



## SOMERSET LADIES COUNTY GOLF ASSOCIATION

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held at the Isle of Wedmore Golf Club on 3rd November 2014 at 11.00am

#### Present:

Lesley Organ, Pat Marshall, Pauline Parnell and Carol Lake: Saltford, Joan Kendall: Woodspring, Vron Jefferies: Orchardleigh, Jean Booth and Gillian Barry: Burnham & Berrow, Glynis Slater, Diane Ramsey, Erica Klim and Janice White: Wells, Gill Prophet and Di Yates: Mendip Spring, Sheena Smith and Ros Williams: Long Sutton, Beryl Richards, June James, Anne Adams, Cathy Olive, Angela Webber and Janis Lawrence: Isle of Wedmore, Sue Bamping: Wheathill, Janet Jamieson and Marnie Sweet: Worlebury, Julie Ward and Ann Tancock: WSM, Min Woodward and Jean Sage: Farrington Park, June Symcox: Enmore Park, Joanna Espley: Mendip, Mary Perrett, Jill Paul and Liz Stevens: T&P, Millie Parker: Lansdown, Ros Chidgey and Linda Vasey: Minehead, Jo Dando: Tall Pines, June Mills: Clevedon, Anita Bye and Lesley Matthews: Bath, Patricia Brown and Joy Jordan: Taunton Vale, Past Presidents: Sally Irlam, Margaret Gliddon, and Jenny Hobbs, Vice Presidents Amanda Mayne. Ellie Harper Executive Committee: Eileen Binding, Annya Patten, Fran Davies, Karen Dennett, Hilary Weaver, Kate Musgrave-Brown, Sandra Ford, Carole Paterson and Margaret Allen

#### 1. Presidents Address

Welcomed everyone to this 2014 AGM She congratulated Amanda Mayne on her spectacular year and represented the English Seniors (over 50's) at home and abroad. Congratulations were also extended to Hannah Grant (Enmore Park) , County Champion, Amanda Mayne (Saltford) , Seniors champion and Laura Herbert Junior champion who has also been selected to receive further training with E G in the SW region. Order of Merit was won by Amanda with 205 points and Hannah Grant was second with 180 points. The first team squad tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> place with Cornwall at SW Match week. With all of Somerset's players there was a great team spirit and a good competitive spirit and many good friendships formed.

Taunton Vale was closing at the end of the month and this was difficult time for the members although those who had moved to other clubs received a warm welcome

#### The Honorary Secretary convened the meeting for 2014

#### 2. Apologies for Absence

Ruth Dowell: Cricket St Thomas, Judy Bale: Stockwood Vale, Sandie Whitcroft: Bath, Juliet Vowell: Frome, Becky Thompson: Wheathill, Val Newell, Pauline Torogood: B&B, Connie Stolworthy: Long Sutton, Jo Francis-Pope: Lansdown, Alison Lee: Clevedon, Post Gait: Past Captain, Reine O'Reilly WSM. and Mary Dolman Saltford

#### 3. Minutes of the Annual General meeting 2013

**Item 11** – delete “new” from “Both of the new life members....”

With this amendment, the Minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

Proposed by: Sally Irlam Seconded by Lesley Organ

#### Matters Arising: None

#### 4. Finance. Hon Treasurer: Hilary Weaver.

Presentation of the Accounts for 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

The current account stands at £9,761.80 and the deposit account at £25,000. When all the accruals are paid after the year-end, the disposable bank balance will be £3,571.

There was a surplus for the year due the extra £1 per head fees levied this year. Membership has actually increased over the year by 0.085% compared to a fall last year of 0.91%.

Costs had been netted off against the sales of merchandise whereas last year, they were shown separately in the accounts. The difference in expenses is mainly due to the analysis of figures but there would hardly been any profit were it not that your Executive Committee claim little for expenses.

The forecast for next year is that there will be a loss mainly due to Somerset hosting the Junior Inter Counties Team Championships at the Isle of Wedmore in 2015.

Many thanks go to all the clubs who have made donations to the Juniors

Thanks to Judith Sperring for auditing the accounts.

Proposed by: June Mills

Seconded by: Jenny Hobbs

## **5. Reports**

### **a) County Captain: Annya Patten**

The Captain reported that Somerset Ladies Golf Association had been represented at inter county level by the most talented golfers in the county who were prepared to give the commitment that was required in order to be selected under the criteria for the team and the Captain was very proud of them. With the coaching from Karen Nicholls and Stuart Wells, there was a measured improvement in the squad and this was very satisfying.

2014 Inter Counties Match Week saw the team grow in confidence and strength and thanks were given for the support received from many of the clubs. Thanks were also given to Beryl Richards for fulfilling the role of squad coordinator, enabling the captain to carry out her role alongside a young family and running a business.

Captaincy had been a challenge and a pleasure over the last four years. The Captain wished the incoming Captain the very best of luck with this wonderful team.

### **b) Vice Captain: Fran Davies**

County Second Team worked hard in training and their short game has improved considerably over the last year. All played well in the county championships and Jade Cope did particularly well as she lost in the semi final to the eventual winner Hannah Grant. In SW Championships, Aimee Sawyer won the second flight salver. The first match in the league was at Royal North Devon in their 150th anniversary year. The team lost 3½ to 5½. The Second Team played 3 friendly matches against clubs off handicap, losing 2 and winning 1. Beryl Richards was thanked for her support. The next two years promised to be very exciting and with the help from the County Coaches, it was felt that Somerset had the potential to win the Inter Counties Match Week. Thanks were given to Annya, who has been a great captain.

### **c) Junior Organiser: Karen Dennett**

New girls have been welcomed into the squad by the more established members. Performance and confidence have improved over the year both as a team and as individuals. This was demonstrated when they won all their matches against the U16 boys at Clevedon.

The squad was currently made up of 15 players, two having recently joined. Winter training was now under way with Nick Pope as their new coach. Thanks were given to all the clubs who have made donations to the Juniors and to the Junior committee for all their help over the last year. Next year Somerset will be hosting the Junior Inter Counties Match Week at Isle of Wedmore.

### **d) England Golf SW Regional Committee Representative and Voting Member: Carole Paterson**

In January England Golf announced that their funding would reduce from 2015, funding 3 of the 6 events previously supported. EG would continue with ICMW, Regional Medal and the Australian Spoons. These events have national finals. Discussions were held to consider reducing match week from 5 days to a 3 day event, to lower the overall cost but this was defeated.

EG suggested regions could continue with other events or arrange different events but they must be self-funding. SW region were asked to consider events that involved higher handicap players. This resulted in a programme of events for 2015: 3 ball Bowmaker at Trethorne Golf Club, 36 hole South West Championship to include girls and women, plus retaining the foursomes.

The focus has been on making these events attractive to players and cost effective and will be reviewed at the end of 2015.

Eileen Binding has set up a web-site for the South West and makes all the entries and news items easily available.

The other aspect for attention this year has been EG's Strategic Plan, "Raising Our Game" necessary because of the rapidly reducing numbers of golfers joining golf clubs. We are all charged with the task of encouraging more players into golf, especially woman and girls possibly the biggest potential growth area. Only 14% of females play the game regularly.

£650,000 was lost in affiliation fees last year, if this trend continues EG will have to consider cuts in their core business. The reduction in support for the South West events is a consequence of this.

South West successes: these will be put on the web-site:

- Amanda Mayne some brilliant performances this year:
- Sammie Giles St Mellon GC, Bethan Pople Long Ashton, Sarah-Jane Boyd Truro (now turned Pro), Sophie Keech, Parkstone, have achieved great results for themselves and England.
- South West Championships held at the Mendip Golf Club July 18<sup>th</sup> until 20<sup>th</sup>. A brilliant event. The overall champion was Sophie Keech.

The SW events were not possible without the support of our golf clubs, the Somerset's Ladies Association and our referees. The SLCGA provided the initial funding and expertise this year and the event deficit was refunded from EG. This will not happen in the future, events will need to be self-funding.

**e) Competitions Secretary: Kate Musgrave-Brown**

The Competition Secretary thanked the golf clubs who hosted the County competitions in 2014, the Lady Captains, County delegates and their committees, for their help. All 2015 competition dates and venues can be found on the County web-site, County events are for players of all abilities not just for the elite. They are good fun and allow ladies to play a variety of courses for considerably less than the county Card rates. Thanks were given to the Executive Committee, the delegates and Sandra for her assistance over the last year.

Immediately after the AGM, the draw for the Centenary Plate and the Rogers Cup would take place.

**f) Handicap Adviser: Pauline Thorogood – read By Margaret Allen**

In February this year Handicap Secretaries were invited to one of two handicap update meetings; these were held at Saltford and Burnham & Berrow. Thanks to these clubs for their generous hospitality. 55 people attended. No handicap meetings are planned for 2015 as I have a heavy workload and next year is the last year before the new editions of our three reference books are published.

The Minutes of England Golf's Handicap and Course Rating Committee contain important points:

- the new CONGU book may be delayed until 2017 and
- the year end date is going to be adjusted back to January 1<sup>st</sup> – it only changed to March 1<sup>st</sup> this year. Neither of these is yet confirmed.

England Golf is constructing an elaborate system for answering Handicap, CDH, Course Rating and Rules queries. For the time being, please keep asking me about handicaps.. I have indeed answered around 95 queries this year, double last year's total.

England Golf sent out details of a survey, to be completed in double quick time, of people's experience of and satisfaction with, the CONGU Handicapping system. It will go out to all clubs and players registered with EG; in addition, I have sent it to all my Handicap Secretaries. It has been put on the Somerset website. There are separate surveys for clubs and individuals, it is done on line and you do not have to give any identification: [www.Englandgolf.org/handicapping](http://www.Englandgolf.org/handicapping)

If new Handicap Secretaries would like some help, please get in touch and be put on the mailing list.

Val McFarlane was thanked, especially for her help with the Handicap Meetings, and most particularly for doing all the hard work in the production of our leaflet: "A Player's Guide to the CONGU Handicapping system". This can be downloaded from the website and it now looks as if it won't need updating for another 2 years! Handicap Secretaries were also thanked for their work during the year.

**g) Representative of the Senior Ladies' Association: Past Captain Joy Jordan**

The first match against Devon was won 4 ½ to 2 ½ but the next 5 matches were lost. The games were close and conducted in the true spirit of golf. Thanks all those who played, especially the reserves. All the competitions were well supported and the results are on the SLCGA website. Next year Somerset will be hosting the South West Vets Competitions at Stover for the Spring meeting and at Came Down for the Autumn Meeting. Joy also expressed her sadness at the closure of Taunton.

**h) Honorary Secretary: Margaret Allen**

The on Secretary thanked all the delegates who have worked so hard over the last year. The website has been used extensively and has been a real asset so thanks for using it.

EG send a lot of emails and newsletters: if you wish to receive them, go to the link on SLCGA website and register for them with EG. There is survey on EG website on Handicapping that you may complete. There is also a request for a survey from R&A on pace of play. This should be rolled out through the clubs.

Next year, all the forms for delegates will be on the website so the delegates will be emailed the Contact List and a list of all the forms needed for their club. At the January meeting there will be no provision for you to leave out posters/flyers for your opens. The Junior Organiser details have been included in the Delegate Contact List and this has redesigned it into a booklet. Several clubs have their AGMs in March/April time so the booklet may have to be reissued.

Lesley Organ suggested that at the January meeting in particular, Delegates identify themselves or rather their club in some way. E.g. a club jumper/shirt or even a small label.

Windwhistle GC has been renamed Cricket St Thomas Golf Club

EG are launching a new event in 2015: Club Team Championship for teams of 4, 2 ladies and 2 men. Details will be on SLCGA website when they are available

Two dates that need to be changed from those shown on the Agenda.

Exec meeting will now be on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at Wheathill and the AGM will be on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November at Wedmore at 11am

#### **i) Representative of the Ladies' Past Captain' Society: Sandra Ford**

This year Past Captains celebrated our 20th Anniversary. The format for the Spring Event changed this year from a greensomes to a cocktail of 4BBB, greensomes and foursomes. This new format will be retained for 2015.

Next year the Summer Meeting will be held at Lansdown on July 30th and will be followed by the AGM.

The Autumn Meeting will be held next year at the Mendip on 24th September.

This year was the 8th year of our Team Event which is 36 holes played over 2 days.. The number of teams participating was slightly lower and we will have a cap of 24 teams for 2015. May 10th/11th 2015 will see us in a new venue at Donnington Valley.

In our Inter County Match games, we won two (against Devon and Wiltshire) and halved with Gloucestershire. This is more than 100% improvement. Thanks were expressed to the committee for all their hard work in organizing these events. All the results for this year are on the SLCGA website

#### **j) Standard Scratch Assessor: Kate Musgrave-Brown**

Things have moved slowly this year but it is expected to start rating courses in Somerset next year. Helen Clarke has resigned as an assessor and has been replaced by Di Yates and Gill Prophet who will assist both Susie Gibbons and myself.

#### **k) Somerset Golf Partnership: Eileen Binding**

Martin Higgs, the new CDO will start November 3rd and will visit every club in the county to see if what help is needed and to encourage new membership for the clubs. In order to fund this, every player in the county is contributing £1 a head per year including PGA Professionals. The money will be ring fenced to the CDO's salary. CDO will report directly to the SGU and SLCGA exec/delegates committee. Money for U14s coaching and talent spotting for the next 12 months has been received £1500. The money is ring fenced for U14s only.

Finally, after 7 years of sterling service, Sally Irlam has asked to step down and Hazel Bevan has agreed to take on this role. Thanks were expressed to Sally and Hazel was welcomed.

#### **l) Welfare Officer: Carole Paterson**

I am always available to answer questions or give advice: contact me through SLCGA website. I work with County Junior Organiser to ensure the duty of care is good and that the interests of the girls are paramount. Juniors are the future of golf and should be encouraged. The lead person working with Juniors needs to be either the Club Pro or the Junior Organiser. Disclosure checks are only required if people frequently or alone with youngsters.

#### **m) Merchandise: Carol Lake**

Thank you to everybody who has supported the County by buying merchandise. After 9 years, sales are slowly declining and most are made to new ladies becoming involved in the County.

Shirts, pullovers, fleeces, fleecy gilets and woolly hats are kept in stock and these can be ordered as single items. All the merchandise is displayed on the website and can deliver to clubs if necessary.

The President thanked all those who work so hard for the SLCGA and reminded those present that these people were all volunteers who gave their time and energy freely and without them we wouldn't have a county organisation.

**6. The Election of Officers** To confirm the Election of Officers duly nominated for vacant positions "With no amendments and with your approval these can be taken 'en bloc' "

**NOMINATIONS FOR VACANCIES ON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Name	Position	Proposer	Secunder
Cathy Olive	Vice Captain	Isle of Wedmore	The Mendip

Accepted en bloc

**The Past Captains Badge was presented to Annya Patten**

**The Captain's badge was presented to Fran Davies by Annya Patten**

**The Vice Captain's badge was presented to Cathy Olive by Fran Davies**

After the exchange of badges, the incoming County Captain thanked the outgoing Captain for all her hard work over the past 4 years and then welcomed the Vice Captain.

**7. Competition Results 2014**

The 2014 SLCGA Competition Results had been circulated to all Club Delegates for display on Ladies' Notice Boards. Delegates would be notified when Fixture Lists for 2015 were available from the SLCGA website.

**8. Propositions Amendments to the Constitution**

The following changes were made to the Constitution

**"Officers of the Association**

d) The Competitions Secretary and her Assistant shall serve for a period not exceeding 2 years, at then end of which time, they shall retire but be eligible for re-election.

**Selection of County Teams**

The selection of the county team shall after taking advice from the vice Captain and the County Coaches subject to the criteria as stated on the county website, shall be the ultimate responsibility of the County Captain and the vice Captain. The selection of the second team shall be the joint responsibility of the Captain and the Vice Captain. A Junior Girls County captain shall be appointed each year at the discretion of the Junior County Organiser and the County Executive Committee."

Unanimously agreed by the Voting members

**9. Presentation of Trophies 2014**

The President, assisted by the Competitions Secretary presented the following trophies and photographs were taken for the web-site.

<b>Grass Roots Trophy</b>	Winner	Liz Stevens Taunton & Pickeridge
	Runner-up	Dianne Rennell Clevedon
<b>Centenary Plate</b>	Winners	Wells GC
	Runners up	Isle of Wedmore
<b>Rogers Cup</b>	Winners	Lansdown GC
	Runners up	Taunton & Pickeridge

**9. President's comments and closure of the meeting**

President explained that Amanda in her role as Vice President was going to defer taking on the Presidency in 2016 and instead Ellie Harper would take over in 2016 with Amanda serving her term in 2018

The delegates were thanked for attending the meetings, passing on the information to your club committees and for giving unflinching and invaluable help when any event is being held at their club.

Recruitment of more women into golf was the focus for the SGP in 2015 and also finding areas where SLGA could work more closely with the SGU- for example in running Rules Schools and sharing best practice with coaching ideas.

Winning SW Match week in 2015 would be good! And improving our position in the Juniors Inter Counties would be good too. Finally, the county Championship is to be at Minehead in 2015 and people were urged to support this. The President wished everyone a successful 2015

The meeting closed at 12.45 and the draw made for the Rogers Cup and the Centenary Plate. Details are on the SLCGA website

**Date of next General Committee Meeting: Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2015 11:00 Burnham & Berrow GC**

**Meetings 2015:**

<b>Executive Committee Meetings</b>		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Venue</u>
10 <sup>th</sup> Nov (2013)	10:00	Enmore Park
9 <sup>th</sup> March	10:00 & 11:00	Championship & Executive Meetings Minehead & West Somerset
18 <sup>th</sup> May	10:00	Long Sutton GC
6 <sup>th</sup> July	10:00	The Mendip GC
26 <sup>h</sup> October	10.00	Wheathill GC

<b>General Committee Meetings</b>		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Venue</u>
5 <sup>th</sup> January	11:00	Burnham & Berrow GC
18 <sup>th</sup> May	11:00	Long Sutton GC
28 <sup>th</sup> September	11:00	Wells GC Including 12 holes golf and meal
AGM 2014: Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> November 11:00 Isle of Wedmore GC		

Signed .....

Date:.....