



SOMERSEX COUNTY SENIOR LADIES GOLF ASSOCIATION

Officers Meeting
17th February 2025
Isle of Wedmore Golf Club at 11.00am

Present: Christine Harris (President), Jill Paul (Past President), Ros Chidgey (Past Captain), Gill Magrath (Captain), Alison Lee (Vice Captain, Jane Harries (Competition Secretary), Elaine Cullen (Ass.Competition Secretary), Sue Vowles (Membership Secretary), Kate Smith (Secretary).

- 1) Apologies: Jan Bishop, Elaine Cullen
- 2) Minutes held on 5th August 2024 were approved and signed by Christine Harris.
 - a) Matters arising, there were no matters arising.

3. Reports

a) **President** - No Report

b) **Captain**

All the signup sheets have been sent out to the delegates, the only one I haven't heard from is Cricket St Thomas, I have left a message with their office.

None have been returned so far but it is still quite early. I look forward to receiving them, hopefully by the end of the month, if not I will start to chase them up and will then be in contact with Chris and Alison to discuss teams.

Let's hope the weather improves soon and we can get some serious golf in.

A gentle reminder to Delegates to ask members to sign up for matches and competitions especially the Spring Field Day.

c) **Vice-Captain**

Matches

I am in the process of liaising with the contacts in the other counties to arrange the Shield Matches and Friendlies for 2026.

I note that Shield Matches meals have been reduced to one course. I am unclear as to whether this also applies to Friendlies.

Uniform - Current stock is as follows: -

White Polo Shirts with Written Logo - 6 Medium, 4 Large, 3 X Large, 2 XX Large, 3 XXX Large
White Polo Shirts with Wyvern Logo - 1 Small, 2 Medium, 2 Large'

White Fleeces - 1 Small, 1 Medium, 3 Large

I understand there are suggestions that we should look at green polo shirts / sweaters / fleeces and I have looked at several suppliers, including Monmark. I would appreciate clarification as to how a decision on this would be agreed so that we can take this forward.

The Committee agreed that Captain, Gill Magrath and Vice-Captain Alison Lee would obtain samples of green sweatshirts from two companies before making any decisions.

d) Competition Secretary

Golfing Calendar

Following a request from the County, our first scheduled meeting (Spring) at Cricket St Thomas on 14/5 is now a 3 Ball Bowmaker. The 4BBB (enter in pairs) is now the format on our Summer meeting at Tall Pines on 18/6.

There has been email exchanges between the Competition Secretaries of Somerset County, Somerset Past Captains and us with a view to ensuring any duplication of venue/format or dates in the future. It has been agreed to meet or zoom in October before we book the following year, to make positive progress in this matter.

Prize Allocation

There has been some discussion about the home clubs featuring well in the prizes (understandably) so I would like to ask your views on a 'best visitors' prize. Perhaps you could have some thoughts ready for the meeting, please. There may well be a cost implication involved as costs have risen greatly since I last booked competitions in December 2023.

Regarding the winners, the facts are

2024	at Worlebury at Wheathill at Mendip Sp	1st	Stockwood Vale Wheathill Bath	2nd	Worlebury Wheathill WsM	3rd	B & B Wells B & B
2023	at Long Sutton at T & P at C St T		Worlebury T & P C St T		T & P B & B		B & B Orchardleigh

2025 Competitions.

Entries so far this year; Spring Bowmaker 4; Summer 4BBB (in pairs) 6 pairs Autumn Florida 1. Pre-AGM 1 but it is, indeed, very early days.

2026 Competitions

I am waiting for some final dates to come through from the County before I can book firm dates for 2026. In the meantime, I have telephoned a few clubs to give an idea as to how much the prices have increased.

Weston-Super-Mare is getting back to me, as are Minehead.

Long Sutton (online) suggests £42 with bacon bap on arrival, but they would offer £35. I have asked for a further reduction, and they are getting back to me.

Orchardleigh online is £25 pay and play, there is no negotiation. However, they do not have a full catering facility, only sausage rolls, basket meals - chicken scampi etc which will need to be ordered before they go out.

The Mendip - green Fee £40 no negotiation.

Oake Manor - £35 green fee - if no food, no private room provided. £44 for one course meal & Green fee but would have private room for food and prize giving.

It seems that golf clubs have reduced their flexibility on the society green fee price. During my numerous conversations, I have been made aware that the County pays a lump sum of £175 'per hour' of green fees, which equates to a significant reduction in the individual green fee. When it comes to County Senior ladies golf, we are different to some degree and are treated differently.

In my initial telephone enquiries, I avoided using the ones the Seniors have recently used and not ones that are already booked for Past Captains and the County in 2026. Any further ideas would be appreciated. On top of this there are the geographical aspects to consider - not having all in the north/south etc.

Green Fees.

At last year's AGM/9-hole competition when it came to payment, I gently pointed out that there were 12 T&P Ladies in the 9-hole Bowmaker and that they had paid the Club subscription and were paying twice to play their own course. Indeed, T&P reduced the green fee account accordingly. Two issues here. Firstly, I think morally we ought to reimburse the T&P ladies with their entry fee (less £5 towards Prize Fund) rather than swell our coffers with their contribution. Secondly, I am happy to try this negotiation with other clubs, although not sure how successful I will be. It has been raised by the Burnham ladies who I have encouraged to play in the Florida Scramble in September, but they have argued why should they pay £25 each (18 holes) to play their own course. Not sure if this has been raised before or how best to proceed. Your thoughts are invited.

- Green fees - Jill Paul pointed out that Taunton & Pickeridge (T&P) ladies did not want their money back. The Committee agreed not to reimburse the T&P ladies as this would set a precedent and other clubs would be asking for home players not to have to pay a green fee when playing in the Captain's 9 hole Competition.
- After a discussion it was agreed that Home or Away winners can win a trophy with prize money, 2nd Prize to Visitors (Away Team) and 3rd Prize Home or Away Teams. Further prizes would be decided on the day by the Competition Secretary depending on how much money was available for prizes.
- Jane, Alison and Sue will look into Senior Ladies opinions of how they want their competitions to be organised by carrying out a survey. The answers to be available by the next AGM.

ACTION: Jane Harris, Alison Lee and Sue Vowles

e) Treasurer

First of all, my apologies for not attending the meeting but am on holiday from January 27th for 3 weeks so having to do the report in advance.

Lloyds Bank

Lloyds have made some changes. What was the Treasurers account is now called the Community Account. We no longer have free Banking but will pay a monthly account maintenance fee of £4.25. They will also charge for day-to-day Banking but we have 100 free electronic payments per month so I think we should be fine on this. Happily, we have spent the past few years educating everyone away from Cheques, as these are definitely a No from now on.

The Deposit Account is now called a Commercial Instant Access Account, and the interest rate is 1%.

Lloyds are the only provider who really offer accounts for non-profit organisations such as clubs and societies and the only surprise in this day and age, is that we enjoyed free banking for as long as we did!

Balances as at 26th January 2025 are

Current Account £1,114.26

Deposit Account £4,885.53

Subscriptions

These are just starting to come in but it's still early days

Competitions

Nothing much as yet, and probably just as well as we had to change the Spring and Summer competitions due to a clash with County. Once we have the entry forms readily available online via the website we should start to receive entries.

Matches

The County grant of £1,050 will be received in the Spring with a request to chase it from Louise if not received by Easter!

This is not going to be an annual gift but is to assist us in phasing an increase in Match fees to £25 this year and £30 next and to buy us some time whilst we look at ways of boosting our numbers.

f) Membership Secretary

1) Club Delegate Changes

New delegates have been appointed at both Bath Golf Club and the Isle of Wedmore Golf Club, namely:

- Bath GC – Jane Osborne replaced Stephanie Moorfoot
- Isle of Wedmore GC – Lynda Huzal and Marion Warren Smith replaced Eunice Bond and Jenny Thomas

2) Updated Membership Lists for 2025

Delegates were asked in November 2024 to return their updated membership lists for 2025 to me by Friday 28 February 2025. As at 11 February, 14 lists had been received:

- Bath (29 members – an increase of eight members compared with 2024)
- Burnham and Berrow (34 members – an increase of four members compared with 2024)
- Clevedon (16 members – an increase of four members compared with 2024)
- Cricket St Thomas (3 members – no change compared with 2024)
- Enmore (8 members – a loss of three members compared with 2024)
- Long Sutton (26 members – a loss of three members compared with 2024)
- Mendip Spring (17 members – a loss of three members compared with 2024)
- Minehead and West Somerset (16 members – a loss of one member compared with 2024)
- Orchardleigh (14 members – no change compared with 2024)
- Taunton and Pickeridge (21 members – a loss of two members compared with 2024)
- Tall Pines (no members – a loss of one member compared with 2024)
- The Mendip (3 members – a loss of three members compared with 2024)

- Weston-super-Mare (16 members – an increase of two members compared with 2024)
- Worlebury (17 members – a loss of two members compared with 2024)

As of 11 February, the above information details 18 new members but equally a loss of 18 former members, giving an equal balance in membership numbers so far this year. However, eight clubs have yet to provide their membership lists.

A gentle reminder was issued on Friday 7 February to those clubs yet to return their membership list for this year asking them to do so by/on Friday 28 February 2025.

3) **Clubs in Somerset without any SCSLGA Members**

Somerset has 28 golf clubs but, unfortunately, seven do not currently have any SCSLGA members, namely:

- Bleadon Hill
- Cannington
- Farrington Park
- Fossway
- Kingweston
- Tickenham
- Wincanton

Contact was made with these clubs in 2024 in the hope of recruiting new members but sadly there wasn't any take-up.

- 4) **Membership Spreadsheet for Website** - I am in the process of updating the spreadsheet for 2025 and, once all the individual club membership lists have been received, will send the completed document to Chris Harris, President, for uploading to our website.

g) **Secretary**

Christmas cards were sent to Honorary Members.

As previously noted at the AGM there will be a vacancy on the committee for a Secretary to take over from me after the AGM in October. Could this be advertised on the website?

- 4) **Trophy Retrieval for Presentation at AGM.** It was agreed that those who had won trophies on the day were allowed to keep their trophy for the whole year in which they were won.

- 5) **Structure of Committee.** There is no requirement for Past President or Past Captain to attend committee meetings, they can be in receipt of all the paperwork, so they still have a voice. The Committee voted and agreed unanimously that this will be in 2026.

The Constitution wording, under Management, will have to be changed.

ACTION: Christine Harris

6) **Duties of Officers and Delegates - Allowances**

- a. The Captain shall be entitled to claim mileage and her meal cost when attending matches.
- b. The Vice Captain, if standing in for the Captain, shall be entitled to claim mileage and her meal cost.

- c. The President when attending a match or competition will receive travel allowance but no food allowance.
- d. The Competition Secretary when attending a competition will receive travel allowance and a £10 meal allowance.
- e. The Assistant Competition Secretary, if standing in for the Competition Secretary, will receive travel allowance and £10 meal allowance.

In Item 10 in Duties for officers, change the wording to read 'In Shield Matches the home team pays for green fee, both teams pay for teas and food for both teams.'

The Committee agreed that a bar tab should be available for limited refreshments for volunteers who help at competitions and matches.

ACTION: Jan Bishop

- 7) **Survey of membership reference fees, age limit, travel to matches** is to be held and result to be made known by the AGM.

ACTION: Alison Lee, Jane Harries, Sue Vowles.

8) **Possible closer liaison with the County**

The county is sympathetic about adding an age 60s plus competition to a couple of their own competitions.

A discussion took place regarding membership of the County, through an affiliation fee of £12 of which we gain no benefit and then pay an extra £5 a year to be a senior. If there was closer liaison with the County, we may not have to pay such a lot, however, this might mean as part of the County we would just become 'the over 55s group.'

There was a discussion regarding comparison with other counties, some clubs don't charge to be a separate membership, many clubs are inclusive and help their senior members financially with expenses for all competitions, food, accommodation where necessary. To cope with rising prices the committee felt that we shouldn't have to keep raising our prices to take part in our own competitions especially as not only have we paid a £12 affiliation fee but £5 senior membership fee, to then have to pay entry, food, travel expenses as well seems unfair.

The feeling is that the County could give our Senior membership more support and encouragement along with more help financially if not fund us altogether.

The Committee decided that an approach should be made to the SLCGA President to discuss the matter, and the President offered to meet with the County President to discuss the potential of more support financially.

ACTION: Christine Harris

9) **A.O.B.**

South - West Vets matches are now on the website

AGM costs to be discussed between Competitions Secretary for prizes and President green fee at her home club.

Competition Secretary asked if the Officer's meetings could be held at different clubs, but an analysis proved that Wedmore was the most central meeting place for most people to travel to.

Meeting Ended at12.50pm.....

Signed

Date.....