



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held at the Isle of Wedmore Golf Club on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 11.00 am**

**Present:** Pauline Young (Farrington), Tina Davies (Wells), Katrina Foote (Wells), Jenny Davis (Wells), Kathy Orme (Wells), Yvette Gregg (Stockwood Vale), Ruth Dowell (Cricket St Thomas), Sheila Grant (Oake Manor), Lyn Gridley (Taunton & Pickering), Jill Paul (Taunton & Pickering, Seniors), Kay Lockett (Minehead, Seniors), Ruth Ball (Minehead and West Somerset), Christine Harris (Saltford), Janet Street (Wheathill), Janet Fear (Worlebury, Handicap Advisor), Pat Roscow (Farrington Park Rep), Di Richardson (Tall Pines), Pauline Cornish (Mendip Spring), Sam Robinson (Bath Golf Club), Jean Booth (Burnham & Berrow), Sally Irlam (Weston Super Mare), Carole Paterson (Long Sutton), Anne Collins (Mendip), Cathy Olive (Isle of Wedmore), Maggie Dommett (Isle of Wedmore), Becky Thompson (Wheathill, Hon. Secretary Elect for SLCGA).

**Executive Committee:** Fran Davies President, Sandra Ford Vice President Elect and EGSW Regional Committee Rep, Gill Brown County Captain, Helen Hayward County Vice Captain, Jackie McDonald Competition Secretary, Angela Frith Assistant Competition Secretary, Louise Buxton Hon. Treasurer, Lesley Matthews Hon. Secretary, Lloyd Katz County Junior Organiser.

### **1. President's Address: Fran Davies**

Good morning everyone and welcome to the 2022 AGM. Thankfully the room is looking a lot fuller than last year when people were still reluctant to gather inside.

Before we begin the meeting could we please observe a minute's silence for those ladies who have died during the last year. Thank you.

A highlight of the year was our first team winning the SWIC championships again. Stress levels rose on the last morning. (Gill will explain) we needed a very good result against Wiltshire and Cornwall needed to beat Dorset. I know when the last putt from Cornwall went in the hole to win the match, I gave some Cornish woman huge hug! She took it well! It was a great honour to present Gill with the trophy, a beautiful dog. The team were very excited to be heading to The National Finals for the 2nd year running. This time at Stoneham Golf Club in Hampshire.

Somerset hosted the SWIC this year at Clevedon. The organisation was impeccable and Reece Miller, the executive manager and his team pulled out all the stops. Heather Priestly, the ladies' captain and her team of helpers were fantastic and couldn't have been more helpful. A special thank you to Janet Fear and her team of referees, and of course to those behind the scenes, in a small room, Jackie MacDonald, Angie Frith and Sandra Ford, ensuring that the matches ran smoothly and the results duly posted on the board.

We were all very proud to be part of such a successful few days.

A big thank you to Helen Hayward, a great support to Gill and the team. Helen has a demanding full-time job and I am very appreciative of her time spent with the 2nd team.

The County 2nd team were excellent too and beat Cornwall in the SW Finals at Tiverton. Another stressful day! I will let Helen explain. Well done Helen!

Gill, our retiring county captain has been brilliant and led the team to 2 national finals. The team played well and came 4th, Gill will elaborate. It is a lot of work taking the team away twice a year, but very very well done.

The county championships were also held at Clevedon this year and won by Hannah Woodley, setting a new course record, a great achievement. Congratulations to Hannah and Steve, they will be having a baby next year and probably little time for golf, with priorities at home.

I am very fortunate to have a great committee. They work very hard, are totally committed to the task in hand and most importantly are good fun. We recently had a “bonding day” courtesy of Clevedon, with an Executive Meeting in the morning followed by golf and tea. Something to be repeated hopefully next year.

Jackie McDonald is staying on another year as competitions secretary to help Angie. Very many thanks Jackie.

Lesley, our secretary has stayed on an extra year as we could not find a replacement for her. She has been so helpful to me and we will miss her, but probably more than she will miss us. Thank you so much Lesley I don't know what we have done without you.

We have a new secretary Rebecca Thompson from Wheathill. I am sure she will be an excellent replacement and I know she loves all things golf! I am sure you will enjoy your new role with the committee.

Jean Booth from B&B will be taking over from Sandra Ford as England Golf SW Regional Committee Rep. I have known Jean for many years and I know she will be totally committed, and I am sure she has taken on a very interesting role.

Thank you Sandra you have been a wonderful England Golf SW Rep. but also supportive of all Somerset Golf events, and you have also been a great support to me and the county teams, always there and helping out or just a spectator.

You may have spotted a man in the room? He is Lloyd Katz our newly appointed CJO.

A big welcome Lloyd. I think I am correct in saying that he is the first man on the Executive Committee? Congratulations! I know he will bring lots of new ideas to the juniors and the Junior Committee.

As you will see we haven't appointed a new vice captain yet. Alysia Rees (past county captain) from B&B has very kindly stepped in to help until we have found a new vice. They will be responsible for the 2nd team, who play 2 matches a year against SW Counties and hopefully a 3rd match if they get through to the finals. The role is also to support the Captain. I have been vice and captain and I can assure you it is a most rewarding and enjoyable time. If you are interested in putting your name forward please chat to me or Helen afterwards

Thank you to many people who work hard behind the scenes. Janet Fear for all her refereeing and all her work with handicaps, hopefully by now we have more understanding of how the WHS works.

Thank you to Chris Harris for all her work on our web site.

Thank you to Carole Paterson for her huge support and thorough work with welfare and safety issues. Thank you to Susie Gibbins and Di Yates who have worked on The Course Ratings since 2014 and are looking to retire in 2024. They are seeking new members for The County Course Rating Team. Rating is carried out between April and October and now that the initial ratings of all Somerset Clubs has been carried out it is necessary under the EG 10 year plan for them to be re-rated. Currently this would involve the re-assessment of 3 clubs a year. A schedule for this has been devised and sent to all clubs.

Training on and off the course would be provided at county level with back up from the Regional Course Advisor. Expenses are paid.

Anyone interested please let me know or Rebecca, our new secretary, and we can put you in touch with Susie Gibbins or Di Yates.

Thank you Gill for all your hard work bringing together such a great Somerset Team. Time to retire and enjoy a rest!

Last but not least, thanks to all of you, the county delegates, who all help to make the golf at club and county level such a success in Somerset.

### **The Honorary Secretary convened the meeting for 2022**

Madam President, Captain, Ladies, welcome to the 2022 Annual General Meeting of the Somerset Ladies County Golf Association. Apologies have been received from the following:-

Eileen Binding (Past President)  
Doreen Cummings Prize Winner  
Linda Edmondson (Brean)  
Susie Gibbins (Course Rating Adviser)  
Margaret Gliddon (Past President)  
Linda Hill (Past President)  
Jenny Hobbs (Past President)  
Alison Lee (Clevedon)  
Amanda Mayne (Saltford and Past President)  
David Owen (Junior Coaching)  
Joan Stone (Wheathill)

### **President, Ladies,**

I would just like to thank all the delegates for their support throughout the last four years. I'm handing over to Rebecca who, I'm sure will do a wonderful job. She will be ably supported by Angie Frith, who is hoping to move us into the future by enabling all files to be stored in "The Cloud" instead of being stored in large plastic boxes which have to be transferred from one Hon Sec's car boot to the next, only to spend the next three years in their garden shed!

One of my winter jobs has been updating the Delegates' contact list and Rebecca will be sending out a request for your Club details for 2023 in the new year and will then be compiling the contact list for next year.

The fixture list will also be updated and posted on the website in the new year.

I'm off to Florida next week to inspect the destruction of our home there by Hurricane Ian. However, I will still be online to help with any queries and to enable a smooth handover of the Hon. Secretary's job.

I hope you will all continue to support the County Association, even though we may have to become women instead of ladies and I look forward to keeping in touch with many of you at County competitions next year.

## 2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2021

The minutes of the 2021 AGM approved and signed as a true and correct record. There were no matters arising.

**Proposer** Jenny Davis, Wells

**Seconder** Jean Booth, Burnham & Berrow

## 3. Hon. Treasurer's Report and Statement of Accounts

**Madam President, Captain, Ladies and Gentlemen.**

1. This has been my 1<sup>st</sup> year as your Treasurer. I would like to present the accounts for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022, which have been audited by our auditor Judith Sperring.
2. The Balance Sheet shows that we have **£22,593** in our Current Account and there is **£25,000** in a Bank Deposit Account. In summary, we have plenty of money! We will continue to spend this money to further the interests of ladies and girls golf in Somerset in accordance with our constitution.
3. The stocks include **£141** of presentation glasses and logoed merchandise, together with **£530** of logoed golf balls, which we present as 2s prizes in our competitions and are used by our teams when representing Somerset.
4. The prepayment of **£700** relates to a deposit for the team accommodation for the 2023 InterCounty Finals, which will be held at Cumberwell Park in Wiltshire.
5. The £1,750 creditor was due to England Golf and relates to affiliation fees that we collect from our members on their behalf.
6. On the Profit & Loss Account, the majority of our income comes from the Somerset Ladies Affiliation Fees (**£13,703**) and from the County Card payments (**£5,347**). In January 2022 we decided to reduce the affiliation fees paid by our junior girls from £10 (including county card) to only £1, which is the same as the Somerset boys. In 2022, we have received affiliation fees from 1578 ladies and 80 junior girls.
7. Looking at the income from the various County Competitions:
  - we made a loss of **£373** this year on the County Championship. When the Championship green fees were originally negotiated with Clevedon it was for a 3 day competition, so the total costs exceeded the entry fees charged for the 1 day event.
  - Although the Rogers Cup also appears to have run at a loss, this is not the case. The figures include the costs of both the 2021 and 2022 finals because the 2021 finals were played after our financial year end of 30<sup>th</sup> September. We have actually made a small profit in both years.
  - The Fowler Lock Greensomes was sadly not played in 2022.
8. We received a grant of £2,000 from England Golf for hosting the SouthWest Intercounties at Clevedon. As our expenses only came to £825, we made a net profit of £1,175. (And we won!)
9. Overall our team expenses are less than 2021.
  - Intercounty match week costs of **£3,097** relate to travel, food and accommodation for the

event at Clevedon, and were about £1,500 less than in 2021.

- the total costs of taking the 1<sup>st</sup> team to the National Finals at Stoneham golf club near Southampton were about **£4,945**. We received another grant of £4,000 from England Golf as a contribution towards our costs and £211 of late claims will be included in the 2023 accounts.

10. The amount of **£600** for Honorariums relates to the grants given to The County Captain, President, Vice-Captain, and Auditor.
11. Executive expenses of £1,275 relates mainly to travel, which has increased because we have raised the mileage claim rate to the approved AA rate, and also includes £178 for the purchase of some more SLCGA Executive badges.
12. Back in January, we realised that our insurance cover for our beautiful trophies was inadequate. So we had all the trophies for the Somerset Ladies, Juniors, Past Captains and Seniors properly valued and catalogued. We have increased our insurance premiums accordingly. The Seniors and Past Captains have contributed to these costs.
13. The SLCGA provide financial support to our Junior girls through a **£750** annual contribution for Junior Coaching and the funding of the Junior Spring meeting, County Junior Championship and Southwest Junior Intercounties. The 2022 Junior Intercounties cost **£4,105**, which is much more than last year when there was a problem with the accommodation. I also oversee the Junior finances and am pleased to report that in 2022 the Junior Committee have started to award Junior Performance and development bursaries. The Junior coaching account balance at 30<sup>th</sup> September was **£11,961**. The Junior accounts have been audited this year for the 1<sup>st</sup> time.

Does anyone have any questions?

Louise Buxton presented the audited accounts for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022, which had been circulated to all executive committee members in advance of the meeting with explanations of certain items:-

The total bank balance was £47,593

The total affiliation fees (including county cards) received from our members amounted to £19,050

The net profit for the year was £2,586

The junior coaching account balance at 30<sup>th</sup> September was £11,961.

The issue was raised that the combined funds in the SLCGA and junior coaching accounts are too much and how will these funds be used in future. A discussion followed as to possible uses of the excess funds which included junior bursaries and keeping competition entry fees low.

The accounts were adopted by the meeting.

**Proposer** Sam Robinson, Bath

**Secunder** Janet Fear, Worlebury

The President thanked the Hon. Treasurer for her hard work.

#### **4. Reports**

The following reports marked with an asterisk are attached to these minutes. The reports not marked will follow:

**County Captain**

**Gill Brown**

This year's South West Inter Counties was hosted by Somerset at Clevedon Golf Club, the course was in excellent condition, and many positive comments received from the other counties. The event ran smoothly with the help from Reece Miller and his team at Clevedon. Sandra, Jackie and Angie excellently ran the Tournament Office throughout the event.

Somerset never make things easy, entering the last day we were level on match points with Dorset (6) but had won one fewer game point. Our match against Wiltshire was won in style winning 5-0, and then we waited on the result from the Dorset/Cornwall match, with Cornwall managing a 3-2 victory we were level on match points but had won one more game. This was an amazing result for the team, winning the Doris Abraham Trophy for the second year running.

The team which represented Somerset was Jade Cope, Jess Haines, Frankie Dezis, Ellen Reakes, Abby Gray, Aimee Sawyer, Sarah Burnell and Helen Hayward. The same seven players played in all the matches and have since been named the magnificent seven.

County 1st Team colours were awarded to Jess, Frankie, Abby and Ellen.

Somerset then qualified for the National Finals held at Stoneham Golf Club, the team which represented Somerset at Clevedon were joined by Harriet Lockley and Hannah Woodley. Stoneham Golf course was in excellent condition and the greens were very testing and fast.

All our matches were very closely contested, with many of the games going to the final holes. Somerset finished 5th this year, with a youthful Essex team the national champions. The standard of golf throughout the tournament was exceptional.

The support of Helen Hayward my vice-captain has been excellent throughout my time as captain and the preparation and support from our County Coach Terry Williams was as always great.

I've had an amazing 4 years being part of the county setup, leading the team to two national finals. I have been very lucky to have led a wonderful squad, who have matured into outstanding golfers. Many of them have supported National Events, travelling all over the UK.

The Captaincy now passes to Helen, the future is bright, an exciting time for Somerset golf with the wealth of talent coming through the junior ranks and I'm sure there will be more success over the coming years.

**Vice Captain**

**Helen Hayward \***

Madam President, fellow Committee members and Delegates,

I've come a long way since my first ever 2nd team match in 2009 for Somerset. It's been a whirlwind of a first and only year as Vice Captain.

I would like to start by thanking the committee for all their support throughout the year.

### **2nd team matches**

The first 2nd team match was against Wiltshire hosted by Wells GC back in the end of May.

The team playing was Abby Gray, Ellen Reakes, Frankie Dezis, Libbie Dezis, Lili Marshall and Megan Wilde.

The team started with 3-0 win in the morning foursomes games, trying out a few new pairings. Then in the singles Somerset remained undefeated with 4 wins and 2 halves. Special well done to Lili winning her first ever second team matches 6&5 and 5&3.

The second regional match played in early June was held at Knowle GC versus Gloucestershire.

The team was Abby Gray, Ellen Reakes, Ffion Richardson, Frankie Dezis, Jess Haines and Lili Marshall.

After a 2-1 win in the morning we knew that the singles would be a close run game. After three of the six matches went down the last, Somerset finished with a 6-3 win and were into the 2nd team finals for the second year. Again another well done to Ffion playing in her first 2nd team match winning her foursomes 4&3 and halving her singles match.

## **2nd team finals**

After the success at intercounties at Clevedon Abby, Frankie, Jess and Ellen all achieved their first team colours. This meant they were no longer eligible to play for the second team.

With the 'loss' of the four players, a new and very young team of Libbie Dezis, Lilianna Marshall, Ffion Richardson, Abi Moore and Megan Wilde all played in the second team final at Tiverton versus an experienced Cornwall, alongside our only over 18 player Amelia Matthews.

After a 2-1 defeat in the morning foursomes, the two losses going down the 18th hole, we had an uphill battle to try and retain the trophy.

Somerset made the turn up in all the singles matches, but Cornwall weren't going to give up that easily.

Amelia and Abi secured their points in the singles. Lili and Ffion both lost in closely contested matches (losing on 18 and 17 respectively).

This left the result on the last two matches. We needed 1.5 points to draw with Cornwall!

It was a nail biting finish with Libbie going down the last all square and Megan going down the last 1 up. Megan played the last hole beautifully to win her match and Libbie secured a half. This meant Cornwall and Somerset were both on 4.5 points.

After a quick debate on how we calculated the count back. It went back to holes won to decide the winner. Somerset coming out on top with a couple of big wins.

The stand out matches, which brought home the shield for Somerset were a 7&6 win for Amelia and Lili in the morning foursomes, and a 6&5 win for Abi in her very first 2nd team singles match.

The girls were a pleasure and did Somerset proud.

## **Inter counties and county finals**

I learnt a lot attending the inter counties at Clevedon having only previously attended as a player and was so proud to be able to attend county finals. The first team is full of impressive strength and depth in golfing ability, we are fortunate to have such a lovely team who aren't playing for themselves but truly playing for Somerset.

## **Conclusion**

The future is bright for the 2nd team and I look forward to seeing these new talents make their way into the first team and to future girls who are progressing from the impressive junior program.

To conclude my report, I would like to say a massive thank you to Gill, for her support, knowledge and friendship, I know she will be a tough act to follow. I am so proud to try and continue in her footsteps and take the team to county finals again.

I hope I can continue the success Gill and the team has grown.

This is a brilliant group to be a part of, the team is so supportive of each other and I look forward to inter counties at Cumberwell Park at the beginning of July.

## **Junior Reports**

**Fran Davies \***

This year, since April and in the absence of a County Junior Organiser, I have had the pleasure of acting as a stand-in.

As always the junior programme has been very full this year. Somerset has so much to offer juniors; coaching, competitions and matches. In fact the most recent Autumn Meet at B&B, a Texas scramble, saw a very small 5 year old competing.

The Spring Meet at Tall Pines was won by Connie Cox from Mendip.

The following are some achievements from the girls this year.

The Girls' Championships over 36 holes, was held at Mendip in June. This was won by Frankie Dezis who plays off + 2.5 Her sister Libbie won the U15 36 hole gross, and the youngest in the family, Maisie won the 18 hole gross. A very impressive afternoon for the Dezis family! This year Frankie entered 16 national competitions, she came 1st in The West of England under 18s and tied 8th in the Helen Holme Scottish Ladies Open, amongst many other good results; too many to mention.

Libbie Dezis was chosen this year to join the SW training squad consisting of 8 girls, joining sister Frankie, Ellen Reakes from Mendip and Jess Haines from B&B. This half of the squad are from Somerset. Maisie Dezis, qualified to play at Quinta da Lago in the Justin Rose Daily Telegraph Junior final recently as one of the nett winners. This is a huge achievement, so many girls try to qualify for this.

You might be thinking that my report is all about the Dezis family! However, there are a lot more very talented juniors in Somerset.

Lilliana Marshall from Farrington, Abbi Moore from Wedmore and Ffion Richardson from Mendip all played in the County Championships at Clevedon in May.

Ffion has had a lot of success this year, winning the R&A Under 12 championships and she also won the Scotland Under 12 championships. She came 2nd in the Welsh Under 14 championships, finally gaining 2nd in The Wee Wonders Championships narrowly missing 1st place by 1 shot.

Harriet Lockley from B&B plays off +4.5 and has played in 13 competitions abroad this year and came 25th in The World Girls Championships in Canada.

The SW Inter Counties this year was held at Carlyon Bay in August during the very hot weather. Thank goodness for a gentle sea breeze which kept us cooler than we might have been! Unfortunately, The Premier Inn, where we all stayed had no sea breeze!



We decided to take the younger girls this year to give them the opportunity and experience to play for Somerset, as the older juniors have played for the 1st, 2nd and junior teams many times.

Four of us took the team to Cornwall, Sandra Ford did all the starting and Dave Owen and his wife Jenny organised the safeguarding and welfare. We were all taxis and ferried the girls to and from the course each day. As always there was never enough time to fill in team sheets, work out shots, fill out cards, find somewhere to sit and have breakfast or lunch! and get the matches underway!

The team, apart from Megan Wilde had never represented Somerset before and they were brilliant. They received many compliments from other teams. Our young team was:-

Megan Wilde (acting captain) Mendip Spring

Libbie Dezis Farrington

Ava Hirons Saltford

Abi Moore. Wedmore

Liliana Marshall Farrington

Ffion Lockley. B&B

Harriet Loveys Saltford

Amber Adams (reserve ) Wells and she drove up with Terry Williams on Monday morning.

Leah Bowden has been Junior Captain this year but alas tested positive for Covid the evening before we drove down to Cornwall, this was very disappointing for us and also, of course for her. Megan was thrilled to be the acting team captain for the 3 days. She will be the junior captain for 2023.

The girls experienced some tough matches as they were played off handicap and sometimes they were having to give lots of shots. The ground was very hard and difficult with lots of run as of course no rain had fallen for quite some time.

The foursomes pairing of Libbie Dezis and Millie Pearce was brilliant they played all the matches and lost none. Liliana Marshall had tough games and played very well, Abi Moore played 5 won 3 and halved one, a great achievement. All the girls played well and going into the last day we had defeated Glos and Wilts but lost to Cornwall and Devon. We played Dorset but narrowly lost 3/2 leaving us in 4th place, we were very happy with the result and Cornwall were the winners, (several of their girls were members of Carlyon Bay! ) It was a terrific experience for all the girls and considering it was the first time they had played as a team they did exceptionally well.

As there was no food provided for the teams on Sunday and very little on Monday we ate out twice. The girls looked their best all dressed up and their behaviour was impeccable. Eating once at The Premier Inn (not to be recommended) and once in Charlestown, by the sea, which was excellent. Once we had all found our way there! We all had fish and chips or burgers of course! Leaving us Tuesday evening after the Gala Dinner for a paddle!

The team shows a lot of promise and all looks very exciting for the future of Somerset golf.

As Gill has mentioned, 4 of the county 1st team that won The SWIC championships were juniors and went on to the National Final at Stoneham in September.

As Helen's report stated the County 2nd team made it to the final against Cornwall. All of the team were juniors, except one, and the team were brilliant and as you know we won.

The girls have also played friendly matches against Ladies' Sections at Enmore, Long Sutton and Wedmore, and against the Devon Junior team. We are very grateful to these clubs and their ladies for these matches and for making their courses available. I know the girls thoroughly enjoy them and the sign up sheet is always full. Next year there will be a match against the U16 boys. We are also grateful to other clubs for the use of

their courses for competitions, Mendip, B&B, Tall Pines and 9 hole competitions at Tickenham, Wheathill and Weston Super Mare. Apologies if I have missed thanking other clubs.

A small bursary of £750 per year has been set up to help girls in the Somerset Coaching Squads, the fund is divided as follows. Junior Squads, up to Development £250, and the Performance Squad £500. This year 4 bursaries were awarded.

The Junior Committee has recently been strengthened by 2 parents, James Wilde and Sarah Whittock it is very helpful to have parent's views on many issues.

Eileen Binding has chaired the meetings and has worked consistently hard over many years, she is a fount of golfing knowledge.

Dave Owen has taken over the coaching and runs many "First for Golf" competitions for the younger ones. His work with the juniors is invaluable.

I would like to give a warm welcome to Lloyd Katz our new CJO. He is very well qualified for the role and comes from a background of teaching sport and organising events and is passionate about golf. We look forward to working together and I know he will be first class.

As you will have realised the Somerset Juniors are exceptionally talented. There are many girls, receiving coaching, waiting in the wings to join our teams. I know you agree that the future of Somerset Junior girls looks very bright.

## **COACHING**

**Dave Owen (read by Lesley Matthews) \***

1. The last 21/22 coaching session took place on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2022. This year we provided coaching for 84 x girls across the county at 5 different venues:
  - a. Burnham & Berrow GC, Performance Squad coached by Katie Rule and Lee Corfield,
  - b. The Mendip GC, Development North Squad coached by Alex Todd,
  - c. Long Sutton GC, Development South Squad coached by Richard Anthrobus,
  - d. Wells GC, Futures North Squad coached by Terry Williams and Chris Coles,
  - e. Saltford GC, Academy Squad coached by Chris Coles.
2. Looking forward to the 22/23 coaching programme, we have maintained the same coaches and venues, but have introduced a Memorandum of Understanding for the Professionals, a new Code of Conduct for the girls and each girl has completed a Goal Setting Form with their Squad Professionals to give everyone a more focused and committed programme of supporting activities (h/c reduction; increased entry to competitions and individual practice regimes). The first coaching sessions took place on 9 October 2022.

## **EG SW Regional Committee Rep.**

**Sandra Ford**

At least this year the SW Region managed to hold some events. Unfortunately, once again the SW Championship at Upavon in August was cancelled. This is the third year in succession that this event has been cancelled and will be the subject of much debate in the coming months.

Somerset had responsibility for the SW Inter Counties at Clevedon. Not only did Somerset host the event extremely well but as you all know Gill Brown's team qualified for the National Finals for the second year. For next season Somerset is hosting the Regional Australian Spoons at Long Sutton Golf Club on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Please do encourage your clubs to advertise this event well and to hold qualifiers. The SW Regional winning pair will play in the National Final at Woodhall Spa Bracken Course on 18<sup>th</sup> August. So come on ladies let's get a Somerset pair in the Final!

England Golf have held a mixture of physical and virtual meetings during the year in order to keep counties up to date. The main project for 2023 will be the upgrading of the facilities at Woodhall Spa and a renovation of the Woodhall Spa Golf Club Members' Club House. It is a very exciting and ambitious project.

I encourage you all to look frequently at the England Golf site although I will admit navigating is somewhat difficult. However, there is a vast amount of information there to help you as a player.

I have enjoyed my role as SW Representative over the last four years. Thank you for all the support from the Exec, Clubs and you the Somerset ladies. I think now is the perfect time for a fresh perspective on the SW Committee and a thorough review of what works and what doesn't. Jean Booth will do a splendid job with her considerable experience of golf and her organisational skills.

### **Competition Secretary**

**Jackie McDonald**

2022 has been a different year, we had hoped to return to normality after covid and lockdowns, but the County Competitions seem to have been affected in the same way that many Clubs competitions have been. Ladies' priorities have changed, with many now just wanting to play for fun.

Travel time and the cost of playing has also been a factor in some Ladies deciding not to play in County competitions, especially if they are being asked to pay £25 to play on their own course.

Having said that, it must be remembered that for all the County run competitions £25 is a cheap way to play another course especially when green fees are now often over £50. Our entry fee also includes automatic entry for a 2's comp.

Despite the pressures, we will not be increasing our entry fees for 2023, but trying to find host clubs who will accommodate the County on a reduced green rate is becoming increasingly difficult.

Details of all the fixtures are on the website and the posters will be circulated in early January.

We had to cancel the Fowler Lock for the second year running due to lack of entries, Greensomes and Foursomes are not popular formats, so next year the FL will be a 4BBB event.

Rule Changes, the main rule change effects the RC/CP ..if a lady has played for her club and then moves club in the same season, then she is ineligible to play for her new club until the following years competition.

IG, the move to signing up for competitions on IG has worked pretty well. Sign up for all 2023 competitions will open on 1st March. I am very strict in that there are no late entries allowed. When sign up has been open for 4 months and ladies haven't entered, then there will be no sympathy when they ask if they can be added after the sign up has closed ( and yes this does happen)

IG does provide me with a source of amusement..... on the front page under the date, name and venue, in bold, are the details of the BACS payment ( also on the website, general comp rules) I still get e mails saying " I have entered but I can't see how to pay".

My particular favourite comments from this year are...

I have entered myself twice

I have entered the wrong competition

I have entered my husband....

Hopefully, now we have had bedding in process my amusement will be curtailed for next year!

Information - Angie and I have undertaken some research among the delegates, as many ladies golfers are not aware that the County Competitions are for them. There is an assumption that "County" means lower handicappers.

It appears the stopping block is Ladies Committees. Delegates feed information from our general meetings back to the committee, but how widely circulated are committee meeting minutes? If at all, or are then just put on a wall or in a file?

So, we are on a publicity drive! In February 2023 a newsletter will go to all the clubs with a request that every lady member is forwarded the newsletter via e mail and a copy is put somewhere prominent, whether that be a clubhouse noticeboard, a changing room board on the back of a loo door. This will give general basic information to Ladies about who we are, what we offer and how to access competitions.

Please do plug our competitions, the FL, FB and Bowmaker are all events where ladies can play alongside their friends and their handicap is not affected. Ladies who enter the combined Handicap Championships can even choose playing partners even if they are in different competitions.....what's not to like!

Reminder of RC/CP entries to us by 31/12

Details of all the competitions, the rules, trophies ups for grabs and after, the winners and pics are on the SLCGA website. We do have a dedicated Facebook page and I invite all of us playing to take a photos or two and post them online - anything showing us coming together and playing the game we love is always a great way to encourage others.

Finally, my ongoing thanks to the Exec for their support, to Chris Harris for looking after the website, to Angie for being the most computer able assistant I have worked with and who has worked really hard at collating and updating all our historical records and getting them onto the infamous " steam driven County laptop"

But particular thanks to the Clubs and Ladies sections who have hosted our events so efficiently and to all the ladies who have played in them.

## **Handicap Adviser**

**Janet Fear \***

We are now two years into WHS, Ladies with plenty of scores in their handicap record should now have a Handicap Index that reflects their playing ability.

There have been a few little tweaks with the administration of the WHS system, for example the PCC calculation has been adjusted we are told. But no major changes.

Some Clubs I hear from quite a bit, some I never hear from, I would love to think those clubs know what they are doing but I get some worrying feedback now and again.

Most commonly I hear of General Play Scores being done in team competitions, including in Ladies Open Bowmakers.

The incorrect Handicap Allowances being used, again in Ladies Open Bowmakers. The Handicap Allowances are Mandatory. 100% is not FUN it is wrong.

Competitions being made into a Non-Qualifier because a hole or two are out of play. WHY? We have the ability to take holes out of the competition and make it a 17, 16 or less holes qualifier. For handicap as long as there are 10 holes, the correct length, completed it can count. (9 holes must be completed in a 9 hole competition)

Winning scores in team competitions in some clubs have been getting higher, 50 points in a 4BBB is not unheard of. It will be interesting to see if this settles down.

However, by using minimum scores in a Handicap Record, maximum Handicaps and/or divisions this can be accommodated.

The Club Handicap reviews are now due, must be done by a committee with a minimum of 3 members. Any problems do get in touch with me.

I have just been to a national WHS presentation, no major changes, but information about player and club responsibilities and changes to the Platform reports, and some facts and figures. We (SLCGA & SGU together) will be delivering this to clubs early in the new year after your AGMs, so we get to see your new Handicap & Competition secretaries.

Also watch out for an update to the Rules of Golf coming out in January. Again, nothing major but a few little tweaks.

Look forward to seeing all the clubs at the Handicap and Competition meeting in the new year.

**Representative of Senior Ladies' Association      Chris Harris \***

Regretfully 2022 was not quite as normal as we would have liked it to be for the Somerset Senior Ladies. We were able to have our Officers Meetings and a Delegates Meeting by Zoom earlier in the year, but it was with overwhelming relief that we were able to meet face to face for meeting during the latter part of 2022. President for 2022 was Carole Paterson and we have had a very successful year under her leadership. The Senior Ladies' Committee have supported me in everything I set out to achieve, although Covid once again wrought havoc with team selection for both me and my Captain Elect, Sue Bamping.

Membership is down at the moment and we are hoping that the New Year will bring renewed optimism and ladies will feel more confident in putting their names forward for membership.

Competitions included a Pairs Better Ball at The Mendip, a Bowmaker at Weston Super Mare and the Annual General Meeting 9 hole competition was held at Long Sutton. Unfortunately, for the second year running we had to cancel the September Stableford due to lack of numbers and following this the Committee made the decision to change the event to a Waltzing Bowmaker in the hope of attracting more players.

South West Vets Shield matches took place again as the supposed lessening of the Covid situation meant that Cornwall and Devon were once again able to take part. Of the 3 Shield matches and 3 Friendly matches played during 2022, it is with sadness that I have to announce that Somerset only won 1 match. Somerset take over from Dorset and oversee the running of the SW Vets for 2023/24 and planning is well under way for Spring and Autumn Field Day competitions.

Because of Covid-19, and like Jill Paul before me who had a 2 year term of office as Senior Ladies' Captain, I served an extra year as Ladies' Captain Elect followed by my 1 year as Senior Ladies' Captain. Believe it or not the time has flown by, and I look forward to what I hope will be a rather quiet period as a Past Captain. I wish every success to our new Senior Ladies' President, Kay Luckett and to the new Senior Ladies' Captain, Sue Bamping.

I cannot finish without mentioning the success of the Somerset 1<sup>st</sup> team on not only retaining the SW Inter Counties Championship for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time and reaching the Women's County Finals, but also the 2<sup>nd</sup> team who retained the 2<sup>nd</sup> Team Trophy.

**Hon. Secretary**

**Lesley Matthews**

Madam President, Ladies,

I'd just like to thank all the delegates for their support throughout the last four years.

I'm handing over to Rebecca who, I'm sure will do a wonderful job. She will be ably supported by Angie Frith, who is hoping to move us into the future by enabling all files to be stored in "The Cloud" instead of being stored in large plastic boxes which have to be transferred from one Hon Sec's car boot to the next, only to spend the next three years in their garden shed!

One of my winter jobs has been updating the Delegates' contact list and Rebecca will be sending out a request for your Club details for 2023 in the new year and will then be compiling the contact list for next year.

The fixture list will also be updated and posted on the website in the new year.

I'm off to Florida next week to inspect the destruction of our home there by Hurricane Ian. However, I will still be online to help with any queries and to enable a smooth handover of the Hon Sec's job.

I hope you will all continue to support the County Association, even though we may have to become women instead of ladies and I look forward to keeping in touch with many of you at County competitions next year.

All the best,

**Representative of Ladies' Past Captain's Soc. Sandra Ford**

Thank goodness this year we managed to hold all our events and compete in all our matches! However, numbers have not climbed back up to the pre-Covid levels. I am hoping that this year has been a holiday and family catch-up year and 2023 will see normality return.

All the results are on the web-site which I think is going from strength to strength. Certainly, navigation is so much easier. Maybe England Golf would like some help from Sally Dymock who does a great job keeping everything up to date!

Our Spring cocktail at Mendip Spring was won by Claire Biggs and Diedre Wheadon from Isle of Wedmore. The Summer 4bbb at Wells saw Bernie Hatcher and Jeanne Leader from Taunton and Pickeridge. Finally, our Autumn Meeting Mixed 4bbb was a triumph for Lyn Bird and David Morgan, both originally Captains from Brean.

The Team Event was as popular as ever and once again the canny Bath Caps won comprising of Fay Galley, Jan Scilly, Jenny Catchpole and Jill Carter.

We had a great response for the matches. We were only short in one match -the long distance one against Hampshire. A huge thank you to the Lady Captains who joined teams at very short notice. The camaraderie and keenly fought golf make these matches so enjoyable. Please keep supporting.

2023 events will see us playing at Weston Super Mare, Cricket St Thomas and Brean. Mendip Spring, Wells and The Mendip. I hope we will be oversubscribed as we get used to life being almost normal again and we have kept prices low in the light of escalating energy and travel costs. The Team Event is again at Woodbury Park who have been very generous with their prices. I am afraid prices for 2024 will not be as attractive.

Please think of our current and past members who have serious health issues or sadly have died this year.

**Standard Scratch Assessor**

**Susie Gibbins (read by Lesley Matthews) \***

More and more clubs are requesting gender neutral tees particularly for red and yellow as their members get to grips with the WHS system.

Fortunately, this is a paper exercise and can be done at home with all the relevant paperwork, course maps etc so that nobody goes out into the winter weather!! This has been our work for the early months of this year.

Forward tees have also been a topic of conversation which encourage older members to continue to play and also get new golfers into a mind set to play golf.

Under the USGA 10 year cycle only one Club has been re-rated this year which was Bath. Mendip Spring is already scheduled for early April next year with more to be put in the diary at the beginning of 2023. Some Clubs appear to be reluctant to be re-rated as there is a cost implication for new signage, scorecards etc.

We would welcome any ladies who want to see what we do with a view to becoming members of the team.

**County Welfare Officer**

**Carole Paterson \***

I have been looking back through my Junior Committee files and I see I became County Welfare officer in 2010. Eileen Binding was aware that I was a manager in Children's Social Care so she signed me up. The first Junior committee meeting was held 11th Dec 2011.

Eileen Binding was present at the first meeting, as was the then County President Sally Irlam. Our President has always taken an active interest in the County Juniors, as is well demonstrated by our current President Fran Davis.

I keep up to date with Safeguarding rules, regulations and changes. I am pleased that Somerset are both registers for Safe Golf and have had two successful revisions, A golf club cannot operate under EG registration without a Safe Golf award. EG make life easier by producing our policies and allowing us to adapt them to suit. I do advise and assist clubs and the SGU with their Safeguarding requirements.

Although saying I am pleased people contact me sounds a bit odd. I am pleased people, parents, coaches County Officials do contact to discuss a concern or a query. Volunteers and other helpers worry that they are not registered or they are not suitable and I can talk them through that. The lead person working with Juniors and regular helpers need a Safeguarding CBR check but occasional helpers, supervised by a lead person do not.

I work closely with our Junior Committee and feel I offer simple but sound advice. Concerns as not just about Juniors, club sections can exclude players for various reason and we need to encourage inclusivity at all levels, especially, disability and health needs.

Any of your clubs can contact to discuss something however big or small and we can resolve, find a way forward together.

My details are on our county website.

## **5. Competition Results 2022**

2022 SLCGA Competition Results have been circulated to all Club Delegates for display on Ladies' notice boards. County Competition dates for 2023 are on the website. Fixture List for 2023 will be posted on the website in December/January 2023

## **6. Presentations**

Cups and prizes for 2022 were presented by the President.

## 7. Proposal

County colours will be awarded to players who have played in 10 matches rather than 12. This is a formality and is due to the change in the County format from one week to 3 days.

**Proposed** by Fran Davies

**Seconded** by Gill Brown

All those in favour? 5

Any against? 0

Abstentions?

General meetings to be held at least once a year instead of three times. Fran Davies explained. It was decided to review this at the end of the year.

**Proposed** by Fran Davies

**Seconded** by Sandra Ford

All those in favour? 2

Against? 10

Abstentions? 1

## The Election of Officers

The following Officers were nominated for vacant positions and approved at the meeting.

### NOMINATIONS FOR VACANCIES

Name	Position	Proposer	Secunder
	County Vice Captain		
Rebecca Thompson	Hon. Secretary	Wheathill	Isle of Wedmore
Lloyd Katz	County Junior Organiser	Wells	
Jean Booth	EG Voting Member and SW Representative	Burnham & Berrow	Long Sutton



**Term of Office Ended**

**Jackie McDonald**, Competitions Secretary, to be extended by one year

The **President** welcomed the new officers, thanked the retiring officers and presented badges and retirement gifts.

**Gill Brown** gift and Past Captain's badge (on order)

**Lesley Matthews** gift.

**Sandra Ford** gift.

**Badges**

**Gill Brown** presented to **Helen Hayward** Captain's badge.

**Lesley Matthews** presented to **Rebecca Thompson** Hon. Secretary's badge.

**Fran Davies** presented to **Lloyd Katz** County Junior Organiser's badge.

**Fran Davies**

Thank you to the Isle of Wedmore for hosting the SLCGA AGM 2022.

**I now declare the Somerset Ladies County Golf Association AGM 2022 closed.**

**The next AGM will be on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at Isle of Wedmore Golf Club.**

The date of the next General Committee Meeting Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

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