

AGM: Women's President's Report 2020

I am happy to see that the Women's group has grown in a year despite the disruptions of COVID.

It is abundantly clear that golf as an activity is so important in our lives, more for our mental wellbeing than our physical wellbeing.

I thank our members for their emails during this difficult time and in particular to Pat for her Monday news which keeps us connected. I also thank those that joined me for morning tea online – it was a poor replacement for the real thing but we gave it a go!

Looking back on the year that was, I have found it interesting that some of the new things that started last year that were so different then are now the norm:

- The 9-hole competition started last year has been regularly attended. It has proven valuable to those of us who have or are coming back from injuries. It is also an option with the hotter weather approaching.
- The annual fundraising mixed competition is again scheduled in our program. With the earlier promotion we are hoping to attract more male players and in turn, increase the participation in the Mixed Foursomes event.
- The change in indexing of the women's course introduced last year seems to have worked itself out with scores not changing too much and better reflecting course difficulty.
- Paying comp fees, registering over the bar, and vouchers and balls for prizes have brought us in line with the rest of the club and made things much simpler for Management.

I thank the members for their patience and support in these changes. We can adapt to just about anything.

I would like to express my admiration for Leonore, Janet, Minnie and Val – thank you for enriching our golf experience and being examples of strength in adversity.

I would also like to thank the Women's sub-committee for the smooth running of Open Day, to Kathy again for her persistence in the handicapping role, and to Pat and Pam for a significant effort this year with competitions.

As Women's President, I represent them on the Management Committee. A large part of my role is to help with grant submissions. There have been no grants appropriate to our club for women only, but I am keeping an eye out for one for introducing girls to golf and another for coaching women. There has been little movement around the clubhouse renovations in relation to improving female facilities. I will endeavour to push harder on this project so it is ready when a grant becomes available for minority groups or families that will benefit the whole club. Now that there is a finalised Biodiversity plan, I believe a working group could be formed to get this project moving which will include Carlsa and Val. This will be important to better access future funding opportunities.

Three grants have been submitted that concentrate on volunteers and the Biodiversity Plan. We have over 50 volunteers at the club and we would not be viable if these positions were held by paid staff. As per our Strategic Plan, the club recognises their efforts and will support them. Hopefully we are successful in receiving funding for at least one of these grants:

- Volunteers SA (\$5000) – Post COVID re-engagement with volunteers including recruiting and involvement with the local community and school; support volunteers by providing chainsaw training and equipment.
- Active Club Reboot (\$3000) – First aid courses for staff, CPR and defibrillator training for volunteers, first aid equipment, and COVID related costs (sanitiser, dispensers, cleaning products).
- Budget Direct (\$5000) – Happy and healthy communities: Safe working environment related to the volunteer Grounds workforce as part of the Biodiversity Plan and developing links with our local school.

I have found the past 2 years as Women's President challenging yet satisfying and will continue to grow our club in the right direction in whichever role I take. I encourage anyone who has an idea for growing our club to speak up and we will listen, or stand up and get involved.

Esther Burt