



Minutes of the Delegates Committee Meeting held on 13th January 2024 held at The Mendip Golf Club	
	<p>Present :</p> <p>Sandra Ford, President Louise Buxton, Hon. Treasurer Janet Fear, Vice President, SW Rep, Handicap Secretary Angie Frith, Competitions Secretary Helen Hayward, Captain Lloyd Katz, County Junior Organiser Becky Thompson, Hon. Secretary Angela Trenchard, Assistant Competitions Secretary Sarah Whittock, Vice Captain</p>
1.	<p>Apologies :</p> <p>Eileen Binding, Past President Julie Blumgart, Enmore – represented by Tina Morgan and Lorraine Taylor Maggie Dommett, Isle of Wedmore Ruth Dowell, Cricket St Thomas Linda Edmondson, Brean Margaret Gliddon, Past President Jenny Hobbs, Past President Sally Irlam, Past President Carole Paterson, Long Sutton</p>
2.	<p>Minutes of Delegates Committee meeting held on 9th September 2023 were approved and signed by SF.</p>
3.	<p>Finance Report – Louise Buxton - Previously circulated to Delegates</p> <p>Overall, the SLCGA have net income of £2,394 for the period until 8th January 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Affiliation fees are at a similar level to last year (£2,523)• Interest of £389 (plus additional interest in January of £411)• Competition income of £1,605 - will be offset by costs of competitions• Special Projects grant applications are being received, considered and awarded (£600)• Other junior costs include facility fees for 2022-23 as well as 2023-24• Creditor £2,714 relates to the iGolf surplus grant received, which will be spent on developing junior golf

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior coaching account aims to break even each year <p>LB summarised the Finance reports.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Captain’s Report – Helen Hayward</p> <p>Awaiting report.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Competitions Secretary – Angela Frith</p> <p>All the competitions are now live and can be booked so please do encourage all your members to have a look and start entering.</p> <p>The posters and details of each are on the relevant competition pages of the SLCGA website. There are links through to the SGU website for booking and I’m delighted to see that entries are starting to come in now.</p> <p>This includes the England Golf South West Foursomes competition that Somerset is organising this year, on October 7th at Clevedon.</p> <p>We did change the date and venue for the Bowmaker after the Senior ladies chose the same week and venue for their Bowmaker, which we felt would split the entries and we would both lose competitors. It is now on 31st May at Wells and I was very grateful to them for being so accommodating at reduced notice.</p> <p>We will shortly be thinking about 2025 competition dates and venues so that we can publicise them early and won’t have similar clashes next year.</p> <p>The Rogers Cup and Centenary Plate draws have been made and were read out at the meeting. They will be available on the website later today.</p> <p>Angela and I will shortly do a newsletter introducing ourselves and encouraging entry to the various competitions, so please do circulate this to your members when you get it.</p> <p>There is now a calendar of all events on the front page of the website https://www.somersetladiesgolf.org, which includes County competitions, Seniors, Past Captains, Juniors, other (intercounty, EG and significant dates) and all your club’s Opens. Please send me details to compsec@somersetladiesgolf.org and I will include.</p> <p>It would be helpful to have a decent photo of each club to add to the website when advertising competitions as it is more appealing than the logo alone. Please send me photos of your clubhouse, course or iconic image.</p> <p>As discussed at the AGM, can I remind you to think about encouraging your Club Champion to enter the County Championship on Sunday 5th May. 36 holes for £35.</p> <p>Finally, if there is any news about your club or interesting photos, such as that of your Club Champion, please send it to me and I will include on a dedicated Club Page on the website.</p>

6. SW Report – Janet Fear

Wow, thrown in at the deep end!

I have come in at the end of all the discussion about Inter Counties finals, and now the decisions seem to have been made. Women's County Finals will include 8 teams, 2 runners up teams will go as well as the six regional winners. Which Region sends it runners up change each year. (Our region will be 2028)

From 2026 Women's County Finals will move to British Open Week Plus 2, (28th – 31st July 2026) British Open Championships will now be considered Week OC. From 2026 all other competitions will be fixed from that, example OC -1 or OC +2 etc. So SW are discussing what to do with our Regional Inter Counties currently end of June.

Any questions I have a 54-page document!

Fortunately, 2024 is all booked and is OK, National Finals are being run at Stover on 20th September 2024.

SW Championships have been cancelled as the entries have been poor since it lost its EG Order of Merit points. SW intend to run a one-day Seniors competition day instead.

Criteria for 2nd Team players need to be looked at as some counties are struggling to field a 2nd Team. And discussions about the possibility of a Senior League similar to the 2nd Team league are being had.

Dorset and Cornwall are looking to Merge with their Unions, joining Devon and Wiltshire who have already merged. Gloucestershire like us have no plans to merge. The Ladies SW website, may merge with the Men's SW website, they have a gender neutral web address South West Counties Golf Association (swcga.co.uk) and this will also save costs.

From EG

Girls Golf Rocks and now Get into Golf Rookies (to include the boys) is to be promoted again.

Respect In Golf likely to end up mandatory for club by end of 2024.

igolf continues to grow 62K have signed up, 7.5k have moved into club membership. Now we have iplay, a recreational app for non-members to track their scores, at any type of golf facility (even crazy golf!)

EG are encouraging everyone to go Digital and use the EG App.

7. Junior Report – Lloyd Katz

Despite being very wet, our Somerset Junior Girls winter coaching programme has started well. This year we have 63 girls in 6 coaching squads according to ability and age.

As a junior committee we are currently exploring a number of opportunities to grow the game of golf in the south of the county. We have already approached several clubs to check their appetite to get more involved in supporting this project. Our approach will be to have golf introductory sessions in schools and invite those interested to assessment days at Enmore Park, Taunton and Pickeridge, Cricket St Thomas and Minehead. The target group would be 7, 8, and 9 year olds. If your club is in the south of the county, not mentioned but may be interested please could you email, juniors@somersetladiesgolf.org

We have a full programme of golf in 2024. All our known dates for next year are available on the combined county calendar on the Somerset Ladies website.

Spring Meeting

We kick off our new season with our Spring Meeting on the 12th of April 2024 at Weston Super Mare.

County Championships

Our county championship date has had to move a week earlier due to the Regional SWIC. It was originally planned for the 30th June 2023 at Clevedon but will now be hosted at Enmore Park on the 23rd of June 2024.

Autumn Meeting

Our Autumn meeting is on 20th October 2024 at Burnham and Berrow.

Junior Opens

We are wanting to advertise junior opens this year. Please could you let me know about club junior open dates. Please could you also let me know who your Junior Organiser or club contact is for the event. Thank you to all the clubs and Delegates for all your continued support for junior golf.

8. Handicap Assessor Report – Janet Fear

Here we go again.

Information about the changes are dripping out of England Golf. Some new resources are on the website, Handicap committees need to check for these, but I haven't found the New Rules of Handicapping on there yet.

Hopefully your handicap committee listened in to the Webinar in January, and have booked their Face-to-Face Workshop in February to learn more about the changes coming in on the 1st April.

The main change is the Course rating minus Par which may well alter your Course Handicap as will using your unrounded CH before applying Handicap Allowances to get a Playing Handicap.

Other changes are Expected scoring, for holes not played and also for 9 hole rounds. This is a closed calculation.

4BBB competitions being used for handicaps for those pairs who get scores of 42 points and above. There is a document in the resources showing how the missing scores for a player will be calculated.

	<p>Standardising Par, we used to work out Par by using the length of the hole but, for example, if a gender has a par 5 and a forward tee which is a par 4, before CR-PAR comes into effect you can change that par to a 5 to match the others. CR-PAR will balance the scores.</p> <p>From 1st April short courses, 750 yards for 9 holes and 1500 yards for 18 holes can now be rated.</p> <p>There is plenty of information coming out, we just need to hope that our club software, either IG or Club Systems are on top of all the changes.</p> <p><u>Rules of Golf.</u></p> <p>Not much to report here. I am working with the SGU to sort out referees for this season, and hopefully the SGU are sorting out a Level Two course.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Course Rating Report – Susie Gibbins</p> <p>There are 27 clubs within Somerset with three of them having more than one course – total of 30 courses.</p> <p>We are now on the 10 year re-cycling phase which started last year due to the break with Covid. In order to keep the whole process going, EG want all counties to re-rate 10% of their clubs every year, looking at those that were originally done in Phase 1 and any that have provisional ratings that may expire. In 2024 the courses to be re-rated are:-</p> <p>25 April Tall Pines 20 May Enmore 15 July Tickenham 3 September Isle of Wedmore</p> <p>Because Tickenham is a 9 hole course and we are trying to get some of our course raters on track to becoming Team Leaders we shall also be rating the Mendip Spring Lakeside 9 hole course in August – date to be agreed shortly.</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>Any other business :</p> <p>Proposed change to the first meeting of 2025. Carole Paterson, Long Sutton. <i>This was discussed and it was decided that the majority were in favour of keeping the January meeting. There were 19 delegates voting.</i></p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>Questions :</p> <p>Farrington GC - queried how many of igolfers there are in Somerset. <i>We then went on to discuss how clubs could find out how many igolfers submitted GPS cards at their club.</i></p>
<p>13.</p>	<p>Presentations</p> <p>Alysia Rees and Jean Booth both from Burnham & Berrow GC gave a talk on the award they were given by England Golf.</p>

	Susie Gibbins gave a talk on the importance and a small insight into course rating.
13.	News from the Clubs :
14.	Future Delegate Meeting Dates : Date for next meeting, Monday 20 th May 2024 at 11.00 am at Wells Golf Club followed by 12 holes of golf. Saturday 7 th September 2024 at 10.30 am at The Mendip Golf Club. AGM Monday 18 th November 2024 at 11.00 am at Isle of Wedmore Golf Club.

Signed **Dated**

Sandra Ford, President