

Captain's Report

What a year it has been, certainly not what anyone would have foreseen at our last AGM!

The only County Golf which took place this year at all was a single training session at The Point at Polzeath. After that we were scuppered by the weather initially, and then the Coronavirus cast its ugly shadow over the whole world and golf was put on the back burner.

As you know even when golf was allowed to be played again we decided ultimately not to proceed with any of our CLCGA events. The decisions were not taken lightly but we felt that on balance it was the correct decision. Our main reasons were, of course, the general well-being of our members and safety of CLCGA officers who would have been running the events. However we also did not think it fair to ask host clubs for course time, usually so generously given, if we were not going to be spending money on meals and drinks in the club house.

Hopefully most of you have had the opportunity to play plenty of golf in a safe environment at your home club.

I was especially disappointed to have to cancel the Jubilee when we would have been raising much needed funds for Cornwall Air Ambulance, but I was happy to be able to donate, on behalf of us all, the £554.51 which was raised at last year's event.

I understand that our junior girls might have been disappointed by the fact that the boys were able to go ahead with their County Championships whilst the girls were not. It was a strange situation in that England Golf gave little or no guidance to County Associations and Organisations. Each Association/Organisation was left to make their own decisions which resulted in some going ahead with events and others cancelling events. This led to the situation we had in Cornwall where the men went ahead and the Ladies did not. However, I know the girls have all been playing golf when possible and there have been some impressive handicap reductions. I think they will be a force to be reckoned with at next year's SW Inter Counties event.

I would like to congratulate Emily Toy who put up a strong defence of her Women's Amateur Championship title. After a run of great victories she was defeated in the semi-finals by the eventual champion. Like all of us, Emily's year has been thwarted by cancelled and postponed events. Hopefully some of the events she was scheduled or hoping to play in will come to fruition next year but in the meantime we look forward to following her progress at the US Women's Open in Houston starting on 10th December.

I wish all the best to the county team as they resume their training and matches under the guidance of new Captain Wendy Briggs next year. I would like to thank Wendy for her support and wish her well for the next two years.

This year's SW match week was to have been the first of a new, shorter format so it will be interesting to see how that works out next year. The new shorter format is planned to be more inclusive to working players and will also be less expensive for counties with fewer nights away. National Finals next year will also move to the new shorter format. I thoroughly enjoyed my time spent with the team and was always in awe of the standard and consistency of the golf. In addition to their county matches I wish all the best to individual players as they

make their mark on the national amateur scene. The girls from Cornwall have had some great victories in recent years so long may that continue.

As I complete my term of office I would like to say a huge thank you to the committee. This year has been challenging for everyone and the committee were faced with some big decisions to make. Having put everything in place for a great year of competition both at team level and at handicap level it was of course, so disappointing to have to cancel it all. The committee have been superb!

Jenny Potter always has all our administration in order and is so knowledgeable about any issues which crop up. I'm sure the whole committee were delighted when Jenny agreed to stay in position for a further year.

Jacque Lang has done a great job for the last three years as competition secretary. We have had well run competitions at venues all around the county. I know Jacque has everything in place for a smooth handover to Debbie Harmer who will take her place. We are thrilled to welcome Debbie to the committee and I wish her all the best for the next three years.

Mo Hammond is doing a great job as treasurer keeping tabs on all our finances. I hope next year she won't have to spend hours refunding entrance fees like she did this year!

It has been a pleasure to have Jill Simmons as our President and I was delighted to hear that Jill was happy to extend her term of office.

Mel Nile took over the juniors at a point where there was something of a changing of the guard, with several of a very strong junior team moving out of junior golf. Mel has done a fantastic job nurturing a younger group of girls to the point that we have several junior girls now with a single figure handicap index and they are going from strength to strength.

We have welcomed Bridget Moody to the role of Safeguarding Officer. Bridget has so much knowledge and experience, we are really fortunate to have the benefit of her experience in this vital role.

Di Hillage has had a busy year as handicap advisor as we move over to the new WHS. Di is very knowledgeable and always willing to answer any questions you may have as we all get used to the new system.

Thanks also to Nikki Hodge in the role of Press Officer who is always on the ball keeping us all up to date with any news.

Finally I would like to thank my predecessor Sue Roworth and former President Helen Davey. Sue first asked me to be her vice captain the day that Truro won the Gammon Trophy - she certainly knew how to pick her moment! My two years as Sue's Vice Captain served me well and I learned a lot from her. It was always a pleasure spending time with Helen, and her support, especially at match week last year, was always much appreciated.

Looking forward to next year we now have the prospect of a vaccine against Covid-19. Let's hope it proves to be a success and can stop the Coronavirus in its tracks. I wish all of you happy golfing in 2021 with hopefully as near to a full programme of events as possible.

Vicki Stevenson
County Captain