

Captain's Report to ESVLGA AGM 2023

The Trophies over there are the work of my Saturday night, all polished & shiny. This report is the work of my Sunday afternoon, possibly not quite so polished & shiny but here goes all the same.

Another season of some success for East Vets members in 2023. Some great ups and the odd wee down but I can assure you our heads are only ever up.

Let me get the big down & hopefully my only negativity today out of the way straight up. Club V1 & the way it let us down twice this year. I will not dwell long on this as I am sure most of you are fed up hearing from me about it!

Spring Meet at Dunbar & the Autumn Meet at Liberton were both affected by CV1 & weirdly in different ways but with the same outcome. After both events no scores were sent on to SGLtd overnight, so players handicaps were not updated.

A very long story short & after much stress for us up here both were sorted out. The Dunbar debacle I cannot remember how it was resolved & Liberton, very much after the success at Haddington Summer Meet was a 'just when you thought it was safe to go back in the water' moment! We all owe Janet a massive thanks for taking this one by the scruff, find Club Systems relevant person & hey presto all was put right & will be now for next year. I very much hope!

The committee did meet with Anne Paterson the SVLGA Sec to see if we could learn more of what CV1 could do for us. We learnt a little more detail of the system but are still aware it is not well set up for non course owning Associations so we will continue as per & make the best of it.

I do really understand how important an accurate handicap is and for so many reasons so I also would like to thank all members who were affected by this for your utmost patience & understanding while we scuttled around in the background trying to figure it out & fix it.

So back to the fun & notable events of our year.

March saw us back at Glencorse for the start of season Coffee Morning where around 30 of us came along for a catch up, coffee & scones. I ran another quiz which I thought may have been a little easier than 2022 but I think may have had some tough rounds again. Thank you all for indulging me & only complaining a wee bit!

Thank you to Glencorse for hosting us so well as they do every year.

In March I was very sad to report the death of our most recent SVLGA Past President Nancy Duncan. Nancy was a force indeed & has been sorely missed by us all.

Meetings.

This year's 3 strokeplay meetings at Dunbar for Spring, Haddington for the Summer & Liberton for the Autumn were thankfully all played on decent days weather wise with all

courses in great condition & as always we were made to feel very welcome & treated very well.

We had a good number of entries for all three with the highlight being around 60 at Dunbar. This made for some really good scores in the results.

The highlights were the scratch 77 at Dunbar from Jennifer Bryans with a nett 71 from Linda Caine , also a scratch 77 for Hilary Laughland & Karen F-S at Haddington & superb scratch 73 from Wendy at Liberton & nett 68 by Viv Mitchell. More detail will come at the Prize-giving.

Championship.

As a result of the Summer Meet at Haddington we now had our 8 Championship Qualifiers & draw.

Hilary v Ann Hilary winning 1up.

Wendy v Mairi Wendy winning 3&2

Anne B v Karen M Anne winning 2up

KFS v Ailsa Karen winning 4&3

These matches are all mutually arranged & played before the Finals day on July 8th.

Semis Hilary v Wendy & Anne v Karen were great to watch with Wendy & Karen making it to the final but not without having to play great golf in doing so.

The repeat of last year's final did not disappoint, for the standard of golf was fantastic & I thoroughly enjoyed the day out in the sun with Sue P & Ann as company.

Congratulations to Karen for winning the East Championship & the Lady Macinnes Shaw Cup for the 2nd year running.

Commiserations go to you Wendy.

Matches.

For our five matches of the season we had brilliant teams to represent the East Division & huge thanks to all the players for coming to play and play your best golf for team.

Having halved our matches with the Midlands for the last couple of years & with a home fixture at Longniddry I felt sure of success this time. Well, I could not have been more wrong. We simply put it down as a bad day for us all, myself included getting battered by opposing Captain Fiona, & we moved off the course to have a splendid meal & moved swiftly on!

Next up the Match v British Senior Men at Elie. I was due to go along but had to pull out very last minute, so I asked Ann Sewell to step in & Captain the day (I'll not repeat here her reaction!) but she very cleverly engaged Wendy to assist on the day & by all accounts the Ann & Wendy combo got the ensuing handicap debate all cleared up with the opposition Captain & off the team went. The 1st tee debate clearly got Ann & Wendy fired up as Wendy & Moyra gained a halved match & Ann & Mandy secured a great win. All other games were very close.

I do believe Wendy rather enjoyed the tussle & has very kindly agreed to take on this match officially next year for us & I cannot tell you how grateful I am for the offer. So that is one job offloaded!

We were then off to Lanark GC for the match versus the West. Both teams fielded the very best of Scottish Seniors golf & it was a joy to be there with you all for the day.

I did have a feeling there was change coming for us with this fixture after we had won our 8 in a row in 2022. West Captain May Hughes was not going to let this continue. She chose a fabulous Matchplay course & her team did not disappoint their Captain. Well done the West but very much to my team for fighting so hard. Great wins for KFS, Anne H & Caroline S & to Hilary, Ailsa, Ann, Jennifer, Wendy & Susan R for pushing them hard.

The great news was our next match. I was able to welcome May & her West greensomes team to Glencorse GC & seek some revenge. This we did very nicely so May & I were able to shake on an overall drawn season and enjoy a beautiful meal. Many thanks to all the team & some great pairings.

Many thanks to both Longniddry & Glencorse for giving us yet again courtesy for these matches.

Last match of the season is versus the Borders greensomes team. This year we were hosting at Winterfield GC. First time I have played it & loved it.

The result again with great pairing we got a halved match.

There are much more detailed reports on the website if you wish to look back.

All these matches are fabulous days out. Each of the Interdivisional matches are geared by handicap range to give an opportunity for all of our members to have a chance to take partake in at least one each year so I would highly recommend you put your name forward when the emails looking for teams come out next year.

What is not to love a good catch up with old chums, a game of golf and a good meal to follow all for the very modest £12 depending on whether at Home or Away.

SVLGA Championship, Patrick Rosebowl & Beddows Quaichs at the Blairgowrie Jamboree.

Karen Ferguson-Sneddon was there to represent East & defend her title of SVLGA Champion this year but after a very gruelling golf schedule this season just ran out of steam against a very strong Semi-final opponent in West's Ruth Hunter. Sadly, being pipped at the last hole over the Landsowne course. Bad luck Karen but another great season you have had. More to follow.

Rather better success in the Patrick Rosebowl for our Mairi Pollock with a brilliant 78 gross Nett 69 over Rosemount.

The team were pipped by 1 shot by the West for the Lyon Trophy.

And for the Beddows Quaichs on the Tuesday over Lansdowne our best pair were Lesley Campbell & Katie Gillies.

At the Executive meeting & the AGM we were asked to take back to our members some papers on Inclusion & Transgender Guidance for golf competitions. I have circulated & have had some constructive response for you & will duly report these back to the SVLGA Executive board. Thanks all.

Scottish Seniors Championships at Aboyne.

Huge congratulations to Karen Ferguson-Sneddon on her victory at the Scottish Seniors Champs. And what a way to get the win after being 4 down in the semis against Australian Sue Wooster winning on 18 and in the final playing West Vets Ruth Hunter and being 1 down after 13 Karen turned the game around and sealed the Championship for a third year in a row on 17. What a fighter.

In the 36 hole stroke-play qualification, Hilary Laughland played two great rounds of 74 to qualify in second place and in the match play event played her way to the quarters with a great 19th hole win over North Division's Sheena Wood. The quarter final draw was tough as it put Hilary and Karen FS up against each other. Karen won this one 2&1.

Also qualifying for the scratch match play were Caroline Steedman, Ailsa Cackett and Ann Sewell who all narrowly missed out on progressing to the quarters with tough first round draws.

We had four qualifiers from East Vets in the handicap match play event, including Liz Calder the top handicap qualifier by some way after two very impressive stroke play rounds. Liz had two good wins in the first two rounds but could not see out the semi-final. Your Captain Sal had a good first round win up 18 but the less said about her second round performance the better!

Well played Karen Ballantyne and Jacqui Moriarty for making it to the match play, bad luck both for not getting past round 1 especially Karen B who lost on second extra hole in a downpour. But very generously stayed on to Caddy for me before she drove all the way home to Edinburgh that night.

I would like to thank SG Ltd for putting on the Tournament, all at Aboyne GC for being brilliant hosts, all the Scottish Senior competitors but especially all the East Vets at the event for supporting each other all week and generally having a hoot with it.

Our International Representatives in 2023.

Three of our very finest East Vets made it all the way to being selected for Scotland in three great events.

The Vets Jamboree at Huddersfield GC v South, Midlands & North of England.

The European Team Championships at Valencia Spain

& The Home Internationals at West Kilbride.

The three are Karen Ferguson-Sneddon, Karen Marshall & Hilary Laughland. All Captained by Fiona De vries.

I had asked Hilary for a bit of a report of these 3 events which she duly did, thank you Hilary very much for taking time to do this.

I will not read all out now but will attach it to this report for the website so you can read through later.

Suffice to say some achievements by all three.

Finally, Conclusion & Thanks

Conclusion, you are magnificent! Keep it up.

Thanks to my new bestie Keith at Activity Awards at Ardmillian for digging me out of an embarrassing hole when on Monday last week I discovered 5 unengraved trophies in my house!

To Past Captain Anne Brownie for very kindly taking time to update our Conditions of Comps at the start of this season, I am very grateful.

To Anne Rorrison (less often but still) for being on the end of the EV helpline.

And to both Anne & our Sue for generally being brilliant, kind supportive people for me & my utterly brilliant Committee.

I cannot thank Ann, Val & Janet for the amount of work, time, energy & effort & thought into everything they have done & given the same to me for everything I have done.

And in particular just a couple of weeks ago I had a proper melt down & offloaded on you all in an emotional wreck moment. I felt the support.

And to quote Ann Sewell...

Sal, the ship did not sink!!

Lastly to one my favourite people outwith this wonderful group.. Emma Stewart (Seonaid's daughter in law) for creating my thank you gifts to the best Secretary ever Janet & best Treasurer ever Val, & there will be one on the way for Ann when back from Spain.

Thank you all. Sal

