



Ladies Section Report 2020

Well, it really has been the most extraordinary year! I am so glad that, pre-Covid, I had already decided to do 2 years in the Lady Captain role, as I was starting to get immersed in it quite quickly.

Christmas Bring & Buy on 5th December was such a fun afternoon. Games night the following evening, and then Rona's wonderful Burns Supper on 25th January set up the coming year nicely and it was nice to socialise outwith the golfing season.

February was a flurry of activity and planning – fashion show, new competition schedule, new procedures, pilates classes, March opening day, getting involved in Board activities.....then suddenly from March it was all about reversing, cancelling and re-planning everything. Extremely frustrating and concerning.

It was so wonderful to open our courses back up in May, with another wave of activity as the Board started to look at safe processes and procedures and Alex, Deborah and I started to reschedule all our fixtures and manage all the changes.

“Necessity is the Mother of Invention” and it was a huge team effort within the Club to come up with new ways of booking, registering for competitions and our scores, and getting our results - and technology played a hugely useful part in this. Thanks to everyone for adapting quickly to the new ways of working which were very successful.

“None of us are as smart as all of us” and I would like to thank my wonderful, supportive and sensible Ladies Committee. A special mention has to go to Alex Glaister who originally stepped up as temporary Match & Handicap Secretary and has become such a great addition to our Committee that she is now permanent! Being enthusiastic, ideas driven and dedicated to our cause makes her a delight to work with. I would also like to thank Deborah Rettie for her great advice and huge dollops of common sense. Thanks to Jen Saxton, Avril Hendry and Elizabeth Ferguson for their valued input. I am delighted to have Elizabeth as our new Secretary and Irene Reid as Vice-Captain for 2021.

There are many other volunteers who give their time freely to help run our various leagues, events, fundraising and general activities and I am happy to say there will be a wee prize draw shortly to give all our lady volunteers a chance of winning some nice surprises as a thank you. The Section couldn't run nearly as well as it does without their commitment.

It was wonderful to welcome so many new lady members into our 'Full' and 'Get into Golf' golfing categories. The ladies from Dollar enhanced our Section nicely, and it was heartening to attract an additional group of beginner ladies into our Get into Golf programme following our promotion event in August.



Heather MacRae's coaching lessons went down very well with beginners and more seasoned golfers alike. Our generous grants from Clackmannanshire Sports Council and Magic Little Grants enabled us to subsidise these sessions, and we continue to push for more of this.

I am so delighted to see that our ladies section is back on the rise with a stronger presence, a 30% increase in members since 2019, and a much improved and balanced age profile. Financially, our Section continues to be in a strong position, even without being able to fundraise in our usual ways this year, and it was pleasing to be in a position to donate to the Muckhart Development Fund to support necessary Club projects such as the new driveway and Clubhouse refurbishment (watch this space!).

Sadly, due to Covid we were unable to do social events, or to fundraise (except for Margaret-Elspeth's wonderful concoctions), have our away day at Alyth or play in our league matches - but we had fun out on the course and we were just delighted and relieved to be able to play golf again and, of course, our new beer/coffee garden was a big hit afterwards. It was sad to lose our caterer, Scott and his team, but hopefully we will have a worthy replacement for 2021 and beyond.

As well as Covid, some ladies have had a very tough year personally and I hope that having your golfing friends around you in times of darkness has played a small part in giving you strength to move forward. Golf is such an uplifting sport and it plays a huge part in the mental health of all participants.

Congratulations again to our many 2020 prizewinners – and I am heartened that we managed to reschedule our opens – the Tri Am, the Ladies Greensome and the Mixed. Many clubs didn't go ahead with these due to Covid, but we were keen to push through the barriers.

I have greatly enjoyed working with our tireless and dedicated Club Captain Chris Turlik and the Board. It is great to have a new president, Johnny Stewart, as well as our first Gents captain, Scott Marshall, who I am looking forward to working with next year. Along with some new competition fixtures for next year, emerging plans for a much-needed Clubhouse refurbishment and a strengthened and committed Board, I am looking forward to progressing things in 2021. It feels like Muckhart Golf Club is back in its rightful place as a successful, proud and prominent club in such a beautiful setting.

Hopefully we will be able to resume social and fundraising events, including away days for both 18 and 9 hole tournaments. I've a feeling we will all go a bit loopy once we are allowed to finally let our hair down!

We are a wonderful Ladies section that I am proud to lead - thanks for all your support and here's hoping for an even better 2021.

Gillian Doig
Lady Captain