciting new job with DP World tour – he assures me it is not as a player but who knows what the future may hold! We wish him all the very best.

Just when I thought last month's golfing craziness was calming down Katy Preston and William Major are attempting 180 holes in aid of our charities in the Longest Day Challenge ... please do lend your support!!

**Jo Thesiger, Ladies' Golf Captain**