

## Women and Girls Golf Gala Day - Friday 26th July 2019

After months of planning and a few days of praying for dry but cool weather, the day of our Women and Girls Golf Gala at Gerrards Cross Golf Club finally arrived. After temperatures of 34+ degrees earlier in the week, the actual temperatures were more moderate, in the mid 20s, and some overnight rain and early morning cloudy skies passed to leave sunny intervals throughout the whole day.

The stall holders arrived around 9am to set up their wares. Justine and her husband Bill, from M&J Golfwear, came the furthest from Penarth, Wales, bringing five rails of lovely seasonal golf wear from several different manufacturers.



The two charities, Workaid and Thames Valley Air Ambulance, England Golf and Your Golf travel were hot on their heels, each setting up their stalls in the main lounge bar; with our own County stall and raffle table being set up near by.

Next came the fitness providers, Linda Segerstam (Pilates), Sam Jarman (Mental Fitness) and Belinda Archer (Massage) and got themselves and their areas ready for Bucks ladies.

At 10am, a meeting with the seven golf professionals on their roster for the day; our thanks to Tony Bowers (Bucks County Coach) for running the putting clinic,



Lewis Atkinson (Head Professional at GXGC) for running the Swing analysis,



Alex Nelson, (Professional at GXGC) for concentrating on wedge distances using his Flightscope equipment, and to Justin Barnes (Head Professional at the Oxfordshire), Ben Ratcliffe (Professional at the Oxfordshire), Charlotte Nutt (Professional at Roehampton Club) and Simon Quilliam (Head Professional at Flackwell Heath) for rotating through bunker, chipping, pitching and long game clinics. They were supported by Evie Ing, (Assistant Professional at Harewood Downs) who provided them with relief cover and also took some clinics of her own.



Then the crowds starting coming in. The clubhouse was buzzing, coffee was being drunk, additional sessions were being booked, people were meeting up with old friends and making new ones.



The clinics and the fitness sessions started promptly at 11am and ran right through to 7pm and were virtually fully booked all day. Lunch, available from 1pm to 5pm, was a delicious selection of chicken pasta arrabiata with black olive tapenade, baked red peppers with a lemon couscous, cos lettuce boats filled with rice, peas and mushrooms and mixed salad leaves, with a fresh fruit salad for dessert. The emphasis was on light and healthy, but for those that wanted some cake, there was cake and biscuits with fruit cordial at the upper practice area, where most of the clinics took place.

There were two skills competitions running during the day; the Beat the Pro pitching contest - where Alex Camp and Jennifer Locke both beat the pro for pitching into paddling pools (and were rewarded with a new golf ball each) and the putting challenge - where the best score achieved was by Debbie Veys (54 points) and this was rewarded with a lesson voucher donated by our County Coach, Tony.

Your Golf Travel ran a quiz during the day - who won the Women's British Open in 2018 and what was the venue - answer Georgia Hall and Royal Lytham and St Annes GC (how could we forget that!). The successful winner drawn from a hat was Helen Gyselynck who was rewarded with a pair of Under Armour golf shoes.

The raffle tickets sold well. My thanks go to Your Golf Travel, Harpenden Golf Club and Cook Foods of Gerrards Cross for donating prizes. The net proceeds raised were £430 for my Captain's charities. The winners were:

Brian Evans - 4 ball voucher for Machyns Golf Club (YGT)  
Jayne Owen - 4 all voucher for Harpenden Golf Club (HGC)  
Helen Gyselynck - Hamper of luxury goodies  
Pinki Catherall - Cook "Meal for two" (Cook Foods of GX)  
Sue Clarke - Bottle of Prosecco  
Jackie Phillips - Bottle of Prosecco  
Enid Gay - Bottle of Prosecco

The management and staff of Gerrards Cross Golf Club were helpful and friendly throughout the day. The clubhouse facilities were used to the full, and no-one seemed to notice that there were a few clubhouse renovations on the go (to be completed before the English Girls under 16s/14s competitions from August 6th to 8th).

Judging by the many emails of thanks and congratulations that we have received since the event, it was a huge success. My thanks must go to:

- Susana Mitterer, Sally Harborne, Janette Psyllides and Janet Beal who formed the planning committee with me and who all took on specific responsibilities on the day
- to the rest of the BCLGA committee (Carolyn, Gilly, Maura and Christine) who helped with making the day run smoothly
- several husbands/daughters who were roped in to work part or all the day
- to the management and staff of Gerrards Cross Golf Club, in particular Adam Grint and Chris Martin and
- to the many Gerrards Cross gentlemen and ladies who assisted with roles as diverse as meet and greet, drink dispensing, running the putting challenge, running the raffle, all of which meant the day went smoothly.

Gail Sharp  
County Captain  
31st July 2019