



YORKSHIRE VETERAN LADIES' GOLF ASSOCIATION

CAPTAIN'S REPORT

2020 began just as any other year, full of hope and expectation. Although Covid 19 was rumbling on the international scene, I'm not sure many of us would have anticipated the effect it would have on our lives from March onwards.

Your Committee has continued to meet as needed via Zoom & I would like to record my thanks to everyone for their continued contribution & support.

The Committee took the view early on to cancel our competitions up to June 1st & assess the prospect of the remainder of the season at that point. As we all know now, it was clearly not going to be possible to accommodate the numbers of competitors safely & we took the decision to cancel all our events, including the Reps meeting with heavy hearts. This was galling for our Competition team as all the draws for the competitions had just been made & posted but as we watched the YLCGA & England Golf cancel their competitions, we knew we had made the right decision. Richardson Trophy matches were also cancelled, as were the Northern Championships & the Miller Stirling Trophy (Jamboree).

Financially, we have obviously made a surplus this year as we have taken in subscriptions but have had very little expense. As reported previously, we have decided that those who paid a subscription in 2020 will not be charged in 2021 but new members will pay the normal £5 fee. Our Hon Treasurer, Elaine Pearson, has prepared the end of year accounts in the normal way & these are included with this mailing. If you have any questions, please contact her.

So, to 2021! The committee of Past Captains were kind enough to ask me to repeat my year as Captain & I am delighted to have another chance. With your agreement, our committee will also repeat their year of office (if they wish to), meaning that terms will be extended by 1 year. **As this process is outside our normal rules for elections, please would you complete the attached voting slip. Also on the voting slip is a request from the committee to look into the issue of incorporation.** We would like to consider further protection for committee members & members in the event of litigation & will bring all information to the members before proceeding with any action. Please send your votes to me either by email (preferred) karenmleake@gmail.com or by post to 24 Walton Park, Pannal, Harrogate, HG3 1EJ.

Unfortunately, our Acting Secretary Mary Pat Moore has decided to step down from the Committee for personal reasons, exacerbated by the Covid 19 restrictions. On behalf of all the members, I would like to thank Mary Pat for stepping into the breach this year & for all the hard work she has done to familiarise herself with the workings of the committee. I am sure she'll be back! In the meantime, Vice Captain Penny Holroyd & I will share the duties until a new Secretary can be found. **PLEASE would all members seriously consider putting themselves forward to help – it is now becoming a desperate situation.** If you would like to speak to Penny or me about what is involved, please get in touch. You could be co-opted on to the Committee for a year to watch / shadow what goes on before being elected to post next year.

With regard to the competitions, we have decided to stick with the arrangements already made for the 2021 competitions, apart from the Championships & the Foursomes which will be at Oakdale, not Richmond. Details of the venues are now on the website. Our plan is to re-visit the clubs we would have been to in 2020, in 2022 if they are able & willing to accommodate us. Entry forms for the competitions will be available from the end of October as normal.

You will all know that the World Handicapping System will be upon us from November & will mean that our individual competitions (Spring & Autumn meetings & Championship) will now be qualifying. In order to comply with these requirements, we will be using Club Systems software which has been purchased at a one-off, reasonable cost & will provide us with valuable support as we embrace the new system. The Committee has also decided to increase the handicap limits for competitions as there is an expectation that

handicaps will rise under the new system so please check the entry forms carefully when they are issued. These handicap limits will apply to your handicap index & will move up or down depending on the slope & course rating of the host courses. Your handicaps will be calculated by the committee so you will not be expected to work them out yourself!

I was delighted to watch Karen Jobling (Richmond) & her partner Helen Lowe from Leicestershire win the Brenda King Foursomes at Minchinhampton GC at the beginning of October. It feels good to be able to give you some good news amid the gloom!

The Acting Secretary & I attended the Zoom AGM of the NCVLGA recently. This is normally held at Moortown but for obvious reasons could not go ahead. The Zoom meeting was restricted to 2 members from each County & discussions were robust & productive. There is some speculation that this format may be continued in future years, meaning that costs for long journeys etc could be reduced. Minutes of the meeting will be circulated in due course. It was confirmed that subscriptions paid in 2020 would be rolled over to 2021. We received confirmation that the Northern Championships would be held at Bishop Auckland GC from 18 – 20 May 2021, with practice day on 17th. Entry forms are available to download from both the YVLGA & the NCVLGA websites.

Finally, thank you all for your support this year. I hope everyone is well & I have everything crossed that we can start to hold some golfing events again in 2021.

Karen Leake

Captain