LADY CAPTAIN'S DIARY

You only get a year - so work hard and you will be rewarded

NAME Frances Edwards CLUB Sene Valley, Kent

I was captain at my previous club just 10 years ago and never expected to find myself in the same position again. But if a job is worth doing, it is worth doing well and I felt that my experience enabled me to do just that.

Apart from playing golf and staying to the end of each competition day, my duties included spending around two hours a day on the computer – writing up notes, planning and emailing.

We currently have 57 lady members with only around 30 playing regularly in competitions. But I tried to keep in touch with the weekend ladies as well as those I saw regularly.

My year began with our drive-in/texas scramble in which I partnered with the club captain. It was a rather cold and windy day and we all found it very amusing that he decided to wear his kilt.

There was a great atmosphere with members

placing flags where they thought our balls would land during the drive-in. Each winner received a bottle of champagne while we raised valuable money for my charity, Dogs for Good.

The highlight of my captaincy year came in the form of money granted to revamp our very tired, old-fashioned changing room which had yellow, hand-painted tin lockers.

This project was long overdue and everyone had the chance to voice an opinion on it. When Crown Sports Lockers came up with an initial design, we were able to tweak it to our specifications.

Just to see the ladies' faces as they walked through the door for the first time when it was completed was reward enough for all the hours of hard work we'd invested.

Four months on and the compliments are still coming in. It has really given us all such a lift.

I feel that I achieved all that I had hoped for during my year in office but, having now served as lady captain more than once, I do not plan on trying to achieve a hat-trick.



My top tips for future captains...

■ If you think that you won't really enjoy your year, don't take the captaincy on.

Don't try to change things that are working well.

Don't leave paperwork to the last minute.

• Keep members informed and treat everyone the same.

• You only get a year so work hard and you will be rewarded.

Our course...

Sene Valley is a picturesque parkland course with views across the English Channel. It was redesigned by Henry Cotton in 1966.

Would you like to be our captain of the month? Email h.shephard@sportspub.co.uk