

DORSET LADIES COUNTY GOLF ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at
Ferndown Golf Club
on

Wednesday 21st October 2015 at 2.00pm

1. The President, Mrs Kay Everett, called the Meeting to order and convened the Annual General Meeting.

The President then asked for a minute's silence for any County members who had passed away during the year. The meeting was then passed to the County Captain (Mrs Sue Edwards)

PRESENT

The County Captain Mrs Sue Edwards in the Chair, President, Mrs K. Everett; Vice President A Talbot; County Captain S. Edwards;
Vice Captain S.Davidge; Hon Treasurer H. Inman; South West Regional Representative J.Southcombe;
Hon. Secretary Mrs Dawn Ley, Asst. Secretary Miss E Walker and 74 members as recorded in the attendance book.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

38 members, as recorded in the Attendance Book

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Ferndown Golf Club on Wednesday 22nd October 2014 were approved and signed. Proposed by Valerie Williams, [Ashley Wood] and seconded by Margaret Swift (Parkstone).

4. MATTERS ARISING

Pam Stebbings – suggested that some attendees did not know who the Executive were by name. It was suggested that perhaps the top table should wear name tags.
This suggestion was taken by the Captain who then introduced all of the Executive

4. REPORTS

a) Captain's Report

Firstly, and it seems appropriate that we are at her home club today, many congratulations to Hayley Davis who turned Pro last week, shortly after winning, for England, the women's Silver Medal, together with Bronte Law, at the Spirit International Amateur Championship in the USA. I am sure you will all join me in wishing Hayley all the very best for her professional career, I am sure she will do extremely well.

Also, congratulations to Sophie Keech who has also recently turned professional and was placed in the top 30 in her first professional event. Sophie will shortly be taking part in the LET Access Pre-Qualifier in Morocco. Again, we wish you much success, Sophie.

I am sure we all continue to enjoy watching Georgia Hall's progress as a Professional. Georgia won her first event as a pro in September this year. She is now playing in the Indian Open which starts on Friday.

Ann Talbot and I recently attended an EG conference on Women and Girls in Golf, showing what can be done to promote this great sport. There is a lot of interesting information, together with video's, on

the EG Website and I would urge you all to watch these, there really is a lot we can all be doing at club level. Whilst there we were so proud that the posters and videos showed at least six of our Dorset girls. We are a very small county and this is a great achievement and I think this is something we should all be very proud of. I am sure they would not have got where they are now without the support firstly of their parents but then of their coaches, club and county.

We also had success this year in the SW Ladies Championships with Kyra Horlock claiming 2nd gross for the over 18's and Fay Carpenter claiming 2nd gross for the under 18's. Kyra, Fay and Sophie won the County Challenge Salver for Dorset for the best team score. The first time Dorset have won this since 2010. (Trophy on display)

85th County Championship – Held at Knighton Heath Golf Club

What a change from last year, the County Championships, were played in glorious warm and sunny weather. The Gross 36 Hole winner of the Ivy Carroll Cup being Jane Southcombe (Yeovil) with Harriett Teversham (also from Yeovil) winner of the Carter Bowl for the Nett 36 Holes. The Gross 18 hole qualifier, winning the Threlfall Cup, was Tracy Bryant (BW) who also won the Nett trophy, the Sugden Salver.

The first rounds of the knockout stages, for both the Championship and the Johnstone Cup were played on Tuesday morning with the quarter finals being played in the afternoon. Congratulations to Jane Southcombe, Chloe Stanley, Melissa McMahon and Harriet Teversham for making the semi-finals of the Championship and Alison Carter, Patricia Watson, Suzanne George and Sandi Stott for making the semi-finals of the Johnstone Cup.

Wednesday was another lovely sunny day and the Johnstone Cup semi-finalists teed off at 9am followed by the Championship pairings. These matches produced some very exciting and tense matches with Patricia Watson and Sandi Stott (both from Parkstone) going through to the Johnstone Cup final and Chloe Stanley (Canford Magna) and Melissa McMahon (Lyme Regis) making the Championship final.

The finals were played in good spirit, the Johnstone Cup winner being Sandi Stott after a very exciting match. Chloe fought hard but Melissa McMahon was in excellent form and was a worthy winner and County Champion for 2015. Many congratulations to you all.

The Silver Spring Challenge, as always, was very well supported. The winner of the best gross score was Tracy Bazell (DGCC) and the best nett winner was Mary Pryor (B)

Many thanks to all at Knighton Heath, everyone was so welcoming and supportive over the course of the three days.

Bronze Spring Meeting - Held at Weymouth Golf Club

We were warmly welcomed by everyone at Weymouth Golf Club and many thanks must go to everyone involved and particularly the members for making us feel so welcome.

Many Congratulations to all the prize winners, but in the Low Bronze Division, particular congratulations to Jenny May (Knighton Heath) for winning both the Best Gross and Nett scores and winning the Banister and Cox Cups and to Perdita Collins (Dudsbury) who was runner-up in both the Gross and Nett, winning the Helen Edwards Cup and Sime Salver.

In the High Bronze Division, many congratulations to Beverley Mangham (Sherborne) winner of the Craig Trophy and Karen Nicholson (Lyme Regis) who was runner-up, winning the De Gruchy Salver. This was the first time that we had run both the High and Low Bronze events on the same day and I think you will agree it led to a great atmosphere

Seniors Championship 2015 -Held at Dudsbury Golf Club

Again, this is a very popular Championship with 102 players participating this year. I am really sorry that this has led to us to having to ballot out some of the entries. The committee have it in hand to try to arrange for a longer tee time period to accommodate more entries. This is not a problem now that the presentation takes place at the AGM and for this reason I will not go into the details of the prize winners now.

Many thanks to all those who took part and helped to make this such a sociable and successful day and as always many thanks to all those at Dudsbury. The welcome we received was fantastic and the help and support throughout was very much appreciated.

South West Inter-Counties Match Week

This year's match was held at Minchinhampton Golf Club in Gloucestershire.

The first day was a little grey and as we approached the first tee the rain started to put in its appearance as promised. Wiltshire were our first opponents and the morning Foursomes provided a 2 - 1 win for Wiltshire. Dorset lifted their game in the afternoon sunshine to win the Singles which meant that the match was halved overall.

The second day we met Devon and the morning trio got us started in the right direction and we ended up coming in to lunch with a 2/1 lead. All the afternoon matches proved to be very close but it turned out to be a reverse of the previous day and we settled for an honourable half.

Mid-way through the week and we had a glorious sunny morning, the only downside was that hayfever was gaining ground amongst the team. Today we played Somerset and the foursomes proved to be a bit of a disappointment, as we managed to achieve second place in all the matches, not that we were playing badly, it was just that Lady Luck was not looking in our direction.

The afternoon singles saw determination and fighting spirit to the fore, with Dorset winning 4 of the 6 single matches. The result was so close with the final tally being 5/4 to Somerset.

Day 4 and we were all fired up to go out and face the Cornish Pixies.

Three very good foursomes matches resulted in a draw, with some very good golfing being played.

A hot afternoon and six singles matches had to be played. Three and a half hours of excellent golf ensued with the final result of the day's efforts in favour of the Cornish team – 5 ½ to 3 ½

Final Match Day was faced with determination as we faced the title holders Gloucestershire.

The foursome's matches provided a solid lead for the opponents 3-0. Nothing daunted we went out in the afternoon determined to fight to the bitter end and came in with 3 wins. Well done, though not enough to alter the final result.

A great week when new friendships were made and old ones renewed.

We look forward to next year at Mendip and I wish Sheila and her Team all the very best for a successful week.

My thanks to Kay our on course reporter who provided daily updates for the website, I hope those that were following enjoyed these reports.

Also many thanks to all the supporters who travelled a long way to support the Team, it really is very much appreciated. I know I shouldn't single anyone out but particular thanks to the Parkstone 'Birdie' who travelled alone to support us.

Our Team this year were:-

Sophie Keech and Rachel Naylor (Parkstone), Melissa McMahon (Lyme Regis), Kyra Horlock (Broadstone), Jane Southcombe and Alice Plumb (Yeovil), Fay Carpenter, Lorraine Richardson and Megan Thompson (Ferndown), Sue Edwards (Ashley Wood) and Diane Freda (non-travelling reserve – Broadstone).

We had two new and young members in the first team this year, being Rachel and Megan. Well done to both you, you played some excellent golf and I know you will be an asset to your County over the coming years.

Finally, I was extremely proud to present first team colours to Kyra Horlock, many congratulations Kyra.

Interclub Foursomes - Held at Lyme RegisThe day started a little foggy but thankfully it lifted and the day was successfully completed. Many congratulations to all the qualifiers for the match play.

The following day and the morning matches all proved very close, with one match having to go up the 19th. The finalists were Yeovil and Broadstone (Scratch), Broadstone and Lyme Regis (Silver) and Dudsbury and Bridport (Bronze). There were some very exciting foursomes matches, a great test of golf, not only of endurance over 36 holes but also a test of pairings (and friendships)! Many congratulations to Yeovil who defended their title, to Lyme Regis who were victorious over Broadstone. Dudsbury also defended their title but not without a real battle..... Bridport were 6 down at one time and took the game to the 18th! Well done Ladies, a great match to watch.

Thank you to Lyme Regis members for allowing us the use of your beautiful course and to all those involved in making this such a successful competition.

The Autumn Meeting 2015 - Held at Came Down Golf Club

Sadly the first morning of the Autumn meet was held in terrible weather, we set the first groups of in gloomy weather but with the forecast set to improve, I felt confident that we would be lucky...how wrong was!! The heavens opened and we were soon faced with flooded greens and no visible sign of a let up, we decided to call the players in and wait for the promised better weather. It soon became apparent that this wasn't going to happen in time for the day's competition to be completed and we took the decision to re-arrange the Silver Meet for October. However, by the time the High Bronze were due to tee off, the weather brightened and we successfully completed their competition. The following day was also much brighter and the Low Bronze competition went ahead as planned.

The re-scheduled Silver Meeting was held two weeks ago. The weather was a vast improvement, although windy and proved to be a thorough test of golf. There were various tales of woe and putting problems but all in all the day was enjoyed by all.

Firstly I must extend many thanks to Matthew, the Manager, for all his help, patience and assistance during the three days and in the lead up to the event. There were many comments on the wonderful presentation of the course and thanks must go to Derek Parker and his team of greenkeepers. In the clubhouse we were kept fed and watered by Shirley and Kevin and their team, very many thanks to them for looking after everyone so well. The diet went out the window again, as I couldn't resist a slice or two of cake, delicious!

Thanks also to the Ladies Captain, Sue Stokey, you and the all at Came Down did us proud, even with the difficulties of the first day, everyone enjoyed the competition. Many thanks also to Sheila, the county delegate, for all her efficient help. Thanks must also go to all the starters and the markers who stepped in at short notice. The players also greatly appreciated the band of ball spotters who were so helpful on the course. Finally, and very importantly, to all the Came Down members who allowed us the use of their lovely course and were so welcoming.

Many congratulations to Jane Southcombe (Yeovil) for retaining the Felicity Eden bowl for the best gross score (we will all have to try harder to wrestle this Trophy from her, she is becoming very fond of it) and runner-up Tracy Bazell (Dorset Golf and County Club) and to Sandi Stott (Parkstone) with a best nett score of 70 and runner-up nett, Karen Tapper (Broadstone). Excellent play ladies, well done.

The High Bronze stableford provided some very close scores with the winner being Anna Lee (Broadstone) with 36 points, with Cattrin Wickens (Parkstone) coming second with 33 points, beating Jackie Taylor (Weymouth) on count back and Beverley Mangham (Sherborne) coming fourth with 31 points.

The Low Bronze again produced some excellent golf. Congratulations to Karen Gray (Dudsbury) for winning the Janet Holmes Salver for the best gross score of 95 and to the runner up who was Linda Tabb (Came Down) with 97. The best nett was won by Ann Thornton (Bulbury Woods) with a nett 75, with the runner up (on countback) being Julie Hughes (Ferndown).

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

Humphreys Bowl and Parkin Cup finals

Thank you to Ashley Wood Golf Club for kindly hosting this event.

Many congratulations to Broadstone and Crane Valley (finalists for the Humphreys Bowl) and Weymouth and Bridport (finalists for the Parkin Cup) for making it to the finals, to get through the preliminary rounds is a fantastic achievement.

The finals provided some very exciting matches, commiserations to Crane Valley and Bridport who put up a brave fight but congratulations to Broadstone and Weymouth for winning the Humphreys Bowl and Parkin Cup respectively.

Interclub Final 2015

The final was held at Broadstone in lovely Autumn sunshine and some excellent golf was played. Well done to both teams on reaching the final, it really is a great achievement and many congratulations to Parkstone who came out on top.

Very many thanks to all at Broadstone for hosting this event.

I can't believe it's been 2 years, they have gone so quickly, I have enjoyed every minute of my Captaincy. With my work commitments, I could not find the time to do everything that I was hoping to do but I have given it my best and have been very proud to have been the Dorset Captain.

Personally, I would like to thank all the Executive's for their tireless support and hard work over the past two years, it has been a great team effort and I will miss you all very much. Although I am sure I will turn up at the various meetings and cause a spot of trouble to keep you all on your toes.

I could not have managed either without the great help and support from our Competition Secretary, Margaret. You do a grand job Margaret, thank you so much. I hope you don't mind me mentioning that you are soon going to be running around again with a shiny new hip and I wish you a speedy recovery from your forthcoming operation.

Many thanks, as always, to Karen Gray, you manage the website brilliantly and I know it is not always an easy task with the few glitches that occur. You always seem to be on hand to keep the site updated; wherever you are at the time, even when you are on holiday...thank you.

Many thanks to Ferndown Golf Club for welcoming us all here today; your hospitality is much appreciated.

Many, many thanks to Sheila for all your support over the past two years, I know you will be an excellent Captain. You have brought on some excellent players through the juniors and second team ranks and I know that the first team has the potential to do well for you over the next two years. I wish you all the very best for a very successful term of office.

Finally, thank you, the Ladies of Dorset.... Keep enjoying your golf, both socially and competitively and I'll see you all around.

b) Vice-Captain's Report

We started out training with Scott Godfrey for the II team which went very well - onto playing in competitions. Our first match was against Dorset Senior Ladies at Moors Valley and apart from Val Ford and I wanting to pick the same ladies – the day went off fairly uneventful until Hanni Davidson decided she needed some attention. I am glad to say that after visiting the hospital Hanni was fine. I would like to thank Dr Jo Hadley for her support and helping to look after Hanni. We won 3 – 0.

Our next match was against Ashley Wood men and Steve Sanger as usual put out a strong team. We thought we had them this time but the men put their foot down and came out winners.

14th June – again at Ashley Wood GC we played our match against Wiltshire – we put out a strong team and won 6-3. I would like to thank Ashley Wood GC always allowing us to play on their course. Our next match was against Gloucestershire on 26th July. The weather did not look very good but the team went up to Filton GC and had a practice round on the Saturday. Sunday morning – rain, rain and more rain. The car park at the Golf Club was like a river. The teams went out for the foursomes in pouring rain and by the time the third group had gone out, the practice area was flooded and the main greens and bunkers were also flooded. We brought the ladies back in as it was unplayable. We waited for a couple of hours but the rain did not cease. Eventually it was agreed to cancel the match and try and play in August, when hopefully we would have better weather.

August 22nd another attempt at our match against Gloucestershire. Some of the players from the first attempt were on holiday and fortunately a couple of ladies stood in. We couldn't play a practice round as the course was booked but at four thirty those that hadn't played previously walked a couple of holes before we had thunder and lightning.

Sunday – could it be the same – yes it could – again we managed to start but then had to call the ladies back in. After a few hours it cleared up a little and we managed to get all foursome matches to the 9th. We had an early lunch and it was agreed that they would go out again and finish the foursomes and hopefully finish the singles. The course was very wet and there was no time for a rest from finishing the foursomes to going out in the singles. Not a very good day and we lost 8-1
Better luck next year.

Please come and support the County Team at Mendip Golf Club 4th – 8th July 2016.

I would like to wish Mary Carlson all the best for the next two years.

c) Honorary Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to present the accounts for the period ended 31 August 2015 and I would like to thank Brian Hansford from Came Down Golf Club for independently examining the figures and signing off the accounts.

We have previously prepared our accounts to 30 September but this gave very little time, not only for the Treasurer to finalise the accounts before the AGM, but more particularly for our independent examiner to review and sign them off. In the normal course of events we would have held all our meetings by 31 August so the income would be a known figure. This year the weather was against us and the Autumn Meeting had to be rescheduled to 7 October. Both the income and expenses relating to the Autumn Meeting have therefore been estimated in these accounts but the actual figures will not be too far from the estimates. The estimated figures appear under 'debtors' and 'current liabilities' at Notes 5 and 6 on page 5 of the accounts.

The accounts show a profit of £1,937 compared with a profit of £9,744 for 2014 which you may remember was an exceptional year boosted by the first Junior Fundraiser and donations and sponsorship from which the juniors also benefited last year. This year's Junior Fundraiser produced a further £2,405 which is fantastic and we thank all of you who took part in that.

Our major source of income is the affiliation fees of £10 per head that we all pay through our golf club subscriptions. 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.

We have seen a reduction in our affiliation fees this year which reflects a reduction in membership in line with national trends. We have however, received a further £370 in late paid fees since 31 August so overall our subscriptions are down by approximately £1,000 this year.

We are recommending that the affiliation fees remain at £10 a head for the current year and next year also.

As you know, the President ran a bottle raffle at the various meetings throughout the year to benefit both the juniors and a new uniform fund. The amount raised overall from raffles amounted to a magnificent £885 so a big thank you to everyone who made donations or bought raffle tickets.

A number of clubs and individuals have made donations to the Juniors throughout the year and we would like to record our thanks for these donations which are very much appreciated.

The bank balances at 31 August 2015 amounted to £36,740 which is extremely good. The banking arrangements with Barclays have continued to work well and we have earned £121 on the deposit account this year. As at today's date our bank balances are £35,763.

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

Heather Inman
Honorary Treasurer
21 October 2015

d) County Representative EWGA SW Regional Committee Representative Report

1. Dates for SW Regional Golf competitions for 2016.
EG Regional Medal Final Kingsdown GC, Wilts 15th May.
ICMW Mendip GC, Somerset 4th – 8th July.
SW Bowmaker East Devon GC, Devon 29th Sept.
SW Championship Launceston GC , Cornwall 24th July.
Australian Spoons, Thornbury GC, Glous, 19th July.
SW Foursomes, Broadstone GC, Dorset, 6th October.
2. SW Captains and Presidents meeting 16th November. At the meeting we will be discussing the future of match week and the SW Women's Championships.
Whilst the funding for Match Week remains in place, and the other regions were doing the same, it was agreed that the SW should continue with MW in its current form.
With respect to the fact that the SW girls champs are now within the main SW champs, from a financial point of view this year was a success and the impression I got from the other counties was it was well received by their JO's and parents.
Another item on the agenda will be the proposal, put forward by Jo Shorrocks, that there should be an inter-county senior's event.
3. The England Golf Strategic Plan is being implemented. With the focus on getting more people into golf. In particular Girls, Women and disability golfers. It should be noted that across the country, as a whole, the percentage decrease in numbers has slowed.
Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Northants were chosen to pilot schemes to increase participation across the board – this has included speed golf and other ideas to decrease the amount of time needed to play. These schemes are being trialed and have not, as yet, been rolled out to the other counties. Both of the above, and their progress, is often publicized on the England Golf Website.
4. This year England Golf has been trying to change the affiliation and it's governance. For this they employed a firm of consultants – Portas Consultants. The changes that they proposed were quite radical and have been watered down progressively through the year, each time that they met with the counties and club representatives.
With regard to affiliation there will be 2 changes that won't affect current members of clubs:-

a A free on line membership to EG – this is so that EG and its sponsors can obtain their email addresses and hopefully, if it works, keeps those people informed as to local golf clubs, offers, and inducements to help them to take up golf or re-start playing and then, hopefully, go on to join a club.

b Driving ranges, pitch and putt courses and short courses will be able to affiliate – the aims are basically as the above – the cost, per site, will only be minimal, they are talking about £200 per annum.

5. With regard to governance, reading between the lines as it has not been well received by the voting members, there will probably be no changes. The proposed changes include the numbers on the board and the make up of those numbers, also how the affiliation fee is set, and how and when it is collected.
6. Both of the above will be voted on at the EG general meeting which is being held at the beginning of December.
7. To further muddy the waters the CEO David Joy has resigned and will leave his post 31st December.

e) Handicap Advisor's Report

1. **Manual** - It was agreed that a shorter booklet containing the principle changes would be produced to be used as an addendum to the existing Manual. This revision would be limited to 2016-2017. The Manual still to be produced electronically including the CSS tables.
2. **Calendar year to be adopted** – 1 Jan to 31 Dec.
3. **Initial Handicaps** - to be allocated in line with Annual Handicap Review formula/algorithm.
4. **Handicap Category Boundaries** – It was agreed that no change would be made to the existing handicap category boundaries. However a new `Club Handicap` will be introduced for clubs who wish to allocate a handicap higher than 28/36 for use in club run events. This handicap will only be valid at the player's home club and cannot be used in opens etc.
5. **Preferred Lies** - England Golf 'Preferred Lies' period will remain as 1st October to 30th April, preferred lies outside this period must be authorised by your County Union/Association.
6. **CSS Calculation for men** - to include Cat. 4 players in the same manner as Ladies CSS calculation.
7. **Qualifying Nine Hole Scores.**
 - a. A score returned better than, or within, BZ will have 18 points added to create an 18 hole score.
 - b. A score returned outside BZ will be doubled
 - c. 9-Hole Scores will be included in the ESR process.
8. **Continuous handicap Review** – Introduction of a process to flag players with 7 consecutive 0.1 handicap increases so that Handicap Committees can review and apply an immediate handicap increase if required.
9. **4BBB Handicap allowance** to be increased from $\frac{3}{4}$ to 90%.
10. **Competition Status**
 - a. Re-allocation of 'c' status handicap will require scorecards for 54 holes, in any permutation of 9 and 18-hole scores.
 - b. All Unions/Associations to use 'c' Competition Handicap Status from 1 Jan 2016.
 - c. Reactivation of 'c' status Handicap after handicap lost – if a player with a 'c' Competition Handicap leaves club membership but re-joins within a period of 12 months his handicap will be re-instated as 'c'.
11. **Supplementary Scores**
 - a. May be returned at all GB&I clubs of which a player is a member.

b. Acceptable over 9-holes (Handicap Categories 2 and above).

c. Unlimited for handicaps 28/36 to 54

12. Exceptional Scoring Reductions (ESRs)

a. Table has been amended to reduce severity of reductions.

b. ESRs will only be applied based on a pair of exceptional scores (ES).

Eg. ES1 + ES2 = ESR1, ES3 + ES4 = ESR2

I would like to take this opportunity to thank your Club Handicap Secretaries for their input at Meetings and for keeping me on my toes with their queries throughout the year. Special thanks to Carole Brown for her continued support.

f) County Development Officer's Report – read by Kay Everett

Please accept my apologies for not being at the AGM.

Please find my report for the year. It has been a very busy year with some promising results.

Two Riversmeet Golf Park

Last October, the Dorset County Golf Partnership were awarded a Sport England Small grants award for an 'all weather cover to increase golf participation in Dorset', to be sited at Two Riversmeet Leisure centre. After major investment from the Christchurch and East Dorset Councils, with the support of the Dorset County Golf Partnership, Sport England and the County Sports Partnership, Active Dorset, the new look Two Riversmeet Golf Park was officially opened on 12th April this year by Ladies European Tour player Georgia Hall and AFC Bournemouth U21 Jordan Holmes. The redesigned course and new teaching facilities gives people of all ages the opportunity to have a go at golf and footgolf. During the last six months 100 participants have received coaching; 63 male and 37 female. Two Riversmeet reported that there is a noticeable increase in people playing on the course (helped by the development of footgolf). The partnership is currently working on further development of the coaching programme and golf journey.

Women & Girls Conference at Frilford Heath Golf Club

The first Women's & Girls Conference at Frilford Heath was held in August. The conference shared and celebrated the ways golf clubs and partners are working together to overcome the barriers associated with women and girls' golf. Guest speakers attended giving an insight to how they have seen increased participation. Increased social media marketing and This Girl Golfs video are having a positive impact. Female participation in golf currently stands at 13% and membership at 15% and therefore women are a potential growth area for the game and golf clubs. England Golf are piloting a programme which is focused on growing women's participation and membership and Dorset is part of this programme.

Womens Pilot Project

Dorset is one of the counties piloting the Womens Participation project. England Golf is providing guidelines to develop a delivery plan to grow women's participation and membership at clubs. Currently I am working with 9 clubs Lyme Regis, Sturminster Marshall, Ferndown Forest, Henstridge, Weymouth, Bridport, Crane Valley, Canford Magna and Bulbury Woods. Women only coaching sessions are proving to be successful with integration to the ladies section through a buddy system. Looking at a range of flexible membership opportunities is being trialled. England golf is supporting these clubs with documentation, fact sheets and guidance throughout this project.

Get into Golf

The Get into Golf programme continues to inspire adults to take up golf with many of the clubs in Dorset offering affordable beginner lessons. We have 7 Get into Golf Centres; Ferndown Forest GC, Lyme Regis GC, Sturminster Marshall GC, Weymouth GC, Bridport & West Dorset GC, Canford

Magna GC & Crane Valley and we have 3 clubs delivering Get into Golf Activities; Ashley Wood, Two Riversmeet and Moors Valley.

GolfMark

Congratulations to Sturminster Marshall Golf Club who was the first club to obtain the new GolfMark accreditation.

The revised GolfMark programme has a strong focus on ongoing improvement to help clubs develop and progress in four key areas; recruitment and retention of members, business management and sustainability, safeguarding and improving coaching and competitions.

There are 9 clubs working towards the new GolfMark.

Dorset Tour

New beginner adults have joined the tour this year. Some dates have been included to link in with the Womens participation project. This year 267 players have taken part in events. Some of the players have become members of clubs. The tour events still raise funds to assist with junior development.

County Academy

Coaching for boys and girls up to the age of 18 saw 105 children take part throughout the county during the season of 2014/15. This is the largest number since the programme started in 2009. The programme is administered by Dee Wood who is on the Dorset County Partnership committee and eleven PGA coaches make up the team of coaches.

Golf for the Disabled

Crane Valley hosted a disability coaching course for PGA professional, assistants and volunteers, continuing the professional development of our team qualified to teach those with disabilities. Clubs offering lessons are Weymouth Golf Club, Sturminster Marshall Golf Club, Canford Magna Golf Club, Ferndown Forest Golf Club, Crane Valley Golf Club and Two Riversmeet Golf Park.

GP referral – Ferndown Leisure centre are working with Ferndown Forest Golf Club on a project 'return to golf' for those who have stopped playing due to ill health or disability.

Bournemouth University

Three students attended a Golf Foundation activators workshop last May. These students will support the development of golf within the university delivering lunch time sessions, using Streetgolf kit. Any interested students will have the opportunity to have golf lessons at Dudsbury Golf Club.

Bournemouth & Poole College

Four students attended a Golf Foundation activators workshop last May. These students will support the development of golf within the college delivering lunch time sessions, using Streetgolf kit. Any interested students will have the opportunity to have golf lessons at PlayGolf Bournemouth.

Girls Project

Initial discussions to increase girls' participation in golf have started. Involved in the project are DLGCA, England Golf, CSP, Golf Foundation and the PGA. As well as getting more girls into golf, the project will be looking at the support required to maintain the increase in participation for example training for PGA professionals, volunteers and ambassadors.

Dorset Girls Can Golf

This is a new initiative for junior girls, already playing golf whether they are a beginner or have a handicap, giving them the opportunity to play more golf with friends.

Informal days for girls are being organised to play social golf competitions at participating courses across Dorset, during the school holidays. Two events have been held with 22 girls at Sturminster

Marshall in May and 14 girls plus 3 Dorset girl ambassadors at Canford Magna in August. This will be included in the 'Girls project' as the project develops.

Activate Coast & Countryside Project year 2

A programme of golf lessons were organised from March through to September at Moors Valley and Two Rivers Meet. Taster sessions were held at Kingston Lacey, Moors Valley County Park and West Parley Sports club. Increased advertising has led to better uptake of the lessons from the middle part of the year. There were a total of 90 participants.

Sainsburys Vouchers

Thanks to the Dorset Ladies the partnership were able to purchase a Tri Golf set plus 2 x Tri Golf LH club, 5 super soft golf balls and a skipping rope.

Golf Foundation – Schools Golf

Dorset currently has 8 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.

Two Junior Golf Passport workshops have been held for PGA professionals and assistants.

I would like to thank everyone that I have worked with throughout this year and I look forward to the coming year.

g) Junior Organiser's Report

We have played a number of competitions this year including matches against Dorset Senior Ladies – as usual we played Foursomes and it was very competitive and this year the match was a half. The final of the Peter Alliss was played at Ferndown on the Alliss course over two days with some great golf being played and the final was between Lauren Purchase (Canford Magna GC) and Hermione Christy-Clover (Henstridge GC) and the winner after a very tight match was Lauren. Elite training with Mike Dodd continued and we have concentrated on short play and putting – trying to stop the girls from using their lob wedge when they are any distance closer than 70 yards. They don't seem to like the idea of chip and run but are beginning to get there.

The Girls Championship was played at Canford Magna GC on 12th July 2015 and the new Champion is Becky Dodd of Sturminster Marshall GC with a gross 81 net 65. Rebekah Hobell was runner up with a Gross 83 nett 73.

SW Inter Counties at Isle of Wedmore – a new team with four new players. Every one was excited and keen to play well. The team was led by Captain, Laura Webb, Megan Thompson, Alex Cornell, Rebekah Hobell, Jessica Stott, Lilli Horn, Georgina Wrixon and Becky Dodd. Our first match was against Gloucestershire which we lost 4 ½ to 1 ½. Monday morning – new day and a match against Cornwall, which we halved. In the afternoon we played Wiltshire and again we halved the match. Tuesday another tough day and we halved our match with Devon. In the afternoon we played Somerset and lost 3 ½ to 2 ½. Everyone played well but inexperience showed. Georgina Wrixon won all the matches she played in.

Georgina had won through to the Abraham Trophy being played at Royal Cromer and enjoyed her experience playing very well. A number of girls entered the English Girls U16 & U14.

Next big event was the Wareham Trophy played at Wareham on 6th September. The winners were Lauren Purchase and Tom Seville with runners up Megan Thompson and Dom.

Last big competition of the year – the Ashley Wood & Palmer played at Ashley Wood GC on 20th September – the same day as the last day of the Solheim Cup. Biggest field we have ever had – fifteen girls played. The Ashley Wood (gross) winner is Charlotte Heeps who has moved to Canford School and has joined Ferndown GC with a gross score of 77 net 72. Winner of the Palmer Trophy (best Nett) was Georgina Wrixon with nett 71 on count back from Molly Kingston.

Alresford Cup - we entered a team who played very well and we came 7th.

We have split our training into two Groups of seven for two hours every month plus Scott Godfrey has carried out a full review of the girls in Group 1 and is in the process with Mike Dodd of changing swings, putting stances etc.

We also have 24 girls in the Academy which is good news for the County. This has been a great year for handicap reductions and every girl in the squad has cut their handicap. The average reduction in handicap is 8.5 with the following girls dropping their handicap significantly:

Scarlett Williams from 36 to 13

Hermione Christy-Clover from 33 to 17

Chloe Haesler from 33 to 19

Louise Burke from 36 to 20.

We held our annual fundraiser and raised a considerable amount plus Night Golf which was great fun but a little dangerous but enjoyed by all that took part.

I have been very lucky in my Junior Captains – Fran Young, Alice Davis, Jessica Stott and Laura Webb and I wish Megan Thompson all the best for next year as Junior Captain.

I would like to thank all the clubs for their kind donations to the Juniors – we have put it to good use with extra training with John Jacobs at Cumberwell Park, training at Isle of Wedmore and new jumpers and shirts. An especially big thank you to Ruth Thrussell and the Ladies from Ferndown Forest for their very generous donation of £1200. We are buying waterproof tops and having detailed training assessment with Scott Godfrey with this money.

I would like to thank Kay, Sue, Ann and all the Executive for all their support over the last few years and a special thank you to Margaret Swift who always makes something new for the girls to wear at SW Inter Counties.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as County Junior Organiser and I hand over a very capable group of girls to Kay – I will keep in touch with them.

South West Inter Counties next Year at Cumberwell Park GC – 7th – 9th August 2016.

h) Veterans Captain's Report

Having completed my first year as Captain, one thing has struck me very much and that is what a great bunch of Veteran ladies we have in Dorset.

In February I handed out the packs with the dates of the matches. There were quite a few comments that it was bad timing as holidays etc had been booked so people would not be able to play.

However, after much juggling of names and handicaps I had full teams for every match. These were the people who wanted to play and were available. So you can understand my surprise when I make my reminder telephone call a week before the match to be told that it was not convenient, not that there was a long awaited hospital appointment that happened to be on the same date. Nearly all the ladies that had put their names down to play managed one way or another to turn up on the day and for that I thank you. It has been my honour and privilege to lead out a team of ladies no matter what the weather or distance, who have shown other Counties that it is the taking part and making new friends that is just as important as winning. Now winning that was one of the issues that came across time and again. As Captain I made the decision to try and select everyone who wanted to play regardless of handicap. I also mixed the pairings so that partners were drawn from different clubs. This I feel made the Dorset ladies friendlier and you could see that they were enjoying themselves. I have had a couple of ladies ask if they could be parted together in the return match next year so that they could exact their revenge on this year's opponents.

So what happened this year? The Spring Meeting was held at Ashley Wood Golf club with 38 pairs taking part, and was won by Koko McCuran and Valerie McCabe. The inter county matches then got underway. Our first was against Hampshire at Weybrook, which was about a three hour drive there and a much longer return trip for the people from Bridport due to an accident just outside Southampton. Unfortunately we lost 6 and 1 but most of the matches got down to the 17th. Our next match was against Somerset at Mendips it was not an easy course to play with extremely fast undulating greens. We originally won this match 4 and 3 then I was informed the following day that I had played a bronze lady as a Silver player and had forgotten to reduce her handicap to 21, and also I had play on my own against the Somerset pair as I was a bronze lady short. Therefore it was agree

that the match should be halved! So from this you can see that all the ladies who said they were available suddenly were no longer available. The match against Cornwall at Carlyon Bay was much anticipated, with many 'count me in' as soon as the schedule was announced. So I wonder why I was phoning around on the Thursday before the match on the Monday asking people if they could possibly play. Once again it was a three hour drive for most of the team. Some like myself and Gill deciding to go down the night before and play golf on a different course. Once again the weather ranged from rain to sunshine but what a course, beautiful views and trains charging through the middle of the course. We fared a lot better and came second with 4 and 3, once again nearly every match went down to the 17th green. Our first home match against Devon was at Knighton Heath The weather ranged from pouring rain to blazing sunshine. Once again people stepped in at the last moment so that we had a full team. Of the seven matches only one didn't make it down to the 18th. Once again we came second losing 4.5 to 2.5. Our final match against Wiltshire was at Bulbury Woods. I would like to thank Bulbury Woods for being so understanding. I could not believe it when the Wiltshire Captain 'phoned me the day before the match and said that all her ladies had phoned her worried about the weather and the distance that they had to travel! Yes, there had been a weather warning, but none of the Dorset ladies had phoned me to ask in the match was cancelled. The situation ended with Wiltshire not sending a team. Thankfully the chef at Bulbury Woods had made something that could be frozen so we did not have to pay for the meal. And the weather on the day of the match, beautiful!

Would at this point like to thank Sue Walsh; Liz Walker; Gill Philip and Gill Coombes, all of whom turned up to play in the matches at very short notice.

The Autumn Meeting was held at Meyrick Park with only 18 pairs taking part. The winners by one point were Koko McCurtan and Elaine Sheppard.

Finally I would like to thank all the Dorset ladies that came and played in the Inter Country matches and I hope that you will support me next year.

Valerie Williams

Dorset Veteran Ladies Captain.

i) Seniors' Captain's Report – read by Sue Edwards

Seniors Report 2015

Seniors have played 2 friendly matches against the Junior Girls in April at Ashley Wood it was a draw 3-3.

We played the Dorset 2nds at Moors Valley. After an eventful match, we lost 3 - 0.

The squad of 7 went to Bowood, Cornwall at the beginning of October to defend our title at the South West Seniors Tournament. We came joint second (3rd on count back) behind Gloucester and Wiltshire. Despite the weather, the golf quality of golf was excellent.

Next year Wiltshire host at Highpost.

In 2017 Dorset host at Parkstone."

6. To receive and adopt the Audited Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2015.

Proposed by Grace Burke [Knighton Heath]

Seconded by Karen Gray [Dudsbury]

All in Favour

7. To appoint Mr. B.Hansdford as the Accounts Examiner for 2015/2016.

Proposed by Jackie Wilson [Canford Magna]

Seconded by Libby Smeaton [Came Down]

All in favour

8. Resolution 1

That Association Members will retain a per capita subscription of £10.00 for the 2016 and 2017 subscription years.

Recommendation

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

Resolution 1 was carried by a unanimous show of hands.

9. 2015 Presentation of Trophies and Prizes from the Autumn Meeting and Cups won during the year.

10. Election of Officers to County Committee

The followings Officers, to be elected according to the Association's Rules.

		<u>Nominated By.</u>
President	Ann Talbot	Executive Committee
Vice President	Grace Burke	Executive Committee
Captain	Sheila Davidge	Executive Committee
Vice Captain	Mary Carlson	Executive Committee
Assistant Secretary	Liz Walker	Executive Committee
Hon. Treasurer	Heather Inman	Executive Committee

Proposed by Libby Legg [Came Down]

Seconded by Carole Brown [Bridport]

The following Officers to continue their term in office in accordance with the Associations Rules.

Hon. Secretary	Dawn Ley	Executive Committee
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Proposed by Margaret Swift [Parkstone]

Seconded by Ruth Thrussell [Ferndown]

The following Officers to be elected en bloc in accordance with the Associations Rules.

Handicap Advisor	Ann Talbot	EG Appointment
Competition Secretary	Margaret Swift	Exec. Appointment
County Welfare Officer	Kate Roberts	Exec Appointment
County Junior Organiser	Kay Everett	Exec. Appointment
Veterans Captain	Valerie Williams	Ashley Wood Golf Club
Veterans Secretary	Gill Philip	Ashley Wood Golf Club
County Representative EG SW	Jane Southcombe	EG Appointment
USGA Course Rater	Jenny Waterhouse	EG Appointment

Proposed by Penny Davidson [Parkstone]

Seconded by Jan Villa [Broadstone]

Ann Talbot - A very special thank you to Kay Everett for her support and guidance over the past two years. Kay has worked tirelessly for the Association, as County Secretary, County Competition Secretary and President.

Not content with that, she is now taking over the role of County Junior Organiser which I know she will enjoy immensely.

Kay, please accept this small gift as a 'thank you' from us all.

Ann Talbot - I am very pleased to propose Grace Burke from Knighton Heath as my Vice-President. Grace has been playing golf for 35 years and was the first winner of the Olive James Salver in 1985. She has been Handicap Secretary, Secretary and Treasurer at Club level and was Ladies' Captain at Wareham in 1995/96. Grace has been County Delegate for many years and County Junior Organiser in 2010/11 with Jane Groves.

Sheila Davidge - On behalf of Dorset Ladies I would like to thank Sue for all the work and time she has put in over the last two years. It has not always been easy for here trying to juggle work, Association duties and trying to play the occasional golf, but she has managed to do it all very well. She has managed one or two car racing with Steve (her husband) but not as many as she would like and she hasn't been able to support her team – Bournemouth very much but this will all change and she will be able to have a holiday – such luxury – go car racing and even watch Bournemouth as long as she doesn't forget she is still in my mind for County Week.

I would like to also thank her husband Steve who has been a tremendous support for her and us at County Week – he fetches and carries, cooks, caddies, organises – everything and no task is too small or big for her. He has been an amazing support for Sue they are such a magnificent team.

Thank you Sue for being such a cheerful Captain always there when needed (even on a very wet Sunday afternoon), you will be a tough act to follow.

12. Any other business.

Pat Alexander {Canford Magna Golf Club} – I just want to affirm formally and officially, to those of you who don't know, that Canford Magna Golf Club is closing on the 31st March next year, a fact that we at Canford Magna are very sad about. I am sure that many of you have enjoyed fine days and good golf at Canford Magna in the past and I am going to claim that it is one of the prettiest courses in Dorset, although I am sure that many people will say the same about their own course.

It was pleasing to hear our Club's name mentioned in many of the accolades given out today and I feel very proud of that as I become Lady Captain tonight at 7.30. So it is my sad task not to work for the Club, to participate and win things, but just to close it down which is really, really sad. It was so nice today to hear about the Juniors, I think that Canford Academy has played a great part in bringing on the girl juniors in our sport and I think that is going to be sorely missed. I think our academy has done a brilliant job and it was lovely to hear our girls names mentioned.

I think we are the one of the largest ladies section in Dorset we have around 120 lady members, we have about 80 to 100 playing members who need deploying around the County and I would like to thank those clubs who have already contacted me, or my colleagues to offer support, deals and placements for our ladies some of which have already been accepted. We have a lot going to Bulbury Woods and Moors Valley. I also think that Broadstone, Parkstone and Ferndown will also benefit from our arrival.

It is very sad that we are going to be dropped off the list for the Interclub and I hope you won't have too much difficulty finding a new draw which has now got to be made. The real tragedy is that we drew Remedy Oak this year, and now we won't get our free round of golf there, that's a bit sad as we normally have to pay £50 - as it is a partner club of ours we get cheap rates but not anymore.

That is all I really have to say except to say thank you for the County support throughout the years and all that is left to say is Thank You and Good night.

Reply from The County Captain Sheila Davidge

Pat, I would like to wish you luck tonight on behalf of the Executive. Canford have supported Ladies and Juniors very, very much so thank you very much for that and I would like to wish you and all your ladies good golfing in the future. [Addendum: No new draw was necessary for the Interclub Cup](#)

So with no other business, and in her absence, I would like to read this vote of thanks from the County Champion *Melissa McMahon*

13. Vote of thanks,

Good Afternoon Ladies,

Sorry that I can't deliver this in person.

As the 2015 Lady Champion I would like to thank Knighton Heath Golf Club for hosting the Championship. 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.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Hayley Davis and Sophie Keech the best of luck as they have recently turned professional. It has been great fun competing with them over the last 10 years. It would be remiss for me not to thank the county executives for all their hard work in promoting golf within Dorset. In particular Kay Everett and Sue Edwards who did a fantastic job at match week.

On a personal note I would like to thank Lyme Regis Golf Club for all their support and encouragement, it was inspiring to see so many of our ladies supporting me in the championship final. Also my thanks goes to my coach and boss, 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 look forward to defending my title next year at Came Down Golf Club.

Melissa McMahon

County Champion 2008, 2009 and 2015

14. Date of 2016 Annual General Meeting 19th October 2016 at Ferndown Golf Club. 1400 hours.

Signed..... Date.....