Ladies' Golf Captain's Newsletter – 19th November 2026

The past Ladies' Golf Captain was absolutely right when she told me that my year as Vice would pass by in a flash. It did indeed whizz by, but I learned a huge amount from Jo's extremely busy year and hope I am now ready to take over as Ladies' Golf Captain.



Jo very kindly invited me to play with her at Rye in the Ladies' Golf Captain's Charity Day a couple of weeks before I took over. Apart from a lovely round of golf followed by the most delicious lunch, I managed to win this amazing golf bag in the raffle – I took it as a good omen for the year ahead and hope you will agree that it certainly makes a statement! Especially when accompanied by matching jumpers.

Captains' Drive In



Like many others, I too had been slightly dreading the Drive In and it turns out that I was absolutely right to be anxious. I very nearly missed the ball entirely and so the hopes of all of you who had gone large with your bets were thwarted. I can only apologise and thank those of you who were there to witness it for your kindness and sympathy!





Needless to say, I got the ball off the tee without problem in the Shotgun Fourball Better Ball competition that followed and had the pleasure of playing with the new Men's Golf Captain, Johnny Perkins, who by stark contrast to me had absolutely nailed his own drive at the Drive In. Our partners were Past Captains Jo Thesiger and Bob Mitchell. Both pairs had very enjoyable rounds but didn't trouble the scorers.

Prize giving followed on the terrace where Johnny and I introduced this year's charity, Free To Be Kids. Free To Be Kids is a charity supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged children all over London through summer week-long outdoor residential trips as well as ongoing mentoring and leadership programmes.

My daughter Emma volunteered on some of these trips during her university holidays and saw firsthand how they helped children realise their potential and improve their sense of self worth. I'm delighted to say that

Johnny went along to meet with the charity and has decided to join with me in supporting them this year. The amount we hope to raise will make a material difference to many disadvantaged children and their families.

Oxford Half Marathon

I rushed off from the prize giving to jump on a train to Oxford that evening. I had entered the Oxford Half Marathon the next day in aid of Free To Be Kids. My plan was to raise as much money as possible from my non-golfing friends in anticipation of my year ahead where I will be asking all of you to dig deep. My training had been stalled by a knee injury meaning that I had to replace running with cross training so I was very worried I wouldn't be able to complete the run. With a heavily strapped knee I managed to run very slowly without stopping and was delighted to finish in 2 hours and 26 minutes. I am thrilled to report that I have raised over £2000 as a kick start to our fundraising efforts. During, after and important rehydrating …







Ladies 125 Golf Dinner

One of the first big events of my year was the 125 Dinner. It was the first for over ten years and so something of an experiment. We had 65 people sign up for a two-course dinner with drinks reception and after dinner speaker. We arranged the tables in a horseshoe which turned out to be popular and the Food and Beverage Team produced the most delicious and innovative food which was enjoyed by everyone. The atmosphere in the room was fabulous and there was much fun and laughter.









We presented trophies to our Club Champion, Issy Simpson and to the Surrey Scratch Foursomes winners, Issy and Alice Pharo. We discovered that while Issy and Alice were busy winning the Scratch Foursomes, Issy was actually nursing a fractured leg! You may see her hobbling around for a few more weeks yet but she is healing well and hoping to be back on the golf course in short order!



The evening was rounded off by an after dinner speech from our guest speaker Chris Langford. She was one of the founder members of the Ladies' European Tour and is a friend of our Club's ambassador, Trish Johnson. She gave an absolutely hilarious speech which had everyone in stitches. It turns out that it was her final ever after dinner speech and she certainly went out on a high.



Captain and Pro

I've managed to play twice already, with Sam and with Sol, and both times I can report we were victorious. Both were hugely enjoyable matches and I'm grateful to Jo Thesiger, Lorna Robey, Lou Wills and Nicki Fillingham for their very generous donations to Free To Be Kids. Further dates are on the noticeboard in the changing room.



Free To Be Winter Leagues

A huge thank you to all those who have signed up for these 9 hole matchplay winter leagues. All the entry fees have gone to Free To Be Kids and my husband Ben has rather rashly pledged to increase these by £5 per net birdie. We have 9 leagues of 6 people, so it could turn out to be an expensive promise!

Cathy's Fore

I am trying to play with as many different Members as possible during my year as Captain and have been organizing fun fourballs on a Friday. My first attempt on 23rd October was thwarted by the weather but I

have managed three since then – I will be in touch during the year and hope to fit many more rounds in as the year progresses.



Jinni's donation

In honour of her hole in one on the 12th hole in the summer, Jinni Featherstone-Witty has given an extremely generous donation to Free To Be Kids - thank you Jinni!

My gardening tips of the month

Some of you know that I used to be a gardener in a different life, so I am going to give you my top tips every month.

November's top tips

- Keep clearing leaves from beds and lawns to improve air circulation and discourage pests and diseases. If you have space, put them in a black bin liner, make sure they are not totally dry, stab some holes in the bags with a hand fork and then leave the bags stacked in a corner of your garden. This will turn into amazing leaf mould and should be ready to use as a mulch by next winter.
- It's not too late to plant spring bulbs especially tulips which can be planted as late as December
- If you are lucky to have dahlias they should be cut down now but instead of digging up the tubers to overwinter, I leave mine in the ground and cover each one with a bucket of home made compost which acts as a little blanket and can be pushed aside in the spring.

And finally …

On the noticeboard, in addition to the Free To Be Winter Leagues, the eagle eyed of you will have noticed an Items for Sale sheet where you can post any golf related items for sale.

There is also a Speed Awareness Course with Dos and Don'ts (for speeding up your play rather than slowing it down!). You will also be able to see results of team matches played and the latest news from Surrey Women's Golf.

Don't forget the Circulating Library with minimum £1 donations for borrowing books. Mary Barlow and Shirley Keane are our librarians and will be happy to receive donations but no hardback books please!

Also, a reminder that mats will become compulsory on the golf course from 21st November so do buy one from the Pro Shop soon.

Cathy Staveley, Ladies' Golf Captain