

SSWGA Captain's Report 2026

My first year as SSWGA Captain began in January when I accepted the position. Having represented SSWGA as a player many times, I felt it was the right time to take on the role of Captain, and it has been a tremendous honour to do so.

Ireland v Scotland - Mary McKenna Trophy

The annual match for the **Mary McKenna Trophy** between Ireland and Scotland took place at **Royal Portrush Golf Club** on 12-13 April 2026.

The team assembled in Stranraer on Friday 10 April before an early start the following morning to catch the 7.30am ferry from Cairnryan to Belfast. We were met by our coach and transported to Royal Portrush.

Our hotel was within walking distance of the magnificent Royal Portrush Golf Club, an ideal location for the team.

We were extremely fortunate to play this event on one of Ireland's most prestigious golf courses. Royal Portrush provided a stern challenge, and the team responded with some excellent golf.

Scotland Team

- Alison Davidson (Midlands)
- Louise Fraser (East)
- Ruth Hunter (West)
- Gillian Kyle (West)
- Hilary Laughland (East)
- Karen Marshall (East)
- Jenny Milne (Highland)
- Elaine Moffat (Midlands)

Congratulations to **Jenny Milne** on receiving her first Scottish Senior cap. I must also congratulate Jenny on her magnificent performance today at Alyth, a great match with Jullian Lough.

The practice round on Saturday was played in exceptionally windy, almost gale-force conditions. Despite the challenging weather, the team thoroughly enjoyed the course and quickly recognised what a true test it would provide. An early night followed in preparation for Sunday's fourballs.

Sunday brought further challenges with 40mph winds, hailstones and rain. However, our players battled superbly throughout.

Fourball Results

- Karen Marshall / Alison Davidson beat Laura Webb / Gail Linter 4&3
- Hilary Laughland / Louise Fraser beat Tracy Eaton / Dierdre Walsh 2&1
- Jenny Milne / Ruth Hunter lost to Alison Taylor / Nikki Currie 4&3
- Elaine Moffat / Gillian Kyle beat Sinead Bernadette / Maria O'Reilly 1 up

Scotland led 3-1 after the fourballs, an excellent position going into Monday's singles.

The singles pairings were drawn randomly at the Sunday evening dinner. Which always provides extra excitement.

Fortunately, the weather improved for the singles on Monday. The Scottish girls rose to the occasion playing some lovely golf.

- Elaine Moffat beat Maria O'Reilly 2&1
- Louise Fraser beat Sinead Bernadette 2 holes
- Ruth Hunter lost to Gail Linter 1 down
- Jenny Milne lost to Laura Webb 1 down
- Hilary Laughland lost to Tracy Eaton 4&3
- Alison Davidson beat Nikki Currie 6&4
- Gillian Kyle beat Alison Taylor 2&1
- Karen Marshall halved with Dierdre Walsh

Singles Result: Scotland 4½, Ireland 3½

Which meant Scotland won the Mary McKenna Trophy 7½-4½

This year marked the **25th anniversary of the Mary McKenna Trophy** and it was particularly special that Mary was there herself to present the trophy.

This was Scotland's first victory in the event since 2019 at Troon and Scotland's third win in Ireland, 2004 at The Heritage and 2008 at St Margarets Golf Club.

Congratulations to the entire team. Thank you to our Vice President, **Sal Shepherd**, for her support throughout the trip, and to our Secretary, **Gillian Kyle**.

Our thanks go to Royal Portrush Golf Club for letting us play on their wonderful course.

It was certainly a thrill and honour to be a victorious Scottish Captain on such a memorable occasion.

Appointment of Vice Captain

In June, I was delighted when Wendy Nicolson agreed to be my Vice Captain.

Thank you Wendy. Having such an able VC by my side has been fantastic and I know you will make a tremendous Captain.

Senior Women's Golf Association Jamboree

The **2026 Senior Women's Golf Association Jamboree** was held at **Worthing Golf Club** in the South of England from 4-6 August.

This was a particularly tricky and costly venue for us, travelling such a long way and from all over Scotland.

Scotland Team

- Alison Davidson (Midlands)
- Louise Fraser (East)
- Gillian Kyle (West)
- Hilary Laughland (East)
- Jillian Lough (Borders)
- Karen Marshall (East)
- Jenny Milne (Highland)
- Elaine Moffat (Midlands)

As we all know, England experienced exceptionally hot weather this summer. The practice round was played in temperatures reaching 32°C,

making for a very demanding day. Fortunately, temperatures eased slightly into the twenties for the competition itself.

Worthing proved to be a challenging course. It was hilly, firm and fast, with fairways cracked and baked hard by the prolonged dry weather. The greens were large, quick and exceptionally difficult to read.

These conditions undoubtedly favoured the South team, who knew the course well. Unfortunately, they were our opponents on the opening day.

Match Results

Day 1

South of England defeated Scotland 6-3.

Day 2

Scotland defeated North of England 6½-2½.

Day 3

Midlands defeated Scotland 6-3.

The overall winners were the **South of England**.

With 12½ game points, Scotland finished a highly creditable second place on countback.

We were delighted to receive the **Tony Moffat Quaich** as runners-up.

This was the first time Scotland had won this trophy, which made it particularly special for me. Tony Moffat was a member of Aberdeen Ladies Golf Club, now Royal Aberdeen, my home club, and someone I knew very well.

Congratulations to all the players, who gave their all and showed fantastic team spirit throughout.

Special congratulations to Jillian Lough on receiving her first Scottish Senior Cap at this event. Jillian has made an impressive start to her senior career going onto perform well at the Europeans and the Home Internationals. Jillian is now our SSWGGA 2026 Champion beating Jenny today at Alyth by 1 hole. Well done Jillian.

My thanks go to the **SSWGA South Division** for organising an excellent Jamboree at Worthing and I must also thank our President, **Alex Glennie**, and Vice Captain, **Wendy Nicolson** for their support throughout the week.

I would like to thank all the players who have represented SSWGA this year for their valiant efforts both on and off the course. It has been a privilege to manage a group of golfers who work so harmoniously together.

As well as Alex Glennie, our President, Sal Shepherd, our Vice President and Wendy Nicolson, our Vice Captain who have all given me great help and support at events throughout the year, I need to single out two other special ladies.

Gillian Kyle our hard working secretary for all the superb organisation she does for every event. The logistics of taking a team to events is an immense amount of work and stress but she seems to take it all in her stride. Gillian, you apply the same commitment and attention to detail as you do as your role as a player and your expertise in both is very much appreciated.

Alison Bartlett, our wonderful treasurer, has always been on hand to give me clear thinking advice. Alison, your years as a player in Scottish teams have given you a lot of insight into team golf and your calm manner when our expenditure seems high has been most reassuring. We are very lucky to have you.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you ladies for your continued support and interest.

Thank you.

Sheena Wood

Captain, Scottish Senior Women's Golf Association