



DORSET LADIES COUNTY GOLF ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

BROADSTONE GOLF CLUB

WEDNESDAY 19th October 2016 at 2.00pm

Welcome ladies to the 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

1. Notice convening the Meeting and welcome by the President.

President invites the Honorary Secretary to convene the Meeting.

President asks the meeting to stand for a moments silence to remember all our members who are sadly no longer with us. Remembering particularly:

June Tew, Sue Jeans, Lois Rule, Jean Finding, Joan Dovey, Pam Farnes, Meg Goodrich, Jenny Oldham, June Miller, Maureen Kentifield, Kitty Kane, Tina Smith, Mac Palmer, Joan Neilson & Brenda Wales.

The President asked that all mobile phones be switched off.

President's welcome.

Firstly, I would like to thank Ed Richardson and Broadstone Golf Club for agreeing to host our AGM at the last minute. Unfortunately, there was a misunderstanding on the date reserved at Ferndown and I am therefore very pleased to see so many of you here today. Hopefully Ferndown wasn't a Via Point on your SATNAV!

The year has been really busy with the new Over 70's competition and we have also hosted two South West Regional events.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sheila and all the Committee for their support and the hard work they have put in to make each event such a success.

2. To receive apologies for absence.

There were 25 Apologies recorded.

3. To approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 21st October 2015.

These minutes have been posted previously to all County Club Representatives.

Proposed by: Karen Gray. Dudsbury Golf Club

Seconded by: Di Groombridge. Ferndown Golf Club - Agreed

Signed as a true record by the President.

4. Matters Arising from the above meeting.

No matters arising

5. To receive reports from the Association's Officers

a) Captain – Sheila Davidge

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for attending today, it is always a pleasure to see so many of you here, especially as some have travelled from the far corners of the county.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year and I feel particularly lucky that so many of the events that have been held this year have been blessed with lovely weather (makes our job so much easier).

Georgia Hall is continuing to play well in her professional career and is currently 10th in the Ladies European Tour and 163 in the World, well done Georgia.

Hayley Davis is playing on the Symetra Tour in America and has made the cut in a number of competitions. We wish both Georgia and Hayley all the best in their professional careers.

Sarah Holt & Sarah Lethbridge from Sherborne GC who won the National England Trust competition held at Kings Norton GC. The Trust raises money to help young golfers who have financial problems and raised over £5000. They won a betterball competition with 47 points, well done.

Sunday 3rd April 2016 – Dorset 1st Team v. Hampshire at Bramshaw Golf Club

This is always a very friendly and competitive match played against our neighbouring county. Over the years we have built up a great rapport with the Hampshire Ladies and we all look forward to this match with much anticipation.

The weather was a overcast and the sun tried to come out but we were very lucky that the rain forecast did not happen until the drive home.

We played 4BBB and we knew that this would be a tough opening competition and we were not disappointed.

A win of 2 ½ to 1 ½ for the team, excellent golf being played.

We look forward to next year's match which will be at Remedy Oak.

Report for Bronze Spring Meeting 2016 - Held at Queens Park Golf Club on Wednesday May 11th.

The weather - first thing in the morning was not good – it was raining and very grey skies and to make matters worse the weather forecast was not good – possible thunder but the majority of the ladies went out in their waterproofs hoping that the weather would improve. Then the sea mist started to roll in and there was a bit of concern but luckily that soon lifted and the sun came out for the rest of the day.

The Low Bronze - Banister Cup (best gross) was won by Gloria Greenwood (Knighton Heath) with a gross score of 96 with Jenny May (Knighton Heath) runner up winning the Helen Edwards Cup, a clean sweep by Knighton Heath. The best nett and winner of the Cox Cup was Gill Sloman (Dudsbury) with a nett score of 73 winning on count back from Jenny Newman (Queens Park) who won the Sime Salver

The High Bronze and Craig Trophy was won by Pauline Ross (Dudsbury) with 34 points narrowly beating Caroline Dean (Bulbury Woods) who won the De Gruchy Salver with 33 points.

Congratulations to all the winners and many thanks to everyone for taking part and for continuing to make this a successful annual event.

Silver Spring and Johnstone Cup Competitions 4-6th May at Came Down GC

What a brilliant few days we have had with the weather here at Came Down – unbelievable one morning no breeze at all – it did pick up slightly during the day but great weather.

Johnstone Cup

There was some excellent golf played in the qualifying rounds and knock out with the final of the Johnstone Cup between Carol Thomas (Parkstone) and Jane Kelly (Ferndown) with Carol coming out the winner after an excellent contest.

Great golf was played over the qualifying and match play rounds.

Silver Spring Challenge

The Silver Spring Challenge best gross was won Jo Hadley (Broadstone) with 82 again on count back from Jane Southcombe (Yeovil).

The winner of Best Nett was Janet Giddings (72) and runner up was Jo Hadley – 73 on count back from Claire Wooley in third place.

Many congratulations to all the winners and the full results of all competitions can be seen on the website.

Next year the Championships, Silver Challenge and Johnstone Cup are being played at Broadstone GC. Please try and get as many ladies playing the competitions as possible.

Seniors Championship 2016

Held at Ferndown Golf Club on Thursday 19th May

Again, this is a very popular Championship with 146 players participating this year. We had to have a ballot as so many ladies wished to play in the Championship and we are sorry that a number could not play at Ferndown GC.

The day started with sunshine and ended with showers and very cold. The players that went out early had the best conditions but a number of ladies playing at the end of the competition returned some very good nett scores.

The course was immaculate and the greens especially provided a very tough test of putting skills.

Many congratulations to Val Ford (Parkstone GC) who won the best gross and best nett winning both the Holmes Cup and the Centenary Bowl, well played Val.

County Championship 2016

Held at Came Down Golf Club on Friday 27th May, Saturday 28th May & Monday 30th May

The numbers for the County Championship were again disappointing despite being held over the weekend as requested in a survey carried out in 2015. Originally 16 players entered but this was dropped to 14 due to injuries for the qualifying rounds and then 13 for the match play. There was some excellent golf played in all the matches before the final.

Again a very good final between Melissa McMahon (Lyme Regis) and Jane Southcombe (Yeovil), Jane played some excellent short game and putted very well but Mel was hitting the ball miles and playing very steadily and eventually managed to get 2 holes up and Mel come out the winner and retained the Trophy that she won last year.

The lowest nett over the weekend was from Lilli Horn, who is 12 years old (F) with a nett 68 in round 1. The overall winner of the Gross competition and winner of the Ivy Carroll Cup was Harriet Teversham from Yeovil – 154. The Overall Nett winner of the Carter Bowl was another Junior – Alex Cornell (P).

County Week 4th – 8th July

County Week was held at Mendip Golf Club and we stayed in a 16th Century farmhouse – luckily we did not see or hear any ghosts.

We started very well on Monday with a win against Wiltshire, Tuesday we managed with a half against Devon, roll on Wednesday and a great win against Somerset. Thursday and Friday we were playing Gloucestershire and Cornwall and unfortunately we lost but we still managed 3rd place. We had three new team members Harriet Teversham (Yeovil), Charlotte Heeps (Ferndown) and Alex Cornell (Parkstone) who played very well in their first County Week

Gloucestershire won in the South West and then went to Waterlooville in County Finals and came away winners – congratulations to them.

I would like to thank all the supporters who made their way to Mendip, to Ann for writing daily reports.

The team this year was:

Melissa McMahon (Lyme Regis), Jane Southcombe and Harriet Teversham (Yeovil), Alice Plumb (Sherborne), Rachel Naylor and Alex Cornell (Parkstone), Charlotte Heeps and Megan Thompson and Louise Pettitt (Ferndown), Kyra Horlock and Di Freda (Broadstone), Sue Edwards (Ashley Wood)

I would like to thank all the players and caddies for taking the time out to play at County Week – roll on next year at Wrag Barn, Swindon.

Lastly, I was delighted to award first team colours to Rachel Naylor and Sue Edwards. This is only Rachel's second year playing at County week and again played very well. I was really pleased to award colours to Sue as she was an excellent County Captain and has turned out for training and played in both first and second team whenever asked, a great ambassador for golf in Dorset.

County Foursomes 9th & 10th June at Parkstone Golf Club

Thursday started cloudy but later in the day the sun came out and it ended a lovely warm day. Friday was a little bit of the opposite – starting out sunny and warm and in between a bit of rain to cool everyone down.

Many congratulations to the qualifiers.

The morning matches were very close with the scratch final between Ferndown and Lyme Regis and Lyme Regis won on the 19th hole.

The silver final was between Wareham and Ferndown and Wareham came out the winners

The bronze final was between Parkstone and Isle of Purbeck and Parkstone winning on their home course.

Well done to all the players, excellent golf was played throughout the two days.

Other matches we played in was on

Sunday 26th June – Dorset I & II v Dorset Senior Ladies

We had agreed to play foursomes off scratch but when I arrived I was met with but it is your I team – well okay near enough so we ended up giving shots in most matches but the matches were played in very good humour as you would expect. There was laughter on the first tee which I believe continued all the way around.

There was some excellent golf played, with a comment from one of my team – they can putt from anywhere (talking about their opponents), just goes to show that the wrinkles' are still playing some very good golf.

Overall result was a close win for the first team but some excellent golf played by all. It was a very enjoyable day – Thank you to the First team players for playing so close to match week and thank you to the Senior ladies for giving the first team some excellent competition.

We look forward to playing against the Senior Ladies next year. It was agreed that we will try and make this an annual match similar to the match the Senior Ladies play against Dorset Junior Girls earlier in the year.

Report for Autumn Meeting 2016. - Held at Wareham Golf Club – 30th -31st August

It was an interesting start to the day with mist raising and then descending on the course. It didn't help that people coming from Poole were saying how beautiful and sunny it was there. Two intrepid ladies started and then we had to wait as the mist again descended. Eventually we saw the two ladies coming down the second and we then started the competition and it turned out to be a glorious day, warm lovely sunshine and lovely views.

Many congratulations to Tracy Brant (Bulbury Woods) for winning the Felicity Eden bowl for the best gross score and best nett

Excellent play ladies, well done.

The High Bronze stableford provided some very close scores with the winner being Margaret Swift (Parkstone) with 38 points.

The Low Bronze took place on Wednesday and again produced some excellent golf. Congratulations to Jo Shield (Dudsbury) for winning the Janet Holmes Salver for the best gross score and the best nett was won by Sue Beck (Broadstone) with a nett 71.

Many thanks to everyone for taking part and for continuing to make this such a successful annual event.

Inaugural Over 70s at Isle of Purbeck on the Dene Course 19th September

After re-arranging our Inaugural Over 70s nine hole competition it took place on the Dene Course with 24 ladies taking part.

I am afraid to say that the weather was not good and the ladies came in a little wet. The winner was Liz Poole (D) with 25 points (9 hole comp) and runner up was Marion Anderson (D). We hope that this will prove to be a popular event in the calendar.

The Parkin Cup and Humphreys Bowl 2016 –September – Lyme Regis

An exciting day of golf was had by all in the wonderful setting of Lyme Regis Golf Club. A high standard of play was on display in both competitions, which was fitting of a final day.

The final of the Parkin Cup –was between Crane Valley and Bridport and was won by Crane Valley.

The final of the Humphreys Bowl was between Yeovil and Ferndown and after a very close final match was won by Yeovil.

Well done to all those who took part and commiserations to the losing finalist.. It was a fine display of sportsmanship and skill. Thanks to all the staff at Lyme Regis and also to Margaret Swift for organising of the competitions.

Interclub final at Bridport GC

The day began with a light drizzle but, by the time the ladies tee'd off, the sun was shining and there was only a gentle breeze - amazing conditions for Bridport in September. The putting green was a sea of pink shirts as Parkstone and Dudsbury prepared to do battle. All the matches were very closely fought and there was a nail-biting finish as the teams were tied 3 all. Pam Dobbs (Parkstone) and Kathy Yeoman (Dudsbury) had to go down the 19th with Kathy securing the victory for Dudsbury. The ladies commented on the excellent condition of the course, though many found the putting difficult. Dudsbury were delighted to win the trophy for the third time since its inception in 1928.

Champion of Champions at Woodall Spa

England Golf held the Inaugural Champion of Champions at Woodall Spa and Melissa McMahon played as Dorset Champion. Melissa really enjoyed the competition and came in tied 2nd missing out by one shot. The winner Catherine Roberts from Lancashire won by birdieing the 18th hole. Well played Melissa and thank you for travelling all the way to Woodall Spa.

This concludes the competitions and events held in the County and played by the County first team but I have a few thank yous to make

Firstly, I would like to thank Mary Carlson who kindly agreed to be Vice Captain but due to personal reasons had to stand down. Mary had put in so much work in arranging matches and was desperately sorry that she could not fulfill the role but I wish Mary all the very best for the future.

I would like to thank all the clubs, members, Lady Captains for all the help and assistance they have given us at all the County competitions, without your help it is impossible for us to run the competitions.

I would also like to thank all the Ladies on the Executive for their support over the year for their tireless work for the Association. Also, a big thank you to Margaret Swift for running the Interclub, Humphreys and Parkin – thank you.

All reports on the above matches can be found on our website – please visit it whenever you can as Karen Gray does a wonderful job in keeping it up to date even when she is holiday, Karen thank you.

I would also like to thank two ladies who work very hard on behalf of the Association, they take all the flack and work tirelessly in making sure that minutes, agenda, competition entry forms, start sheets are all produced to a high standard. Dawn and Liz – thank you so much.

And last but not least – Heather who has been Treasurer for four years and been very professional in making sure that all your money is managed and handled safely. Heather is standing down this year and Lyndsay Beaumont has kindly agreed to take over as Treasurer. Heather – thank you for all your support and the sterling work that you have undertaken on the last few years – we wish you well in your golf and hope that you have more time for yourself – thank you.

Thank you to Broadstone Golf Club for stepping in at the last moment for holding this Annual General Meeting.

b) Vice-Captain elect – Tracy Bryant

For those of you who don't know me, I'd like to introduce myself. I am Tracy Bryant and am the current Ladies' Captain of Bulbury Woods. Sheila asked me to take over this role from Mary who had to step down unexpectedly. I would like to thank Sheila and the Executive Committee for this opportunity and also thank them all for the warm welcome I have received. I would also like to thank Mary for leaving things in such good order. Having been a delegate for only two years, this has been a very steep learning curve already. I have thoroughly enjoyed the role so far and I am confident that, given a little time, I can rise to the challenge.

The first of my jobs, with Sheila's guidance, was to organise the second team for the match against Bridport Men on 22nd May. Jane Southcombe and Sue Edwards put in a fantastic performance beating their men 5/4. We had a great day out and although the team lost 4-1, it provided a much needed opportunity to practise foursomes.

Next came the match against Cornwall on 12th June at Dudsbury golf course. This was a fantastic day. Cornwall brought a very strong team with them. We were 2 ½ - ½ down after the morning foursomes matches which was very hard to come back from. In the end Dorset lost 3-6, but it was a magnificent afternoon performance by the team – even those that lost. Thanks to all that played and caddied - and to Sheila for her help. All of the games were played in a great spirit. It was a very good advert for ladies golf and I was extremely proud to be a part of it.

On Saturday 25th June I had my first experience of County Second Team training. Scott Godfrey, the excellent coach, had the girls working on putting and short game in the morning. This was followed by a very interesting team talk about tactics and essentials for competing in foursomes matches. The team definitely seemed to benefit from this when they went out for their afternoon practice matches. Everyone seemed to have a lot of fun too.

On 30th June The Second Team played Devon at the lovely setting of Churston golf club. The final result was Devon 2 ½ to Dorset's 6 ½ points. This win seemed, more than anything, to be a fantastic team performance. The players from both sides played with the most admirable camaraderie. Our Dorset girls were not as low, handicap-wise, as the Devon team, but it was the fine team spirit that pulled us through.

My full reports all of the matches can be found on our website.

Once again I'd like to thank Sheila and everyone on the Exec for the support I have received. I very much look forward to working with them all in the future.

Tracy Bryant
Vice Captain

c) Honorary Treasurer – Heather Inman

I am pleased to present the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2016 and I would like to thank Brian Hansford from Came Down Golf Club for independently examining the figures and signing off the accounts.

I expect the first thing that will strike you about these accounts is that we have sustained a loss this year of £5,432 compared with a profit last year of £1,937. No one likes to see figures in the red. However, you will know that our bank account contains funds ring fenced for the Juniors, and the Juniors' income and expenditure features in our accounts. During 2016 the Junior Committee have spent more on coaching, fitness training and uniform than in previous years and this is reflected in

our accounts. If we take out the Juniors' income and expenditure, our loss is reduced to £2,366. (The comparative figure for 2015 would be a profit of just £287.)

Our income has remained almost identical with the previous year. Our major single source of income is the affiliation fees of £10 per head that we all pay through our golf club subscriptions. Our membership has held up well and I think beaten the national downward trend which is great news for Dorset. The affiliation fees were once again collected for us very efficiently by Ian Hulse Secretary of the Dorset County Golf Union and my thanks go to Ian for making the task so easy for me.

There has been a modest increase in our expenditure this year which accounts for our net loss. A quick look at the itemised expenses shows that we spent a little more this year on coaching, insurance, travel and Junior Match Week (which is funded from the main account). In short there is nothing to cause concern.

I would like to record our thanks to the clubs and individuals who have made donations throughout the year or bought raffle tickets at the various meetings. These are very much appreciated.

You can see from the balance sheet that our funds remain in a very healthy position. At the balance sheet date the balance on our bank accounts amounted to £31,824 of which some £4,000 is ring fenced for the Juniors for their use. We have earned £127 in interest on our account this year but we have been given notice that the interest rate will be reduced from 0.50% to 0.25% from 5 December 2016 so we can anticipate less interest next year.

As at today's date our bank balances amount to £29,953.54.

On a personal note, I can't believe that I took on the role of Treasurer four years ago; the time has flown by very quickly. I have very much enjoyed my time on the Executive Committee and have enjoyed meeting many of you at the various County events. I hope that my successor, Lindsay Beaumont, will enjoy the role as much I have and I wish her a happy and fulfilling time on the Executive Committee.

I hope the accounts are self explanatory but I am happy to take questions from the floor.

Heather Inman
Honorary Treasurer
19 October 2016

d) County Representative EG SW Region – Jane Southcombe

Southwest regional competitions.

The South West inter - counties match week was won by Gloucestershire. Gloucestershire went on to win the women's County finals for the first time in their history. That was a huge achievement on their part and congratulations to them.

The Brenda King foursomes were won by Jo Shorrocks and Amanda Mayne for the second consecutive year.

Kyra Horlock won the Southwest women's championship and Dorset won the Southwest County shield at this event, the team was made up of Kyra, Harriet Teversham and Melissa McMahon.

The Australian spoons had a very good entry at Thornbury golf club and were won by Michelle Underwood and Tara Willand from Fingal Glenn golf club. They also went on to

win the final last month – congratulations to them.

The South West bowmaker was held at East Devon golf club – it was a great success this year and was well supported. It was won by Katie Charles, Hazel Bevan and Didi Agar from Burnham and Berrow golf club.

The Southwest foursomes was held at Broadstone golf club and the gross best gross was won by Jo Shorrocks and Keeley Clarke and the best nett was a won by Penny Channon and Alaine Coyne from Broadstone golf club.

All the Southwest events this year have been reasonably well supported with the exception of the Southwest women's championships, to try and resolve this issue the South West committee have decided to move next year's date of this event to the first weekend in September, which hopefully should see numbers increase.

Next years Southwest competitions events will be on the Southwest website, once all the dates and venues have been finalised, which should be by December.

Next year Dorset will be hosting the South West bow maker, and I hope that you will all support this event.

The R and A and the LGU are to be amalgamated. The affiliation fee that we pay to the LGU will continue up to and including 2017, after that we will have nothing to pay.

England Golf.

All the new rules on affiliation and governance have now been ratified and passed by the voting members.

The new CEO of England Golf is Nick Pink, he took up this post in April and he is only really just starting to get his feet under the table. He appears to be very keen on improving communications within all sectors of golf and making all the health benefits of playing golf, a marketing tool to increase participation into golf.

The funding of England Golf by Sports England will be reviewed in 2017.

Sports England has changed one of its main priorities away from participation to retention, which I consider to be a very large issue within England golf. As Sports England have changed its priorities, It would seem logical that England golf will have to follow suit and certainly redress the balance between retention and participation – at present the majority of their resources are is spent on participation rather than retention. Provided they can redress the balance correctly, then Sports England will hopefully keep their funding to England Golf at its current level. Provided this happens, there should be little or no impact upon affiliation fees within golf.

Worldwide handicapping will be coming in by 2020 – if not before.

The South West women's committee are now having joint meetings with the Southwest men's committee so that there is more communication between the women's and men's section, and hopefully this will mean we will have a much more joined up approach to golf and competitions within the South West region.

The President thanked Jane for her report and for the travelling she does on our behalf. Most of the Meetings she attends are at Woodhall Spa in Lincolnshire.

e) Handicap Advisor – Ann Talbot

Good afternoon Ladies

England Golf and CONGU made a few 'tweaks' to the Handicapping System for 2016 and these were brought to the Handicap Secretaries at our Meeting in February.

The first change was that the Handicap Year reverts to following the **Calendar Year**, 1st January to 31st December. This means that 2016 is for 10 months only.

The **4BBB Allowance** was increased from $\frac{3}{4}$ to 90% which I hope will encourage our higher handicapped players to enter these competitions and feel more competitive. I also hope that Clubs will consider reverting to traditional 4BBBs rather than Team Events.

Eventually, all tees will be allocated a **Standard Scratch Score** for Ladies and Gentlemen under the **USGA System**. Jenny Waterhouse, Giles Legg and her team of **willing** volunteers are gradually working to that end. You should see the amount of paperwork that is involved!

The introduction of **Club Handicaps** is, in my opinion, a very good innovation. Hopefully it will give members joining a Club for the first time, an opportunity to feel that they are part of the whole. I will be interested to see how many of our Dorset Clubs adopt this.

There have also been changes implemented with regard to **9-hole Qualifying Competitions**. Namely, if a player is outside her Buffer Zone on the 9 holes her score will be doubled. Within Buffer Zone and a statutory 18 Stableford Points will be added for handicap purposes.

The ANNUAL REPORT can be initiated from now until the end of February 2017. This will allow for any ladies who have not submitted sufficient cards to do so.

A new rule under 'Review of Handicaps' was introduced. This is called **CONTINUOUS HANDICAP REVIEW** which highlights players who are outside Buffer Zone with a series of seven or more consecutive increases of 0.1. These players have their handicaps increased by a further one stroke. I know of several Clubs who have applied this rule. It is worth remembering that an under-handicapped player can exert unwarranted pressure on the CSS calculation.

Handicap Enquiries: should be made firstly to the Club, secondly to the Union/Association Handicap Adviser. Any query that is presented to England Golf is re-directed to County Unions/Associations.

I hope that you have found these changes encompass all your members to play and enjoy their golf!

I would like to thank all the Handicap Secretaries for their work over the past year, keep those queries coming in, I love them! Special thanks to Carole Brown for her support, Carole often thinks of questions at our Meetings that I forget. Unfortunately, Carole couldn't be here today but we wish her well.

Thank you

f) Junior Organiser – Kay Everett

I cannot believe that a year has passed since I handed over the role of President and became County Junior Organiser.

I did not go into the post with my eyes shut, as I had been assisting Sheila for a couple of years, however I did not quite appreciate how much practical and paper work is involved, let alone dealing with little prima donnas and ambitious parents.

All that being said, the girls are great characters and the team spirit growing within the group is excellent.

The parents are also very supportive, transporting their offspring here, there and everywhere plus helping me out when required.

As little as five years ago we were hard pressed to find half a dozen girls to represent the County, but today we are spoilt for choice as far as ability and numbers are concerned, which in itself causes problems.

The Juniors are being selected for England Golf Training, currently two are in the Under 16 squad for the South West, then of course their home Clubs are claiming them for matches, and lastly after County requests, into the pecking order, comes myself.

Earlier this year we took part in the England Golf Initiative – “Girls Golf Rocks”

In which the Girls Squad acted as Ambassadors and helped out at various activities in a bid to encourage more girls to take up Golf.

Many of the Ambassadors are still helping at their Clubs with new girl members plus assisting Mike Dodd with the ‘newbies’ in the Academy.

DLCGA has branched out this year and we have set up the Dorset Girls Academy, with Mike Dodd as our Head Coach. This will enable us to be aware of and monitor a larger number of girls, and there will always be girls who stay with their Club Pro and not join the Academy.

At present we have 33 girls undergoing or just about to start Academy Training, which bodes well for the future of Girls Golf in Dorset.

Currently we have eight girls with single figure handicaps, seven below 15, 14 with handicaps from 16 – 36 and 10 without handicaps, and these are just the ones we know about, so as you can see there is an exciting prospect building up for the future of Dorset Golf, so as the saying goes watch this space.

I have not singled out any girls by name because I do not consider it necessary, and those of you who have a keen interest in the Junior Section will know who is doing what.

Finally I would like to thank all the Ladies Sections in Dorset not only for their financial support but also the time that the Ladies give to playing in competitions with the girls because it is from you that they do learn many of the Rules of Golf, and perhaps most importantly Course Etiquette.

Thank You.

g) County Development Officer – Elaine Barrow

Good afternoon Ladies,

It has been a busy year, again, with some positive results

Girls Golf Rocks

Earlier this year, in April, Dorset ran a girls project in the South West region, following a successful pilot project in Essex last year; Girls Golf Rocks.

Fifteen members of the Dorset County Girls were trained as leaders and mentors supporting this project. Also, a workshop was held for the PGA professionals; Delivering Engaging sessions for women and girls.

The idea behind this project was to demonstrate that golf is great fun, that it is very sociable and has some great health benefits. By removing the barriers and perception that girls may

have about golf, improving the image, the Dorset Girl ambassadors were able to show that golf can be anything but fuddy-duddy.

Taster sessions were held at 3 centres, with delivery of a 4 week structured coaching programme and a final fun competition and activities. The results were very promising. Forty-Five girls attended the taster sessions and 41 signed up for the coaching. 32 girls played in a 9 hole Texas scramble.

The scramble was, to say the least, very challenging but great fun; trying to find enough golf clubs for 32 girls to play, then enough golf balls and tees, then trying to keep an eye on which direction all the balls were struck made for a fun packed Sunday afternoon. The end result was that 32 girls really enjoyed their first competition and signed up for further coaching.

The Dorset Girl Ambassadors, with the support of the Ladies Association deserve great credit for the delivery of Girls Golf Rocks in Dorset. The Ambassadors played a vital role in mentoring the newcomers, showing them how much they enjoy and love playing golf. Also many thanks to the other partners in this project; Sport England, Active Dorset, Golf Foundation, the PGA and England Golf.

Following the initial GGR coaching programme, I can report that a further 7 girls have taken up golf at Sturminster Marshall GC.

During July and August a 'girl only' project was held at Weymouth Golf Club; 'Girls Golf in West Dorset'. Ten girls attended the taster session with 6 now being coached regularly.

This brings the total to 46 girls.

Family Open Day

This year, I have worked closely with clubs who have organised a Family Open day. This is a great way to recruit new members, particularly juniors, targeting your current membership. Many of these clubs have borrowed equipment that is available from the Dorset County Golf Development Group. This equipment is available to borrow on a first come first serve basis and a list can be found on our website.

Junior County Academy Programme

The County Academy programme for junior boys and girls up to the age of 18, saw 100 children take part from across the county during the season of 2015/16; a similar number to last year. The programme continues to be administered by Dee Wood who is a Dorset County Golf Development Group committee member. This year a new coaching committee is being created. This is still under discussion, but will include representatives from the union and the association. When further information is available I will pass it on to you.

Golf Foundation – Schools Golf

Dorset currently has 7 HSBC Golf Root centres. The PGA coaches who go into the schools are funded by Golf Foundation delivering golf at the schools with an emphasis on getting the children from the schools into the clubs. Golf is now part of the County School Games.

England Golf Workshops

England Golf continue to support golf clubs by holding workshops across the country on various areas of business.

Workshops have included Business Growth Forums and Marketing to Recruit and Retains More Members presented by Jane Carter, and just recently, Food and Beverage workshop with presenter Steve Brown.

Golf Express 9 Hole Campaign

Golf Express, run by England Golf, was launched in May. It is a campaign promoting 9 hole golf to inspire busy people to play more golf. Under the slogan 'All the game in half the time', Golf Express offers a solution by promoting shorter rounds that golfers can fit into busy lifestyles in which two hours is now the span for most leisure activities.

In Dorset six clubs are using this marketing campaign to promote their 9 hole offers. The Golf Express website gives you a directory of places to play and 9 hole offers. Even 18 hole facilities can use this if they wish to offer a 9 hole loop.

Activate Coast & Countryside Project year 3

The Activate Coast and Countryside Project is in its final year. An affordable programme of golf lessons was offered from March through to September this year, at both Moors Valley Golf Club and Two RiversMeet Golf Park. This was marketed through social media, websites, flyers and taster sessions held at Moors Valley County Park, Corfe Mullen Recreation ground, Watermans Park, Somerford and Christchurch Quay. Figures from April through to June recorded 45 participants having lessons.

Two Riversmeet Golf Park

The Two Riversmeet Golf Park is now in its second year, following the launch of the redesigned golf course, the introduction of Footgolf and installation of the teaching bay. PGA professional Mike Torrens continues to offer coaching at the Golf Park. Two Riversmeet Golf Park reported in September that the number of green fees sold has significantly increased to over double since 2014. There is no breakdown available for golf and Footgolf green fees but the introduction of Footgolf has certainly contributed to this figure.

Dorset Tour

The Dorset tour continues to give beginner adult golfers the opportunity to play more golf at different courses across the county. I would like to thank all the golf clubs and their members who continue to support this initiative. Continuing as a mixed tour, this year has seen 294 participants at 13 events, an average of 22 per event.

PGA Education Programme

The PGA ran a Winter education programme available to all PGA professionals. Four workshops were held hosted by presenters Kendal McWade, Steven Orr, James Morrow, Sarah Claridge, David Fulcher and Steve Astle from November through to March.

Sainsbury's Vouchers

Thank you to the Dorset Ladies for collecting the Sainsbury vouchers again this year. On order is a Pop up target, some fuzz balls and a tri golf starter kit. The development group now has a sizable collection of equipment for golf clubs and members of golf clubs to borrow for any initiatives to attract participants to take up golf.

I would like to thank everyone that I have worked with throughout this year. Having now been in this post for two years I feel I am now getting to know you and I look forward to working with you all next year.

Elaine

h) Veteran's Captain – Valerie Williams

Today represents the end of my term as the Captain of Dorset Veteran Lady golfers. I would like to say how much I have enjoyed my Captaincy and wish Julia Norman my vice captain all the best for her next two years. I would also like to thank all the ladies that have supported me over the last two years and all the clubs that have hosted matches for us.

The year began with the South West Veterans Field day at China Fleet. It was oversubscribed by Christmas with a waiting list. A couple of Dorset ladies were lucky enough to play, but a very heavy downpour the day before and during the night caused the course to be very muddy and waterlogged in some places.

The Dorset events started spring meeting at Moors Valley. I do not think that I could have picked a wetter day. 73 pairs of ladies braved the weather, several having to give up as they were too cold and wet. But the majority managed to complete the course and a third of the field came in with over 30 points. Well done ladies. The winners were Sheila Smith and Jane Kilgannon of Ferndown with 39 points.

The bid sheets for the matches once again proved to be a challenge, but I am happy to say that anyone who put their name down with a telephone number that was legible was offered at least one match. Unfortunately even though I had tried to arrange the match so as not to clash with Interclub and Beales it did happen on several occasions due to rescheduling of matches. I am delighted to say that we managed to field a full team at every match this year. The results were far better than last year:

We started our campaign for the South West Shield with a match against Devon at Tiverton on the 4th July in mixed weather but even with the long trip we managed to win 4/3.

Next was our first home match against Somerset at Bridport on 8th July, the conditions were excellent which resulted in a very close match with Somerset beating us 4.5/2.5. This was followed by our match against Cornwall 3rd August at Ashley Wood. Much to our delight we beat Cornwall after five years 4/3. I would point out that this was an even sweeter victory because there was not a single Ashley Wood lady playing so there was no home advantage.

Our last South West Shield match was against Wiltshire at Salisbury and South Wilts 15th August. Once again we had mixed conditions and all the matches were very close with quite a few of them being decided on the 18th hole. I am pleased to report that we won this match 4.5/2.5.

So by now some of you must have been working out where we stand regarding the Shield. When we played our last match at Salisbury and South Wilts Somerset still had a match to play so I knew that Cornwall had beaten Somerset but if Somerset won this final match....well.

We have one friendly match which is against Hampshire and this year on the 20th July we all went to the seaside for the day and had a great time at Weymouth. For a great number of players from both sides this was the first time that they had played Weymouth. It was an enjoyable day with excellent matches and food. Hampshire got the better of us 4/3.

The Dorset Veterans Autumn meeting was also held at Weymouth with a smaller field than the spring meeting with several pairs having to withdraw to play in the interclub matches. The weather was far better than the spring meeting and I would like to thank all the ladies as just about everyone stayed for the presentation at the end. The winners were Mel Hooley and Eileen McBride of Came Down.

The South West Veterans season closed with the Autumn Field day at Long Sutton. I am delighted to announce that Sarah Tatchell (Bronze Div 1) of Sherborne was the clear, overall winner of the Fulliford Bowl with 38 points. Marian Hurley of Bridport GC came 2nd in the silver div with 33 points on count back, and Jane Dowling also from Bridport GC came 1st in the bronze div 3 with 35 points. Well done to all these ladies.

Well that closes my report for this year and thank you.

By the way if you are wondering, I have contacted the South West Veterans Captain to see if she would tell me the result of the South West Shield as that AGM is not until next week. It appears that I will not be bringing the Shield back with me next week. We lost first place on count back! Dorset beat Devon and Cornwall 4/3 whereas Cornwall beat Devon 4/3 but beat Somerset 6/1.

Valerie Williams
Captain Dorset Ladies Veterans

i) Seniors' Captain – Val Ford

The Seniors had 2 internal fixtures this year.

- The first was a Greensome against the Junior girls at Ashley Wood back in April. It is a fixture that we really enjoy and were probably a little generous with the shots that we gave the girls. We lost 4-0.
- The second was promoted as a 2nd team Foursome's fixture at Dudsbury. You can imagine our surprise when the County 1st team turned up to play! After shots were negotiated we ended up losing 2.5 to 1.5.
- Wiltshire, at High Post, hosted the **South West Seniors** event earlier this month. We drew against Wiltshire but beat Somerset, Cornwall and very excitedly beat Gloucestershire to secure Dorset's victory. The very attractive trophy was awarded to us, with Devon getting the 'Wooden Spoon'.

Next year we host the SW Seniors, in DORSET, at Parkstone from 2nd – 4th October. We hope very much to retain our trophy and title!

This year, players who represented their County at Senior level, came from: -
Parkstone, Broadstone, Remedy Oak, Yeovil, Lyme Regis and Ferndown.

The Senior Ladies who represent Dorset do with pride and passion and take their golf very seriously. Most ladies have a single figure handicap. It has been my pleasure to lead such an enthusiastic and entertaining group of women with whom I have had such fun.

Val Ford (Senior Captain)

6. To receive and adopt the Examined Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2016.

Proposed by: Jackie Wilson. Knighton Heath
Seconded by: Sue Spencer. Crane Valley
Agreed

7. To appoint an Accounts Examiner for 2016/2017

At this time we do not have an examiner to appoint.

President passes to County Captain Sheila, who thanks Heather for all her hard work & present her with a gift.

The President resumes with the Agenda

8. Resolution 1

That Association Members retain the per capita subscription at £10.00 for the 2018 subscription year.

Recommendation

The Executive Committee recommends to the Association Members that they accept Resolution 1.

Seconded by: Jenny Waterhouse. Dorset Golf and Country Club

Carried:

Resolution 2 - Rules of the Association

a) that the second paragraph of Rule 3 d) shall be deleted. **This read: Only members of the Association who have been members of the 1st or 2nd County Teams, and are aged 50 or over, are eligible to represent the County in matches. Reason for the deletion: that this is not a Rule for our County competitions so has no place in our Rules. It is a rule of the South West.**

Resolution 3 – Rules & Conditions of Play Governing all County Competitions

a) that a competition for the Over 70's be added to the Table of Contents under Rules 93 – 98 and to Appendix 1 'County Trophies'.

This competition proved very successful this year. Thank you to County Captain, Sheila for providing a Salver for the winner.

b) that General Rule 6 be amended for simplification.

Original text: All players participating in County competitions must hold a valid CONGU handicap. Handicap Certificates dated the previous year or earlier are deemed to be invalid for all County competitions. Players must produce a current year CONGU Handicap Certificate on the first day of a competition. If not produced players may only go out as markers. With effect from 2010 players will be required to hold an active CONGU handicap when playing in all County competitions.

New text: All players participating in County competitions must hold a valid CONGU Competition 'c' Handicap. Players must produce a Current Year CONGU Handicap Certificate on the first day of a competition. If not produced, or not in date, players may only go out as markers.

c) Seniors Championship: that an amendment be made to Rule 43 as follows: that all entrants must be aged 50 or over on the day of the competition.

This is brought in line with England Golf rules for Senior Championships.

d) that a Note be added to Rule 55 'Interclub Foursomes' as follows:

"Silver Handicap Division: If a Club has entered a Silver Handicap pairing and one of the players withdraws through an extenuating circumstance before the 18 holes of stroke play, the Club may, in the absence of another Silver player being available, play a Bronze Division player off the handicap limit of 20".

After discussion, this was agreed at the July Delegates meeting.

e) that 3 x 'Interclub Foursomes Runner Up Trophies' be added to Appendix 1 'County Trophies'.

Thank you to Sheila, Liz and myself for providing these trophies. Not really proper to thank myself!

Question was asked by Pam Stebbings (P) with regard to 3 b) above. Would it be unfair to ask a player to be a marker if she is unable to produce the appropriate Handicap Certificate, should the Proposal be amended to read:

All players participating in County competitions must hold a valid CONGU Competition 'c' Handicap. Players must produce a Current Year CONGU Handicap Certificate on the first day of a competition. If not produced, or not in date, players may only go out as markers unless there are exceptional circumstances.

The Association Members present rejected the proposed amendment.

The President re-read the original Proposal set out under 3 b) above.

Recommendation

The Executive Committee recommends to the Association Members that they accept Resolutions 2 and 3.

Seconded by :Penny Hunt. Weymouth G.C. and Rhose Lawes. Came Down G.C.

Carried:

9. Presentation of Trophies and Prizes from the Veterans' Section, Seniors' Championships, Autumn Meeting and Aggregate Club Trophies won during the year.

10. Election of Officers to County Committee

Vice-Captain	Tracy Bryant	Proposed by Executive Committee	Seconded by Karen Gray. Dudsbury
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:
Sheila to introduced Tracy to the Meeting.

Please may I have your approval. - Agreed

Sheila presents Tracy with her Vice-Captain's Badge

Honorary Treasurer Lindsay Beaumont

Proposed by Ferndown **Seconded by** Came Down

Heather to introduced Lindsay to the Meeting. Please may I have your approval.

All in agreement

Vets Captain	Julia Norman (S)	Valerie Williams (AW) Gill Philip (AW)
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Vets Secretary	Helena Peart (S)	Valerie Williams (AW) Gill Philip (AW)
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Please may I have your approval on these two appointments. All in agreement

The following Officers, who continue their terms of office according to the Association's Rules, to be elected en bloc.

President	Ann Talbot (CD)
Vice President	Grace Burke (KH)
Captain	Sheila Davidge (AW)
Hon Secretary	Dawn Ley (I of P)
Asst Secretary	Liz Walker (B&WD)

Please may I have your approval that these Officers continue their terms of office. Agreed

The followings Officers to be elected en bloc in accordance with the Association's Rules.

County Representative EG SW Region	Jane Southcombe (Y)	EG appointment
Handicap Advisor	Ann Talbot (CD)	EG appointment
USGA Course Rater	Jenny Waterhouse (DG&CC)	EG appointment
County Junior Organiser	Kay Everett (AW)	Exec appointment
Competition Secretary	Margaret Swift (P)	Exec appointment
County Welfare Officer	Kate Roberts (B)	Exec appointment
Communications and Web Site Officer	Karen Gray (D)	Exec appointment

Please may I have your approval that these Officers continue their terms of office. Agreed

11. Any other business

Q Whose responsibility is it to pay for tea after County Matches?

A Ann Talbot explained that this subject was discussed a few years ago and it was decided then that as the matches are home and away it should be the responsibility of the home club to pay for tea. The match Captains should contact each other and discuss the content, whether it be tea cakes or a meal is entirely up to each match.

Q Julia Norman (Sherborne) At several clubs outside of Dorset the members get a County Card with their Membership Fees. Could we consider this?

A Heather Inman said that Ian Hulse was asked about this several years ago and he discounted it.

Ann Talbot – if anyone would like a County Card then you can apply to the County Union and purchase one. You can do this online.

Q Would it be possible to open up the County Championships to players with a handicap above 12, with them playing off 12?

A Ann Talbot – as some people seemed to think this might be a viable idea we will look at it at the next Delegates Meeting

12. Vote of Thanks by County Champion

Good Afternoon Ladies, Sorry I am unable to deliver this in person. As the 2016 Lady Champion I would like to thank Came Down Golf Club for hosting the County Championship. I had a very tough game in the quarter final, finally beating Di Freda on the last hole. I then went on to play Nicky Stone in the Semi Final where I played my best golf of the week and then to Jane Southcombe in the final. The first 5 holes were closely fought but then followed with three consecutive birdies on 6,7 and 8, I finally closed the match out on the 16th holing a 30ft putt to win 3and2, I would like to thank Jane for a great game. I felt the course was in superb condition, was a credit to the greenkeeping staff, of course the weather was a help! It was great to see so many new faces participating. Showing the county is going from strength to strength and underpins all the excellent work the County Development team are doing. It would remiss for me not to thank the county executives for all their hard work in promoting golf within Dorset. In particular Sheila Davidge and Tracy Bryant who were fantastic during South West Match Week. On a personal note I would like to thank my mum for caddying for me and Lyme Regis Golf Club for all their support and encouragement in particular my coach Duncan Driver for all his hard work and support. Not only with myself but our junior academy with several up and coming girls in our ranks. Once again thank you to everyone involved, as a golf club secretary myself I know all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes. I was delighted and honoured to represent Dorset in the inaugural County Champion of Champion events at the Home of England Golf, Woodhall Spa. After a shaky start I played well shooting 74 only for Catherine Roberts from

Lancashire to chip in on the last to beat me by 1 shot. I look forward to defending my title next year at Broadstone Golf Club.

Melissa McMahon
County Champion 2008, 2009, 2015 and 2016

13. Date of 2017 Annual General Meeting 18th October 2017 at Ferndown Golf Club.

The President wished everyone a very Happy Christmas and good health and good golf in 2017.

Signed Dated