



SOMERSET LADIES COUNTY GOLF ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting held at the Isle of Wedmore Golf Club on

Monday 18th November 2024 at 11.00am

MINUTES

Present:-

Denise Overson, (Vice Captain Elect) Long Sutton Golf Club, Eileen Binding, Past President, Carole Paterson, (Welfare Officer) Long Sutton Golf Club, Cheryl Saunders, Worlebury Golf Club, Katrina Foote, Wells Golf Club, Lyn Gridley, Taunton & Pickeridge Golf Club, Terina Parker, Taunton & Pickeridge Golf Club, Emma Smith, Taunton & Pickeridge Golf Club, Jill Paul, Taunton & Pickeridge Golf Club, Kate Vaughan-France, Burnham & Berrow Golf Club, Maddie Casson, Cannington Golf Club, Nicky Wisniewski, Wheathill Golf Club, Pauline Cornish, Mendip Spring Golf Club, Jackie McDonald, Clevedon Golf Club, Ruth Ball, Minehead Golf Club, Tricia Grinton, Minehead Golf Club, Anne Collins, The Mendip Golf Club, Aimee Sawyer, The Mendip Golf Club, Lyn Bird, Isle of Wedmore Golf Club, Linda Edmondson, Brean Golf Club, Abigail Moore, Isle of Wedmore Golf Club, Simon Moore, Isle of Wedmore Golf Club, Alison Rowlesland, Stockwood Vale Golf Club, Lynda Sage, Stockwood Vale Golf Club, Jackie Hallett, Stockwood Vale Golf Club, Jeanette Cook, Saltford Golf Club (BDLGA), Patricia Pitt, Orchardleigh Golf Club, Lorraine Taylor, Enmore Golf Club, Christine Hannam, Enmore Golf Club

Executive Committee : Sandra Ford, President, Janet Fear, Vice President, Angie Frith, Competitions Secretary, Angela Trenchard, Assistant Competitions Secretary, Louise Buxton, Honorary Treasurer, Rebecca Thompson, Honorary Secretary, Helen Hayward, Captain, Sarah Whittock, Vice Captain.

1. President's Address

Welcome to the Somerset Ladies County AGM. Grateful thanks to Isle of Wedmore for hosting us once again.

Ladies golf in Somerset has had a year of some amazing highs and some devastating lows as I always like to be positive, I will start with the lows.

The most surprising news broke with the rumours of Farrington Golf Club's changes. A beautiful well maintained golf club with over 800 members was to be no more! I have lost many a ball on the challenging lake holes but alas never again. Fortunately, the majority of members have moved to new clubs and are once again enjoying golf, competition and camaraderie.

Rumours ran riot in September relating to the sales of both Brean and Tall Pines. Both were declared false! However, as you are probably well aware Brean has subsequently been sold. I am keeping my fingers and toes crossed that its new owners will preserve the 18 holes and wonderful club house.

In Gloucestershire Tracey Park is now going to be a private dwelling!

That is all the bad news! Now for the good! Congratulations to all our competition winners this season. Well done to Abigail Moore, Abigail Whittock and Amanda Mayne our Ladies, Junior and Seniors Champions respectively.

I was thrilled to see our Somerset sisters Mimi and Patience Rhodes competing in the Curtis Cup albeit on a television screen as I couldn't get to the event. It amazes me that for a small county we have so many talented golfers. Harriet Lockley continues to be a key Welsh player. Both Patience and Harriet are in the top 500 world ranking amateur female golfers with Davina Xanh only a few points below. Unfortunately, Somerset does not have a World Ranking 54 hole competition.

Congratulations to all our Junior Girls who travelled up and down the country playing in major events.

This year Jade Cope who has been playing for Somerset for some time has taken the plunge to become a Teaching Professional. I am sure you will join with me in wishing her every success in her new career. Jade has a wonderfully laid-back attitude, and I am sure that she will create future golfing stars. Any chance of a lesson, Jade? It would be a challenge for you!

I will leave Helen to talk about Inter-Counties. It was great to see our Somerset USA contingent and to see how well the team bonded again. Good luck to Davina Xanh, Harriet Lockley, Jess Haines and Frankie Dezis with the remainder of their studies. Please come back to Somerset!

Throughout the year I have been supported by a very hardworking and good-humoured Committee. Janet Fear has juggled her multiple roles very well. Louise Buxton has kept a very watchful eye over your money. Becky Thompson has taken on the extra task of ordering kit and has been very efficient in chasing orders. Angie Frith and Angela Trenchard have run all the competitions overcoming some challenges on the way. Lloyd Katz has grown our Junior girls. Our Captain Helen Hayward gives up the reins today for a well-earned rest. Sarah Whittock takes over the role with Denise Overson as her Vice. I look forward to working with all the exec next year. We also say goodbye to Terry Williams who has been our coach for the last six years. He has been a great coach and friend, and I wish him every success for the future.

This Association will be 125 years old in 2026! Golf is a wonderful sport which can be played at all levels and by all ages. Long may it prosper in Somerset.

2. The Honorary Secretary convened the meeting for 2024

Madam President, Captain, Ladies and Gentleman, welcome to the 2024 Annual General Meeting of the Somerset Ladies County Golf Association.

I have received apologies from:-

Lloyd Katz, Junior Organiser, Executive Committee
Susie Gibbins, Standard Scratch Assessor

Ruth Dowell, Cricket St Thomas Golf Club
Julie Blumgart, Enmore Golf Club - represented by Lorraine Taylor and Christine Hannam
Sheila Grant, Oake Manor Golf Club
Jenny Johnston, Weston Super Mare Golf Club
Fran Davies, Past President
Martha Perriam, Past President
Amanda Mayne, Past President

Margaret Gliddon, Past President
Sally Irlam, Past President
Maggie Dommett, Isle of Wedmore Golf Club

3. The Minutes of the 2023 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 2024.

Proposed By:- Maddie Casson **Seconded By:-** Aimee Sawyer

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

I present the audited accounts for the Somerset Ladies County Golf Association for the year ended 30th September 2024.

Profit and Loss Account

Last year we spent **£7,572** supporting women and girls golf in Somerset, compared with £4,157 in the previous year.

We received Affiliation Fees from 1,681 ladies and 107 girls, amounting to **£16,920**. The SGU continue to collect all fees from the Clubs on our behalf.

Competitions made an overall profit of **£607** compared to a loss of £450 last year.

Bank Interest was **£1,061**, due to the higher interest rates on our deposit accounts.

Team expenditure increased from £10,070 to **£12,494**. Match week cost more because it was held at Perranporth rather than Clevedon. We held an extra Assessment Day so coaching costs increased. We also bought team jerseys, polo shirts, caps and cool flex tops.

We gave **£2,300** Special Projects grants to develop women's and girls' golf at 2 clubs and to support older women's golf through the County Seniors.

Our investment in the Junior girls increased from £5,863 to **£6,926**. We support the Junior teams, development competitions and purchase Junior team kit.

Balance Sheet

Our total assets decreased from £43,107 to **£35,535** on 30th September 2024.

We had **£30,262** in 2 deposit accounts and **£9,222** in our current account.

We had stocks and equipment amounting to **£1,531**. This year we have replenished our stocks of Championship badges and presentation glassware. We continue to use our stocks of logo golf balls in team matches and as competition prizes.

Debtors and prepayments were **£800**, which was mainly a deposit for team accommodation for the 2025 inter county tournament at Woodbury Park.

Creditors and accruals of **£6,279**, included the annual team coaching invoice and the costs of the South West Foursomes event, which we hosted in early October.

Junior Coaching Account

At 30th September 2024, there was **£10,417** in the Junior Coaching Account. The coaching and subsidiary costs exceeded the income from parents, sponsorship, Somerset Ladies and England Golf by **£764**. The Junior committee continue to award bursaries to support individual girls. However, the expected costs of delivering a full coaching and training programme to develop our girls' golf are increasing.

This year the Junior committee is taking over the administration of junior finances under the overall supervision of the SLCGA Treasurer.

Affiliation Fees

In 2024, both the SGU and England Golf increased their fees by £1. In 2025 England Golf will again be increasing their affiliation fees from £10.50 to £11.25. The SGU men's fees will remain at £12. The SLCGA have not increased our £10 affiliation fees for many years and a couple of years ago we decreased our girls' fees from £10 to £1, which as the same as the SGU charge boys. We recently received a request from the Junior Committee to raise the girls' fees back to £10 in order to fund the increasing costs of delivering the Junior coaching programme. After much discussion, the Executive committee decided instead to increase the ladies' affiliation fees to £12, the same as the Somerset men.

Special Projects Fund

A reminder that Clubs can 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. More details of the requirements for Special Projects can be found on our website.

Does anyone have any questions?

Question 1. Carole Paterson, Long Sutton delegate and who is also on the Junior Committee as well as holding the position of County Welfare Officer, wanted it minuted that the Junior Committee had not actually discussed putting in a request to the Executive Committee to increase the Junior fees, and she would have in fact opposed this change.

Question 2. Alison Rushgrove, Bath delegate, commented that the SLCGA have significant funds in the bank. LB responded that the SLCGA have been investing in golf in excess of the income received for the last couple of years, which is not sustainable over the longer term. The slight fee increase will enable the level of investment to continue.

This will be my last year as Treasurer so please could all delegates consider whether anyone in their Club might be interested in taking over from me.

Accounts approved:-

Proposed By:-

Maddie Casson

Seconded By:-

Aimee Sawyer

5. Reports

(a) County Captain

Helen Hayward

County Championships

This year the county championships were held at Mendip Springs, a fantastic host, thank you for having us. This year's winner was the impressive Abby Moore who shot a total 2 under par to pip past winners Aimee Sawyer and Jade Cope to trophy. An outstanding performance for such a young player.

2nd Team

Lead by Sarah my vice the second team had a successful year with a large number of new faces, most who came from our selection day.

We might not have had the result we wanted losing 7-2 to Cornwall at a quirky West Cornwall golf club against an experience Cornwall team and an 4.5-4.5 half against Devon at Long Sutton golf club. However, it has been a great year with a huge number of debuts made and it is looking very promising for the future.

1st Team

We also had a successful inter counties tournament at Perranporth this year. The team was made up of Abbie Moore - Isle of Wedmore, Elizabeth Stephens - Mendip Springs, Jade Cope - Weston-super-Mare, Aimee Sawyer and Ellen Reakes - The Mendip, Davina Xanh, Frankie Dezis, Jess Haines, Harriet Lockley and Ffion Lockley - Burnham & Berrow.

The first day we played last year's defending champions Dorset in the morning, unfortunately narrowly losing 2-3.

In the afternoon the team played Gloucestershire, after the narrow defeat in the morning all the matches remained very close throughout the afternoon but nearly all fell in Somerset's favour and we won 4 1/2 points out of 5 with all games also finishing on 17 and 18.

The second day we faced host county Cornwall who had been preparing well for the event on home soil. Somerset walking away with 4 out of 5 points, after two every close halves.

In the afternoon Somerset played Wiltshire, with another strong 4 1/2 to 1/2 win.

Dorset at this point had won all their matches apart from their match against Devon which was halved. After some maths the team needed Wiltshire to halve or win against Dorset and Somerset to also win their game to secure the spot in County Finals.

Halfway through the Wednesday game against Devon, Somerset were up in 4 out of the 5 games. Wiltshire against Dorset who were playing some impressive golf were up in two games, down in two and all square in one. So, if all stayed the same Somerset would secure the win!

Harriet and her sister Ffion had turned around their match from being down early on and going up 17 were all square, they won 17, meaning they were going down 18 1 up. Ffion with a slightly nervous tee shot left Harriet with a long blind shot into the tabletop raised green, Harriet with the line given to her by her sister hit the perfect shot and hit the pin leaving the ball around 5 feet away. Devon made a lovely par leaving Ffion with the 5-foot putt to win 2up. She rolled in the putt to do so. Somerset winning their last game 5-0.

Dorset at this point had just beaten us to the trophy narrowly beating Wiltshire 3-2.

Congratulations to the team, Ffion and Abbie both making their debut and winning 1/1 and 2/2 matches respectively. Davina and Frankie winning an outstanding 5/5 matches and Jess also remaining unbeaten with 4 1/2 out of 5. I couldn't be prouder of the team with an incredible individual 18 wins, 4 halves, and 3 losses overall (all against Dorset). Thank you to those who came to support us, it is always appreciated. Next year the event is a little closer to home at East Devon Golf Club, 30th June - 2nd July 2025.

Other

Outside of the Somerset Ladies events a number of successes have been made, including Patience and her sister Mimi Rhodes winning performances in the Curtis Cup.

Jess and Davina with impressive performances in the English Amateur.

Saltford girls winning the EG Junior Club Champion team event.

Congratulations to Mimi Rhodes on her recent victory since turning pro as part of the winning team event in the Armco Team Series.

Just to name a few!

A little mention to Jade Cope who has been a very important presence in the team for too many years to count, who has recently left the amateur ranks, and is now an assistant professional at Weston-Super-Mare.

As a past player and soon to be past captain I would like to recognise Terry Williams who has stepped down from his County Coach role, we acknowledge his contribution to Somerset Ladies, having helped get us to two county finals - the whole of Somerset team would like to thank him for the incredible spirit and work he has put in over 7+ years. We now welcome Joe Bray of Saltford golf club to our team and look forward to an exciting new coaching era.

A special thank you to Sarah, my Vice Captain, who has been my right-hand woman and I couldn't have done it without you this year. A massive thank you to Sandra who not only cooked breakfast every day at inter counties but continually looks after all of us and completed her President duties always with a smile on her face.

All that is left is for me to say thank you to the committee and best of luck next year to Sarah, Denise and the team.

(b) Junior Organiser

Lloyd Katz (Read by Eileen Binding)

It has been another successful season of golf for Somerset Girls Golf.

As a county we are extremely privileged to have over 70 juniors engaged in our county coaching program which again has provided great support to the girls through the winter season. Thank you to Burnham and Berrow, Mendip, Wells, Farrington Park and Saltford clubs for your support last year. Also thank you to all the volunteers who have supported the coaches in helping girls develop their game.

So, what has happened this year?

Somerset Girls Championships

This year our County Girls championship was held at Enmore Golf Club. The golf course was in great condition and the dry conditions and elevated greens proved that our girls needed to be very tactical on the day.

We saw some new first-time entries for both the 36 hole and 18-hole competitions.

In the 36-hole competition, 12 girls competed for the Wilkinson (Championship) Cup. After a solid 2 rounds of golf, Abi Whittock was crowned Girls County Champion with a total score of 161 (80, 81). Lilianna Marshall and Abbie Moore both finished with 163, 2 shots behind, and Lilianna won on count back. Amber Thorp retained the u15 36-hole gross prize with a winning score of 173, Connie Cox won the 36-hole nett and Ava Hirons the 36-hole stableford

In the afternoon the 18-hole competition saw 12 girls in the higher handicaps compete. Hannah Katz won the gross competition with a score of 96 for her round. Rebekah Muncer came 2nd in the gross with a score of 98 and won the 18-hole stableford. Ashleigh Moore won the 18-hole nett.

South West Championship

2024 also saw the return of the South West Championships for juniors held at Filton G.C. The day was packed with over 60 participants to the event across all 6 counties. The course played extremely hard on a hot day. Nobody shot under par.

Abi Moore finished 5th and best for of our girls on the day a gross 80. Hannah Katz won the under 14 nett trophy.

South West Inter Counties Team Championship

On the 4th - 7th August 2024, 9 girls represented the Somerset Girls Inter Counties team. this year was hosted by Wiltshire at Cumberwell Park Golf Club.

All the matches this year were nail biters to the extreme with really close finishes. On day 1, Somerset started with a good victory in the morning against a very strong Dorset side. In the afternoon the girls had a tough match against rivals and narrowly lost to tournament overall winners Gloucestershire.

After a good night's rest, the girls played great golf against Cornwall. With Somerset up in 3 matches with 3 holes to were pipped to victory but a strong Cornwall fight back. Our final match on day 2 was against hosts Wiltshire which we won by 5 -0.

With the tournament league table in the balance, Somerset had a deciding match against Devon. Whoever won that match would take 2nd place overall. Unfortunately, after a really strong performance by our girls Devon nudged us 3.5 - 1.5. This result saw Somerset finish in 5th overall. While girls were disappointed with the overall result there was incredible learnings taken from the event and lots of things to take away for next year.

To close with some highlights for the year.

This year it was a joy to see Abbie Moore a junior win the Ladies County Championship. Abi Whittock showing her hard work pays off, winning the Somerset Girls Championship after missing out on being selected for the Somerset girls inter counties team the year before. We also need to mention Hannah Katz who after an horrific horse-riding injury and being unable to play golf for 2 years, showed great resilience and mental strength in retuning to golf and winning the Avon Schools Nett, South West Nett

and Somerset Girls 18-hole Gross Championships this year. Again, we celebrate that we had over 7 girls representing the county, playing at National tournaments across the country.

Finally thank you to everyone who has supported Somerset Girls over the year especially the junior committee who serve the juniors faithfully.

Let's hope for greater success for all our girls in 2025.

(c) England Golf SW Regional Committee Rep

Janet Fear

Thrown in to the running of Golf outside of our County I have to admit I have enjoyed this year finding out more.

The South West Team, made up with 4 Associations and the two merge counties of Devon and Wiltshire oversee the running of most things SW, Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Dorset, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire.

Inter Counties this year in Cornwall, being “The biggy”, I am sure you have heard already about that.

Australian Spoons, Regional Final in Wiltshire, this year Somerset had 8 clubs out the 30 entries. Taunton & Pickeridge coming 13th was our best result.

Seniors 50+ Gross Team Event, this year at Torquay, Devon, this event to be a regular fixture in the SW calendar, Somerset attended, we are still learning with this event. Watch this space in the future.

SW Bowmaker a fun competition, this year played at Bristol & Clifton and Gloucestershire picked up most of the Prizes.

SW Foursomes another fun competition this year run by Somerset at Clevedon, and Somerset collected the main prizes Amanda Mayne and Gill Brown winning the Gross, Jackie McDonald and Heather Priestly winning the Nett.

Junior Inter Counties and Championships are run by the CJOs for the South West.

The SW Championships has now been finished, since losing it World Ranking points the entries have been too low to continue run this competition.

Discussions are in progress to add a **Senior 50+ League** mirroring the 2nd Team League. Hopefully more information next year.

In 2025 Somerset are Hosting the SW Bowmaker, again at Clevedon, who looked after us so well. This will be on 29th September 2025, a date for everyone's diary.

Most of the SW Team are also the Voting Representatives for their Counties, so it is nice to already know someone when we go up to Woodhall Spa & Kings Norton for meetings and the AGM.

The main point of interest this year has been the addition of the Associations (Ladies/Women Counties) into the Woodhall Spa Land Holdings Trust with 40% voting rights, this has taken years to agree and has finally happened. Three Directors have been added to the Land Holding Board from England Golf and hopefully England Golf will finally start replacing the Club house at Woodhall Spa this time next year. Don't know if that means future meetings will be much quicker, we shall see.

It was hoped all clubs would be signed up to Respect In Golf in 2024, most are now on the journey if not completed but there are still a few still to start.

Somerset Success's at England Golf events this year have included Mimi & Patience Rhodes playing for the Curtis Cup team.

Our Saltford Girls Team winning the England Junior Champion Club.

Race to Woodhall Spa, Well Done to Millie Pearce from Mendip Spring making it to the National final.

Amanda Mayne coming 10th in the Senior Womens Champion of Champions.

Abigail Moore coming Tied 14th in the Womens Champion of Champion.

Abigail Whittock representing us in the Junior Girls Champion of Champion.

Next Year we are adding the Women Champion Club to our list and Weston-Super-Mare will represent us qualifying at the Handicap Championships this summer.

England Golf have just set up a new website, **Golf Fore Her**, focusing on women's health issues that can affect their playing golf.

I shall stop there, lots more information about what England Golf has been up to this year and it can be found on their website.

(d) Competitions Secretary

Angie Frith

It has been a good year for our competitions, with most being very well supported. We would like to say a big thank you to the County Delegates for promoting these competitions among their club members as it is part of our constitution to provide events for women of all ages and playing levels.

The entry fees were kept at the same rate as last year, except for the two 4BBB competitions which had previously been foursomes, so the fees were slightly increased. Next year, they will be in line with the bowmaker - £25 per person - as entrants do play the whole course with their own ball. We will also slightly increase the Championship entrance from £30 to £35 as it is played over 36 holes.

Our aim is not to make a profit from these competitions, but to ensure they break even over the year. Our tee usage costs will increase year on year as clubs need to keep their income up. It is still a very cost-effective way to play other courses, with the chance to win good prizes. Our treasurer is very generous!

On that note, we know that many people do not want to wait around until the end of the day for prize-giving, especially in competitions with a large field of players. It is nice for winners of trophies to be awarded to them at the event, preferably with an appreciative audience – and of course we like the photos for the website. However, we were finding that posting vouchers out to winners was becoming expensive as we need to pay for tracking. We trialled the use of Marks & Spencer e-Gift Cards this year, which seem to have been well-accepted. Please let us know if this is not the case!

This year, we were hosted very well by Minehead, Mendip Spring, Wells, Oake Manor, Isle of Wedmore, Stockwood Vale and Clevedon. Our thanks go to their management, you the delegates, the Ladies' Captains, committee members and all the volunteers who have helped the events to be so welcoming and successful. We do try to use all of the clubs in the county in rotation, although some are less willing to provide time on their course, or already have a lot of external fixtures in the diary.

For the most part, all the events ran very smoothly. There are always the dodgy moments when not everything goes to plan and I'm just relieved when everyone pulls together to overcome any difficulties and appreciates, we are doing our best.

We thought we might have another 'Enmore motorway moment' at the start of the season when there was another serious RTA on the motorway near Minehead, but thankfully the road was kept open and, after a few juggled tee times, we got back on track quickly.

Another notable fingernail biting moment was when IG decided to have a funny five minutes at Mendip Spring for our Championship, only recognising the old course layout, thinking a new par 4 was an old par 5, skewing all the nett results. We were able to present all the gross prizes, but Sandra and I took another couple of hours to re-enter all results onto IG after updating the course, leaving Mendip Spring at 8pm, having arrived at 7am to start the competition. Some wine was drunk later than evening! We had reasonable support for all our competitions this year, and full details are on each competition page on the website. It is disappointing that we still have so few for the Championship. Again, this year we had 20, with one having to withdraw. Although it is a gross qualifying event, there are nett prizes and it is open to all, with a maximum WHS Handicap Index of 28.0.

Last year, we did suggest that clubs might like to send – and even fund – their own Club Champion. That didn't seem to resonate but we are ever hopeful that this event will be better promoted and supported.

We provide a bursary for the Champion, the Senior and Junior Champions to take part in the Champion of Champions events run by England Golf at Woodhall Spa in early September. We were delighted that all three champions participated this year. By all accounts it is an amazing experience and an accolade to be part of such a prestigious event.

England Golf also runs a Club Champion of Champions each year, with three members of one club able to participate. The Executive discussed how we should pick the club and entrants, deciding on the three best scores from players of the same club who played in the Handicap Championship Medal in August, to represent Somerset in the following year's championship in September. I am delighted to say that our winners this year came from Weston-Super-Mare, Jade Cope, Shirley Gooding and Sue Stilwell. Unfortunately, Jade won't be able to take part now as she has turned professional – many congratulations Jade – so another low-handicap player from Weston will be invited. Just goes to show there is more to these county competitions than just a jolly time on the day! Please do continue to encourage folks to enter.

Details of all the fixtures for next year are on the home page of the website and the posters have been uploaded to each competition page. Entry will now open on 1st January 2025 for all competitions, so please make a note in your diaries and encourage your ladies to enter.

One change that we have made this year is regarding the use of buggies. Those aged 80 and over are now welcome to use a buggy without having to show any medical certificate. As ever, they are allowed for under 80s with consultation and a medical certificate in advance. Obviously, all buggy users will need to liaise with the club to ensure availability and to pay for the buggy.

As with last year, there is also a County Calendar on the home page, showing our fixtures alongside the Seniors, Past Captains, Juniors, SW EG and Club Open events. Please do look and encourage your team captains to check this when arranging Club matches, Alliance, IC etc. If your Club's Open is not on there please email 'compsec' and I will add it (compsec@somersetladiesgolf.org).

Almost finally, a reminder of Rogers Cup / Centenary Plate entry forms need to be sent to us by 31st December 2024, including the relevant BACS payment. Details of all the competitions, the rules,

trophies available to win and, after, the winners and photos, are all on the SLCGA website. We also have a dedicated Facebook page, so please do follow us.

Last, but definitely not least, a big thank you to Angela who volunteered to fill the Assistant Competitions Secretary role this time last year. We work very closely together and it's so useful having two of us in position to share the administration. This will be my final year so I am just putting it out there that Angela will need her own assistant competitions secretary next year so please start looking for volunteers who would enjoy keeping their brains active and being part of a committee that serves so many women golfers!

(e) Handicap Adviser

Janet Fear

Somerset Handicap Secretaries, men and women started this year with a face-to-face training day with England Golf to educate them about this year handicapping changes.

These changes came into effect on the 1st April.

CR-Par was added to the course handicap calculation so we now all play to 36 points whichever tee you are playing from, so goodbye to adjustments shots in Stableford competitions.

Unrounded course handicaps to be used when applying the handicap allowance in a competition came in. How many times have we had to explain this to members because the playing handicap is not what they expected it to be?

Fortunately, this doesn't apply in match play when you are all stood on the first tee without a calculator.

4BBB became acceptable for handicap, I like this, but it has been a learning curve, getting the system to work properly and getting the competitions set up correctly have proved a bit of a challenge.

Bowmakers and other team competitions are still not acceptable for handicap.

Expected Scores to be used for holes not played. This has proved another challenge. But I think we are getting there.

General play scores and the clubs management of their players and visitors doing these correctly is an even bigger challenge. If not supervised properly we are seeing many being done incorrectly and a few cases of manipulation in the system which if the club handicap committee was checking would not be happening.

Standardising par, within gender, so a hole remains the same par regardless of where the tees are, seems a sensible addition, the shot is then picked up in the CR-Par calculation.

iGolf continues to grow, now having 55K members, many moving on into clubs. There are 850 iGolfers locally, all paying green fees. This year iPlay was also set up, free for use with fun golf.

Referees with my other hat on;

We started the year with a very successful Level Two Rules school run by the SGU for us as well as them.

You may well have spotted our new referees out on the course, the men now coming along to help with our competitions, and we go along to help with theirs. I think we have all enjoyed being part of a bigger group, with easy access to Level Three referees that we can ask our questions too.

We finish the year with the SGU providing a Christmas lunch for us to attend and so we can all get together.

(f) Honorary Secretary

Rebecca Thompson

I will keep my report short as there are a lot of others to get through!

Again, it has been a pleasure to serve Somerset Ladies County Golf and I really am proud of the work that is done by the committee and of all the you. You are all a key part of County Golf and you all step up to help us, from keeping your noticeboards up to date to liaising and helping key executive officers when your clubs host the various competitions.

I am sure that a lot of you think I am crazy as I sometimes repeat myself and I thank those of you who pick me up on it - you know who you are! I will try better in 2025!

It was a shame this year that only a few delegates were able to come to Wells Golf Club and join in ten holes of golf with us. I hope that in 2025, as soon as the date is announced more people will be able play.

I am now going into my last year as secretary and I urge anyone who is interested in taking over from me to let me know as it would be great to gradually hand over to someone new instead of leaving it to the last minute. The role really isn't onerous and you get to meet up with all these lovely people regularly and you gain a great insight into County and National golf.

I am looking forward to 2025 with you all, many of you will be moving on I expect and I would really appreciate it if you could let me know your replacement as soon as this is decided.

Thank you all and here's to a great 2025.

(g) President of Senior Ladies' Association

Jill Paul

It has been an honour to have served as President for this last year; the time has flown by and I have enjoyed meeting ladies at the competitions and matches.

We have held 3 officers' meetings, 2 delegates meetings and the AGM.

We are lucky to have a committee that works hard and efficiently to help keep the Association going and a keen group of delegates who are the link to the clubs.

The current membership is 314, a small drop from last year. We are working on ways to increase this number.

Thanks to a grant from the County, we were able to keep the match fees the same this year. 94 ladies signed up to play in the matches and 30 ladies played in them for the first time. We won our friendly matches against Gloucestershire and Hampshire. In the Shield matches, the 4 counties all won at least one. Dorset and Devon (who we beat) both won two, but Dorset had a better win / loss ratio so won the Shield which was presented at the SW Vets AGM at Teignmouth GC.

I would like to congratulate Captain Ros Chidgey for her leadership with this.

This year we held competitions at Worlebury (better ball), Wheathill (bowmaker), Mendip Spring (Florida scramble) and T&P (9 hole bowmaker).

Thanks to our new Competition Secretary, Jane Harries, for organising these and to the ladies from the respective clubs who helped on the day.

We would like to see greater participation next year but unfortunately, I think it's a general trend. I would also like to wish Chris Harris and Gill McGrath a happy and successful year as President and Captain respectively.

Somerset has continued to run the SW Vets this year with competitions at Yeovil and Weston, thus covering the 4 counties during our two years in office.

We were so lucky with the weather on both occasions, and it was good to see ladies from the 4 counties, despite the distance, although fewer than last year.

We have held two Zoom meetings during the year and as a result have updated the Constitution to include more guidelines on matches. One thing to be trialled next year will be that one or both meetings will be a pairs / team event rather than an individual Stableford to see if that leads to a bigger entry.

By having Ball Draws at the 4 SW Vets field days / competitions and 2 of the seniors comps this year, £650 has been raised for the Children's Hospice SW.

A cheque was presented to the Area Fundraiser at the AGM.

I'd like to thank my fellow sub-group ladies - Kay Luckett (Minehead) Secretary, Jan Bishop (Weston) Treasurer and Carole Paterson (Long Sutton) Competitions for their hard work over the 2 years. We have enjoyed working together, although it's not been without a few frustrations!

We wish Cornwall all the best for the next 2 years.

(h) Chairman of Ladies' Past Captain's Society

Claire Biggs

Good Morning to our County President, Committee Members and all other ladies present at this AGM. I am Claire Biggs and I play at the Isle of Wedmore Golf Club and I chair the SLPCS.

We have had another 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 Linda Johnson and Lesley Wills on April 24th at Tall Pines. The Summer meeting at Enmore Park was a repeat Linda and Lesley defeating the field of 50 ladies. Unfortunately, the Autumn meeting was cancelled we just did not have enough entries to make a viable competition but next year we plan a few changes which we hope will bring back teams to what is a great day out. Well done to all the winners and next year's meetings are at Saltford, Clevedon and Worlebury all details on the Somerset web site.

As usual we played 8 matches, 7 against other Counties and the traditional match versus the Past Men Captains we won 2 drew 2 and lost 4 but great enjoyment was had by all our ladies. The highlight must be the match against Cornwall, we won the match which was rather unusual, and this despite the Somerset team overcoming the closure of the M5 resulting in delays including over an hour sitting stationary on the motorway for Deidre Wheadon from the Isle of Wedmore but such is the spirit of the game she still came to Enmore joined her playing partner on the 7th and they won their match.

The Past Captains season would not be complete without the two days away, the competition was held at Donnington and perfectly organised again by Susie Gibbins, 76 ladies competed in teams of 4 and the 36 hole competition was won by the Wells team of Katrina Foote, Glynis Slater, Erica Klim and Gill Magrath. Next year we are off to Donnington Valley again on Sunday May 12th – Monday May 13th.

However, the real highlight of the year was the 30th Anniversary Lunch held at Wedmore with 77 ladies including many who are no longer active on the golf course but joined us to celebrate the occasion. We had two talks from Lesley Organ (all about the history of the Society) and Sandra Ford (anecdotes of her travelling disasters) and a lovely meal and to judge from the noise and laughter a great time was had by all it was especially nice to see old friends and remember happy matches together.

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 Sandra Ford)**

Four courses were due to be re-rated under the 10 year cycle but due to Enmore Park and Tall Pines wanting to make changes before they were re-rated only Mendip Spring Lakeside and the Isle of Wedmore were completed.

There is a significant backlog at England Golf and ratings are taking over two months before the Clubs are advised of their new ratings.

We already have Enmore Park, Clevedon and Tall Pines scheduled for re-rating in 2025 and we are hoping that one more will be added to the list before the end of 2024.

Currently we have quite a large pool of course rating assistants, both men and women, some of whom are working their way to being Team Leaders. This journey is not easy and involves a considerable amount of reading as well as the work involved during course ratings. However, they are committed, and it is anticipated that we should have 3 new Team Leaders, 2 being women, certainly by the middle of 2025 if not before. We have another women and man just starting their learning programme and they hopefully will achieve their goals in 2026.

(i) County Welfare Officer **Carole Paterson**

I have been involved with Somerset Juniors and Safeguarding since 2010. Safeguarding lead since 2014 (since I retired from LA Social work). I keep my training up to date via England Golf statutory training modules.

This year I have spent quite a lot of time bringing all the Adult and Children's Safeguarding policies up to date. Golf clubs and County cannot operate without the Safeguarding awards issued by England Golf. All the policies are on the SCLGA website, and they are available to access for advice, they can be downloaded either in specific sections or whole documents. They are there for clubs and Club Welfare officers to use. They are designed to allow clubs to amend to suit their needs.

I am part of the Junior girls committee and offer advice as required. I do have to deal with some player issues. These are dealt with on a case-by-case sensitive basis.

My contact details are on the County website and I am available for advice / action as needed. I do get quite a few calls from golf officials, concerned parents and others to talk things through and I help them find a way forward.

Thank you.

6. Competition Results

2024 SLCGA Competition Results were circulated to all Club Delegates on 28th October 2024 for display on Ladies' notice boards. County Competition dates for 2025 are on the website. The Fixture List for 2025 are on the website.

7. Presentation of Trophies

Cups and prizes for 2024 were presented by the President.

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

NOMINATION FOR VACANCY ON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Name	Position	Proposer	Secunder
Denise Overson	County Vice Captain	Saltford	Long Sutton

Term of Office Ended

Name	Position
Helen Hayward	Captain

The **President** welcomed the new officer and thanked the retiring officer and presented badge and retiring gift.

Badges

President presented to **Helen Hayward** Past Captain’s badge.

Helen Hayward presented to **Sarah Whittock** Captain's badge.

Sarah Whittock presented to **Denise Overson** Vice Captain's badge.

9. President’s Comments and closure of meeting.

The date of the next AGM: Monday 17th November 2025 at 11.00 am.

Signed Date