

**DORSET LADIES COUNTY GOLF**



**ASSOCIATION**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**FERNDOWN GOLF CLUB**

**WEDNESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019 at 2.00pm**

**1. Notice convening the Meeting and welcome by the President Mrs Grace Burke**

President invited the Assistant Secretary to convene the Meeting.

Assistant Secretary Kate Roberts convened the 2019 Dorset Ladies County Golf Association AGM at 14.10hrs

The President asked that all mobile phones be switched off.

President asked the meeting to stand for a short silence to remember all our members who are sadly no longer with us. Remembering, Eleanor Morris (Y) Shirley Wheatley(KH), Rita Coffey (D), Pauline Willcox (F), Jessica Burns(F), Sylvia Cross(BW) Carol Ponchaud (LR) and Gill Cottrell (LR)

**President's welcome.**

Good afternoon welcome to the 2019 Annual General Meeting. Thank you to Ferndown for allowing us to hold our meeting at their Club.

At last years AGM I gave a little information on the development group we manage with the Union. In the past year we have changed the name back to County Golf Partnership as we all felt this better described how we wanted to move forward.

I have attended a second function this year, the Adult Junior competition at Ferndown which like the Interclub mixed is organised by the men and in turn we invited Eddie Galjaard the President of the Union to come along to help present prizes at the Wareham Trophy a mixed junior event which is run by the Association.

In our meetings this year one of the topics has been joint Championships ( ladies and men, boys and girls) we need to investigate the possibility of working together to help with cost and organising our calendar to maximise the use of clubs for some joint fixtures. Liz and Ian Hulse the Union Secretary have had a meeting to discuss options, Tracy will talk more about this in her report.

I have Chaired the Partnership for the last two years and should be passing the role on to the Union, but the President of the Union thought as we were making progress it would be good to have continuity so I have agreed to carry on for another year. Still baby step, but getting bigger.

I have enjoyed my time on the Executive committee, everyone has been so supportive of each other, they have been a great team. It has been an honour to be your President. In the last 4 years

lots of ladies have expressed interest in volunteering but all felt it was too much of a commitment. Well, when I agreed to be President, I wanted to give something back to golf for all the great times I have had, but do you know, I have actually got as much back as I have given. Thank you.

## **2. To receive apologies for absence.**

There were 20 apologies recorded

## **3. To approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 17th October 2018.**

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

Proposed by: Dawn Ley (Isle of Purbeck) Seconded by: Cathy MacFarlane-Thompson (Broadstone) Agreed

Signed as a true record by the President.

## **4. Matters Arising from the above meeting.**

There were no matters arising.

## **5. To receive reports from the Association's Officers**

### **a) Captain – Tracy Bryant**

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for coming 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 will try to keep this report as brief as possible as all of the competition reports are available online.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my final year as Captain. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as Captain. I have had fantastic support from all of the ladies and especially from the excellent team of execs and the wider committee and delegates.

We had a terrific Match Week this year and I'd like to thank the team for being so wonderful. Although, we didn't win any of our matches, we had some very close results with very strong teams – including a 5/4 defeat by Cornwall on the first day. We were incredibly unlucky in a couple of instances and I can still recall a couple of bad bounces or lipped-out putts which could have made all of the difference to the final result. Most importantly, the team had a great time and everyone got along famously. After all, if you can't enjoy your golf, what is the point? As you know, my blog of all of the matches are on the website.

### **Match Week 2020**

It has been decided by the SW committee that from next year Match Week will be changing to a two and a half day format instead of a five day format. This has been decided for a variety of reasons including the cost of the tournament, the difficulty in finding players who can commit to a full week and also the difficulty in finding clubs willing to host.

We are hosting the tournament in Dorset at Dudsbury Golf Course in 2020, so this will entail a good deal of preparation and organisation on our part and we will need to look for extra volunteers to help out both before the competition and during. The dates of the competition are Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June to Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July with a practice round on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June.

Thanks go to Liz, Kate, Val and Grace who all gave up their time to come to help, to Sheila for her welcome support and Ben Christey-Clover our wonderful coach.

**The 90<sup>th</sup> County Championships were held this year at Knighton Heath Golf Club.**

The staff at Knighton Heath did a magnificent job of keeping the course open. We were treated to the sight of greenkeepers sweeping the greens to remove the deluge of rain that had fallen on the first day. This competition led to a remarkable final between Melissa McMahon of Lyme Regis and Harriet Teversham of Yeovil. There has rarely been such a fantastic display of quality golf from Dorset ladies. Though both women played some incredible golf, Melissa won the final on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Apparently it was her ninth final!

### **The Seniors Championships hosted held at Yeovil GC**

This competition was, as usual, very well supported. The winner on the day was Di Loving from Weymouth with a gross 81. She went forward to play in the Senior Champion of Champions at Woodhall Spa. Thanks to Yeovil for their hospitality.

### **The Bronze Spring Meeting held at Queen's Park**

In the Low Bronze Pat Cookson of Meyrick Park GC took the gross prize with a score of 89. She also won the nett with an exceptional nett 64. The High Bronze was won by Pauline Ross of Dudsbury with 38 points. Thanks to Queen's Park for all of their support.

### **The Interclub Foursomes held at Ferndown GC**

The scratch final between Broadstone and Lyme Regis was won by Broadstone, the Silver final between Parkstone and Broadstone was won by Broadstone again and the Bronze final between Knighton Heath and Dudsbury was won by Dudsbury. Congratulations to all of the clubs that took part, giving us such a wonderful day.

### **The Over 70's Competition at Somerley GC**

This was won by Val Tucker of Moors Valley with an excellent 20 points over nine holes.

### **The Bowmaker**

This was won by a team from Broadstone, comprising of Cathy MacFarlane-Thompson, Kate Roberts and Lesley Muddiman with 82 points.

### **The Autumn Meeting at Ashley Wood GC**

The Silver competition gross and nett were won by Cathy McFarlane-Thompson. The Low Bronze gross and nett were won by Helen Bridgman of Ferndown and The High Bronze winner was Jane Dowling of Bridport.

**The Humphreys Bowl** was won by Parkstone who beat Ferndown and the **Parkin Cup** by Weymouth who beat Ashley Wood.

And finally, for our competitions, **the Interclub** was won by Parkstone who defeated Dudsbury in, what can only be described as, challenging weather.

### **In other news:**

I know that we all keenly follow the continuing progress of Georgia Hall. Whilst she hasn't had her finest year individually, she was an outstanding member of the European Solheim Cup team which beat the USA by one point. Georgia had an unbeaten record of four wins during the week. It was an incredibly exciting spectacle as I'm sure you will all agree.

I would like to congratulate Sheila Davidge and the Junior Girls for their outstanding result in the InterCounties tournament. They won the whole SW competition. It was an incredible and exciting final day which I was lucky enough to be a part of.

Louise Burke of Broadstone has had many successes throughout the year, but perhaps her greatest achievement was getting picked for the England U16 squad for whom she has now played. She also won the English National Schools Championship. These are to mention just a couple of her successes. Well done Louise.

Our Dorset partnership of Jane Southcombe and Jo Terry won the South West Foursomes at Chippenham GC. Hopefully this bodes very well for next year's Match Week.

I wouldn't be surprised if I have not mentioned someone within Dorset who has won a Trophy or played in a prestigious competition – if so, my apologies to them.

I have covered as much as I possibly can here now...but I would like to remind you that any results we are notified of are posted on the Dorset Website and have appeared there throughout the year. Please remember to send Karen Gray news items as soon as possible. Karen regularly updates the website and there is always something of interest to read. She does an amazing job in this respect. Thanks Karen.

### **Additional Information**

Now I shall move on to some of the things that have changed within the Association this year.

As you may know, we have really struggled to get a VC to take over from me for the coming year. Amanda Walker, the Vice Captain that we had last year, resigned from her position citing workload and length of tenure.

Rather than bemoaning our lot and sticking to the traditions, we decided to look at the structure of the Association and what it is that is not attracting people. We had an emergency meeting to thrash out ideas and I spoke to other Counties and found that in many instances, the way Dorset is set up is quite different.

We have decided to pilot a new system, starting from now in which we will significantly reduce the workload of the Captain and we will also shorten the length of time that an incoming Captain needs to commit to. We discussed our ideas for the pilot and it was approved at the last Delegates' meeting.

We have split up the jobs of the Captain. The Captain will now have little to do with running the County Teams. We will have two team managers who will run the First and Second teams. We felt this was an important change to make in attracting volunteers as former players may feel able to run the team, but not the entire association. We have already had two players, Jane Southcombe and Jo Terry step forward to take on these roles. Obviously the Captain will still be kept informed of what is going on.

The new role for the Captain will be an overarching responsibility for all things County. It is the same job, but with the teams removed. The big change that we have made is that the term of office will now be only two years – one year as VC and one year as Captain. Personally, I feel that the job that I do can be learned in a year. The role of Past Captain will disappear. I can't think of any outgoing Captain who would not be willing to be on the end of a phone to give advice to a new captain.

As for this year, I stay on as Immediate Past Captain - but have agreed to be Acting Captain and I then I originally wrote "until we can find someone to fulfil the role of Vice Captain."

However, I have some very good news. Not only do I have a new VC, but I have one that will do an excellent job. In fact, I can't think of anyone more suited to take over from me.

Kate Roberts our Assistant Secretary has considered this carefully, after we had a chat, and agreed to take on the role of VC which she will become later today. I am so pleased that County will have someone to take over that, not only knows the system completely, but will definitely show great commitment and ability when she becomes Captain.

Obviously this leaves us needing to fill Kate's current roles. We will need a new Assistant Secretary and a Welfare Officer, but I think these are not insurmountable tasks. I am therefore asking you all to spread the word amongst your ladies. We will advertise the roles on the County Website and promote them at the next Delegates' Meeting.

I am very pleased with this result as it shows that our new structure is working already.

I would like to say to you all that I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Dorset's Captain. I am not saying that there have not been 'bumps in the road' or that I haven't made mistakes - but I can honestly say, knowing what I know now, that if I could go back in time and be asked the question again, I would still take the job. It has been an honour. I have met and worked with some wonderful people and I have learned a lot – and eaten a lot of bacon sandwiches. And, believe it or not, my golf has improved - contrary to what many people cite as a reason for not volunteering with us!

If there is anyone out there who is thinking that they may be interested in the jobs we now have available, please don't hesitate to contact me. I can thoroughly recommend working with County. It's been brilliant!

This next bit is my impression of an Oscars' Speech as I have a lot of people to thank.

I am very pleased that we have so many ladies who not only want to play golf, but also support the County. I would like to thank all of the other ladies that make this possible whether it's front of house in The Exec or behind the scenes.

Ann Talbot – our knowledgeable Handicap Advisor, Sheila Davidge – our highly successful CJO, Cathy MacFarlane-Thompson I&K Secretary, Rosemary Shepherd – Veterans Captain, the multitasking Kate Roberts – County Welfare Officer, Karen Gray our Communications Officer, Seniors' Captain –Carol Cass and USGA Team Leader – Jenny Waterhouse. Without these ladies giving up their time, not only would the Executive Committee not be able to function – but we wouldn't have any competitions!

Of course I haven't forgotten you, the Delegates, for keeping us in touch with our members, so effectively.

Personally, I would like to thank all the Execs for their support and hard work over the last year. Your help and advice is very much appreciated. They all do roles which I couldn't begin to manage. I think Lindsay, our Treasurer, would particularly agree with that statement! It has been hard work but we have had a lot of fun too.

I would like to say a bit more about our two secretaries Liz Walker, ably assisted by Kate Roberts, who have spent weeks in preparing competitions and then making sure that they run smoothly on

the day. Liz is very efficient in what she does - as long as we keep her supplied with chocolate or cake! I see the two of them as the glue that holds County together – and I would like to thank them for all their time and effort.

I also need to single out Jane Southcombe our SW Representative who has very much been there when I have needed her. As I've said many times to her, she's been a brick. And of course, Grace Burke, who has become so much more than a President. She is an invaluable member of the team without whom my job would have been much more difficult. I will be saying more about Lindsay and Grace later on as we will be losing both of their services this year. They have both earned a well-deserved rest.

I would like to welcome Val Ford our incoming President who will be taking over from Grace and Annie Hobell who will be taking over from Lindsay as Treasurer. I am sure that they will both be excellent members of the team.

Lastly I like to thank all of you, whatever you've done for County, whether it's entering a competition, ball spotting, donating a bottle of wine for the raffle or just being here today. None of it would have happened without you.

**b) Vice- Captain - None**

**c) Honorary Treasurer – Lindsay Beaumont**

Good afternoon, Ladies.

I have pleasure in presenting the accounts for the year ending 31 August 2019 and would like to thank Jenni and Rod Mitchell-Fox, of Ferndown and Dudsbury Golf Clubs, for again independently examining the figures and signing off the accounts.

The report shows that we have a balance at the end of the year of £24,695. This balance includes £6,525 ring-fenced for the Dorset Juniors – an amount which includes the England Golf sponsorship and the £1,000 donation from the Ladies' funds.

The balance in the account shows a loss of just under £1,000 this year; however, if the juniors' funds are taken out then there is a profit of £800 as the juniors made a loss of approximately £1,725. This loss was mainly due to an overspend on coaching and expenditure on waterproofs for coaches plus a laptop and printer.

The income from affiliation fees remains steady although there has been an increase from £10 to £12 from last year. This fee will remain at £12 for the coming year.

Having served for 3 years on the DLPGA committee I am this year handing over the reins to Annie Hobell who I know will serve you well in the position of Honorary Treasurer. Due to changes in personal circumstances I was unable to be as involved in the county golf as I had expected but I have thoroughly enjoyed the involvement I have had. The committee is a great team to work with and very supportive of each other – and I have learnt a lot about county golf, too.

President thanked Lindsay for her report and asked if there were any questions from the floor. There were none

**d) County Representative EG SW Region – Jane Southcombe**

Jenny Clink from Gloucestershire has become the president.

The vice president elect is Graham Yates from Somerset.

From the accounts for 2018 profits have dropped – the main contributing factors for this is the stock market has fallen therefore the value of investments has also fallen and also Membership to England golf has declined by 2% through the year.

It is reasonable to expect that about 200 clubs will have to close in the next 10 to 15 years.

The affiliation fee for 2020 will rise to £9.50 per annum. This will cater for the funding for the under 14's and an inflationary adjustment.

Club support restructuring has been undertaken. Club Support is funded purely by sports England so whether this will continue after the next two years is debatable and will also depend on how much funding EG get from sports England in the future.

From 1 July 2019. Every affiliated England golf member will have PPI insurance cover – this has this will be provided by Bluefin.

Worldwide handicapping system will come in readiness for the 2021 season and it will start being rolled out midway through next year.

England Golf are rolling out workshops for the worldwide handicapping – I went to one yesterday.

There are plans within England Golf to engage with the independent golfer but plans for this are very much in its infancy now.

The current CEO Nick Pink has left England Golf and England Golf are currently looking for someone to replace him. Richard Flint is caretaking the position until a successor is found.

**Question** from Penny Bartlett (Bulberry Woods). Where can information on the WHS be found?

**Answer** – On the England Golf Website

#### **e) Handicap Advisor – Ann Talbot**

Good afternoon ladies,

I hope you have all managed to cope with the new Rules of Golf this year. I haven't had many queries so assume all is well! The only one I have occasionally witnessed, is forgetting to drop from knee height.

The World Handicap System is being brought into operation during November 2020. Dorset County and England Golf had planned to hold three workshops but unfortunately the two scheduled for October have had to be cancelled. Yeovil will now be held on the 12<sup>th</sup> February and Broadstone on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020. There are a maximum of 3 places available per Club and preference should be given to the relevant men's and women's handicap secretaries. I hope that your Ladies' representative has been included.

Once these workshops have completed, Carole and I will be holding a Handicap Secretaries meeting to discuss the System further and answer any questions or concerns you may have.

#### **f) Junior Organiser – Sheila Davidge**

**Sheila started her report by explaining the discrepancy in the accounts.**

The majority of the funding in the past for Junior coaching has been raised through Fundraisers and sponsorship. We have found that it is increasingly difficult to ask sponsors for their help and had none in 2019. We have fund raised for the last five years and the Junior Committee agreed that 2019 would be a rest year - the main onus rests with the parents who pay for the girls coaching, plus paying to enter any fundraising events.. In the

past we have charged £80 per child for coaching but due to the drop in income we have raised the cost to £100 for County 1 & 2 and kept it at £80 for Academy coaching. DLPGA donate £1000 towards coaching and EG provide a small amount £900 (2019) towards coaching for U14s. The total cost of coaching is over £4,000. We have reduced the number of coaches but this leaves each main coach with upto 12 girls per session. It is planned to hold a fundraiser at Sturminster Marshall GC in April 2020 plus a quiz night. This should help raise some money. Georgia Hall has kindly donated some clothing that will be sold to the girls and this will also contribute to the funds and should raise about £400. All expenditure is closely monitored by the Junior Committee and kept to a minimum. We are lucky in having such committed coaches in Mike Dodd and Fern Grimshaw.'

2018 ended with the annual Christmas Party at Sturminster Marshall and the new Junior Captain, Lauren Purchase (Dudsbury GC) being presented with her badge of office by Grace Burke (President) and commemorative glassware to outgoing Captain – Alex Cornell.

The Order of Merit winner for 2018 was Lauren Purchase (Dudsbury GC).

Player of the Year was Sienna Birch (Broadstone GC).

Louise and Alice Webb (Parkstone GC) are members of the England Golf South West U18 Squad.

2018 – I would firstly like to say how extremely lucky we are to have Mike Dodd, Fern Grimshaw, Charlie Pilinger and Alice Davis as our County Coach's.

### **Peter Alliss**

The year started with the Peter Alliss competition which is played over the winter, four rounds stableford with the top eight going through to the match play held on the Alliss course at Ferndown Golf Club. The semi-final were very close matches with Chloe Northover (Yeovil GC) just edging out Molly Kington (Weymouth GC) and Meg Withnall (Ferndown GC) just beating Lauren Purchase (Dudsbury). The final was again a very close match, swinging between the two girls but eventually Chloe Northover was the winner of the Peter Alliss 2018.

### **Other Matches**

In April we played our usual match against Dorset Senior Ladies, this year with a change of rules we allowed the seniors to win.

Alresford Cup at Alresford GC on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September – we were asked to enter a team and all the girls played very well. A number of young players had their first competition playing for Dorset. The Alresford cup is an unusual competition in that it is played in a range of handicap, we managed a very credible 5<sup>th</sup> place. I would like to thank the parents for taking the girls and a special thank you to Steve and Ali Haesler who managed the team.

Wessex Salver – another new competition between Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire played on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October at Cumberwell Park GC. The idea behind this competition is to allow higher handicap players to play in a match against other girls in other counties. We had a very strong side and again five new players playing for the County for the first time. We were a very good second behind Gloucestershire.

### **Girls Championship and Birdie Trophy**

It was really good to have a number of new girls playing for the Birdie Trophy at Dudsbury GC for girls with higher handicaps. This was a very closely competition between Funky Diamond, Lois Phillips and Imogen Stratman It wasn't until the 18<sup>th</sup> hole that Funky Diamond won with 39, Lois had 38 and Imogen 37. Great match.

Onto the girls' championship being held at Dudsbury Golf Club. This year it was over 36 holes, there were eleven girls playing. It was again very exciting with Chloe Haesler scoring a gross 71, nett 65, a new course record. Two girls – Scarlett Williams and Lauren Purchase on 77 gross and Ellie Mans with a gross 79. The second round started well and

again it was close, but unfortunately Chloe had a nightmare on one hole, scores on the second round were Ellie Mans 77 and Scarlett Williams 78, therefore Scarlett was the Girls County Champion a year after being Ladies County Champion – what an achievement. Ellie Mans was runner up and Nett winner.

### **South West Inter Counties**

This year we were hosting the SW Inter Counties at Dudsbury – lucky enough there were enough rooms that all teams were staying at the hotel. We had the Farmhouse which was great – all the girls together and playing some silly games. Caroline Townsend and I were kept on our toes at night – trying to get the girls to bed and asleep at a decent time.

The girls were very determined to do their best, especially Lauren Purchase, Molly Kington, Meg Withnall and Alex Cornell in their final junior year. The format changed this year to one foursome and four singles and the highest handicap also increased to 24.

The team was :

Lauren Purchase (Captain), Hermione Christey-Clover (Vice Captain), Alex Cornell, Scarlett Williams, Megan Withnall, Molly Kington, Ellie Mans and Chloe Haesler. Our reserve was Chloe Northover.

The first day had wins for Dorset against Cornwall, Wiltshire against Somerset and Gloucestershire against Devon.

An early start on Monday 7:45 and play resumed, winners in the morning were – Cornwall beat Devon, Somerset beat Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire halved.

Afternoon and the girls woke up – Somerset and Devon halved, Cornwall beat Gloucestershire and Dorset beat Wiltshire after a very tough competition.

Everything to play for on the final day, another early start and some very tired girls. In the morning Cornwall beat Wiltshire, Dorset beat Devon and Somerset beat Gloucestershire.

Very tight with three counties able to win – Cornwall, Somerset and Dorset. Cornwall and Somerset were playing each other and Dorset out last against Gloucestershire.

Wiltshire beat Devon and then Somerset managed to win against Cornwall in very tight matches. Therefore, Dorset needed to win. It was very exciting with the girls playing their hearts out. Last player on the course was Scarlett being followed by all the parents and players and won on the 18<sup>th</sup> – we won 4 – 1. Defending the Trophy, we had won the year before. What an amazing achievement

I would like to thank all the members, staff, greenkeepers, Golf staff, housekeeping, catering staff for their support to the County. Special thanks to Beate Braban, Paul Palmer and Alison Fitzpatrick.

Finally, I would like to thank all the parents, grandparents and followers, Grace Burke, Mike Dodd and Caroline Townsend, Tracy Bryant, Martin Purchase (who very ably ran the office with Paul Cornell) and Steve Haesler and Graham Kington for on the course work. Without their help and support the four days would not have been such a big success.

I would also like to thank Ian Hulse and the Dorset Union for lending us their walkie talkies – which were invaluable.

### **Ashley Wood & Palmer**

The competition was played on Sunday 22nd September at Ashley Wood Golf Club. We had some rain and a little wind.

The winner of the Ashley Wood Trophy was Ellie Mans with a gross 72, with runner up – Sienna Birch with a gross 79.

The Palmer Trophy was won by Lilly Mae Jones with a nett 65 and runner up was Funky Diamond with nett 68.

### **Wareham Trophy**

The biggest entry for a number of years – fourteen pairs playing at Wareham GC on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October. The weather was very kind and the course in excellent condition.

It was very close with Chloe Haesler and Alex Johnstone (first out) having to wait for the penultimate group of Imogen Stratman and Alfie Wheeler (Ferndown Forest GC) and both ten years old coming in with 38. It went to count back and Imogen and Alfie won on the last three holes. Well done to the youngsters and hard luck Chloe and Alex who have played together for a number of years and this was Alex last opportunity to win.

Thank you to Wareham GC for courtesy of the course and for continuing to support Dorset Junior Girls.

Thank you to Grace Burke who started the competition and then went on the course to help the younger players. Prizes were presented by Grace and Eddie Galjaard (President of Dorset Golf Union).

### **Pukka Pads and Dame Laura Davies Trophies**

We have two new trophies this year – Pukka Pads for low handicap and Dame Laura Davies for higher handicap. The matches are drawn.

The Pukka Pads was between Ellie Mans and Lilli Horn but unfortunately Lilli had hurt her hand and couldn't play, therefore the winner of the inaugural Pukka Pads was Ellie Mans. Thank you to Pukka Pads and Sandi Stott for donating the Trophy and prizes.

The final of the Dame Laura Davies was between Honor Johnson (Sturminster Marshall) and Elizabeth Ashford (Sherborne GC). It was a very close match and Elizabeth came out the winner.

### **Handicap reductions**

This has been another brilliant year for handicap reductions, the total handicap reduction is 150. Lois Phillips reduced her handicap by 18.4 shots, Funky Diamond by 13, Scarlett Phillips by 13, Imogen Stratmen by 14, Jessica Stainer by 11 and Chloe Northover by 9.

Our lowest handicap is 1.0 held by Louise Burke with seven girls all with handicap under 5. 14 girls with handicaps under 10. You must admit that is fantastic achievement.

I am also pleased to report that Louise Burke and Alice Webb have been chosen for the England Golf South West Region U18 squad.

Louise Burke was the Individual winner at the National Schools competition held at Woodall Spa and was captain for the England Schools match in Scotland.

Louise Burke has also played for England U16 in matches against Spain and Ireland.

Chloe Haesler has reached the girls final in 6<sup>th</sup> place in the national Justin Rose – Daily Telegraph out of 160 girls and will be playing in the final at Quinta do Lago.

Chloe Northover was second nett in the same competition, with 14 under her handicap playing in the Lyme Regis Junior Open. Chloe will be travelling to Quinta Do Lago to watch the gross players play the final. What an amazing achievement for two Dorset girls.

This all follows on from the success of the European Team at the Solheim Cup what a fight back – and how well did Georgia Hall play.

It is good to see Hayley Davis win the Access tour and get her LET card this year.

I would like to thank all the Golf Clubs for continuing to support Junior Golf in Dorset, a big thank you to parents and grandparents and to the Junior Committee, Paul Cornell, Steve Haesler, Martin Purchase, Ben Christey-Clover, Fern Grimshaw, Mike Dodd and Caroline Townsend and a new member Annie Hobell.

I would also like to thank the coaches – Mike Dodd, Fern Grimshaw, Charlie Pilinger and Alice Davis for continuing to strengthen our squad with their training and commitment.

Also, thank you to Grace Burke for starting and presenting at all the girl's competitions and for being at SW Inter Counties helping the girls. Grace also hosted the Presidents dinner.

Grace has attended every girl's competition in the two years that she has been President and the girls have enjoyed seeing her at the competitions and the Christmas Party, thank you Grace.

This year has been a great year and we have some amazing young girls lowering their handicap and very keen to play for the County.

Please keep watching the junior page on the website – lots happening.

### **g) Veteran's Captain – Rosemary Shepherd**

Good Afternoon.

The season began with the South West Veterans' Field Day held Yeovil Golf Club on 4<sup>th</sup> April in horrendous conditions and was not an enjoyable experience. The Autumn Field Day was held at Teign Valley on 26<sup>th</sup> September with much better weather. Both events were well supported by Dorset ladies.

The Dorset Vets Spring Greensomes Meeting was held at Bridport on 10<sup>th</sup> April. 44 pairs entered. The day was cold and windy but dry. The ladies found the course challenging and this was reflected in the scores. The winners of the Cumberledge Ware Spoons were Jane Close and Meredith Christopher from Sherborne.

Our matches began with the first of our South West Trophy ties against Cornwall at Bude. For many of our vets this was the longest journey that they could possibly be asked to make. Unfortunately, we could only manage to find six, not seven pairs, able to play. Thus, we started the match one down on a typical but unfamiliar difficult links course. The match was lost 6-1. Our other two matches were more successful. Against Devon, played at Lyme Regis, Dorset won 4-3; against Somerset at Weston-super-Mare the match was won 5-2. The team who played against Hampshire at Skylark GC really enjoyed the course and the day which ended as a very friendly 3½ -3½. Our other friendly match against Wiltshire should have been played at Ashley Wood. Unfortunately, the forecast of torrential rain was correct and the decision to cancel the match on the previous day proved to have been the right one.

Our Autumn Greensomes Meeting was played at Rushmore GC on 23<sup>rd</sup> September. Once again there was an entry of 44 pairs. However, although we received a very warm welcome by the Club, the weather was not so friendly. The early groups started in dry conditions, but the weather soon deteriorated and the rain got heavier and heavier. Everyone completed the course and came in with very respectable scores. The winners were Jill Scott and Maureen Dimishy from Sherborne GC and they will be receiving the Irma Keyes Salver.

The Millennium Bowl is awarded annually to the club with the best aggregate score from 2 pairs in both the Spring and Autumn meetings. Sadly, there were only 5 clubs which managed this and therefore eligible for the trophy. With ladies from Sherborne winning both the Spring and Autumn Meetings and an aggregate total of 125 points, it looked as if there could be a different name on the Millennium Bowl this year. However, that honour and a cheque for £40 goes once again to Ferndown GC who had a total of 127 points.

The charity which I have chosen to support during my Captaincy is Whizz-Kidz. They provide disabled children with mobility equipment, support and training so that they are able to live their lives to the full and reach their true potential. So far £215 has been raised from raffles held at the Autumn and Spring Meetings. My sincerest thanks to all who have donated prizes and bought raffle tickets.

I would like to thank all the Clubs who have hosted events this year. We are very fortunate that we do have Clubs who are still willing to give us courtesy for our County Matches. However, there are fewer courses who feel able to do this - something for future discussion.

May I also take this opportunity of thanking delegates who have encouraged support for the Vets fixtures. We could always do with a few more entries, particularly for the Matches. We still have quite a few clubs that have no participants at all and I would like to put a plea out to those with a reminder that anyone 60 or over is eligible to play. All they have to do is

purchase a badge for £5 at their first event and they are a life member. The only other cost involved is for a post-match meal.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our events in 2020. Details of these will be handed out at the next Delegates Meeting.

Thank you.

#### **h) Seniors' Captain – Carol Cass**

The Seniors played their traditional (tough!) fixture against the Juniors at Ashley Wood in April. Helped perhaps slightly by a change in format to scratch foursomes "Sunningdales," the Seniors edged a win, for the first time in a long time. We hope to continue with this format next year!

We played our main fixture, the South West Senior Ladies Inter County Trophy at the beginning of October, playing scratch foursomes matches against Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Devon, who hosted the event at Torquay Golf Club.

The weather was changeable, with some wild winds and rain on the Torquay clifftop.

My team of players represented Dorset exceptionally well and came a very creditable second to the strong home team of Devon, with the final result going down to the last matches on the final day.

I'd like to thank Tracy Bryant, Val Ford, Jo Hadley, Libby Legg, Cathy Macfarlane-Thompson and Sue Olds not only for their outstanding team spirit and high standard of golf during this event, but also, for the support and laughter over the 3 days.

I'd also like to thank Pam Flay, who has acted as official starter in this event for the last 15 years and is now retiring, at the age of 83, from the position. Pam has been ably assisted by Sue Crabb, who at one time was also President of the event, and together over the years they have been wonderful support for the Dorset team. Pam has been involved in this event since Dorset first started playing in it, with Pam as captain, in 1992.

Finally, next year, as well as our Juniors fixture, we shall be playing a friendly match against Hampshire and hopefully, the South West Inter Trophy event will be held at Burnham and Berrow.

### **6. To receive and adopt the Examined Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019**

Proposed by: Jean Pomeroy (Yeovil)    Seconded by: Val Williams (Parkstone)  
Agreed

### **7. To appoint Linda Riggs as Accounts Examiner for 2019/2020**

Proposed by: Sheila Davidge (Ashley Wood)    Seconded by: Penny Hunt (Weymouth)  
Agreed

### **8. Resolutions**

#### **Resolution 1**

**That Association Members retain the per capita subscription at £12.00 for the 2020 and 2021 subscription year**

#### **Recommendation**

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

Seconded by: Ruth Thrussell (Ferndown)      Agreed

## **Back ground to Resolution 2.**

Having changed the rules in 2017 to accommodate vice Captain for one year with the new position of immediate past Captain without voting rights, we find ourselves in the position of having no Captain. So we feel as Tracy will be in effect acting Captain and will chair meetings she needs a vote. We will leave the rule 6 as it stands but add a note, which can be removed next year. As we are piloting the new system we will need to revisit rule 6 and 8.

### **Resolution 2 – Rules of the Association – Rule 6 – OFFICERS OF THE COUNTY COMMITTEE. Add a note.**

**The Immediate Past Captain shall be a member of the Executive Committee with voting rights for 2019/2020**

#### **Recommendation**

The Executive Committee recommends to the Association Members that they accept Resolution 2

Seconded by:      Carol Cass (Broadstone)      Agreed

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

We are presenting prizes 1-3 gross and nett, if applicable in each competition, which includes Seniors, Autumn meeting, Bowmaker, Over 70s. The remainder of the prizes for these competitions, which will be read out, will be given to the Delegate or Representative of the winners club at the end of the AGM.

### **10. Election of Officers to County Committee**

President	Val Ford (P)	Proposed Executive Appointment
-----------	--------------	-----------------------------------

Graces introduction to Val.

I have great pleasure in introducing Val Ford to you all. She has been playing golf for about 35 years and been a member of Parkstone Golf Club for 22 years, Val had already agreed to be Ladies Captain at Parkstone when I talked to her regarding President, so I think she was quietly relieved when the term became 2 years. This year Val has attended some Executive meetings and competitions to familiarise herself with exactly how things work. She has played for the County second team and been Captain of the Senior Ladies playing off a handicap of 9. Val is very committed to golf and I know she will do a great job and make an excellent President.

Please may I have your approval for this appointment .

Approved

The outgoing President (Grace Burke) handed the incoming President (Val Ford) her badge of office. Grace stepped down and Val took over the meeting.

Captain	None	
Vice Captain	Kate Roberts	Executive Appointment

### Tracy's introduction to Kate

As I said earlier, it is very good news that Kate has agreed to be my VC. For those of you that don't know Kate, I thought I would give you a very short introduction to her.

Kate has done a very good job as our Assistant Secretary for the last two years and our County Welfare Officer for many before that.

In her working days Kate was a midwife and I have no doubt that she will deliver an excellent service in her role as Captain next year. After she left midwifery, Kate worked extensively in Child Protection which has made her so good in her role as WO. Kate's husband Chris is also a golfer, so I am sure that he will be able to offer her a lot of support.

Kate has been Captain of Broadstone, she has won the Johnstone Cup and recently had her first match for the County Second Team.

I first met Kate at the Broadstone Christmas lunch when I had just joined the club. Not only did we end up sitting next to each other, but it also transpired that we swapped our £5 'Secret Santa' gifts. Kate's was a very practical, thoughtful gift of a flat pencil that fitted perfectly inside the back of the Broadstone diaries. I was somewhat embarrassed that my gift was a battery powered wine glass that changed colours. Kate turned to me and said, "I think that probably says a lot about us." Having got to know Kate, I think you will find that she actually the perfect mix of practical, sensible pencil and fun wine glass. I can't think of a better combination for this job.

I am so pleased that County will have someone to take over that knows the system completely and will take on the role with efficiency and drive as well as imagination. Kate is very reliable, extremely competent and hard-working. I am sure that she will make an excellent VC and future Captain.

Immediate Past Captain Hon Treasurer Approved	Tracy Bryant (B)  Annie Hobell (SM)	Proposed Executive Appointment  Sturminster Marshall	Seconded  Knighton Heath
--	---	---	--------------------------------

### Tracey's introduction to Annie

Annie Hobell will take over as our new treasurer from Lindsay. Annie does play golf, though would not describe herself as a golfer at the moment. She has joined the Association and Sturminster Marshall, in order to take on the role. She has extensive experience working in accounts which makes her perfect for the job.

Annie's daughter Becky is well known to County and Annie has been heavily involved in Match Weeks with her husband Marc at both Junior and First Team level and lots of other competitions Becky has been involved in. Annie is also now a member of the Junior Committee which will give us fantastic links between the two sections of the Association.

Annie is hard-working; she is a lot of fun to be with and I am sure she will be an absolute asset to our committee.

Please may I have your approval for these appointments. Approved

The following Officer has agreed to continue her term of office for one year according to Association rules.

Hon Secretary                      Liz Walker (B&WD)

Please may I have your approval that this officer continues in her post.

Approved

The following Officers to continue their term of office according to Association rules.

Interclub & Knockout Sec	Cathy McFarlane Thompson(B)
Vets Captain	Rosemary Shepherd (LR)
Vets Secretary	Sue Winkle (B&WD)

Please may I have your approval that these officers continue in their posts

Approved

The followings Officers to be re-elected en bloc in accordance with the Association Rules.

County Representative EG SW Region	Jane Southcombe (Y)	Exec Appointment
Handicap Advisor	Ann Talbot (CD)	Exec Appointment on behalf of EG
USGA Course Rater	Jenny Waterhouse (DG&CC)	Exec Appointment on behalf of EG
County Welfare Officer	Kate Roberts (B)	Exec Appointment
County Junior Organiser	Sheila Davidge (AW)	Exec Appointment
Communications and Web Site Officer	Karen Gray (D)	Exec Appointment

Please may I have your approval for these re-elected appointments.

Approved

Exchange of gifts

Tracy gives Lindsay a gift.

I would like to extend my enormous thanks to Lindsay for taking on the role of County Treasurer for the past three years.

Lindsay has done the job that many of us would hate to do and I know it hasn't always been easy for her. I'm sure that Lindsay would testify to the fact that I most certainly couldn't do it. Lindsay is not on show in the way that many of us in the Exec are, but that does not mean that she has not done a lot of work behind the scenes to make the County run smoothly. She has always been patient and understanding – especially with me. In many ways, the Treasurer's role is the most important in the Association. Without Lindsay's efforts, we just couldn't have functioned.

I'd like to thank Lindsay for her excellent contributions to meetings as well as all of the financial issues that she has had to dealt with over the years. Lindsay has been a pleasure to work with and I wish her a very peaceful retirement from County. I hope that she will be very happy in whatever she decides to do next.

Thank you Lindsay.

Grace gives Tracy a gift

Soon after I met Tracy I realised she must have been a great teacher, she is meticulous in her approach to all the protocol we have today, Safe Guarding, 55 pages which Tracy has spent many hours on and the Union are very keen to poach, and all the other regulations required in the modern game.

She has kept our spirits up when needed with her great sense of humour and her kindness especially when she arrived at competitions with doughnuts or shortbread picked up from a Tesco en route.

I am very much a traditionalist in my approach to golf or should I say, have been, Tracy is definitely a twenty first century golfer which means we have complemented one another. I have moved forward and she has realised some traditions are an essential part of golf.

We have become good friends over the four years even with the age gap, I am nearly old enough to be her mum, and have been on this journey together. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with her and so has everyone on the Executive committee. Thank you for all your hard work, and please except this gift from the Association.

Tracy gives Grace a gift

Grace has told me that I mustn't say too much about her, but I am afraid that I can't allow Grace to step down from being President without telling you what she has meant to the Association - and to me.

She has been an excellent President. Grace has been around County for a very long time – in fact she was Junior Organiser before she was President. She is a fantastic person to go to for advice about County matters and procedures because Grace likes everything done properly. She is always wonderfully dignified at any prize presentations - and scrubs up a lot better than I do. As Grace has already said, she has been so well-respected in her role in chairing the meetings of the Partnership Group with the men's union that they have asked her to stay on. Now *that* is an achievement!

In the four years that Grace has been VP and P, she has taught me so much about County. She is hard working and diligent and strives to do her best in everything she does – but I'm sure you all know this. Above everything, and it's something you may not always expect of a President, Grace is a team player. If you're in trouble, Grace will be there.

I want to tell you something that I didn't mention when I spoke about Match Week this year. On the first day, the practice day, I was ill - really ill. And this rather unpleasant bug lasted all week. I can honestly say that without Grace, I couldn't have got through that week. I had no Vice Captain. As well as her President's duties, Grace did everything that I would expect a VC to do and more. She manned the buggy, she gave out water, she was captain when I had to caddy and most of all - she was a friend to talk to when I was stressed. When I praised her later for all that she had done, she was her usual modest self. She brushed it off. She said, "It says in my job description, 'Support the Captain at SW Match Week'. That's all I've done". That sums Grace up.

Something you may not realise is that Grace is a lot of fun. I have so many wonderful memories of working with Grace, from standing in the pouring rain for hours starting competitions, singing songs from The Musicals in the car on the way home from Match Weeks, eating far too many fruit gums in the buggy - and Grace's passion for expensive shoes. We have shared work and home life stresses, and many, many lunches. We have laughed together and cried together and to quote Grace, "We'll be friends forever".

Finally, I'd just like to thank Grace for always approaching her role with the formality and dedication that it requires, whilst keeping that twinkle in her eye. She will be a hard act to follow. She has been an absolute asset to the Association - and I will miss her more than I can say.

Thank you Grace.

**11. A.O.B** – There has been no official AOB received prior to the meeting. Nothing was raised from the floor at the meeting.

**12. Vote of Thanks by County Champion Melissa McMahon-** Letter read by Vice Captain/Ass Secretary Kate Roberts

Good Afternoon Ladies

Please accept my apologies for not being able to attend this year's AGM.

As the 2019 Lady Champion I would like to thank Knighton Heath Golf Club for hosting the County Championship and all those involved in the preparation. The course was in superb condition, a credit to the greenkeeping staff, of course the weather was a help!

I had a fantastic week and certainly started the golfing season on form, I couldn't seem to make many mistakes. I had an amazing final against Harriet Teversham which really could have gone either way and after reaching 8 finals over the years this was by far my favourite and most memorable.

The County is going from strength to strength with some fantastic young golfers coming through, surprising how quickly you can go from one of the youngest in the team at 13 to one of the oldest at 27.

I would like to say a big thank you has to go to Tracy Bryant and Grace Burke for their support at County Match Week, it was a fantastic week and a privilege to wear the Dorset uniform.

I must say a big thank you to all the Dorset County volunteers, the time and effort given by all are not praised enough, without these volunteers' County events would not be successful. Even if us girls do contribute to a couple more grey hairs a year!!

I was honoured to represent Dorset in the County Champion of Champion events at the Home of England Golf, Woodhall Spa. I played well but unfortunately finished T 5th, so hopefully more luck next time!

On a personal note I would like to thank to Lyme Regis Golf Club and my family for all their support. I look forward to defending my title next year at Broadstone Golf Club.

Melissa McMahon County Champion 2008, 2009, 2015, 2016 & 2019

### **13. Date of 2020 Annual General Meeting.**

This will be confirmed at a later date as Ferndown are no-longer able to host the event. The President thanked Ferndown for hosting the event over the past years. She also commented on all the changes that would be happening in 2020 such as the World Handicapping System and the format of County Match Week.

The President closed the meeting at 16.05hrs reminding everyone that there were only 63 days to Christmas!