



SOMERSET LADIES COUNTY GOLF ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**The Annual General Meeting of the Association will take place at the Isle of Wedmore Golf Club
on Monday 13th November 2023 at 11.00am**

MINUTES

Present:-

Eileen Binding, Past President, Jo Jolliffe, Angela Trenchard, Bath Golf Club, Jean Booth, Alysia Rees, Tricia Folland, Lin Phillips, Eunice Huxtable, Annette Poynton, Burnham & Berrow Golf Club, Ruth Dowell, Cricket St Thomas Golf Club, Joanne Wyatt, Tina Morgan, Enmore Park Golf Club, Pat Roscow, Farrington Golf Club, Claire Biggs, Maggie Dommett, Cathy Olive, Isle of Wedmore Golf Club, Carole Paterson, Long Sutton Golf Club, Pauline Cornish, Mendip Spring Golf Club, Sarah Hill, Minehead & West Somerset Golf Club, Margaret Gliddon, Past President, Sheila Grant, Oake Manor Golf Club, Patricia Pitt, Orchardleigh Golf Club, Jeanette Cook, Saltford Golf Club, Yvette Gregg, Andrea Jordan, Julie Poole, Alison Fowleshard, Stockwood Vale Golf Club, Lyn Gridley, Emma Smith, Georgia Richards, Taunton & Pickering Golf Club, Anne Collins, Nicola Russell, Aimee Sawyer, The Mendip Golf Club, Katrina Foote, Joan Stembridge, Wells Golf Club, Nicky Wisniewski, Jen Warmington, Sue Bamping, Wheathill Golf Club, Sarah Whittock, Junior Vice Captain Elect, Janet Fear, Handicap Adviser and Vice President Elect.

Executive Committee : Fran Davies, President, Sandra Ford, Vice President, Jackie McDonald, Competition Secretary, Angela Frith, Assistant Competition Secretary, Lloyd Katz, Junior Organiser, Louise Buxton, Treasurer, Rebecca Thompson, Honorary Secretary.

1. President's Address

Good morning everyone and welcome to the 2023 County AGM.

Before we begin the meeting, as is traditional, could we please observe a minute silence to remember our golfing friends who have died during this past year.

Firstly, apologies for sending several versions of the Agenda prior to this meeting. As you will have gathered it hasn't been straightforward! I certainly hope that, for today, we have got it right at last. At last year's AGM you voted that General Meetings should continue with 3 annually. We have tried to make the meetings more interesting and interactive and as a result attendance has been high, so we shall continue with this, when I know Sandra has some good ideas for future meetings.

Our Executive Committee set up a WhatsApp Group to enable us to keep in contact quickly with each other. It was put to good use in many ways and proved a convenient way to share witty comments and terrible jokes!

We have some very talented golfers of all ages in Somerset. One in particular is Aimee Sawyer from Mendip Golf Club. She won the County Championships in May, and, in June won a National Award "The Inspirational Golfer of The Year" She was 4th nett and gross in The Harper Salver and, in July, playing for the county, in The SW Inter-counties Championship she played singles for the first time since 2019. She won the Mendip Championship and broke the course record twice, 1 under and, 2 weeks later 3 under. She was runner up in the EG "Women and Golf Award" category "Unsung Hero". She won many competitions this year and represented Somerset at "The Champion of Champions" at Woodhall Spa.

Why am I telling you all this? In 2019 she was very seriously injured in a fire and golf became a distant dream, that probably would never happen again. Many months in hospital, and 20 operations later here she is, playing better than ever + 2, What an example of courage and determination she is. Well done Aimee and many many congratulations.

Liliana Marshall from Farrington is our Junior Champion and Amanda Mayne from Saltford, our senior one - and of course, Aimee is our County Champion. All represented the County in "The Champion of Champions" at Woodhall Spa, which unfortunately, was abandoned due to bad weather.

Three of our Somerset first team have gone to Universities in The States and are all doing well and representing their respective universities. One of these is Harriet Lockley who represented Wales in The European Team Championships and in The R&A Home Internationals. She was also in the top 10 in The Portuguese and The South and American Amateur Championships.

Frankie Dezis and Jess Haines are also doing well in America.

In World Rankings we have 3 players from Somerset in the top 500: Harriet Lockley and Mimi and Patience Rhodes. Quite an achievement for a small English county.

Many congratulations to Burnham and Berrow Golf Club who won the EG "Women and Golf Award" for "Venue of The Year." The award Ceremony was at Walton Heath Golf Club. The team of Alysia Rees, Jean Booth and Nicola Stroud worked hard together in delivering their vision for the club.

Alysia will be the new vice president and will take up her position in 2 year's time. She has been acting Vice Captain for this past year, a great support for Helen, and the team. Very many thanks. She will make an excellent President; she is a former county captain and full of energy and enthusiasm!

Janet Fear steps up as our new Vice President. Apart from keeping us all up to date with handicap news, she is a first-class referee. I sincerely hope she will enjoy being even more busy over the next 4 years! Sarah Whittock, from Saltford, is our new Vice Captain. Well qualified for the role and will be a great asset to the Executive Committee and the teams, and of course a support for Helen. A former county player, she is also on our junior committee, with 2 daughters in the County training squads. Thank you, Sarah for accepting this important position.

Also new to the Exec. Committee is Angela Trenchard from Bath. She will be Assistant Competition Secretary. Well qualified for the job and will be working with Angela Frith, "Double Angela" "has got to be good!"

Our Captain Helen has a very busy life. Balancing golf and work has been quite a challenge for her. She is a well-respected Captain and organised a most enjoyable Inter-counties Championship at Cumberwell Golf Club in July. The matches were close and tough to win. As a former County player herself she knows all about the highs and lows of county golf and appreciates well the fine margin between winning and losing.

Lloyd, as County Junior Organiser has been a terrific addition to the Junior and Executive Committees. Bringing lots of new ideas and energy to our meetings and to the Junior players; he has two daughters in junior training. I have very much enjoyed being on the Junior Committee and helping Terry Williams with the coaching at Wells. Our coaching system is very successful and as a result we have some excellent youngsters in the teams.

Jackie and Angie have been absolutely brilliant as the County Competition Secretaries, incorporating lots of innovative and good ideas into events. Jackie has kept us all amused, and although leaving the committee she will become the Delegate for Clevedon Golf Club.

Louise is a first-class Honorary Treasurer, and I know everyone is very appreciative of all her hard work. Producing lengthy Statement of accounts and reports.

Well done Rebecca, our County Secretary, who joined us this year. “Steep Learning Curve “has been the order of the day. There has been lots to learn and organise, but very well done.

As always Carole Patterson, as Welfare Officer, is an essential member of the committee, her experience in this role is much appreciated. Thank you, Carole.

Also, a big thank you is due to Susie Gibbins and her team of volunteers; there is so much involved with the job as Standard Scratch Assessor.

Thanks are also due to Claire Biggs as Chairman of the Ladies Past Captains Society, and to Kay Luckett, President of the County Senior Ladies Golf Association.

I was invited to become President by Ellie Harper, sadly, she passed away at the end of last year. I was pleased and honoured to accept. Time has sped by and now I know a great deal more about the workings of our county golf, it is time to hand over to Sandra.

So last, and absolutely not least, I must give huge thanks to Sandra who takes over from me today. Someone once said “every committee needs a Sandra” How true!

We are very grateful to Sandra this year for acting as SW Rep, a job she knows well.

Sandra knows everything, supports everything, and me! and always willing to lend a hand. She has helped me a great deal over the past 2 years with much sound advice or suggesting it’s time for a stiff gin! I know she will make an excellent President.

Thank you everyone, I shall miss you, and especially the committee. I know Somerset is in very good hands. So now is the time to hand back my green jacket and be deleted from the county WhatsApp.

2. The Honorary Secretary convened the meeting for 2023

Madam President, Ladies and Gentleman, welcome to the 2023 Annual General Meeting of the Somerset Ladies County Golf Association.

I have received apologies from:-

Helen Hayward, County Captain
Susie Gibbins, Standard Scratch Assessor
Linda Hill
Martha Perriam

Jenny Hobbs
Amanda Mayne
Sally Irlam
Jill Paul
Jackie Hallett
Lyn Russell, Cannington Golf Club
Alison Lee, Clevedon Golf Club
Julie Blumgart, Enmore Golf Club - represented by Joanne Wyatt, the Lady Captain and Tina Morgan, the Vice Captain
Ruth Ball, Minehead and West Somerset Golf Club - represented by Sarah Hill, the Lady Captain
Diane Richardson, Tall Pines Golf Club
Saybria Sims, Weston Super Mare Golf Club
Nic Boyd, Wheathill Golf Club - represented by Jen Warmington, the Lady Captain and Nicky Wisniewski

3. The Minutes of the 2022 AGM are on the website. Can I take them as read? Are there any matters arising?

With your approval I will sign the minutes as a true and correct record of the AGM for November 2023.

Proposed By:- Eileen Binding **Seconded By:-** Alysia Rees

4. **Honorary Treasurer's Report and Statement of Accounts** **Louise Buxton**

I present the audited accounts for the year ended 30th September 2023.

Starting with the Balance Sheet shows that we had Net Assets of **£43,107**, which is reduced from **£47,264** last year.

We had **£10,570** in our Current Account and **£40,000** in Deposit Accounts. We have increased the amount on deposit with a higher interest rate.

There is **£1,826** of stock and equipment, including:

- our new banners and display board, which will be depreciated over 5 years;
- new SLCGA logo pitchforks, which are presented to the winners of the Rogers Cup and Centenary plate;
- SLCGA logo-ed golf balls, which we present as 2s prizes in our competitions and are used by our teams when representing Somerset;
- Plus a few presentation glasses and a small amount of logoed merchandise.

On 30th September we had:

- **£3,135** England Golf creditor, being affiliation fees that we collect from our members on their behalf;
- **£3,440** of accrued invoices for team coaching and competition green fees; and
- **£2,714**, which is an iGolf surplus grant that we have received from England Golf specifically to support the development of Junior golf within Somerset.

Considering the Profit & Loss Account:

This year we have received Affiliation Fees from 1,547 ladies and 88 girls, amounting to **£16,061**.

Since January 2023, the SGU have been collecting the England Golf and Somerset Ladies fees from the Clubs on our behalf, which has eased the Treasurer's administrative burden. The 2022 fees collected of **£19,050** were unusually high as they included several late payments from the previous year.

Interest received of **£362** is much higher than last year due to higher interest rates and more funds on deposit.

Team expenditure of **£10,070** is similar to last year and includes team coaching, kit, travel, food, accommodation and golf balls.

The Executive Committee have decided to financially support our programme of competitions as part of our objective to promote competitive golf in the County. Overall, we made a small net loss of **£450** across all our competitions.

The SGU administration fee of **£500** used to relate specifically to County Cards, but now includes the use of iG for our competitions and the collection of affiliation fees. It has been reduced from £1,000 per annum.

Champions grants are paid to the Junior, Senior and overall County Champion to support their participation in the Champion of Champions events at Woodhall Spa. The total of **£650** includes grants made for both 2022 and 2023 playing seasons.

We have increased the financial support provided to our Junior girls to **£5,863**, including an increased annual contribution of **£1,000** for Junior Coaching.

I also oversee the Junior coaching bank account, which was **£11,181** on 30th September 2023, a reduction of **£780**, mainly due to the Junior Performance and development bursaries awarded.

Overall, the Executive Committee have been working to reduce the combined Junior and main Somerset ladies' funds through investing in ladies and girls golf in Somerset, in accordance with our constitution. Our combined funds are almost £5,000 less than last year.

We now have a draft framework for Clubs to apply for a grant to help fund a specific, new and innovative project, which will facilitate more women and/or girls playing golf and/or promote future golfers.

- Any Club can apply for a grant and each proposal will be considered on its own merit.
- The application should be as detailed as possible and specify the expected costs and benefits to female golf.
- If relevant, it should also comply within the framework of England Golf initiatives.
- We estimate that grants will be for about £500, and we would expect the golf club to match the amount of any SLCGA grant.
- Feedback will be required on a timely basis as to how the grant has been spent and what it has achieved.

We have already approved a special project at one golf club and have also agreed to provide financial support to the Somerset seniors next year.

Does anyone have any questions? Accounts approved:-

Proposed By:-

Jean Booth

Seconded By:-

Janet Fear

4. Reports

(a) County Captain

Helen Hayward (Read by President)

Apologies for not being able to be here in person. Covid has once got the better of me (again!) and I am very reluctant to let anyone catch it!

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

2nd Team Matches

As the Vice Captaincy role remained vacant I have had a rather busy year managing the 2nd and 1st teams and juggling my full time job! Ohh I do like a challenge.

Starting with the 2nd team we played our two league matches, one against Devon at Torquay Golf Club and another at Enmore Park against Cornwall.

With the gaining of 1st team colours for 4 of our team last year it meant the 2nd team was full of opportunities for new players.

Back in April we had the first match against Devon at Torquay Golf Club a number of those playing making their debut to 2nd team golf, these were: Ffion Lockley, Sara Cox Conklin and Maria Wheller. The rest of the team playing being Alysia Rees, Lilianna Marshall and Ffion Richardson. Ultimately, we lost 7-2 to an experienced Devon team, it was a tough match as the score reflected, but the team remained upbeat and did us proud.

We then played Cornwall at Enmore golf club winning 5-4, at the end of May. Massive thank you to Enmore Park for hosting, we were all made to feel so very welcome. The team at this match was made up of Lilianna Marshall, Abby Whittock, Ava Hirons, Megan Wilde, Libbie Dezis, Sara Cox Conklin and Maria Wheller. The girls played brilliantly, and under pressure got the points we needed to win, even if that meant going down the last holes in matches (I had no nails left!). I do suggest if you can, coming to watch and support matches like these when you can because the quality of golf is always great!

The overall result for the second team matches meant a tie as we all had a win and a loss each. After a check of the rules as what to do, it meant it came back to matches won between the teams. Cornwall coming out the winners in our side of the league.

Unusually the other league also had a similar tie with Gloucestershire coming out on top with games won. Clearly reflecting how close all the teams are at the moment, a great sign for golf in the South West.

Cornwall played Gloucestershire in the final at the beginning of October with Gloucestershire coming out on top with a 6 ½ - 2 ½ win.

1st Team

This year's Intercounties held at Cumberwell Park was a wonderful event, even though the results weren't what we wanted. It was a shame not to continue with the running streak for Somerset, but the team did the county proud and dug deep every match!

This year the team was made up of:

Abby Gray, Aimee Sawyer, Ellen Reakes, Frankie Dezis, Hannah Woodley, Jade Cope, Jess Haines and Lizzie Stephens

Another special mention to Hannah Woodley who played only 4 months post having baby Poppy, it was incredible to see her play such quality of golf while being a new mum and all that comes with motherhood. What a great example she's given to others that you can play golf alongside this big life event.

The overall results were summed up by the narrow losses we had during the few days. Dorset, the overall winner, had a ball jump out of bounds and bounced back into play in one of our matches. The team were disappointed but knew it just wasn't our week this time round. I was so proud of the team and the quality of golf at the event gets better and better. Congratulations to Dorset on their win who represented the South West at county finals this year.

Next Year - 2024

It's been a great year for Somerset golf, 3 Somerset ladies played in the Home International Ladies team, Harriet Lockley for Wales and Patience and Mimi Rhodes for England. Patience the standout player for England winning all 5 matches played including 3 foursomes matches with sister Mimi.

Also playing in the girls Home Internationals was Ffion Richardson representing Wales. She also won the Welsh under 14 Championship.

The future is bright for the teams, there are many more talented golfers who are helping grow the game in Somerset, including the future girls who are progressing from the impressive junior program.

To conclude my report, I would like to say a massive thank you to the committee, those supporting Somerset golf and a big thank you to Alysia Rees for her support and knowledge this year being my right-hand woman, I couldn't have done it without her help. This is a brilliant group to be a part of, the team is so supportive of each other, and I look forward to Intercounties at Perranporth at the beginning of July.

(b) Junior Organiser

Lloyd Katz

Madam President, Past presidents, Delegates, and Ladies,

The Somerset Girls Golf 2022 / 2023 year has once again been a very fruitful year. Our junior program was filled with activities offering a coaching program, matches & a range of competitions throughout the season.

There is an old African proverb that says, "It takes a village to raise a child" and this year I have definitely concluded that "it takes a county to raise talented junior golfers". Without a doubt the success of the junior program is directly linked to the time and effort put in by our junior committee, the support of our outgoing president Fran Davies, the exec, our local golf clubs, local golf pros, and every volunteer from local clubs across the county who give their time to serve and provide a safe and welcoming environment for our girls to experience and play the game that we love.

Coaching

This year we provided coaching to 65 girls across the county, at five different venues. Huge credit must be given to Dave Owen who has put in hours of effort into the administration of the coaching program. A big thank you must also go to:-

- a. Burnham & Berrow Golf Club, who hosted the Elite and Performance Girls
- b. The Mendip Golf Club, who hosted our Development North Squad
- c. Long Sutton Golf Club, who hosted our Development South Squad
- d. Wells Golf Club, who hosted our Futures North Squad
- e. Saltford Golf Club, who hosted our Academy Squad

Thank you to all our PGA professionals, Katie Rule, Lee Corfield, Alex Todd, Richard Antrobus, Terry Williams, and Chris Coles for providing their coaching services to our girls.

Highlights for 2022 / 2023

Somerset girls have 2 major competitions a year, our annual spring meeting and our county junior championship.

This year our Spring Meeting was played at Long Sutton Golf Club. and was won by Georgie Cushings from Saltford, with 40 stableford points, playing off a handicap of 18 at the time. Thank you to Long Sutton for hosting us.

Our Junior County Championship at Worlebury Golf Club was a testing day for golf! The sun shone brightly and the wind blew very strongly in the afternoon. As a result, on a very dry course, the girls found all sorts of trouble, and cards were sprinkled with the odd 10 or 11. Nevertheless, everyone played their best and there was a really good atmosphere in the clubhouse at the end of the day. After 2 challenging rounds, our Junior County Champion for 22/23 was Lilianna Marshall from Farrington Park, with a gross score of 164 over 2 rounds.

A huge thank you to our incoming Vice President Janet Fear and the team from Worlebury Golf Club for organising and hosting the junior championship. It was my first junior championship as CJO and Janet made it an absolute pleasure.

Girls and Competitions

A highlight for this year was seeing more of our girls playing in National and international competitions. We must congratulate Freya Keirl from Wells Golf Club for winning the Race-to-Woodhall-Spa stableford event this year, playing off a handicap of 29 at the time.

Also, congratulations to Ffion Richardson from Mendip Golf Club who won the Welsh U14 Championship with a score of +7 over, after two rounds.

Further congratulations to Ffion Lockley from Burnham and Berrow Golf Club who got to the last 16 of the Welsh Women's Ladies Amateur.

This year we had 3 girls qualify and play in the R&A U16 girls Championship at Enville Golf Club. We also had 7 girls qualify and play in the English girls U16 and U14 Championships. Despite the girls not making the cut in both these events, the number of participants is significant as it highlights the strength and depth of our current county girls squads, and the hard work girls are putting into their golf. We are

currently in the privileged position to have 10 girls in our county with a handicap of under 10 and I predict we will have at least another 3 added to the number of single-figure players in the coming year. These tournament results also provide us as a committee with great feedback on what our girls need to work on, and our chance to set goals as a county to improve on this achievement for next year. For example, we ask ourselves, “what do we need to do to help prepare our girls so that a few of them make the cut next year?”

South West Girls' Intercounties Championship

This strength and depth was evident at this year's South West Junior Intercounties competition. The annual South West Intercounties tournament was hosted by Devon and held at Teignmouth Golf Club. Despite the tournament being played off handicaps and not scratch, we decided to take our strongest 9 lowest handicap players. Somerset got off to the perfect start beating Dorset 4-1, Gloucestershire 3-2, and Wiltshire 4.5 - 0.5. We narrowly lost to Cornwall 3.5- 1.5, and Devon 3 - 2 to finish 2nd overall with Cornwall winning by 4 points.

Big thank you to Janet Fear, incoming Vice Captain Sarah Whittock, and Eileen Binding for helping me support the girls at Intercounties this year.

Another aim this year was to give girls with higher handicaps across all squads more opportunities to gain experience playing competitive golf and representing their county.

With this in mind, we entered a young and extremely talented team into a one-day inter-county event known as the Wessex Salver. The event was played as a greensomes stableford event. The day was won by Dorset with Somerset coming 4th out of 5 teams.

Girls from across squads also had the opportunity to play matches against Ladies Club teams this year. Thank you to Enmore, Wedmore, Saltford, Long Sutton, and Cleveland ladies for the willingness to host these matches.

Finally looking ahead for 2023 / 2024

Our 2023 / 2024 coaching program has already begun. Despite losing a few girls to the program this year, we also gained 15 new girls from across the county into our squads. We have also had some changes to the coaching staff - Joe Bray from Saltford Golf Club and Nick Brennan from Farington Park have joined the coaching team. They will be replacing Katie Rule and Chris Coles. I would like to thank both Chris and Katie for their service to the county.

Megan Wilde has also completed her year as Junior County Captain. We thank Megan for her time serving the county this year. Our Captain for 2023 / 2024 is Libbie Dezis who showed tremendous leadership throughout last season. We wish her every success as she leads the girls this year.

There are also changes to the Junior Committee. After a number of years of service to junior golf, we say goodbye to Fran Davies and Margaret Allen who have both decided to step down. We would like to thank both of them for their faithfulness to the county and to the girls.

Finally thank you to Eileen, Fran, Carole Patterson, James Wilde, Dave Owen, Sarah Whittock, and Margaret Allen who served on the Junior Committee this year.

As CJO and on behalf of the girls, I would like to ask you to please put your hands together to say a big thank you to all those on the committee, exec, volunteers from local clubs, and everyone who has given time and support in serving the next generation of Somerset Lady Golfers.

We are truly grateful to you.

(c) England Golf SW Regional Committee Rep

Sandra Ford

With the exception of the SW Championship which was planned not to exist all competitions were successfully completed. Debate continues around the SW Championship.

Somerset had responsibility for the SW Regional Australian Spoons at Long Sutton. The event was well supported. Thanks go to Long Sutton members and to Jean Booth who helped make the day a success.

For next season Somerset is hosting the Regional Foursomes at Clevedon Golf Club on October 7th, 2024. Please do encourage your clubs to advertise this event well and to enter. Gill Brown and Amanda Mayne came 2nd by a narrow margin of 2 points! So come on ladies let's have a Somerset pair win in 2024!

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 has been the upgrading of the facilities at Woodhall Spa and a renovation of the Woodhall Spa Golf Club Members' Club House. It is a very ambitious and expensive project. Unfortunately, no physical progress on the work has been made due to issues around differing opinions between the leaseholders Woodhall Spa Land Holdings and the lessees England Golf. Hopefully 2024 will see better progress.

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 plus years. Thank you for all the support from the Executive, Clubs and you the Somerset ladies. I would like to thank Jean for her help this year. As you will hear later, I am proposing a change to the role from 2024.

Although not the province of SW but nevertheless a SW event, I would like to congratulate Susie Gibbons and Heather Priestly on winning the Regional Final of the Coronation Foursomes and playing in the Final at St Andrews.

(d) Competitions Secretary

Jackie McDonald

2023 has been a much more settled year and we have started to see Ladies returning to play in County Competitions.

We kept the entry fees at the same level as 2022 and a twos competition was included in the entry fee.

The competitions are not profit making, we have to pay green fees, referee and organisers expenses, balls for the twos (35) etc. we have also increased the prizes both in number given out and the value of each.

We have been hosted very well by Cricket St Thomas, The Mendip, Worlebury, Saltford, Enmore Park and Tall Pines. My thanks go to them, the delegates, LC, Committee members and other volunteers who have made the events so welcoming and successful.

It has been pleasing to see the pride that clubs have shown in hosting these events and providing the "little extras" the free pastries at the 50 + were a sure winner.

Last year we had a major problem at the HCC when once the event had started we found that the clubs course details had not been loaded corrected by EG and therefore not accessible to up. Mad panic

ensued and 90 ladies had to be re-entered onto the Clubs own system...so this year at Enmore we were very pleased to see that everything was working as it should. As this is the busiest day in our calendar I breathed a big sigh of relief, until an hour into a full start sheet, we heard that the M5 was closed...in both directions and would be for many hours.

All the ladies except 2, made it onto the tee, it was a shame that many spent up to 4 hours on the return journey.

Over the year around 70 more ladies have entered this year's competitions and this has been in the pairs / team competitions suggesting that Ladies are wanting to play more social golf. The entries to the Fowler Brooch was increased and the Fowler Lock which had been cancelled last year through lack of entries, saw 48 ladies play.

The qualifying competitions including the County Championships saw a reduction of entrants. (4 less in the CC and 14 less in the 50+) sadly, this year's County Championship had just 20 entries.

In the same way that Club winners in the Dickinson and Barlow cup go through to the HCC as club representatives, we are encouraging Clubs to send their current Club Champion to the County Champs. It is a 36-hole competition run on one day and will be £35 to enter. Your ladies' section may consider funding your Club Champion - just a thought!

Prizes. We understand that some are not able to wait around for the presentations at the end of the Competition. It is not practical or safe to send balls and vouchers in the post.

It will be the responsibility of the winners to arrange collection of their prizes. Where possible we do hand them to other club members on the day, and we can make them available at Pro Shops where practical.

I am pleased to say that entry fees will not be increasing next year and in the interests of equality, 2024 green fees are now in line with the amount paid by the SGU to host clubs.

Details of all the fixtures are on the home page of the website and the posters will be circulated shortly. Angie has also produced a County calendar showing our fixtures alongside the Seniors, Past Captains, SW, EG and Club open events. Please do look and encourage your team captains to check when this when arranging Club matches, Alliance, IC etc. If your Club's Open is not on there yet please email 'compsec' and Angie will add it (compsec@somersetladiesgolf.org).

Can I please put out a reminder that Ladies are expected to walk in all County Competitions, however, buggies are allowed but we have to be consulted in advance.

Ladies have turned up wanting a buggy without prior notification, if we are not aware we cannot guarantee that the host club has availability.

The buggy policy is on the County website for all to see.

Most ladies have now got to grips with online sign up via IG and from a Comp Sec viewpoint it has made the role so much easier. No more paper forms in the post and cheques, remember those?

I do still get emails querying:-

* How do I pay?

* I have entered the wrong competition.

* My husband's name has appeared in the list of entrants.

The last is not due to the last of computer skills, IG has a built-in auto name suggest and seems to default to men!

Whilst the Comp Sec will allocate tees, we will listen and try to accommodate if Ladies have work or childcare commitments.

Reminder of Rogers Cup / Centenary Plate entry forms to us by 31st December 2023, including the relevant BACS payment. Details of all the competitions, the rules, trophies available to win and after, the winners and pics are on the SLCGA website. We do have a dedicated Facebook page, please do look!

Finally, my term of office has now come to an end, covid forced us into a different way of working which I think has been hugely beneficial.

I would like to thank the Exec for all their support over the past 3 years and I leave knowing that Angie will bring her own skills into the role. I would like to thank all of the ladies who have played in County events and made them so successful.

Angie ... over to you!

(e) Handicap Adviser

Janet Fear

We have now completed three years of WHS and the clubs are still learning.

We started this year with a joint get together with the SGU attended by handicap secretaries and committees of 23 of our clubs. This was to discuss the responsibilities of the Handicap Committee, including the need to watch General Play Scores, Deleted Score Intents and other WHS reports regularly.

We also discussed their responsibility to Educate their members, particularly about which scores are acceptable for handicap.

Although we have always had "Extra Day Scores" and "Supplementary Scores" General Play Scores are turning out to be much more popular and checking that they have been pre-registered and done in a singles format (not 4bbb or bowmaker) can be quite a challenge.

Covid seems to have turned many players into social golfers rather than competitive ones.

Now we are into Annual Review season. WHS provides us with many useful reports to help. The annual review report, Last played to handicap report, Competition v General Play report, Soft and Hard cap report amongst the most useful.

2024 will bring the revision of WHS system of Handicapping. This comes into effect on the 1st April 2024. Information is coming out now, there is a Webinar for your Handicap and Competition Committees to sign up for on the 12th December and there will be face to face training for the clubs in the new year, one at The Bristol on 14th February, who knew England Golf was romantic!

Changes are including an alteration to how we calculate Course Handicap, adding CR-PAR, those with a larger Par than CR will lose a shot/s. those who CR is higher than Par will gain a shot/s. CH will not be rounded up before handicap allowances are applied in competitions.

4BBB scores will be used for handicapping, for those with 42 points or more the player with more than nine scores will have an Expected score added for the other holes and a score differential applied. Expected score will also be used for the back nine in 9 hole competitions and will replace net par for holes not started. Expected score is a close calculation.

Shorter courses will be able to get a CR and Slope.

Where multiple tees are measured for men or women, the par can remain the same whatever the measurement of the hole. (CR-PAR will cover the difference).

So, we have a new Guidance to Rules of Handicapping document to download, that is ready now. Time to check out the resources page on EG website again and see what has changed.

Love them or Hate them there are now 46,600 igolfers out there showing there is a need for Pay and Play golf. Just for comparison Somerset has 16,200 golfers. They all have to pay a green fee to play so are your club doing enough to encourage them to spend their money with you?

England Golf has just launched a new APP iplay, free of charge for non handicapped golfers to use to record scores & link with friends. When you open your EG APP you can see it there as an option. Another way of trying to keep casual golfers hooked into to our sport.

With my other hat on, we are hoping that a Level Two Referee course will be available to us during the winter, we now have a few Level One Rules players waiting. If you have someone at your club wishing to be added to my list do let me know.

SGU have asked us to link up with them to form a joint team of referees to help cover both our competitions, and as we have already borrowed one of their referees, we are planning to go down this route. If you are a referee it does not matter if you are a man or a woman.

(f) Representative of Senior Ladies' Association

Sue Bamping

All meetings were face to face this year, as it was felt the only advantage of having zoom meetings was no travelling costs. The President for 2023 was Kay Luckett of Minehead and she has been very busy updating the Constitution with the help of Jill Paul, the Vice President, as well as running the South West Vets Ladies Golf Association. This involved organising two Field days one at Bowood Golf Club and the other at Stover Park. Unfortunately, the timing of the King's Coronation was such that the numbers at Bowood were less than was hoped for, but the attendance at Stover Park more than made up for it. Perhaps we should have sent a telegram to the Palace advising them of our arrangements! Just in case some of you are not aware, the South West Vets Ladies Golf Association is composed of ladies over 60. Somerset Senior Ladies are also over 60 but prefer to be called Seniors, it sounds a little younger! Membership has dropped again this year so there are now 321 ladies. Membership only costs £5 pa and if you play in a match that costs £20 which includes a round of golf and a meal, which is very good value for money. The match format is 4BBB, which is very user friendly.

There were three competitions this year spread around the County at Long Sutton, Cricket St Thomas and Taunton & Pickeridge with a different format at each Club, pairs, 3 ball bowmaker and a 3 ball Waltzer. The Waltzer replaced the Stableford of last year as the numbers for that were quite low. Unfortunately, Taunton & Pickeridge was not an ideal course for the Waltzer as the holes on which 3 scores counted were more difficult, so that might be reviewed next year.

We had three Friendly matches and three Shield matches. Unfortunately, we were not successful in any of them, although a couple were close. It was realised that the clubs were not following the same

guidelines when choosing their teams. This has now been addressed so hopefully things will improve next year. All those ladies who took part in the matches enjoyed the experience of playing at new courses and meeting up with ladies from other counties. The weather was good at most venues, but we got rather wet at Honiton. Despite this Tricia Folland had a hole in one.

The Senior Ladies Committee have been very supportive this year especially when team members and or reserves dropped out at the last minute, and they stepped in to take their place. Now that the year is over it seems to have gone very quickly and I look forward to the next year as Past Captain when I will not be at the end of a phone trying to find players at the last minute! I wish our new Senior Ladies' President Jill Paul from T & P every success along with the new Senior Ladies' Captain Ross Chidgey from Minehead.

(g) Honorary Secretary

Rebecca Thompson

It only seems five minutes ago that I was at this very meeting in 2022 waiting to take over from the previous Honorary Secretary and feeling very nervous! Not much has changed from that meeting in fact I am probably more nervous today as I am not good at public speaking – I didn't realise that was part of the deal!

I have been very proud to carry out my duties for the County but have to say that it has been a very steep learning curve.

Thank you for being patient with all my emails – sometimes things don't go according to plan and it seems they go forwards and backwards way too many times but I have to say this isn't always my fault!

Please keep coming to the meetings - I know I speak for the rest of the committee when I say that we really appreciate your input and without you we wouldn't exist!

Anyway, I expect your patience is waning as there have been, and still are, a lot of reports to be read and listened to which are way more important and interesting than mine so thanks again to you all.

Here's to a peaceful and great golfing in 2024!

(h) Chairman of Ladies' Past Captain's Soc.

Claire Biggs

Good Morning to our County President, Committee Members and all other ladies present at this AGM.

As many of you know or realise Sandra Ford, our past Chair, has moved on to greater things so I have taken on the task of the Chair of the Past Captains, I am Claire Biggs and I play at the Isle of Wedmore Golf Club.

We have had a very busy year and it has been a pleasure to see so many keen though often older golfers playing in our competitions. The Spring meeting was won by Lesley Organ and Pam Street from Saltford playing at WSM. The Summer meeting at Cricket St Thomas was won by two ladies from Wheathill, Ann Gates and Janet Street and the Autumn meeting at Brean Golf Club when we invite Past Gentlemen Captains to join with us was won by Janet Fear and Graham Hewlett from Worlebury . Well done to all the winners.

What is for many the highlight of the Past Captains season, the two days away competition was again held at Woodbury Park and perfectly organised by Susie Gibbins, the 36 hole competition was won by the Wells team of Tina Davies, Jill Bocquet, Janice White and Dandy Heath. Next year we are off to Donnington Valley Golf Club.

Thank you to my committee and all the lady Past Captains for their support and I wish every success in their golfing endeavours. Thank you.

(i) Standard Scratch Assessor

Susie Gibbins (Read by Rebecca Thompson)

As a result of a recruitment campaign 9 ladies attended a workshop at Worlebury in March. Unfortunately, only 5 of those attending decided to continue onto participating in full course ratings this year. Those ladies have really enjoyed getting to grips with what is required to produce the results that ultimately, everyone sees on their handicap tables.

Courses rated this year were Mendip Spring (Brinsea), Weston Super Mare, Saltford and Brean. Next year we already have in the schedule, Tall Pines, Isle of Wedmore and Enmore with another to be confirmed shortly.

Currently, the County Team Leaders are working on a workshop to be held in March 2024 just before the rating season starts in April. This will be for the full team of women and men. It will be a refresher for everyone and also introduce some different aspects of the USGA system that are not normally used whilst out on the course recording data.

(j) County Welfare Officer

Carole Paterson

As I started to write I thought of when I became involved with County Welfare, it was 2010. I was still working at Somerset Social Services managing Child Protection Services. Eileen Binding, President at the time decided we needed a County Welfare Officer following a directive from England Golf and I have been here ever since. I assure you all that I keep my training up to date. I complete annual Safeguarding reviews each year.

I am pleased to say that I have just completed the annual Safe Golf review for the Association. Clubs and Counties must have the Safe Golf award in order to officially operate.

What do I do? I talk to people a lot by responding to questions, queries and concerns. I am part of the Junior Committee where I advise and support parents, junior players and volunteers. I support clubs with their concerns, and I deal with issues that affect adult players.

The majority of my involvement is around bullying allegations and perceived inequality around selection. You would be surprised how many times I have talked about isolation, good players not being included in sections - women and juniors. I also have a number of incidents of concern regarding inappropriate behaviour. I know my role is important and it is not just a tick box exercise.

I can be contacted by phone, email or via a third party if people prefer. My details are on the website but also people know who I am and feel able to approach me. I listen, I discuss, and we look for a resolution. Occasionally I have to pass a concern onto the authorities but it is all done in confidence and on a need to know basis.

5. Competition Results

The 2023 SLCGA Competition Results were circulated to all Club Delegates for display on the Ladies' notice boards. They are also posted on the SLCGA website. The fixture list for 2024 is posted on the website.

6. Presentation of Trophies

Cups and prizes for 2023 were presented by the President.

7. Proposals and Amendments to the Constitution

- (a) The Vice President to be a member of the Executive and attend all meetings.

Proposed By:- Sandra Ford **Seconded by:-** Angela Frith.

- (b) The role of SW Representative to be split.

- (c) Vice President to chair meetings in the absence of the President.

The SW regional event allocated on a rotational basis to be handled by the Competitions Secretary and Assistant, the exceptions being Inter-County Ladies which will be handled by the County Captain and a sub-committee and the Inter-County Girls which will be managed by the County Junior Organiser and Junior Committee.

The England Golf voting member and representative at all England Golf Regional, General and Annual General Meetings to be the Vice President.

Proposed By:- Sandra Ford **Seconded By:-** Angela Frith.

All those in favour? Majority hands raised in favour.

All those against? No hands raised.

8. Election of Officers: To confirm the Election of Officers duly nominated for vacant positions

NOMINATIONS FOR VACANCIES ON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Name	Position	Proposer	Seconder
Sarah Whittock	County Vice Captain	Clevedon	Burnham
Angela Trenchard	Assistant Competition Secretary	Bath	Long Sutton
Alysia Rees	Vice President	Past Presidents	Past Presidents

Term of Office Ended

Name	Position
Jackie McDonald	Competitions Secretary
Fran Davies	President

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

Badges

President presented to **Sarah Whittock** Vice Captain's badge.

President presented memento glassware to Jackie McDonald.

Jackie McDonald presented to **Angela Frith** Competition Secretary badge.

Fran Davies presented to **Sandra Ford** President badge.

Sandra Ford presented to **Janet Fear** Vice President badge.

Sandra Ford presented Past President badge, memento glassware and flowers to **Fran Davies**.

9. President's Comments and closure of meeting.

Date of next AGM: Monday 18th November 2024.