

**BABERTON GOLF CLUB LTD
LADIES SECTION
CAPTAIN'S REPORT 2017**

Ladies

Firstly, it is my sad duty to report the death of Moira Munro. Moira was a popular member who served on Council all too briefly before she had to retire due to health reasons. I have passed our condolences to her family.

I am pleased to report a successful year for the Ladies section. The main events over the past year are as follows:

Our first event was the Christmas Fayre on Thursday 8 December when the weather was dry and warm, 14°C. Little did I realise that would be summer! 36 took part with an additional 12 ladies joining us for lunch. The winning couple were Louise Tosh and Helen Moir.

The chosen charity for the year was the Palm Café, a social group café for people with dementia and their carers, held in the St Joseph's Centre in Balerno. This is a subject close to our hearts as two of our ladies are currently suffering from this terrible illness.

The Thursday morning 'turn up and play' was very well supported, entry keenly priced at still 50p. This finished at the end of March and was followed by the Flag Foursomes on 13 April where 42 played, the winners being Margo Boyle and Carolyn Dennison-Pender. Due to the work on the first hole not being completed, our medals proper did not start until early May.

The Ladies Invitational, held on 16 May on a dry day, saw 36 ladies enjoy this greensomes fun afternoon followed by a one course meal and coffee. The winners were Ebeth Fyffe and her guest, Liliias McNicoll. A side competition was the least number of putts taken, won by Margo Boyle and guest Maria Bathe. Our second Invitational took part on 1 October chiefly so our working ladies could invite guests. The format this time was American Foursomes and, despite blustery conditions where the competition was played over fifteen holes, Olga Greenan and her partner, Joan Maclean proved worthy winners.

The Open Greensomes, held on 14 June, handicap was won by our own Kay Gall and partner Pat Greenshields, scratch by Anne Brownie and Viv Curran. Thanks go to Alan Boe for being our starter throughout the day and Richard Fyvie who left his comfortable Pro shop to join us in welcoming the ladies in the entrance hall where he made up the scorecards. The halfway tent was again ably organised by Brian Ellis and his helpers not to mention the various members who assisted with the scoring in the clubhouse.

The 2017 Inter-Club tournament was played at Broomieknowe Golf Club. The team, defending the title, was Karen Marshall, Fiona de Vries, Wendy Nicholson and Mandy

Dougal, who were beaten narrowly in the quarter finals by Glencorse. The winners were Murrayfield, beating Broomieknowe on their home turf.

The Morison Millar tournament, was played in July at Royal Musselburgh, Baberton entering two teams. The winning score from Mortonhall 'B' team over 36 holes was 303. Baberton 'A' and 'B' teams played well with Eilidh Crawford and Lauren Reid, from the 'A' team winning the Dormie Salver with an individual net total of 145. This means that Baberton has won the Salver in two consecutive years. Thanks are due to all the trolley pullers at this and the Inter-Club and also Helen Simpson who supplied the water and all the goodies at both events.

The Ladies Captain and Vice-Captain's Day took place on 25 July where 31 ladies took part, joined by a further 5 for the meal. A good day was had by all and, as usual, the strawberries and cream were supplied by the Ladies Captain and the meringues by the Vice-Captain. Although the result was an honourable draw, the Ladies Captain had the broadest smile.

Baberton came 3rd in the Five-a-Side League, Division 1, winning 5 and losing 3 matches. Even the matches we lost were close. Thanks to Mandy Dougal for organising the team.

The Greensomes League 'A' results were mixed with 3 won and 3 lost, finishing a credible third. Thanks to Kate Johnston for all her hard work as Midlothian Ladies Representative, now stepping down after three years.

The Friendly matches were very successful this year with all five matches won. We were particularly pleased to beat the St Rule Club at home last year and again this year at St Andrews, over the New Course. Thanks go to Brenda Russell, the Friendly Match Convener.

The following represented Baberton at various regional events:

Karen Marshall and Wendy Nicholson - as winners of the Baberton 2016 Daily Mail Foursome competition, played in the 2017 Regional knockout stages.

Laura Reekie (Silver) and Yvonne Wilson (Bronze) – as winners of their respective divisions in the Baberton Scottish Golf Women's Medal, played in the 2017 Regional Medal Finals at Kirkcaldy Golf Club.

Laura Reekie and Adrienne Turner – as winners of the Coronation Foursomes, played in the Regional Final at Kingsknowe Golf Club.

Unfortunately, the girls who won the Tri-am in 2016, Connie McGrail, Ann Condick and Margaret Dalrymple, did not qualify to progress in the 2017 event.

The Mail on Sunday did not take place this year and they have yet to decide for 2018.

The Final of the Scottish County matches took place at Glenbervie from 15 to 17 September. Baberton had only one player in the Midlothian team this year, Karen Marshall. Midlothian and Renfrewshire finished level, Renfrewshire winning on their better performance in individual games over the three days.

Championship week saw gale force winds and again, another Karen Marshall victory, retaining the Ladies Championship, winning for the thirteenth time, against Carys Irvine in a close encounter. The Bronze Championship was again played this year, won by Ella Marshall, against Olga Greenan. It is heartening to see two youngsters in the finals.

The outing to Peebles Golf Club Ladies Open Day, the first of our two outings, organised by Olga Greenan, was most successful and enjoyable. Helen Simpson and Elinor Birrell won 5th Handicap prize and shared in the 2s, also winning 1st Prize within the Baberton outing. The second outing was to Ladybank Golf Club on 11 September, again an Open Day. This well-manicured course was enjoyed by all. Whilst no-one from Baberton was placed overall, Libby Campbell and Ann Condick won within the Baberton group.

Additionally, there are other achievements worthy of note:

Last November, Karen Marshall was awarded Honorary Membership of the Midlothian County Ladies Golf Association as a result of her contribution to the County over a long period. Our congratulations go to Karen, always a great ambassador for the Club. Karen Marshall and Wendy Nicholson played in the Scottish Women's Amateur Championships at Royal Aberdeen Golf Club in June.

Karen Marshall won the Northern Open held at Carnoustie on 10 June in atrocious conditions with a 75 where the CSS was 80.

Karen Marshall reached the final of the Strathtyrum Trophy, losing to Lucy Jamieson of Heswall Golf Club by one hole.

At the Royal Burgess Golfing Society of Edinburgh, Karen played Louise Fraser in the final of the MCLGA Champion of Champions, losing at the 17th hole at the end of a very tight match.

Wendy Nicholson was second scratch in the MCLGA Spring Meeting at Craigmillar Park Golf Club. She was also a finalist in the MCLGA Championship held at Turnhouse.

Kate Johnston and Catherine Wilkie reached the semi-finals of the MCLGA 'B' Championship.

Fiona de Vries was picked for the Scottish Ladies Senior Team to play in the European Senior Ladies Championship in Slovakia from 5 – 9 September, Scotland winning the Flight 2 Group. Additionally, she represented the Scottish Vets in the Jamboree at Frilford Heath Golf Club. Fiona will also play in the team at the Home Internationals at Newport in early October.

Fiona won the Scottish Seniors Amateur Women's Championship at The Blairgowrie Golf Club. She also won the handicap, Owl Trophy, at the Midland Vets Autumn Meeting.

Pamela Williamson finished scratch runner-up in the East of Scotland Vets Autumn Meeting at Liberton.

Continuing the successful track record of our Junior girls, Eilidh Crawford and Carys Irvine, with Lauren Reid as reserve, were picked to play in the Midlothian team in the Cuthbertson Cup, held at Pitreavie Golf Club.

Eilidh and Carys were also selected for the East of Scotland Girls team against West of Scotland Girls for the Mhairi McKay Trophy. The match was played at Cochrane Castle Golf Club, where East lost to the stronger team. Carys also reached the semi-finals of the East of Scotland Girls at Bathgate Golf Club, losing to Porche Wilson, who went on to win. Miss Irvine then had the honour of being picked to play in the Pro-Am at Dundonald prior to the Ladies Scottish Open.

Another young player coming through this year was Ella Marshall. In addition to winning the Club Bronze Trophy she won the Under 16 East of Scotland Girls Spring

Meeting at Gullane No 3. Ella also won the Under 16 East of Scotland Girls Autumn Meeting at Craigmillar Park Golf Club.

At the Stephen Gallacher Foundation Finals Day at Kingsfield Golf Club, Lauren Reid won the Matthew Section and also came first in the Under 18 Girls Order of Merit 2017. At time of writing Lisa Macpherson has reached the final of the MCLGA Junior Singles, playing Carys Irvine. Lisa is also in the Final of the Junior Foursomes, partnered with Lauren Reid.

Club Golf continues to be a great success with early and late summer sessions being very well attended. Many thanks are due to Sharon Macpherson who works tirelessly with the youngsters year in, year out. Also, John Flynn and Drew Young who give their time and expertise each week. A special mention to Lisa Macpherson who has a special rapport with the kids and, along with her schoolwork, has now passed her PGA Level 1 coaching. I, too, enjoyed the sessions but more volunteers are needed for next year.

Thirty Primary 5 children from Juniper Green Primary School attended a fun golf session at the Club in March. This proved to be a great success as was the visit in June of seventeen kids from Nethercurrie Primary School.

Socially, for the first time, exercise classes, predominately for golf, were held over four weeks to prepare the ladies for the golfing season. Our Spring Social Evening had our new Professional, Richard Fyvie, taking a Q & A session. This proved to be extremely popular and informative. We held our annual Whist Drive in January where thirty-six ladies had a very enjoyable afternoon. The winner was Marge Gammie. The Annual Bridge Drive took place in February, attended by eighty ladies. £500 raised from the raffle went towards our chosen charity, the Palm Café.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped during my first year in office. In particular, thanks to the competition girls who have coped very well on the occasions we've had a few hiccups. Also to Past Captain Fiona Neave for giving so much help with the rules. Thank you goes to Anna Buxton and her team of ladies who continue to look after the flower beds. Many thanks also go to Council for their hard work and support. Retiring is Libby Campbell, Treasurer, after many years of looking after the accounts and keeping the Lady Captains in order. Standing down after their allotted time in office are June Stewart whose sterling work with the competitions is much appreciated, Pam Boe and Ann Condict both of whom worked tirelessly in house and social matters.

Thank you to Keith and Jennifer in the office, Chris and his bar and catering staff, and finally to Gary for keeping the course in such fine condition despite the difficult weather over the summer.

Sally McMillan
Ladies Captain