



Lady Captain's Report for AGM 2021

It's hard to believe that my 2 years are already up! I have really enjoyed being Muckhart's Lady Captain, and as I said in 2019, it was an honour to take on this role.

It was gratifying to have a more 'normal' season in 2021 – following the huge challenges we faced due to the pandemic. Covid was still there, but thankfully its presence was substantially weaker.

So, it was wonderful to be able to enjoy a mostly stable programme of fixtures with little disruption – and wasn't this summer's weather just the best?! I recorded my longest ever drive this summer on the baked fairways! Feels a wee bit of a distant memory now sadly.

The course was in fantastic condition and we received compliments aplenty from our many visitors. A special thanks to Paul and our greenkeeping staff and to my colleagues on the Board who are supportive and recognise the importance of the course and the playing experience.

And also a huge thanks to Steve who does a wonderful job in keeping our spirits up every week and providing a very warm welcome to all our visitors.

A special highlight this year was our wonderful exchange day at Braehead. Having to seek the shade of our golfing umbrellas on the course, as well as when eating our meal outside, as it was just so hot....how often does that happen?

And being chased along by the threat of thunder and lightning during the Ladies Tri-Am as the hot weather was about to break.

Congratulations again to all our many worthy 2021 prizewinners.

I'd like to give Alex Glaister a special mention - she goes above and beyond to make our competition schedule run smoothly, and ensure everyone's handicaps are taken care of – and there's been a huge increase in ladies getting handicaps with all the many new lady members that we now have.

And just on that....Drumburn Ladies section is bigger and stronger than it has been for a very long time. Not including our Get into Golf ladies, our full lady members have increased by 30% in the last 2 years. If you include Get into Golf membership (which in itself has increased by 120% over the last 2 years) – our ladies section has increased by over 50% in 2 years. A huge thanks to Rona Sarafilovic and all our Buddies for supporting our beginner groups.

It's an extraordinary achievement, giving us a much improved age-profile. Three years ago I believe our average age was mid-70s. It is now 59. Our section is



welcoming, vibrant and fun (as can be evidenced by last Friday's excellent prizegiving evening), and I know it means a lot to many of our lady members who value the camaraderie that it offers.

This success doesn't happen by itself, and I want to pay tribute to our many volunteers who care enough to give their time and expertise in abundance. It is OUR club, and every one of us has a part to play in making it a success. The Section couldn't run nearly as well as it does without this valued input.

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

Financially - and thanks to our very wise Treasurer, Deborah Rettie - our Section continues to be in a strong position - even without being able to fundraise in our usual ways this year - and I think we all enjoyed the benefits of our beautifully refurbished clubhouse this year which was made possible, in part, by our donations to the cause. A special thanks to Rosemary Turlik for making this happen.

It was nice as restrictions started to ease from August onwards, to be able to reintroduce social events once again such as our great Putting and Prosecco evening hosted by Rona, and our Ryder/Solheim event in September when my Team of Reds came up trumps!

Once again, I have greatly enjoyed working with our tireless and dedicated Club Captain Chris Turlik and the Board and look forward to continuing in my role on the Board.

Last but certainly not least, my wonderful Committee have been hugely supportive and I have enjoyed working with you all - we haven't had a disagreement or a cross word in 2 years! Thanks to Avril Hendry who is stepping down after many years of service. I wish new Captain Irene Reid and the new Committee all the very best for next year and beyond.

I am proud to have led the Ladies Section at Muckhart Golf Club. Thanks for all your support and kind words over the last 2 years - and I wish you well for season 2022 and beyond.

Gillian Doig
Lady Captain