



OLCGA Captain's Report

COUNTY TEAMS

Matches

- CMW disappointing from a performance perspective. Of note was a team that stayed together despite a challenging few days on the course, and our most junior player recording her first CMW win against the eventual (and usual) winners. Support and assistance from caddies (mainly non-selected squad), OLCGA members and officials appreciated. Debrief with select senior players and review of future approach to follow. Tadmarton Ladies section and management team present to understand event for 2026.
- 2nd Team finals in August versus Hereford & Worcester finished with a [win](#).

Training

- End of season session in Oct
 - 2nd Team colours will be presented to Sarah Hillas (Henley GC) and Nikki Halsall (Kirtlington GC), with Megan Bishop (The Wychwood) and Lydia Avan (Tadmarton Heath GC) close to colours on 5.5 wins each.
 - Squad Par 18 Short-game League winner was Lara Murphy (Frilford Heath), and most improved player was Sarah Clarke (Henley GC). This is a competitive league designed to sharpen short-game skills.
- We thank our outgoing Coach of some years in Martin Woodbridge (Badgemore Park) for all his input. Martin has been a staunch supporter of the County squad and indeed will remain personal coach to many of the players.
 - 2026 will see the squad engage the services of [Deana Rushworth](#) (Witney Lakes) to act as Coach. We will look on this as a 3-year trial with a view to improving the Oxfordshire Performance in match play. The focus being on increasing competitive edge, improving the match-play mindset, strengthening short-game skills, competitive practice and individual bounce-back ability. Future sessions to be much more Coach-led, rather than Captain-led, giving us more consistency of approach in future.
 - Next year will include fewer fuller day squad sessions, and a few short zoom meetings to keep the team on track in between. Deana is delighted to take on this challenge, brings new strengths and ideas. She will meet the squad in October to introduce her programme for next season and spend some time with us on the course.
 - Given the shift in focus, I have invited 3 further County Junior Girls whose reduction in handicaps warrant it. I continue to seek out new talent across the county, and to ensure commitment to training sessions and matches.
 - A very significant proportion of squad coaching fees are currently spent on accessing facilities for the sessions. With fewer in-person sessions (3 versus this year's 5, which was a reduction on previous years) this will help to keep the coaching budget in check.



CMW 2026 (Tadmarton Heath Golf Club)

- I played the Course from the proposed competition tees earlier in the month. Everyone involved has done a superb job in thinking about safety, challenge and excitement.
- In November there will be a meeting of County Captains, at Tadmarton Heath, to debrief this year's event and plan for next year's event.
- Tadmarton Heath have been incredibly generous in offering all CMW squad players gratis access to the Course.
- We will hold at least one training session at Tadmarton next year. And the squad order of merit will be designed to encourage players to play the course frequently.

Golf Genius Data Update

- With 564 members registered directly on Golf Genius we have seen significant growth since Feb 2024 but are still far short of our aspirational 1000 sign-ups. Please do all you can to encourage your Club members to sign-up before the end of this year!
- Next issue of newsletter in November.

County Vice-Captain 2026

- I will remain Captain through next year, but despite making several enquiries, I have yet to find a vice-captain for 2026. Next year's vice-captain will take on the role of County Captain in 2027.
 - At this time, it is unlikely the vice-captain will come from within the squad. However, there are significant merits in a non-playing captain.
 - Anyone who enjoys competitive golf, is organised, and can motivate and manage groups of people would excel in the role.
 - In addition, the captain sits on the County Exec and is part of the team shaping the County offering for all golfers.
 - If you know of anyone in your club who might have the skills to take on the role, please do encourage them to have an informal conversation with me.
 - Spending a year as vice-captain is an excellent way of becoming familiar with the captain role to come.

Tracy Roberts (OLCGA Captain)