

East Vets AGM – Captain's Report

I started last year's report by saying that I did not foresee my first year as Captain of the East Vets being quite as it turned out. I did not think that I would be saying something similar this year. I am sorry I was not at the helm for most of the year. But, in my absence East Vets had a very successful year.

Numbers: We have 124 members at the moment – we lost some and gained 8 new members which is healthy but we can always do with more. Please pass the word around your friends.

We started the year with our coffee morning at Glencorse Golf Club. 34 members enjoyed lovely cakes and scones followed by a Sal Special. As quiz master she challenged everyone's knowledge of collective animal names, types of drinks and a familiarity with identifying top brands. Team Hannah Darling (Gilly Glen, Susan Randall, Lesley Campbell and Seonaid Stewart) won with a total of 41 points. They were rewarded with Easter eggs.

And that was where I bailed out but I am delighted to report on the rest of the year.

Our Spring Meeting was held at Winterfield on 4th April. 45 members entered.

We were made very welcome by the Pro, Greenkeepers and Bar and kitchen staff. The course proved tricky with a swirling and gusty wind. Some found it more challenging than others but most enjoyed their day.

The Summer Meeting and Championship was held, as usual, at Haddington on Tuesday May 25th . More often than not, this visit to Haddington is somewhat wet but this year the Gods decided to wait until all players were in the safety of the clubhouse before the heavens opened. A dry summers day, therefore!

Well done to all 45 who played. Thank you to Haddington Golf Club who, year after year, are so accommodating and who give us curtesy of the course for the Championship Match Play.

Championship Semi-Final and Final:

On Saturday 9th July we were treated to a day of masterclass golf.

The first semi-final was between Karen Marshall and Wendy Nicholson. This was a very close match with only one hole difference at any one time. Wendy held out to win on the 18th making her first Vets Final.

Next to play were Karen Ferguson-Snedden and Caroline Steedman. This was a match of two halves with Karen getting off to a good start but Caroline clawed her way back to all square by the 15th . Still all square on the 18th tee where Karen managed to win and go forward to the final.

As Sal said the final was a ding-dong battle with both playing great golf. All good things have to come to an end and this one finished with Karen winning on the 17th . Well done everyone.

The Autumn Meeting at Liberton – sadly this had to be abandoned due to the course flooding. I had a lovely time seeing everyone off from the first tee – taking time to explain what to do in the event of the threatened thunder and lightning. I had not thought of the possibility of monsoonal rain falling. I felt so sorry for all players. They were soaked through. What a shame especially when the course looked in fantastic condition.

Interdivisional Matches played this year.

I must thank Sal for taking charge of all the matches this year and how well did she do!

Our first match v Midland Vets was on the 5th May at Ladybank GC which is always a treat and did not disappoint. Unfortunately for the second year in a row we had a halved match which meant, because Midland won 3 years ago, Midland retain the Liz Miskimmin Quaich. Perhaps next year at Longniddry...

Next up was the match v West Vets at Longniddry on 7th June. This annual scratch match is played for the Elise Duncan Trophy and has been a very successful affair for ESLGA in recent years and I am delighted to say that this year was no exception. East won 6 ½ to 2 ½. West will be determined to win next year at Lanark but I am sure East has a different agenda! I missed an outstanding effort by East. Susan Rennie played par golf to win 7/6 and Anne Hanson holed out from 154 yards and 133 yards. Wonderful golf.

I'd like to quote Sal again who said "all 18 players gave their best efforts for their team, but all matches were played competitively with fun and friendship at the core"

Thanks to Longniddry Golf Club and to Ann Sewell for organizing the day.

Annual Greensomes match v West at Strathaven on 9th August.

The team had a smashing day out at Strathaven GC, a course that not many had played and one that they would now recommend. They were treated royally and, although they did not win, they enjoyed the day.

West won the Asp Friendship Trophy 3 ½ to 1 ½

The final match was the Greensomes v Borders at Eyemouth GC on 15th September. I am sorry I missed this one! Everyone seemed to have had a great time. Lots of fun and laughter.

The result of the match was 3 ½ East:2 ½ Borders. A great way to finish the year. Well done everyone and thank you to all who played in the matches this year.

Match v Senior Men at Elie 17th May.

This fixture is the icing on the cake. It is a fantastic day out playing an amazing course.

Welcome drinks were enjoyed by all on arrival during which time handicaps were negotiated – in part due to some changes in the teams. No one teed off until after lunch (excellent by all accounts). Anne Rorrison was Captain for the day and ever hopeful that it would not be 6/0 defeat as per 2019.

She need not have worried. The result was a halved match much to the delight of the East Vets.

The day was finished with tea and scones in the Clubhouse. Our appreciation and thanks must go to Andrew Gray, the British Senior Men's Society and Elie golf Club for a fantastic day.

SVLGA AGM, Championship and Competitions at Blairgowrie GC

The Championship was held over Lansdowne on 23rd and 24th September. Karen Ferguson-Snedden, our East Vets Champion, won through to the final, where she met Martine Pow and, due to her excellent short game, won on the 17th. Karen is the SVLGA Champion. Well done, Karen.

It was a privilege to watch the matches and to appreciate that even the good players make mistakes. What they don't do is compound the mistake which we are often guilty of doing. 9 couples went to Blairgowrie and produced amazing results again, this year.

Val Mackenzie, Francis McFadzean and Tricia Smith won the Lyon Trophy for the 3 best net scores in the Patrick Rosebowl Competition, pipping West by one point. 2 years in a row, can we make it 3 next year?

Winners of the Toni Moffat Memorial Quaichs, again for the second year, Anne Brownie and Jennifer Bryans for the best scratch score of 76 in the Greensomes.

And... Anne Brownie won the Allen Plate, also for a second year, for the best scratch score over a certain age.

Scottish Women's Open Championship.

This was held at Stranraer GC on 21st -22nd June.

Wendy Nicolson, Karen Ferguson-Snedden, Karen Marshall and Anne Hanson all qualified for the matchplay.

Of the four it was Karen Ferguson-Snedden who won through to the final where she met Australia's Sue Wooster. The lead changed hands multiple times with, after 18 holes, only 4 holes being halved. Karen must have thought she was home and dry on the 18th (being 1 up) but Sue thought otherwise by holing for an eagle from the fairway on the 18th . Up the 19th - and it was Karen who came out on top with a lovely birdie.

And so, Karen becomes only the second lady to be back to back Scottish Senior Women's Champion. (Elaine Moffat did it 2018/19)

Senior Home Internationals and The Jamboree.

A combined team of Scottish Seniors achieved history at Pyle & Kenfig GC in Wales , by winning the inaugural R&A Women's and Men's Senior home International Trophy. The women's team included Karen Ferguson-Snedden , Karen Marshall and Wendy Nicholson. What an achievement and well done, ladies, we are proud of you. Captain Fiona Devries was obviously delighted with the result.

The SVLGA Jamboree was hosted by Moor Park GC on 9-11th August. Karen Ferguson-Snedden, Anne Hanson, Karen Marshall and Wendy Nicholson were all selected to play in this match. Although Scotland did not win they all put up a good fight.

European Senior Ladies Team Championship in Slovenia 30th August to 3rd September. The two Karens were again selected for this event which was a team of 6.

Again, although they did not win it was a great experience and the team finished on a high by winning over Norway on the final day.

Our top players have had a very busy and exciting year. I'd like to express my congratulations to you all. (probably worth a round of applause)

East of Scotland Championship Sunday 16th October

This was the final event on the 2022 calendar, held at Turnhouse GC. Our Seniors did us proud again. Karen Ferguson-Snedden lost out on BIH to Champion Kate McIntosh with a scratch 76 to be closely followed by Karen Marshall with a 77. Jennifer Bryans won 2nd handicap with a net 74.

Conclusion and Thanks.

We have a really great team on the Committee who have all done a great job. The accounts are in good order, thanks to Val. Ann ran the knock outs and dealt with competitions entries very efficiently.

Janet saved our bacon by coming on board as Secretary. Club V1 has had its moments and is continuing to do so but all will be well next year. Thank you, team.

Anne Rorrison was waiting in the wings to help when needed for which we were very grateful. Thank you, Anne.

As you know this was not the best of years for me.

Poor Sal, who is always busy, was not expecting to have to pick up the reins this year. When writing this I realized just how much I had missed. I will be forever indebted to Sal for all she did this year. No complaining, she just got on with it. You have now got a great Captain. Thank you so much, Sal

And, with that, I conclude my report.