



## SOMERSET COUNTY SENIOR LADIES GOLF ASSOCIATION

### **Minutes of the Officers Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 11.00.a.m, The Isle of Wedmore G.C.**

Present: Jill Paul (President), Christine Harries (Vice President), Ros Chidgey (Captain), Gill Magrath (Vice Captain), Jan Bishop (Treasurer), Sue Vowles (Membership Secretary), Kate Smith (Secretary), Kay Lockett (Past President), Sue Bamping (Past Captain).

Jill Paul took the chair and welcomed everyone, especially the new Officers, Sue and Gill, to the first meeting of the new season.

**1** Apologies Jane Harries

**2** The minutes held on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023 were approved and signed

Proposed – Ros Chidgey

Secunder – Jan Bishop

### **3 Matters Arising**

1) Grant from Somerset Ladies – We applied for the grant from SCLG to help with the costs of matches and competitions, but we haven't received any finance as yet. We also asked for help with running a 'taster day' but SCLG wanted more details of what we wanted to do with the money and did we have a plan.

2) Entry Fees for Competitions and Matches

The most important thing is to get help with the Matches which have been left at £20 owing to Janet Handley negotiating favourable green fees. We can fund prizes ourselves. We need to be aware that prices will go up in 2025.

### **4 President's Report - Jill Paul**

I'm sorry and disappointed that I couldn't be with you at the Lunch due to illness, but I hope you all enjoyed it and found the informal meeting useful. I've read the summary written by Kate and it looks like a lot was discussed.

I'd like to thank Kay for organising it.

This is the part of the year when we look forward with anticipation to the new golf season. I hope it will be enjoyable and successful. Good weather would be a big bonus.

Thanks to Chris who has been working on the website during the winter, keeping it up to date and user friendly.

Thanks to Janet Handley (past competition secretary) for booking our venues for this year's Competitions and to Ros for booking our Match venues. This is becoming more difficult and expensive.

Having spoken to ladies from other SW Counties, I realise we are lucky to have the structure we have in Somerset for the Senior Ladies. We are all carrying on from the

excellent work done by previous Officers and we will all do our best to continue providing good golfing opportunities and fun for ladies over 60 in Somerset.

Thanks to you all for taking on your roles. Please feel free to ask if something needs clarification and remember there is an up-to-date Constitution and Duties to consult.

I'm leaving Kay to give a Report on the SW Vets.

Now to the AGM at T&P on 17<sup>th</sup> October. It has been harder to sort it out this year because of changes at the Club.

To keep costs down, we are paying £150 for the Room Hire, which has been cleared by Jan, the treasurer, so that ladies pay £15 green fee (I know it's more than last year) and then can choose their food (rather than not paying for the Room Hire and ladies having to pay £13 for a set meal).

We also have a problem with tee times because it's a Golf Committee Policy not to allow starts before 11am and they will not change that.

So, what I'm proposing is a bit of a curved ball: have the AGM first at say 9.45 then the 9 holes following at say 11.15/11.30.

The AGM would start too late otherwise.

The most tee times we've had in the last few years is 19. We could play in 3s or 4s.

Ladies would have time to eat and putt before or after.

Giving the prizes is more of a problem. Jill asked the committee to discuss.

After a discussion, it was decided that the AGM is to be held between 10.00. to 11.00am.

First tee times for groups of 3 go out at 11.30ish, at 8-minute intervals. Jill will check if the putting green can be closed for the putting competition to take place. Prizes for the Putting Competition maybe given out at the next Delegates meeting. Vouchers could be posted.

## **5 Captain's Report - Ros Chidgey**

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Jill, Kay, and Jan for their help in sorting out the cost of this year's matches, I obviously asked the wrong question, but it is much appreciated.

All the signup sheets have been sent out to the delegates.

A couple have been returned and I look forward to receiving the rest, hopefully by the end of the week, if not I will start to chase them up next week and will then be in contact with Jill Paul and Gill Magrath to discuss teams.

Let's hope the weather improves soon and we can get some serious golf in.

The Committee asked for a short delay in returning sign-up sheets as the weather could be putting ladies off visiting their golf clubs.

A gentle reminder to Delegates to ask members to sign up for matches.

Sue Vowles and Ros Chidgey agreed to email Delegates asking to encourage members to sign up for competitions and matches including the Spring Field Day at Yeovil G.C. on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May.

## **6 Vice Captain's Report - Gill Magrath**

1. I have contacted Wells G.C. to arrange a date and cost for the Captain v Vice Captain in 2025, cost £625 for 28 players and a 2-course meal (£22.25pp) Thursday 31st July 2025 @ 12 noon.  
This frees up early tee times for members due to the closure of Farrington G.C. there has been an influx of members to all the clubs in and around Wells, so the course is quite full.

2. Sue suggested I contact Gloucestershire to ask if we could play in Somerset this year due to the other fixtures which are away. I contacted Christine Parkes, and it appears to be a possibility I just wanted to check your thoughts on possible golf clubs.

Copy of her email

Hi Gill

Chris Park has forwarded to me your email requesting the above match be a home one for Somerset next year.

I am sure that won't be a problem at all but as Chris has mentioned, we can discuss this at our meeting in early February.

Would it be possible for you to please let me know of any clubs that you are considering for our match and to assist our members with this would it be possible to select one as close to Gloucestershire as is suitable?

I'll be back in touch.

Gill was unsure about who to discuss how to find venues for matches and was advised that she can use her own judgement in finding possible venues? The committee gave opinions on what was important in choosing clubs. Such as easy access from motorways, distance, one or two clubs, although reasonable cost, are very hilly.

Always ask for a match fee plus food.

Match fees are – 7 x tee times + food.

There is a list of clubs used in the past 6 years, but we do need to vary the venues in the future although some price themselves out of the market. But generally, clubs do support the Senior Ladies.

## 7 **Competition Secretary's Report 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – Jane Harries**

Firstly, grateful thanks to Janet Handley for her excellent, thorough, and amusing handover.

**Re 2025 competitions** - I have been making enquiries and prices have gone up quite considerably.

Nothing has been booked as clubs said they are not thinking that far ahead now, although Janet did ask me to book provisionally, clubs are not willing to commit that far in advance. I get the impression they want to hold back in case of further increases between now and then. Nearly all wanted a food package as well as golf.

### **Committee suggestions in Red.**

#### ***Oake Manor***

Their usual is bacon buttie on arrival and a 2-course meal £55. If it was a one course meal, that would be £37.50 each. When pushed for a 'no meal' package (but I did suggest that quite a few ladies would be eating anyway) he came down to £25 per head

#### ***Wells***

Society golf only is £33 this year (no food) can't say what it will be next year which could be more.

#### ***Burnham & Berrow Channel Course – Autumn Florida Scramble (September)***

The Channel Course will be £25 per head, no food.

#### ***Weston super Mare***

Society prices on a weekday are £45 green fee, but when I asked for less, they suggested I email the general manager Hamish. He has written back asking for further information and no hint of a reduction in price. I have responded, but there was no answer. I chased him last week, but still nothing further.

### **Brean**

Andrew March offered £24 each which includes 18 holes and a £6 food voucher. If Golf only £20 but the Club would prefer the previous option if possible. I did forward his reply to you all. Again, I have said I will get back to him.

### **Woodspring**

Offered £20 golf only.

### **Cricket St Thomas – Spring Better Ball in Pairs**

I went there last year in a Past Captains competition, very helpful staff etc. Again, tried to push for a food package £36 with golf and coffee or £40 for one course meal and golf. I have written to ask if there could be any further reductions and Matt came back with a fantastic offer of £15 as they have done before. He would want to get the date pencilled in as soon as possible. I think he may be worth on side with us but let me know what the committee decide.

### **Tall Pines – Summer Bowmaker**

Offer was £18 no food.

### **Farrington**

Not considered as only now a 12-hole course.

### **Recommendations**

Spring 2025 at Tall Pines (£18 no food); or Cricket St Thomas at £15

Summer 2025 Brean (£24 with contribution to food of your choice)

Autumn 2025 Burnham & Berrow - Channel (£25 no food)

### **Observations**

None of these prices attract additional costs for prizes.

The requirement to have food seems to be the norm for running as business

Playing Brean followed by Burnham is close geographically, but

- i) we have never played Channel before, and this could create some interest and
- ii) the prices are always an overriding factor.

I doubt we will be offered the Channel Course again at that price

I am concerned that we are using and reusing the cheapest courses which may be a factor in reducing numbers joining up to the Seniors.

If anyone wants to do more enquiries, then happy to have help. Sue is already helping me by checking the post box for entries for this year and dealing with them in my absence. Thank you, Sue.

For your discussion on Monday - these are the venues recently, thanks to Janet, of course. Think this needs to be borne in mind when discussing future venues.

### **VENUES USED ALREADY:**

2021 BREAN G.C., CRICKET ST THOMAS,

2022 WESTON SUPER MARE, MENDIP, TALL PINES (CANCELLED)

2023 LONG SUTTON, CRICKET ST THOMAS, TAUNTON & PICKERIDGE

2024 WORLEBURY, WHEATHILL, MENDIP SPRING.

## **8 Treasurer's Report – Jan Bishop**

Bank Balances as of 18<sup>th</sup> February 2024 are

Current Account £1,280.21

Deposit Account £4,934.19

## Subscriptions

£590 received to date but it is early days and I know I am still trying to get Ladies from WsM to re-join. The weather is most definitely not helping.

## Competitions

Entries are coming in for the main 3 competitions. It's a little early for the AGM 9 hole yet. £520 received thus far.

## Matches

Too early in the year for anything on matches yet

Just to say we have not received anything from County yet in respect of the grant.

Not sure who we should be following this up with?

Jan reiterated that although the Match fee @ £20 this year must rise to £25 in 2025

A discussion regarding how the funding is shared involving SCLG, SCSLGA, Juniors, took place, but no decision was made.

## 9 Membership Secretary's Report – Sue Vowles

### 1) Club Delegate Changes

We have had **six** changes in club delegates, namely:

- Bath CG – Stephanie Moorfoot replaced Fay Galley
- Clevedon GC – Alison Lee replaced Rosemary Fife
- Oake Manor GC – Pam Kinnear replaced Pat Campbell
- Stockwood Vale GC – Alison Powlesland replaced Yvette Gregg
- Taunton and Pickeridge GC – Marlene Ewens replaced Pat Follett
- The Mendip GC - Gina Howard replaced Elaine M Richardson

### 2) Updated Membership Lists for 2024

Delegates have been asked to return their membership lists for 2024 by Thursday 29 February 2024. As at 18 February, **nine** lists have been received:

- Bath (21 members – increased from 17 in 2023)
- Brean (1 member)
- Burnham and Berrow (30 members)
- Cricket St Thomas (1 member)
- Long Sutton (29 members which includes one Life Member and one Honorary Member)
- Minehead and West Somerset (17 members)
- Orchardleigh (12 members)
- Wells (18 members which included one Honorary Member)
- Worlebury (19 members – increased from 13 in 2023)

A gentle reminder has been issued to those clubs who have yet to return their membership list requesting they do so by/on Thursday 29 February 2024.

### 3) Total Membership

There are 27 clubs in Somerset but, unfortunately, seven do not currently have any SCSLGA members and three (marked with \*) do not have any lady members, namely:

Club	Comment
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Cannington	I am in contact with this club and am awaiting a reply to my recent Email.
Farrington Park*	New owners have changed the course from an 18-hole course to a pay and play 12-hole course. They do not have any club members.
Fossway*	The owners are focussing on their hotel operations/functions and do not have any lady members following an increase in golf subscriptions.
Tall Pines	Do not have any SCSLGA members but Di Richardson keeps the lines of communication open.
Tickenham	Do not have any SCSLGA members but Lesley Wills keeps the lines of communication open.
Vivary Park	SCSLGA membership is going to be discussed at its AGM on 21 February
Woodspring*	They do not have any lady members at this golf club

#### 4) Membership Spreadsheet for Website

I circulated the 2023 membership workbook to committee members on 20 November 2023 detailing:

- **Clubs and Membership Numbers** – a quick overview for anyone who wishes to see how many affiliated clubs we have in Somerset and the total number of SCSLGA members in each club including their honorary members
- **Total Membership List** – details all the SCSLGA members in Somerset in surname alphabetical order
- **Club Delegates** – lists the club delegates/contacts at each individual club
- **Honorary Members** – lists all the honorary members
- **Individual Club Membership Lists**

I am in the process of updating this workbook for 2024 and, once all the individual club membership lists have been received, will send the completed document to committee members for information. Christine is welcome to upload this document to the website. However, I should be grateful if you could please let me know if there is anything else you would like included.

There is no time limit to being a Delegate.

Life Members are the same as Honorary members and, although not obliged to pay a subscription, they can, and some do, donate.

Sue had evidence that some Honorary members had paid a subscription which they're exempt from unless they want to donate something towards the Senior Ladies section.

Gill Magrath asked if Honorary members could enter a competition if not a member or have a valid handicap – the decision was they can play but not be eligible for a prize. Honorary members shouldn't be excluded from playing golf.

## 10 Secretary's Report – Kate Smith

**Christmas Cards** including an events booklet were sent out to Honorary Members.

### Remembering Two Much loved and Popular Ladies

#### **Gwen Clarke from Long Sutton.**

Gwen passed away in January and the funeral was held at Yeovil Crematorium on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024. She was a founding member of Long Sutton G.C. and was Ladies Captain there in 1995 and the County Seniors Captain in 2017.

**Cherry Kitton.** Another great supporter of the SCSLGA passed away in December 2023.

I sent a Sympathy card from the Committee. Her husband asked for all the dates Cherry was active for the County, to help with his eulogy.

Unfortunately, a few days before the funeral he was taken ill himself and admitted to Musgrove Park for 4 weeks, so the funeral had to be postponed.

He is still recovering at home. But now the funeral will be very close family & friends.

A memorial service will be held in the Spring for those many golfing friends of Cherry's who wish to attend.

**Cherry joined Enmore Park in 1972 and was**

Ladies Captain in 1976 and Ladies President from 2005 to 2007.

**Somerset County Senior Ladies Golf Association & Southwest Vets.**

From October AGM **2003** – Up to **2010** Cherry was Vice Captain, Captain, Chair of SWVets, Vice President and then President.

What a wonderful history

**The Events Booklet.** After a request to simplify this, an A4 sheet with text 'facing the right way up' which appealed more to some members was produced.

There is no problem in sending both copies out to everyone. Any thoughts welcome.

### **Care of Delegates**

The Delegates meeting last September only 11 delegates turned up!

The County AGM are trying to make their meetings more interesting to Delegates, by inviting them to take part by starting a diary they can put forward ideas or having 9 holes after a meeting. Asking them for any thoughts, opinions or help in what they would like to discuss at their meetings not just hear what the committee are saying which is often overlong. Also to send any photos relevant to ladies' golf at their clubs - they would like to put on our website. On saying all of that, I always ask if they have received my emails, only about half a dozen ever reply!!

A discussion took place regards moving Delegates first meeting of the year to the end of March. Then to meet at the AGM. Also, perhaps create more interest in producing a newsletter, bring a friend, photos, or invite speakers.

Have the one meeting end of March, which is the most important, then the second meeting is the AGM.

**Kate Smith**

## **11 SW Vets – Kay Lockett**

Carole Paterson has informed me that for the Spring Field Day to be held at Yeovil Golf Club on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May, we have 35 ladies entering so far.

The Autumn Field Day to be held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September at Weston super Mare so far has received 8 players who wish to enter.

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

Very few ladies have entered from Somerset which is a great shame, I would hope that 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 club courses have been closed, this may be the reason why the entries are so low at this time. At present the competition for both events are an individual Stableford, may be in the

future one of the Field Days could be a team 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 SWVLG.

Details of SWVets competition names to go into the booklet.

The meeting ended at 12.30

The next meeting is the Delegates meeting on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024.