

Ladies' Golf Captain's Blog – 16th July 2026



The Longest Day Challenge

The word 'epic' doesn't even begin to do justice to this year's Longest Day Challenge.

All I can say is that it was a perfectly fitting – and utterly unforgettable – finale to our wonderful 125th anniversary celebrations.

Katy Preston and **William Major** – son of our very own Susan Major – led an extraordinary fundraising effort for the Captain's charities, [The Baked Bean Charity](#) and [Home-Start Wandsworth](#), by attempting what once seemed unthinkable: **180 holes** in a single day.

Until now, the benchmark stood at Louis Laville's relentless 150 hole record, a feat many believed would never be surpassed. But this ambitious duo set out to smash it. Starting at 2.30am, armed with luminous balls and head torches, Katy and William launched themselves into the pitch-black course at a staggering pace – **1 hour 14 minutes per round**. Round after round of the 7km trail they tore through the darkness into the bright sunshine, caddies sprinting behind them not wanting to hold them up. There was no time to size up a single shot, yet somehow the birdies kept dropping, which was extra money for charity as the Club kindly donated £5 per birdie.

There were many others, including men's captain **Bob Mitchell**, who began at dawn, valiantly circling the course to rack up 100 and 72 holes for these two amazing causes but they found themselves being lapped by this fearless pair.

It was also a farewell occasion for Matt Fidler, who admitted his 72 holes felt a little poultry by comparison – but he still thoroughly enjoyed his day out on the fairways rather than behind a desk in the office! I couldn't believe when I caught up with Katy and William at 4pm that they were at the start of their ninth round, with only one more to go after that. Their pace never dwindled and by 7pm, they had already demolished 180 holes, and to the amazement of the gathering crowd refused to leave it there.



With blistered feet (Katy had discarded her shoes) and aching bodies, they pushed on defiantly into the evening, eyes fixed firmly on the record books and a target of 200 holes. At 8.20 pm, they crossed the line once more – **11 rounds and 3 holes, 201 holes** in total. A new, unofficial world record for a two ball!

Then at about 9pm, Bob heroically sank a testing five-footer to great applause from the terrace, bringing in the final group. So many other golfers played their hearts out on that beautiful midsummer's day, and a heartfelt thank you goes to Katy, Will, Bob, and everyone who took part in helping us raise a totally awesome **£10,000** to be shared between the two charities!!



The Centenary Salver

The Centenary Salver was originally played on 2nd June, and many braved the driving rain to contest this annual medal competition. It wasn't long before the greens became waterlogged and there was standing water surrounding the holes which meant the event had to be abandoned and postponed to 30th June. Thankfully, it proved to be a good alternative date as the glorious sunshine brought in some blistering scores.

Four players produced a brilliant net 67 – Nicki Urquhart, Lucinda Cormack and Liz Dodds – but it was **Trish Boyington** who dazzled at the top the leaderboard on a countback. And although it's not usually polite to mention ages, Trish achieved a feat I can't find evidence of any other lady golfer matching in the past 125 years at Roehampton Club, so one that deserves some celebrating!! Trish's winning score meant she has joined an elite group of women in the golfing world whose gross score has beaten their age.

No need for specific numbers — they're all safely stored on Intelligent Golf — but huge congratulations to Trish on this wonderful achievement that is truly inspirational.

Playing Cards Competition

For the non-card players among us, this was a great opportunity for everyone to get out on the course and 'play the hands they were dealt'. In teams of three, each group would reach



the green on every hole before discovering a playing card on the flag. This card would determine how many scores to record on each hole:

- 1 score for a Jack
- 2 scores for a Queen
- 3 scores for a King
- Double your best score for an Ace
- Double your two best score for a Joker

Congratulations to all the winners for playing their cards right with some fantastic scoring!

1st Caroline Dewar, Lynn Rowland and Lucinda Cormack 113 points

2nd Gunilla Huldt, Sue Latham and Anna Rowland-Clark 109 points (countback)

3rd Vicki Ioannides, Clodagh Taylor, Jane Smith and Ana Murray 109 points

Very well done to our third-place team, which included some of our newer handicap golfers who have recently started braving competitions. What a fantastic result, and we hope it's the first of many successful outings!

The Annual Medal

Midsummer is the time of the Roehampton Club golfing calendar for medal play, where every shot matters, and even the smallest slip-up can prove costly. But keeping a score intact all the way to the final putt is one of golf's most satisfying achievements. A torrential downpour the night before turned every bunker into a miniature pond, so they were all declared ground under repair for the day, which might have contributed to the superb scoring.

This time it was **Nicki Fillingham** who stole the show, producing a fabulous gross 75, net 68 and Nicki's purple patch continued by winning the Silver Handicap Challenge Cup defeating Angie Atkins in the final.

The final of the bronze event had to be postponed due to injury, but Anna Tingle will take on Viv Harris.



Roeheim Cup

After two years in which torrential rain and lightning curtailed play, it was third-year lucky: the Roheim Cup fully delivered Katy Preston's original vision of a Solheim-Cup-style golfing extravaganza in glorious July sunshine. Eight teams of five battled through foursomes, fourball and singles, with live scoring adding extra drama, giving the early foursome finishers lots of entertainment as they tracked their teammates' fortunes from the 19th hole.



The lead swung constantly from group to group as golfing fortunes shifted, with putts either dropping or sliding agonisingly past. Initially, The Celtic Warriors (Angie Atkins, Sandra Drum, Helen Maguire, Jane Peel and Siobain Rolston) were neck-and-neck with the Booze Bags (Nicki Fillingham, Katy Preston, Kasandra Spalding, Issy

Simpson and Steffie Williams) until Livi Golf (Emma Angood, Livi Mayell, Hen O'Shea, Nicola Pearson and Therese Swanson) rose stealthily up the leaderboard into second place.

Such was the closeness of the scoring that the final standings took an unexpected twist: High Fives (Trish Boyington, Catherine Cooper, Fiona Pollard, Alison Post and Lydia Roper) snatched third place from The Backseat Drivers (Kathleen Bacon, Caroline Dewar, Lorna Robey, Cathy Staveley and Jo Thesiger) by a single point, courtesy of Catherine Cooper's nearest-the-pin on the 13th, which earned a crucial extra three-point bonus.

At the top, the Booze Bags held on - but only just! Their winning total of 110 points depended on Katy Preston's longest drive on the 16th, delivering three vital points, which kept them two points clear of Livi Golf. And it truly could not have been closer: Livi Mayell was only inches behind on that same longest-drive hole, which would have completely flipped the standings.



(Spot the AI addition to the photo!)

What a fantastic climax to a brilliant event! A huge thank you to Katy for dreaming up and delivering such a popular team competition and to Siobain for ensuring there was a strong band of weekend golfers all excited to participate.

Away Day at Cowdray Park

As the heatwave continued to dominate the headlines, a determined band of 39 ladies cheerfully ignored the weather warnings and set off for the section's annual outing, organised by the Vice Captain.

This year, Cathy chose the beautiful Cowdray Park on the Sussex border, a course she remembers fondly from her early golfing days. Nestled in the South Downs, the sweeping fairways and gentle rolling hills offered spectacular views – so although many golf shots were played, it also felt like a glorious walk through *England's green and pleasant land*, even with the searing heat to contend with.



The competition format was teams of four, with the best two scores counting except for three scores on the par threes. The long rough proved challenging, the undulating greens demanded careful navigation, and it is a notably lengthy course - making it a truly excellent test of golf.

In the end, it was **Tessa Ringrose, Catherine Cooper, Cilla Harries and Susan Sandler** who showed everyone how it was done, returning a superb 97 points. Second place went to Christine Dodgeson, Caroline Leslie, Andreina Townsend and Caroline Williams, with 92 points, while Fiona Anderson, Astrid Drayson, Sandra Drum and Val Patten finished third with 87.



Jane Peel pipped Cathy for the longest drive and Fiona Anderson, Sarah Dring, Inga Kempton and Caroline Williams were all nearest the pin on the four par threes. Congratulations to all the prize winners. The day was beautifully organised and the lunch – delicious!! A big thank you to Cathy and Cowdray Park for looking after us so well.

Team Golf

Unfortunately, despite the very best efforts of our **Centenary Bowl** team, last year's finalists, West Surrey brought Roehampton Club's hopes of reaching this year's quarter-finals to an end. In the away leg, torrential rain made an unfamiliar course even more unpredictable and challenging, contributing to a 4½–½ defeat. Despite a determined response and an excellent 3–2 victory in the home leg, it wasn't quite enough to overturn the deficit. With several matches going right down to the wire, the tie could easily have gone the other way. A huge thank you to Cathy Staveley for all her hard work in leading the team through another fantastic campaign, involving so many of our players. We look forward to returning even stronger next year.

The **Hicks** team take on longstanding rival, Hindhead, home and away, in the quarter-finals of this summer scratch team event, on the 25th and 26th July, so wishing all the players lots of luck!

We are still going strong in the **Academia** and will be playing The Drift, away, in the fourth round. As Andreina the captain would say – 'Go Chicas'!

The Druce

I couldn't have been prouder of our Druce team, who competed superbly in the searing heat at Betchworth Park on 9th July. Caroline Dewar and Siobain Rolston laid a solid foundation in the morning, with an impressive par-par finish. Thankfully, they also had the occasional blip, leaving some room for improvement in the afternoon!

Helen Maguire and Annette Timms certainly took advantage, producing some incredible figures that



bettered the morning score by 16 shots, meaning Roehampton Club finished in 13th place out of 60 Surrey teams – a fantastic achievement! All players struck the ball beautifully when I was watching and I was particularly delighted for Annette, because it was her first outing in the Druce having been a Roehampton Club Member for over fifty years!

A huge thank you to the brilliant team for their commitment and enthusiasm in uncomfortably sweltering conditions.

Captain and Pro

I have enjoyed two captain and pros since my last newsletter with both Ricky and Alistair.

Only a week after Katy Preston's 201 holes, she paired up with Kasandra Spalding to challenge Ricky and me in an encounter that proved to be a truly spellbinding.

Although Ricky hadn't had the chance to play for several weeks, he was in astonishing form, producing an unbelievable seven birdies in the opening nine holes, slotting putts from everywhere to produce a gross 29 that put us six up. On the back nine, Katy and Kasandra really rallied, fighting back with birdies of their own, eventually only losing 3&2.



We could only marvel as Ricky finished with yet another birdie on the 18th to equal his best-ever round of 63. A fantastic partner, I'd say – although I didn't get much of a look in!



Kathleen Bacon and Andreina Townsend were the next challengers as I teamed up with Alistair. They were quite literally on fire as they charged out of the blocks, parring the first six holes despite receiving shots on five of them.

Kathleen even holed a perfect chip on the 3rd, so it was hardly surprising that we found ourselves four down after eight holes – even though Alistair had also chipped in for a birdie on the 5th.

We realised we had a mountain to climb, but Alistair showed he was more than up for the challenge, producing four consecutive birdies from the 9th to the 12th holes. I finally added a birdie of my own on the 15th to level the match, before we eventually secured a 2&1 victory.

Another incredibly tough and memorable match – many thanks to Kathleen and Andreina for such a fantastic contest!



Drinks on Gill!

Just wanted to say huge congratulations to Gill Edmonds for her fabulous hole-in-one on 17th hole in June!!

Gill was out playing a friendly so sadly it won't appear on the board, but definitely deserves a big shout out as it is a real achievement, particularly on such a long par 3!

Remembering Ann Foster

It is with great sadness that I share the news that Ann Foster, Ladies' Golf Captain in 1999, passed away peacefully last week. Here she is pictured with a youthful Trish Boyington and Jane Peel.

Ann is remembered by our longstanding members as a golfing lady of real class, with great warmth, presence, a wonderful sense of humour and an amazing smile. She made a lasting impression on everyone who knew her.

Ann was an extremely diligent and hardworking Captain, a great supporter of all our teams, and captained the Pearson team during the 1990s. She was always generous with her time and encouragement.



Trish Boyington recalls that it was down to Ann that she joined Roehampton Club after they met in a match while Trish was a member of Malden Golf Club. Ann kindly showed her around the Club afterwards, an act of warmth and generosity that Trish remembers fondly – as she has never looked back!

Ann enjoyed playing golf at Roehampton Club with her husband John, a very talented sportsman, but they moved out of London to Liphook in the early 2000s.

Our thoughts are with Ann's family and friends at this very sad time.

Jo Thesiger, Ladies' Golf Captain