



## **SOMERSEX COUNTY SENIOR LADIES GOLF ASSOCIATION**

### **Minutes of the Delegates Meeting held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024 Isle of Wedmore Golf Club at 11 a.m.**

#### **The Meeting was Chaired by The Senior Ladies Captain - Ros Chidgey**

#### **Captain's Welcome**

**Ros Chidgey** opened the meeting by welcoming Officers, Delegates, Honorary Members and Mark Biddle the R&A golf referee our speaker today.

Whether you are new or longer serving or you are covering for your Club's Delegate, Somerset Senior Ladies would not be able to function effectively without your help liaising between the Senior Ladies Committee and all the Senior ladies in the County's Golf Clubs. It is a pleasure to talk to you face to face.

**A minute's silence was held in honour of** – Honorary Members who recently passed away –

Mrs Cherry Kitton, Mrs Val Russell, and Mrs Val Boothman

#### **Present**

**Committee** Jill Paul (President), Christine Harris (Vice President), Ros Chidgey (Captain), Jane Harries (Competition Secretary), Jan Bishop (Treasurer), Kate Smith (Secretary), Sue Vowles (Membership Secretary), Kay Luckett (Past President), Sue Bamping (Past Captain)

**Honorary Members** June Mills (Clevedon), Carole Paterson, Jenny Davis, Mary Dolman, Yvette Gregg

**Delegates** Jenny Thomas (Isle of Wedmore), Marlene Ewens (Taunton & Pickeridge), Anne Weston & Anita Leng (Enmore Park), Pat Lucas (Minehead), Alison Lee (Clevedon), Pam Kinnear (Oake Manor), Alison Powlesland (Stockwood Vale), Sue Jacobs (Saltford), Sue Kinch (Worlebury), Marilyn Cole for Gill Magrath (Wells), Sylvie Coach-Tucker (Long Sutton), Barbara Shaw & Mary Tricker (Cricket St. Thomas),

#### **1. Apologies**

- a. **Committee Members:** Gill Magrath Vice Captain (Wells)
- b. **Honorary Members:** Caroline Lumley Frank (Long Sutton) June James (Isle of Wedmore)
- c. **Delegates** Sue Sweet (Orchardleigh) Diane Squance (Vivary Park) Greta Hillier (Wheathill) Glynis Nicholson (Mendip Spring) Linda Edmondson (Brean) Stephanie Moorfoot (Bath), Eunice Bond (Isle of Wedmore)

#### **2. Approval of the Delegates minutes held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**Proposed by ...** June Mills, Isle of Wedmore

**Seconded by ...**Pat Lucas - Minehead

#### **3. Matters Arising – There were no Matters arising**

**4. Captain's Report – Ros Chidgey**

I would like to thank you for returning the match sheets with the names of those ladies who wish to play in both the Friendly and Shield matches especially considering the dreadful weather which has meant so many ladies not venturing down to their club.

I am pleased with the response and although the matches seem so far away when asked to sign up for them, they will soon be upon us, the first one being only just over three weeks away.

With only one match away this year hopefully we can benefit from home advantage, and I look forward to meeting all the ladies at the various venues. I must say a special thank you the ladies that have signed up for the Dorset match at Bulbury Woods, hopefully it will be a very enjoyable day.

**5 Vice Captain's Report – Gill Magrath - read by Marilyn Coles (Wells G.C.)**

I apologies for not being with you today, I had been looking forward to meeting you all but hopefully we will catch up during the year.

Uniform sales have already started for this year and as stock is limited, please contact me via my email address on the website if anyone requires uniform.

I have also been busy arranging next year's matches which will hopefully all be sorted before we start golf in earnest this year.

I hope you all have a good golfing season.

**6 Competition Secretary's Report – Jane Harries**

**Update on 2024 entries.**

Entry forms are on the [Somersetladiesgolf.org](http://Somersetladiesgolf.org) website under the drop-down menu of SCSLGA60+

**Spring Meeting** at Worlebury on 15th May (4BBB - but enter as pairs) 10 pairs entered to date.

The closing date is 17th April, so still time to apply -

**Summer Meeting** at Wheathill on 20th June - 3 Ball Bowmaker has 6 teams entered to date.

**Autumn Meeting** at Mendip Spring for a 3 ball Florida Scramble has 7 teams entered to date.

**Dates for 2025 for your diary**

**Spring 4BBB** enter in pairs - Cricket St Thomas on 14th May 2025

**Summer Bowmaker** at Tall Pines on 18th June 2025

**Autumn Scramble** at Burnham & Berrow Channel Course on 11th September 2025

Still waiting for final confirmation from Burnham & Berrow, although hope it will be honoured!

Angie Frith (Somerset County) is in liaison with me regarding the 2025 dates as we are trying not to have both playing on the same day and/or same course within a short period of time.

**7. Treasurer's Report – Jan Bishop**

Bank Balances as of 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024 are

Current Account £3,940.21

Deposit Account £4,839.55

They continue to look healthy as you would expect at this time of year as funds are coming in, but we have not spent much yet, and includes -

### **Subscriptions**

£1,505 received to date which is down from £1,605 in 2023 and £1,775 in 2022. But it does continue through the year so we may yet get a couple more.

### **Competitions**

£1,325 from entry fees and the first one is in May so still plenty of time to enter.

### **Matches**

Match fees are held at £20 as with appreciative thanks to Carole Patterson's initiative, a grant has been obtained from County of £1,050 towards match green fees and this was received in March. This will provide us with a bit more scope on venues and meal costs and with rising prices is very welcome.

Ladies don't really need to BACS their match fee until the week before but some of you are well organised and we have £160 collected so far.

The accounts for the year end 30/11/2023 are being prepared at present and will be presented at the AGM in October.

## **8 Membership Secretary's Report – Sue Vowles**

Thank you for attending today's meeting. I am Sue Vowles and took over the role of Membership Secretary from Fay Galley in November 2023.

It is a great pleasure to finally meet you in person having spent the last few months Emailing you. I am grateful to you all for all you have done and continue to do for the SCSLGA and for returning your updated membership lists by 29 February 2024 as this enabled me to update our membership details for this year. I should like to also thank and introduce seven new delegates who recently joined us in their respective roles:

- **Marlene Ewens**, Taunton and Pickeridge G.C. (replaced Pat Follett)
- **Gina Howard**, The Mendip G.C. (replaced Elaine M Richardson)
- **Pam Kinnear**, Oake Manor G.C. (replaced Pat Campbell)
- **Alison Lee**, Clevedon G.C. (replaced Rosemary Fife)
- **Anita Leng**, Enore G.C. (replaced Diana Webster)
- **Stephanie Moorfoot**, Bath G.C. (replaced Fay Galley)
- **Alison Powlesland**, Stockwood Vale G.C. (replaced Yvette Gregg)

I am pleased to say that Vivary Park Golf Club has joined the SCSLGA this year with Diane Squance representing them. It is hoped additional members from Vivary Park Golf Club will follow Diane's lead and join us in the coming months.

Unfortunately, as in 2023, membership numbers have declined – this year's overall membership totals 309 members which is a loss of 33 members and is similar to the loss of 35 members in 2023 when we had a total of 342 members. It is thought this year's decline may be a result of the very

wet weather conditions throughout January, February and the first half of March which resulted in some courses being closed for play and therefore significantly reduced footfall at many clubs. However, it is hoped that as the weather improves and people resume playing golf there may be an opportunity for membership numbers to grow.

The overall picture is not all doom and gloom as some clubs increased their membership numbers for this year, compared with last year's figures, namely Clevedon and Worlebury increased their respective memberships by six members, Bath by four members, Long Sutton by three members and Burnham and Berrow, Orchardleigh, Saltford and Vivary Park all increasing their respective membership numbers by one member.

Once again, thank you for undertaking your role as Delegate and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions/queries.

**Could you please check that your members' telephone numbers/Email addresses are accurate when returning membership details as it is imperative we have their up-to-date details on file. Unfortunately, we've had a few anomalies this year with incorrect/outdated information.**

**Carole Paterson** noted that some ladies are still working and can't retire until after 65 or 67 so we as an association must work harder to get ladies to join us. Sue Vowles asked – if there is any feedback as to why numbers are declining, we would all like to hear it. Because now it is cause for concern. If membership decreases so does income and with match fees increasing, we will find it difficult to function.

**More views and ideas regarding recruitment are quoted in AOB.**

## **9 President's Report – Jill Paul**

Honorary Members, Officers, Delegates and Guests.

It is a pleasure to meet with you, our wonderful Delegates after what seems like a long time. Thank you all for the valuable work you do as a vital link between the Members and the Officers. Thank you to those who have recently taken on this role. Please ask if you're not sure about anything; we have updated the Delegates' Duties, along with the roles of the Officers, and the Constitution. Chris has put them on the Seniors Section of Somerset Ladies Golf website.

This year for the first time we are holding the AGM before the 9 hole Bowmaker and Putting competition at T&P in October. The AGM will be at 10.00a.m. and the first tee time will be at 11.45.a.m which will be on the website. I would encourage you to take part. Jill explained that prize giving for the 9 hole & putting competition would be limited because of the time limit running the competition this way. The main prize giving which is part of the AGM will be as usual.

It is Somerset's 2<sup>nd</sup> year of running the SW Vets. This year the 2 Field days are in Yeovil (Dorset) and Weston (Somerset). Last year they were held in Cornwall and Devon. We are hoping for a lot of support from Somerset Seniors.

If you are a member of the Somerset Seniors, you are automatically a member of the SW Vets (60+). Entry forms are on the website under SW Vets. It would be nice to Senior Ladies applying for these two Stableford Competitions, so apply with a friend, they will be great fun.

I am very pleased that Chris has agreed to be my Vice-President this year.

I wish Captain Ros and Vice-Captain Gill a happy and successful year.

And I wish you and all the Seniors a good golfing season, hopefully with some dry weather.

I'd now like to mention our Honorary Members (sometimes called Life Members, of which there is a maximum of 12 at any one time).

These are ladies who have contributed in many ways (and still are) to the success of the Somerset Seniors. We wouldn't be here today if it weren't for all their hard work that's been done in the past.

Caroline Lumley Frank has sent her apologies. Sadly, Cherry Kitton and Val Russell died in the latter part of last year and the very recent death of Val Boothman.

But there are some Honorary Members here and I would like as a token of appreciation to present them with their Honorary Members Badge.

Jenny Davis, Mary Dolman, June M Mills, and the 2 appointed at the last AGM, Carole Paterson and Yvette Gregg.

#### **10 Secretary's Report – Kate Smith**

Kate welcomed the Delegates and thanked them for coming to the meeting.

She wanted to introduce herself to our new Delegates so that now they could put a face to the name of the person who sent Agendas, Minutes any amendments and other information which lands in your inbox.

Please know that our Committee are grateful and appreciate the help and support you bring to the Senior Ladies Section.

#### **11 SW Vets Report – Kay Lockett**

Welcome to everybody

Carole Paterson has informed me that for the Spring Field Day being held at Yeovil Golf Club on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 52 ladies have entered so far.

The Autumn Field Day to be held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September at Weston super Mare has, so far, received 10 players who wish to enter.

I am sure we will have more entries nearer the time for both competitions.

Quite a few ladies have entered from Somerset, we could certainly do with a few more supporting the Field Days, I hope that our Delegates from the Clubs in Somerset will encourage their members to support these two competitions. As the weather has been so wet over the past couple of months many Golf Clubs courses have been closed, this may be the reason why the entries could be better.

The competition for both events is an individual Stableford, may be in the future one of the Field Days could be a team or Pairs event, this always from my experience encourages more people to enter.

Please encourage your members to take part in one of these competitions especially as Somerset are running them this year for the SW Vets.

Cornwall take over from us next year, the Spring Field Day in 2025 is to be held at Launceston Golf Club on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May, a date for your diaries.

I would just like to say a big thank you to Carole for acting as Post Box and sorting the entries and Jan Bishop our Treasurer for recording the entry fees.

Finally, here's hoping we can at last have some fine weather to enjoy our golf.

**Ros brought item 2 from AOB forward to welcome, Mark Biddle**, our speaker to give a short talk mainly on 4BBB which is what most of the Senior Ladies matches are played.

Mark is a R&A qualified referee and gave a very informative and helpful talk on several aspects of the rules of golf which is a difficult subject for many of us.

His explanation on some of the changes of the rules stimulated much discussion from the Committee and Delegates alike especially of the recent changes which took place on 1<sup>st</sup> April.

He explained several 'nuances' to be aware of and explained the differences between match & stroke play. Before starting your 4BBB game you should be aware of the handicaps, rules, and the local rules as these differ from golf club to golf club

4BBB competition is a now a qualifying competition aimed at those players who never put in a competition score card.

Mark advised us to download the R & A Rules of Golf App. to our phones which is the easiest way to look up any rule while on the course and that rules for 4BBB has its own rule page.

The Competition Secretary presented Mark with a bottle of wine at the end of his talk.

The Secretary sent a note of Thanks to Mark for his presentation.

### **News from the Clubs -**

Delegates were invited to give a precis of what is happening at their clubs.

A common theme from most of the Delegates was that it had become difficult to recruit Senior Ladies because –

**Clevedon G.C.** Good recruitment but many Senior competitions and matches clashed with club competitions.

#### **Minehead**

Ladies section very supportive, not been closed as Minehead drains well, we have our muddy bits but we just tip toe through them.

#### **Saltford G.C.**

Distances to travel to various clubs, not enough 60+ to sign up, clashes with other golf at the club. More Disturbingly Saltford are concerned about B.A.N.E.S. gaining planning permission to build 1500 new homes where their Golf Club driving range is situated. This not only will affect our 70 junior members at our academy but the four professionals who make their living at our club. If planning goes ahead, they will lose their jobs and income.

### **Wells G.C.**

Perhaps reduce the age from 60 to 55, although they have gained many members from Farrington, recruitment to the Ladies Seniors could improve.

Jill Paul said that lowering the age had been discussed in the past and that we belonged to SW Vets in four Counties, and it would be too complicated to change all the Associations age groups. But we do have less people applying for the competitions.

Also, Carole Paterson commented that we have quite a few 70-year-olds who don't feel they can compete against 55-year-olds and that the lower age groups were also younger and fitter and this could put senior ladies under pressure trying to compete.

**Long Sutton G.C.** Cost of purchase of Uniform, Ros Chidgey said there was a 'borrow bag, kept by the Vice Captain, kept where ladies could borrow parts of the uniform if they only had one or two matches to play in and didn't want the expense of buying a full uniform.

### **Oake Manor**

The weather has been a great setback for recruiting but hopefully this may improve once the Ladies were slowly getting back to the club.

### **Isle of Wedmore**

Since October they had been closed for 44 days this winter.

### **T& P**

Mainly open but often restricted to a few holes. Green staff have managed to keep the course open on either 9 or 12 holes and on temporary greens. We have good sign ups for the matches and we shall keep pressing on.

### **Enmore Park G.C.**

It was a struggle to recruit new senior ladies but looks forward to the challenge of being a delegate and recruiting more senior ladies.

### **Stockwood Vale G.C.**

Clash of competitions/matches with Ladies days at clubs, not enough support with a small ladies' section but the membership good.

**Worlebury** Good recruitment, with several new members.

**Cricket St. Thomas** Little support, small ladies' section, and again, club ladies' days clashed with Senior comps/matches.

Something worth thinking about is changing some of the days of the Seniors competitions/matches. Some competitions/matches have been on a Monday which would be better as most ladies' days are either Tuesday or Thursday.

Many clubs wanted the Association to play on Mondays or Tuesdays as this had a bearing on costs of green fees. Then she said that there are always those who don't want to play two

days in a row which meant they wouldn't want to play for the Seniors on a Monday as it meant they couldn't play at their own club on the Tuesday.

## **AOB**

- 1. Proposal** – To discuss whether to discontinue the delegates September meeting, as the attendance at the last one the committee outnumbered the delegates.

Would the Delegates like it at a different time of the year, is it too near the AGM meeting? The committee invited the delegates to give their thoughts.

Carole Paterson said her heart sank when she thought delegates meetings would be reduced. Her thoughts were that this meeting had been a really good one and to achieve this a lot of effort by the committee to make it interesting, to interact and encourage you and every report has said how much the delegates are valued and how nice it is to meet face to face

perhaps the September date is wrong, try moving meetings to different venues around the County, not all clubs charge us to have meetings in their board room – Long Sutton doesn't nor do The Mendip and I think it's important. Mainly it's up to the committee to create the attraction for ladies to want to come to meetings.

Jill Paul seconded this view and didn't want to discontinue any meetings, but we needed ideas, August was suggested and to have the earlier meeting in March.

Yvette Gregg, who oversaw meetings during Covid, said she felt the zoom meetings hard so to meet face to face was good. She thought many of us took holidays in September.

The September meeting was too close to the AGM in October.

Personally, she liked the face-to-face meetings.

Re-arranging the calendar might be worth looking at.

Maybe a more social meeting combined with a group lunch? Or 9 holes and lunch would be good.

Another view was that clubs are reluctant to give us tee times.

The Vice President, Christine Harris, suggested inviting guest speakers, different golf related subjects, different dates could be put forward to see what ladies think about and talk about rather than to sit and listen to the committee.

Carole Paterson commented that just the way one runs a competition and those funny moments, the oddities, and the interaction. The committee must be enthusiastic. The County have gone through this exercise last year to try to make the meetings more interesting.

Maybe, then we must try different dates, ideas and maybe put a few dates forward for people.

Someone suggested November to high light the matches, but still too close to the AGM in October.

August has too much golf going on, grandparent duties and school holidays.

Delegates and Honorary Members were invited to join us for refreshments and to have their photo taken for the website.

This turned into a very lively discussion with lots of thoughts and ideas flowing.



The Committee have much to think about arranging Delegates meetings for 2025.

**The Meeting ended at. 12.30**

**The Next Delegates meeting is 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024**