



### **Ladies Section – Irene Reid, Ladies Captain**

It is the end of another golf season, and with it, my time as Ladies Captain. It has been an interesting year once again for the Ladies section with some changes- and challenges - along the way but I end my time as Ladies Captain knowing our section is in good health.

#### **Golf, Social and Fundraising**

Our 2023 season started in March with our opening 9-holes of golf & lunch; it ended in October with a 9-hole Bring & Win competition and lunch. In between we had our usual programme of weekly competitions and SGL medals on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays, Ladies Captain v Vice-Captain match in July and Exchange Day at Alyth GC in late-July. We have such a large number of golfers in our section now and our golf social events are popular - you have to be very quick to sign up for these events!

I'd like to thank club staff – especially Joe Watts, Steve McIvor and Stewart Barlow – for their support, particularly when we are holding the social events.

I was delighted to have Dot Nesbit as Vice-Captain for 2023. In her Vice-Captain's role Dot was keen to re-establish some social events for the Ladies section. Inevitably some activities had taken a back seat during the restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic when it was at its peak. The first such event in 2023 was our fashion show in April. Co-ordinated by Dot with assistance from other Committee members, it was delivered by Mel Anderson of Ooshasc (and Muckhart Golf Club). This successful social event raised £598 for our section. Some of these monies were used to purchase Footjoy MGC-branded grey jackets, which can be borrowed (on a match-by-match basis) by Muckhart Ladies representing the club in team matches (not everyone wishes to buy their own). To date the jackets have been used by GiG members playing for the club in a pilot adult golf-6s competition organised by Scottish Golf, and by members playing in Dumyat League, Inter-club and P&K Handicap League matches.

To draw 2023 social activities to a close, Dot resurrected the Ladies Bring & Buy Christmas coffee morning and sale, which was held in the clubhouse in November. In pre-Covid times this was a popular annual event and judging by the turnout, it looks as though it has picked up where it left off.

#### **Membership**

Alex Glaister (Ladies Match & Handicap Secretary) has provided an analysis of membership golf activity in the Ladies section, which continues to flourish with 140 members across full, 9-hole and Get into Golf categories. Not everyone competes in all competitions, some choose to focus on social golf and associated events. Nevertheless, it is particularly pleasing to see the range of members in terms of handicap and membership category.

#### **2023 North Division Inter-County Championship**

Many of my recollections of mid-summer 2023 are shrouded in rain! In June the weather was glorious and coincided with the annual North Division (Ladies) Inter-County Championship – aka the County Jamboree. Perth & Kinross Ladies County Golf Association (P&K LCGA) - the host county - welcomed Aberdeenshire, Angus, Northern Counties and P&K to Muckhart Golf Club. Players, officials and visiting spectators were very complimentary about the course and club. We hope many will return for a game in the seasons ahead.

#### **Prizegiving 2023**

Our annual Prizegiving Dinner is always an important event in our calendar. This year was no different, although on a personal note it is one of my lowlights because I was unable to attend due to illness. Vice-Captain Dot Nesbit was able to stand in at short notice welcoming our special guest for the evening, past Lady Captain, Jean Bibby. Jean, and her late-husband Ken (former Club



Captain), were long-standing members of Muckhart Golf Club and of course long-time residents in the village.

### **Acknowledgements**

Planning and delivery of all the Ladies section events is a team project. Many people play a part even though they may not be on the Committee. I'd like to pay tribute to our Secretary, Elizabeth Ferguson. Much of Elizabeth's contribution in this role happens 'behind-the-scenes' and it is Elizabeth who has kept the Committee (especially me) on track to ensure we deliver on target. Elizabeth first joined the Committee at the 2016 AGM; her wise counsel and planning has been invaluable to over the last 7 years. She is not seeking re-election to the Committee. Thank you, Elizabeth for all your work in the interests of our section.

Thanks are also due to:

- (i) Non-Committee volunteers: Pauline Kirkwood (co-organiser; Dumyat League); So Young Kim (co-organiser with Grace Hepburn; Inter-club matches); Linda Donegan (Boarshead summer and winter leagues); Barbara Whitlock (Sunday Die-hards) and Steph Crolla (P&K Handicap League) and Rona Sarafilovic (Get into Golf Co-ordinator).
- (ii) Thanks also to Linda Christie, Avril Hendry, Margaret-Elspeth Harman, Jan King and Eileen Black for your respective contributions to our section and the wider club. Eileen is 'retiring' from the gardening work she has done around the clubhouse and Pro Shop and her contribution will be missed.
- (iii) Volunteers with Junior section - Kathryn Champness, Karen Ross and Natalie Barrett.
- (iv) The Board (over the last 24 months): everyone is complimentary in their view contribution the Ladies section make to Muckhart Golf Club. I'd like to note Gillian Doig's contribution to the Board in recent years. It was my pleasure to work with Gillian during her time as Ladies Captain, and then Club Vice-Captain and Club Captain. We both joined the club in 2006; perhaps it's time for us to just getting back to trying to shoot low scores on the golf course next season.
- (v) Muckhart Golf Club staff – as volunteers we are fortunate to have excellent staff at the club to support us: Joe Watts (Club Operations Manager) and the Bar staff; Steve McIvor (Golf Operations Manager), Stewart Barlow (On Par) and his team; and Paul Wilkie (Head Greenkeeper) and his team. Thanks also to PGA Professional Palmer Mitchell for his commitment and enthusiastic support of all of us looking to improve our golf skills.
- (vi) Sponsors. Once again we received sponsorship that provided much valued financial support for some of our activities. A Sports Development Grant from Clackmannanshire Sports Council (£250) ensured we were able to offer subsidised group coaching lessons for women Get into Golf members. We also received a grant through the Magic Little Grants scheme (£500).

### **Club Governance**

In sport – across a whole range of levels – it is important that individual members take part in the processes of governance. At Muckhart Golf Club, participation is not just about playing golf, it's about engaging with the opportunity to have a say in how our club is run. I encourage lady members to attend the upcoming Club AGM in December - exercise your right as a member to participate in the governance of your club.

Finally, I thank the Committee members who have supported me over the last two years: Dot Nesbit (Vice-Captain), Elizabeth Ferguson (Secretary), Alex Glaister (Match & Handicap Secretary); Deborah Rettie (Treasurer); Laura Walker, Grace Hepburn and Ashley Leitch.

It has been my pleasure to be the 35<sup>th</sup> Captain of the Muckhart Ladies section.