



History of Somerset Ladies Past Captains

By Lesley Organ, Saltford Golf Club

I was Lady Captain at Saltford in the Millennium Year – which I have to say does not seem like 19 years ago. I got the flavour for organising things and, as you do, you put your hand up when others seem reluctant or an organisation is desperate - the latter in this case, I think.

And so it was that at my first AGM of the Somerset Past Captains in the summer of 2001, there were just 3 ladies struggling to run this annual competition, and one of those had had enough and was retiring. A lady called Peta Romaine leant heavily on me (she was bigger than me) and forced my hand into the air. I think she picked on me out of the 15 ladies who attended the meeting as I had naivety written all over my face and was probably 25 years younger than anyone else.

So onwards and upwards and a good partnership was formed between Peta and me. So this is how I became involved.

All credit must go to Terri Lloyd Jenkins who was Lady Captain of Burnham & Berrow in 1969, County Captain in 1972, 1973 and 1974 and County President in 1983 and 1984. Although she has now passed away, it has become clear that this lady was also heavily leant upon, and she was persuaded by fellow Past Captains to organise a Foursomes Competition at Weston-Super-Mare in the summer of 1981, for which she donated the 2 Silver Sugar Bowls. The occasion was far more popular than she had envisaged.

Requests to play against other Past Captains' Societies in other Counties eventually led to a formal Somerset Ladies Past Captains' Society being formed in 1994. In due course the Society received a Constitution for ratification.

In 1995 the crested clothing was introduced. Wendy Barker from Minehead said she remembers sitting down with others with a pencil trying to design a logo.

So after Peta Romaine and I got the hang of things and a few other well-known Lady Captains were persuaded to join us, we thought we could do more. So at the 2003 AGM we suggested that next year we would introduce a Spring Greensomes Competition and Val Boothman very kindly presented The Barber Trophies for us to play for.

Peta Romaine had been very keen and had tried for several years to get the Somerset Gentlemen Past Club Captains to play against us, but they were never interested. So the Committee had yet another brainwave and we decided that it would perhaps be better if each Past Lady Captain should ask, as in invite, a Gentleman Past Club Captain to play in a Competition with her. How could they refuse, we thought! And what about us all having dinner afterwards? And what about making it formal and get the Men to wear their Captains Blazers? So in 2005 we did just that, and the Somerset Lady Past Captains invited the Somerset Gentlemen Past Club

Captains to join them in a 4 BBB Competition. Peta & Charles Romaine kindly donated a Trophy to play for. We all loved it so much it became an annual Autumn event. So that was 14 years ago – where does the time go!

Although Peta Romaine is not now an active Member, her wish has eventually come true and in 2014 the current Gentlemen are now up for an annual match against us. What is the saying – what goes around comes around!

Well there was no holding us back and with now Past Captains clamouring to come on to the Committee, Dianne Barwell, a young Sandra Ford, and an even younger Annya Patten, we went from strength to strength.

What about us all going on a jolly was the next whizzo idea, so.....

In 2007 (12 years ago!) the first Team Event was played at Bryn Meadows up the Valleys in Wales. We even persuaded the Hotel Management to donate 2 trophies!! They had never entertained such a forceful group of ladies before! Another event that became so popular that we could not find golf courses with enough accommodation to take us all.

So here we are today thanks to Terri Lloyd Jenkins and the wonderful enthusiasm of the Somerset Past Captains, we have a thriving and exciting calendar of Events each year, and we know that we are the envy of many a County.

Well done all of you.

Lesley Organ

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