

Ladies' Golf Captain's Blog – 17th September 2026



As I write this blog, Europe have just sealed a thrilling victory in the Solheim Cup — and what a finish! How amazing that it was a Surrey golfer from Farnham who held her nerve to sink the winning putt!

Many of you might not know that Lottie Woad really started emerging in 2019, when Lorna Robey was Captain of Surrey. She represented the Surrey Ladies' team that year after winning the Surrey Championship aged just 15, beating Roehampton Club's Lauren Gooding on the 18th hole in the final. Lorna heralded her extraordinary talent and predicted a phenomenal future long before the name Lottie Woad meant anything to many people.

A year earlier, I had also been quite disappointed to lose to the same 14-year-old on the 17th hole in a Derry Cup match against Farnham. Little did I know!



As the Solheim celebrations began, a spectacular blue and yellow pyrotechnic display lit up the scene, coordinated by our very own Katy Preston, who was behind all the fantastic razzamatazz at the Solheim Cup. What an atmosphere, what a historic occasion to have been part of – and what an amazing job, Katy! Pictured here with some familiar faces from Roehampton Club who were there to cheer on Europe or maybe America!

All further evidence to show that Roehampton Club has a proud history at the heart of women's competitive golf — a tradition that has flourished for more than a century and continues to thrive today.

So, just a few weeks to go as your Ladies' Captain, and so much has happened in the whirlwind of the past year. We've experienced the wettest winter on record, endured five heatwaves and, on my Invitation Day on 7th June, seemingly enjoyed all four seasons in a single round!

Celebrating the centenary of the Gold Open Challenge Cup and the 125th anniversary of the Club were front and centre in what has been an exceptionally busy and memorable calendar.





The atmosphere at the commemorative Gold Cup Pro-Am was truly heart-warming, with Roehampton Club Members extending a very warm welcome to past players and winners, as well as current European Tour professionals including our own Annbell Fuller. They were equally delighted to be back, enjoying a wonderfully nostalgic reunion with old friends and rivals and renewing the special connections forged at Roehampton Club over the years.

A film from Trish Johnson and Laura Davies from Augusta was the icing on the cake, when we discovered Laura earned her first professional cheque at the Gold Cup in 1985 (actually the year before Trish claimed the trophy in 1986), and we are excited to be welcoming them both back on 14th October for a Q&A.

We hosted a commemorative centenary lunch for past players and had the great privilege of welcoming the legendary Scottish golfer Belle Robertson, who represented Great Britain and Ireland in eight Curtis Cup matches. The occasion was made even more special as it was Belle's actual 90th birthday, which we celebrated alongside the Gold Cup's 100 years, surrounded by



many of her longstanding golfing friends and fellow past players.



Watched by these experienced golfing heroes Luca Thompson from Wales went on to win the Centenary Roehampton Gold Cup on a freezing, windswept day, with a very creditable 3-over-par total over 36 holes. The amateur Irish International, Chloe Ryan, of Sunningdale took second place, with Annabell Fuller narrowly pushed into third on countback, both finishing just two shots behind the winner.

The 125 Festival of Golf was a fun-packed fortnight with something for everyone: Lady Captain's Day, Friends Day, the Mixed Invitation, Family Foursomes and, as a fantastic finale, a Druce-style tournament involving the entire golf section. The enthusiasm of the members throughout was palpable, with a perfect blend of competitive spirit, friendship and camaraderie. It really was a very special celebration and an honour to be at the helm alongside Men's Captain, Bob Mitchell.



During the year there have also been some wonderful performances on the golf course, including three holes-in-one from Gill Edmonds, Jinni Featherstone-Witty and, most recently, Joanna Zheng, who struck a perfect 5-wood on the 7th while playing a friendly round with Nida Sozuger and Robert Gray.



One of my favourite achievements of the year, however, was Trish Boyington beating her age — a truly remarkable feat. We have been unable to find any record of another female golfer achieving this during the Club's 125-year history.

Jane Peel led us to yet another Derry Cup final — our ninth since 2015. Sadly, we just missed out to Hindhead, but Jane's record as captain of the team has been quite extraordinary, while continuing to play in matches herself, usually winning by an impressive margin. Her contribution is all the more remarkable given that she has represented Roehampton Club's scratch teams across five decades!



Despite the demands of a new job, Issy Simpson enjoyed another notable season. Not only did she reach her second successive Surrey Championship final, she also won the Club Championship for a third consecutive year and produced an immaculate level-par 72 in the Weekend Spring Meeting.

After a little lull in August, there has been a flurry of late summer competitions.

Many congratulations to Sally and Danny Gesua on winning the **Married Foursomes Knockout** in a closely fought final, finishing on the 17th against Claire and Roy Martin. This crafty, competitive couple — who knocked us out in the second round! — also have the rare distinction of having won the Mixed Knockout before they were married!



Very well done to Vanessa Walker for winning the **Senior Ladies Trophy** with 39 points in the first individual ladies' competition after the re-opening of the course that must have felt quite a bit longer!



Nicki Fillingham has enjoyed a very successful year, putting her name on several trophies and boards, and added the **Pearson Salver** to her achievements by winning the nett **36-hole event**. She also took the **Robey Trophy** for scratch prize with solid gross scores of 81 and 83 in tricky, blustery conditions, with Kate Emanuel finishing runner-up in both events.

Salute the Services was another important occasion in the calendar, raising money for Combat Stress, the UK's leading mental health charity for veterans and a very worthy cause. The navy took the team event and it was good to see the Ladies' Section well represented in the prizes! Well done Jinni and Annette!

1st Will Glassy 40 points

2nd Jinni Featherstone-Witty 37 points

3rd Annette Timms 36 points

The **Summerside Cup** enjoyed a full startsheet of 24. On a blustery day, with the lush grass making a welcome return, the ball wasn't carrying quite as far, while some challenging pin positions made the greens feel particularly slick, with more than a few putts sliding frustratingly past the hole!



Andreina Townsend took the honours with 35 points despite an irritating

blob on the final hole which she thought had ruined her chances. In the end her score was still good enough to claim victory from Liz Dodds by one shot on a countback from Angie Atkins. Well done to all the prize winners.



1st Andreina Townsend 35 points

2nd Liz Dodds 34 points (countback)

3rd Angie Atkins 34 points

Captain and Pro

I've had two more Captain and Pro matches in September, both of which have been thoroughly enjoyable, even though neither went the way I'd hoped ... grrr!

Firstly, Sol and I took on our vice-captain and her regular Captain and Pro partner, Gill Edmonds, who came into the match with an unbeaten record. Naturally, we were keen to unseat them, and Sol certainly did his bit, striking the ball beautifully and sinking putts from everywhere with his new Scotty Cameron putter. Unfortunately, I had one of those

days when playing golf felt decidedly alien so didn't contribute much at all which was not going to be good enough against our opponents who recorded 5 net birdies and a net eagle! To their delight, their record remains intact despite Sol's amazing gross 68!



Then, Sandra Drum and Charlotta had another shot against Ricky and me. Sandra certainly brought her A game (which seems to have been a

common theme!), hitting the ball beautifully. I have to admit her birdie four on the 2nd hole for a net eagle was a bit of a blow, and Charlotta dovetailed perfectly, coming in with net birdies where they were needed on the 4th and 6th holes. Ricky and I seemed to lip out on about six occasions, any one of which might have stemmed their momentum, but in the end we succumbed 4&3.

Coronation Foursomes Area Final

I had a really enjoyable day with Clodagh Taylor playing in the R&A Coronation Foursomes Area Final at Haywards Heath in Sussex. Stephanie Wood and Joanna Bright were supposed to be representing the Club but unfortunately were unable to make it due to injury, so we stepped in as their replacements, having finished third in the club competition on a countback from Jane Peel and Cathy Staveley (who were also otherwise engaged!).



The totally parched, sloping course caused all sorts of problems with some unfortunate bounces, but we kept focused and Clodagh was very much the secret weapon, delivering shots exactly where I had suggested! Our playing partners were from Farnham Golf Club (home of the aforementioned Lottie Woad), and we had a really fun round. Clodagh and I made a birdie on the 9th to give us 20 points on the front nine, but we lost a little momentum towards the end and only managed 16 on the back nine. Given the treacherous conditions, scoring was not particularly high, so we were delighted that our 36 points were good enough for 8th place out of 90 teams!

125 Dinner

There has been a fantastic response to the 125 Dinner on Thursday 22nd October, featuring guest speaker Chris Langford, a founding member of the Ladies' European Tour. There are still a few spaces available, so please do book soon as numbers are limited and we wouldn't want anyone to miss out!

Ricky's fun competition and fashion show

Ricky will be hosting his annual fun competition and fashion show on Tuesday 20th October, with plenty of fabulous prizes up for grabs. I was lucky enough to come away with a pair of Ecco golf shoes last year, so it is definitely worth signing up! There will also be some great bargains on golfing apparel afterwards, making it a fun day both on and off the course – one for the diary!

Change in Stroke Indexes

The stroke indexes will be changing back to separate indexes for men and women from the Drive-In. The changes are designed to make the stroke indexes more appropriate for ladies' golf and to avoid too many low stroke indexes being concentrated towards the end of the card. A lot of work and consideration went into this reallocation indexes and I am pleased to share the rationale – [click here to read](#)

And finally ... It has been a very exciting and, at times, challenging year, and I must thank my Vice-Captain, Cathy Staveley, for her incredible support throughout. I am delighted to be handing over the reins to such a highly organised, dedicated and capable person, who I know will lead Ladies' the golf section brilliantly both on and off the course. We are certainly in very safe hands!

Jo Thesiger, Ladies' Golf Captain

