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| | <p style="text-align: center;">Minutes of the Delegates Committee Meeting held on 14th January 2023 held at The Mendip Golf Club</p> |
| | <p>Present :</p> <p>Jean Booth, EG SW Rep Louise Buxton, Hon. Treasurer Fran Davies, President Janet Fear, Handicap and Rules Representative Sandra Ford, VP Angie Frith, Assistant Competitions Secretary Susie Gibbins, Course Rating Representative Helen Hayward, Captain Lloyd Katz, County Junior Organiser Jackie McDonald, Competitions Secretary Becky Thompson, Hon. Secretary</p> |
| 1. | <p>Apologies :</p> <p>Di Richardson – Tall Pines Katrina Foote – Wells, represented by Jenny Davis Linda Edmondson – Brean Lyn Russell – Cannington Sandra Eaton – Vivary Ruth Ball - Minehead Alison Lee - Clevedon Ruth Dowell - Cricket St Thomas</p> <p>Delegates introduced themselves to the meeting stating their name and the club they represented. FD introduced the Executive Committee Members to the delegates.</p> |
| 2. | <p>Minutes of Delegates Committee meeting held on 12th September 2022 were approved and signed by FD.</p> |
| 3. | <p>Finance Report – Louise Buxton</p> <p>LB summarised the accounts with particular reference to the significant cash balances that have accumulated over recent years - £48k in the SLCGA bank accounts and £12k in the Junior coaching account.</p> <p>LB then outlined some of the ways that the SLCGA Exec are planning to use these funds for the benefit of womens and girls golf in Somerset. For example:</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of the Junior Girls affiliation fee to £1 with effect from 1.1.2022. • Increased financial contribution from the SLCGA to support the Junior girls. • Junior bursaries can be awarded to girls meeting the relevant criteria. • Increased sponsorship of the Harper Salver competition run by the BDLGA (from £100 annually to £500 annually). • Considering subsidising future junior and senior competitions due to the increased costs of running the competitions, particularly the green fees charged by golf clubs. • Investment in a trophy cabinet at Clevedon to display the SLCGA trophies. <p>In her role as Bath delegate LB raised the subject of that the SLCGA set up a special projects fund as has been set up by the SGU. The Executive are considering the proposal and LB will liaise with the SGU to gain a better understanding of how the SGU fund works.</p> |
| 4. | <p>Captain's Report - Helen Hayward :</p> <p>As you can imagine there hasn't been much going on from a golf point of view since the AGM in November. The first and second teams have had a much needed break over the winter.</p> <p>I am still actively looking for a Vice Captain to support me in my role, but in the meantime Alysia Rees (past Somerset Captain) has kindly agreed to support me in my role. I am very grateful for her support. If you know of anyone who may be interested in this role please do contact me or a member of the committee.</p> <p>This year Somerset swap groups in the 2nd team match play and play Devon and Cornwall.</p> <p>The second team match against Devon has been provisionally booked for 23rd April 2023 at Torquay Golf Club.</p> <p>The home 2nd team Cornwall match is currently being organised. Planned to take place late Spring, early Summer.</p> <p>Plans for the squad training are taking shape with our coach Terry Williams.</p> <p>I am looking forward to the County Championships here at Mendip in May as well as match week at Cumberwell Park the first week in July.</p> |
| 5. | <p>Competitions Secretary – Jackie McDonald :</p> <p>Things are slowly getting ready for the 2023 season.</p> <p>Posters for all the events have been circulated to the delegates and all the competition papers on the website have been updated.</p> <p>All the Comps are set up on IG and sign up opens on 1st March. Our Comp Sec newsletter is in its final stages and will go out at the beginning of Feb.</p> <p>Otherwise at the moment there isn't really much to report, but we do need to start thinking about 2024 venues. There is little doubt that we will not have use of the courses for the £15 per head we currently pay.</p> <p>Jeanette Cook - Saltford - asked if golf venues can be added to the competition on the Intelligent Golf app – JM advised that unfortunately we have no control over the app.</p> |

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| | <p>Pat Roscow – Farrington - asked about the use of buggies in senior competitions? JM reported that as long as they have medical certificate they can have a buggy. PR commented that not all seniors have a medical reason why they need a buggy, they just struggle managing 18 holes - playing and walking. The Welfare Officer said that the county might change this ruling in the future.</p> |
| 6. | <p>SW Report - Jean Booth :</p> <p>This is my first South West report. I am Somerset's representative on the South West Ladies Committee which runs regional events on behalf of England Golf. All the South West events are advertised on the South West website www.swwomensgolf.uk The details will also be advertised on their own page on the SLCGA website once that has been updated.</p> <p>It would be very helpful if Delegates could promote & participate in the South West events. The South West Foursomes & SW Bowmaker are not limited to those with very low handicaps. They are a great opportunity to play on other courses outside the county.</p> <p>There is a rota for the counties hosting the various events. This year Somerset will host the Australian Spoons Regional final at Long Sutton on 19th June. I hope that all Somerset Clubs will send a winning pair to take part in the Regional Final. As a reminder the Aussie Spoons is a stableford foursomes competition for those with handicaps between 15.0 and 54.</p> <p>This year's Women's Inter Counties will take place at Cumberwell Park in Wilts 3-5 July.</p> <p>The girls' Inter Counties will take place at Teignmouth GC 7-9th August. Please come & support those representing the county if you can.</p> |
| 7. | <p>Junior Report - Lloyd Katz :</p> <p>Despite a rainy and wet winter, Somerset Girls' golfers and the junior committee have been fairly busy in preparation for the upcoming 2023 golfing season.</p> <p>Our Somerset Girls winter coaching program has been going very well this season. Our coaches have provided high-quality coaching and we have had over 65 girls in different squads working hard in preparation for the upcoming 2022/23 season. On behalf of the girls and the County, we would like to thank Burnham and Berrow Golf Club, Wells Golf Club, Saltford Golf Club, Mendip Golf Club, and Long Sutton Golf Club, for making their facilities and course available to the girls for our training over the winter. Also a big thank you to Dave Owen for his hard work and administration of this program.</p> <p>Alongside our coaching program, the junior committee have been working hard on putting together a full program, arranging matches, and finalizing competitions for this year. Our key events for 2023 will be our:</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring Meeting - Held on the 23rd of April 2023. • The Somerset Girls Junior Golf Championship - Held on the 25th of June 2023 • Autumn Meeting - Held on the 15th of October 2023. <p>For these events, we will be looking for volunteers to support us, so if there are any club members willing to help at these junior county events, please could you ask them to email juniors@somersetladiesgolf.org.</p> <p>There will also be 5 Somerset Girl 9-hole competitions aimed at encouraging girls in coaching squads to play more competitive golf. With the huge success of matches against club teams last season, the committee have once again arranged a number of matches to be played through the season, including an inter-counties preparation match against the Somerset u16 boys.</p> <p>In November I attended a County Junior Organiser's (CJO's) Regional Meeting held at Taunton and Pickering. It was good to introduce myself to other CJO's from the other South West counties. There was a good discussion about the learnings of the last junior Inter-County Championships and how we can improve going forward. This year's event will be hosted by Devon and will be played at Teignmouth Golf Club on the 6th-9th of August.2023.</p> <p>In closing, we would like to thank all the clubs who supported us with the use of golf courses and training facilities last season. We would also like to thank those who have agreed to support us this season. We are extremely grateful for your support, your investment in our girls, and their golf. Your support as golf clubs does not go unnoticed.</p> <p>Finally, it has been a privilege to serve the county so far in my role as CJO, and I would like to thank all of the committee for their support during this time. I would like to send my appreciation and thanks to Margaret Allen from Mendip Golf Club who has been a star in supporting me with junior administration and Eileen Binding for her ongoing support and knowledge.</p> <p>We look forward to an exciting season ahead.</p> |
| 8. | <p>Handicaps and Rules Update - Janet Fear :</p> <p>It still feels like yesterday we were trying to decide whether to leave the flag in the hole when putting, and trying to find a way of dropping the ball from knee high without looking ridiculous or weird. But that was 4 years ago and the R&A & USGA review the Rules of golf every four years. So what has changed?</p> <p>We have a new rule book, free of charge it can be ordered from the R&A website, with postage charges. Recommend one for your changing room.</p> |

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| | <p>A New Official Guide, more detail, (no index!) and Model Local Rules for the committee to use. Cost is £25, Not got mine yet still plucking up courage to ask Louise if the County will buy it for me!</p> <p>The little book that I used to tell you to have in your golf bag has not been reprinted. Why? Because there is an APP – of course there is an app, there is an App for everything! Search for R&A Rules of Golf in the App store and download. Then just hope when you are out in the middle of nowhere there is a signal.</p> <p>Actually the App is great, ask a question and it finds you the ruling, if you have used the correct words. There is a quiz in 3 levels to test your knowledge, definitely worth a go.</p> <p>So what rules have changed. We were sent this list, all the changes listed on its 15 pages... it has taken me a while to find the enthusiasm to even look at it, but as I am here today I have at last got it and the new book out.</p> <p>Lots of little changes of wordings. Hopefully you have seen a poster showing the main four changes. But working through the book in order picking out those most likely to affect your every day game.</p> <p>Rule 3.3b – all those who close competitions know which rule this is.</p> <p>The player is no longer responsible for the handicap on the scorecard. Why? It is the committee's responsibility, in the digital age, labels are printed or the score is inputted by the player into their phone or the computer so the handicap is agreed at that point.</p> <p>This is the same for team games, covered in other rules.</p> <p>The Player and Marker are only responsible for the gross score at each hole and signing the card.</p> <p>There is a Model Local Rule a club can use to put the responsibility back on the players if they want too.</p> <p>That should limit the number of DQs we have in the men's rollup competitions, just need to teach them how to play a provisional ball in a medal now to eliminate the Failure to finish hole!</p> <p>Rule 9.3. Ball at rest moves by natural forces. The ball is played where it finishes unless it comes to rest on a different part of the course or out of bounds when it has to be replaced. On the green this depends on whether the ball was marked before moving when it must also be replaced. Have a look at Rule 9.3</p> <p>Rule 10.2 Putting objects on the line of play or to help with the next shot, not allowed.</p> <p>Rule 10.2 & 22.6 & 23.8 All about standing behind the player either by caddie or playing partner in teams (Texas scrambles are not covered in the rule book) Not allowed if it is to help player or partner, but is allowed to watch the direction of flight (not putt) or by accident.</p> |
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| | <p>Rule 11.1 when putting on the green if the ball hits something/someone sometimes this counts as the shot, sometimes you Must replay the shot.(page 95) You are now allowed to hit worms and insects!</p> <p>Rule 14.3b & 17.1d– Back on-line relief. This one could well effect you. The rules in 2019 said if going back online you marked a reference point and had one club length no nearer the hole to drop into. – even though you may have gone back 20 yards! I even heard the commentators on TV saying why is he redropping? when the ball went forward of the reference point. This has changed. The ball can now finish within one club length of the drop in any direction.</p> <p>Rule 16.3 Embedded Ball, the reference point behind the ball Must be in the general area, if there is no general area behind the ball (for example a hazard, bunker!) the nearest point of general area not nearer the hole must be used. The Referee’s will remember this challenge at training days..</p> <p>Rule 21.1 Penalties in Stablefords & Par/bogey competitions – as in stroke play are applied to the hole being played and can often result in zero points.</p> <p>Rule 24.4b Team Advice givers, rule 10.2 applies, no standing behind the player to help.</p> <p>Rule 25 – a whole new rule all about players with disabilities. This use to be in a separate leaflet now one of the main rule book.</p> <p>Well that covers the main points, but there are other little changes about how or how many penalties may apply.</p> <p>Down load the app, have a go at the quiz, a little knowledge is better than none.</p> <p>See you all out on the golf course this summer.</p> |
| <p>9.</p> | <p>Course Rating Report - Susie Gibbins :</p> <p>All Clubs in Somerset will become due for re-rating under the 10 year cycle and a proposed schedule was sent to all Clubs last year advising them of which year they would be approached for a re-rating. This schedule was based on which year the original rating was carried out, starting with the earliest first (i.e. 2015).</p> <p>Clubs have to be re-rated as its part of WHS and is in the Rules of Handicapping.</p> <p>The course rating team already have Mendip Spring (April) and WSM (May) in the diary with another 2 clubs being approached to be completed this year. EG have set a limit of 10% per year of the total number of courses in each County that can be re-rated and for us this is 3. However, in order to stick to the schedule we are attempting to carry out 4 as only one was done last year.</p> <p>There is a shortage of volunteers to assist in these ratings and we are appealing for ladies to come and see what the process is all about. It is intriguing and certainly makes you view courses in a different way. There is also an opportunity if you want</p> |

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| | <p>to become a Team Leader with more responsibility. Please talk to either Di Yates or I if you are interested.</p> <p>SLCGA will advertise on FB and the clubs were asked to raise it within their clubs if any members would be interested in putting themselves forward.</p> |
| 10. | <p>Rogers Cup and Centenary Plate Draw</p> <p>The Competitions Secretary and Assistant Competitions Secretary conducted the draw for the Rogers Cup and Centenary Plate.</p> <p>The draw can be accessed on the SLCGA website.</p> |
| 11. | <p>Any other business :</p> <p>Di Richardson (Tall Pines) had asked BT to raise the point of Fowler Lock clashes with the Autumn field meeting at Stover Park, Devon. JM again reiterated that we cannot check every date clash, especially in other counties, it is a difficult enough job to timetable all our competitions. It is a shame when this happens but unavoidable.</p> <p>No other matters raised.</p> |
| 12. | <p>Questions :</p> <p>None.</p> |
| 13. | <p>News from the Clubs :</p> <p>Wedmore – not much golf going on due to weather conditions. Long Sutton – keen to help juniors. Worlebury - management changing again, Maxine Gardiner doing management. Wheathill – Ladies Open 3rd August 2023 3 Ball Stableford Bowmaker. Stockwood Vale - remains open. The Mendip – closed before Christmas due to snow, then fog. Now open intermittently. World Women in Golf Year Aimee Sawyer, Ladies Captain is organising an event to celebrate this day on 6th June. Farrington – under new management – unsure what is happening to 9 hole course – as membership getting older, some young members are more enthusiastic. Bath – changing from ladies to women – joint (equal standing) club captains men and women. Clevedon - New manager due to Reece Miller leaving to go to Long Ashton.</p> |
| 14. | <p>Future Delegate Meeting Dates :</p> <p>Suggestions are requested for topics which delegates would like discussed at future meeting please.</p> |

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| | <p><u>Monday 22nd May 2023 venue to be confirmed</u></p> <p>11.00 am Delegates Meeting including lunch and golf (not obligatory).</p> <p>Venue to be arranged by BT who will inform delegates asap. Definitive numbers for golf and lunch will need to be received from delegates by end of February.</p> <p><u>Saturday 9th September 2023 venue to be confirmed</u></p> <p>11.00 am Delegates Meeting</p> <p><u>Monday 13th November 2023 to be held at Isle of Wedmore</u></p> <p>11.00 am AGM</p> |
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Signed **Dated**