



SOMERSEX COUNTY SENIOR LADIES GOLF ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Delegates Meeting held on Monday 3 April 2023 Isle of Wedmore Golf Club at 11 am

The meeting was chaired by Captain Sue Bamping, who opened the meeting by welcoming the Officers of the Committee, Honorary Members and Delegates, whether new or longer serving, or if they are covering for their Club's Delegate. Somerset Senior Ladies would not be able to function effectively if it were not for the Delegates, as they liaise between the Senior Ladies' Committee and all the Senior ladies in the County's Golf Clubs. It is always a pleasure to meet with you all twice a year and talk with you face to face, much more enjoyable than zooming.

1) Apologies

Committee Members: Jill Paul (Vice-President) Kate Smith (Secretary) Ros Chidgey (Vice Captain)

Delegates: Linda Edmonson (Brean), Barbara Shaw (Cricket St Thomas), Di Webster (Enmore Park), Maureen Charlton (Farrington) Jenny Thomas & Eunice Bond (Isle of Wedmore), Pat Lucas (Minehead) Sue Sweet (Orchardleigh), Di Richardson (Tall Pines), Val Russell (Vivary), Janet Partington (Wood Spring), Janet Chapple (Wood Spring), Sue Kinch (Worlebury)

Honorary Members: Cheryl Kitchen (Enmore Park), June Mills (Clevedon), Mary Dolman (Saltford)

Delegates Present: Jane Harries (Burnham & Berrow) Rosemary Fife (Clevedon) Jenny Thomas (Isle of Wedmore) Sylvie Coach Tucker (Long Sutton), Elaine Richardson (The Mendip), Glynis Nicholson (Mendip Spring), Pat Campbell (Oake Manor) Sue Jacobs (Saltford) Yvette Gregg (Stockwood Vale), Pat Follett (Taunton & Pickeridge), Greta Hillier (Wheathill).

Members Present: Vera Ireland (Isle of Wedmore), Jenny Davis (Wells)

2) Approval of the minutes of the Delegates' Meeting held on 12 September 2022

a) Minutes approved and signed.

3) Matters arising from the Minutes of 4th April 2022.

a) There were no matters arising.

4) Captain's Report.

a) Thank you for returning the match sheets with the names of those ladies who wish to play in both the Friendly and Shield matches. Unfortunately, there were seven clubs where no one signed up. On asking the delegates if they had any ideas regarding the lack of response the only suggestion was that ladies might have found other interests during Covid, and while they were happy to play at their own club they were less willing to travel.

However, I was very pleased with the general response especially for Stinchcombe and Carlyon Bay, as both are quite a way for some of you. I would like to say however, that I hope that those who signed up to play at Carlyon Bay do not back out, as numbers are quite tight! Hopefully we will not have too many last minute dropouts this year, but Ros and I will take our Clubs wherever we go! As Carlyon Bay is quite a way for most people enquiries were made regarding the cost of the Hotel. The price per person for bed, and breakfast was £190 and £275 with dinner! There are however places in Charleston and there is a Premier Inn nearby in St Austell.

The match sheets for all the games are on your seats and the others will receive theirs later in the week. Most of the matches start around 11am, but Carlyon is 10.44am, which is the earliest, and Honiton is the latest at 1pm. The start times will be posted on the individual team sheets that will be sent out in the fortnight before the matches, as a final confirmation of the team.

The Division Boundaries have been confirmed for this year Division 1 - 0-21.4; Division 2 – 21.5 – 32.4. Chris has changed the link on the Web site so that Senior Ladies are able to sign up for the Autumn and 9Hole competitions now. Please can you let your Senior Ladies know. The link is <https://www.somersetgolfunion.co.uk/competition.php?time=future>

5) **Vice-Captain's Report**

- a) Please accept my apologies for not being with you today, I was looking forward to meeting you all but no doubt we will catch up during the year. Uniform sales have started already for this year and there is limited stock, if anyone requires uniform you will find my email address on the website, please get in touch. I have also been busy arranging next year's matches which will hopefully be sorted before we start golf in earnest this year. I wish you all a good 2023 golfing season.

6) **Competition Secretary's Report**

- a) Please pass on my thanks to all those who persevered with the entry forms either online or by downloading and filling in the entry form on the website. When working with a new system there always seem to be teething problems which we have now hopefully resolved. There was a question relating to why dates of birth were required but it is because the Seniors are an age related group.

We try hard to use different venues every year and are conscious of distances between Golf Clubs within Somerset and the venues we arrange. However, we also have to take cost of entering into account. Some venues that have been approached have quoted prices that have put them out of reach so that we have had to go back to some Clubs that are more attractive price wise.

The Competition dates for 2024 have now been arranged as follows:

Spring Competition: 4BBB **Wednesday 15th May 2024** at Worlebury

Summer Competition: 3 Ball Bowmaker **Tuesday 18th June 2024** at Wheathill

Autumn Competition: 3 Ball Waltzing Bowmaker **Thursday 12th September 2024** at Mendip Spring.

The price for all three competitions remains the same as this year at £20 per person.

I am aware that there do seem to be many matches and competitions within your own clubs which will take precedence over the senior's competitions, so it is good of so many of you to put in entries. However, the number of entries we have received are not very encouraging. We definitely need at least one more pair for the match at Long Sutton. So far out of 18 tee times that we have usually managed, we have only managed to achieve entries for 9 tee times, minus 1 pair. I am hoping that before the closing date on the 12th April (next week) I shall receive one more entry at least.

The 3 Ball Bowmaker at Cricket St Thomas looks much more positive with 17 teams already entered. However, I feel a tragedy is about to take place yet again with the Autumn event. The Waltzing Bowmaker has only 5 entries at present! I am already envisioning yet another cancellation. I am aware that the timing of this event has been one of the reasons why entries have been poor. If delegates would discuss with their members whether August would be a preferable time and let me know the outcome.

If you are experiencing any difficulties in entering any of the Competitions please let me know.

For the information of new members, the winners of the three competitions are awarded points and the Club with the most points at the end of the year win the Barber

Shield. Winning team members must all be from the same Club in order to qualify for these points. The changes to the Autumn Competition format have impinged on how points for the Barber Shield are awarded. The cancellation of the Autumn Competition over the past two years has made the old points system difficult to apply, hence it has been decided to award points for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places as 5, 3 and 1 respectively. I was made aware of how prestigious the winning of this Shield was when Minehead won it in 2019 and the excitement that that caused.

What to do with redundant trophies has been a discussion at every committee meeting for the last three years. Enquiries have been made via delegates, to try to find homes for them but there has been no response. Carole has found homes for four of them with the County Juniors and it has been decided to pass the remaining unclaimed trophies to Charity Shops or second hand outlets.

The Committee discuss and make decisions on behalf of members. Recently there have been quite a few changes in the way that Competitions take place, the presentation of trophies, the distribution of points and the Competitions themselves. We hope that the decisions taken are to the benefit of members but we are always ready to listen to your thoughts and ideas about the changes we have instigated.

I am looking forward to our first Competition of the year with my fingers crossed for some good golfing weather.

- b) Carole Paterson (CP) added she was not happy with the DOB being displayed and Janet Handley (JH) agreed to remove the question from the IG sign-up sheet.

7) Treasurer's Report

- a) Bank Balances as at 31st March 2023 are

Current Account £3,269.44

Deposit Account £4,600.94

Subscriptions

£1,555 received as at end of March. This is less than the total for last year but entries do continue throughout the year.

Subs should be paid by BACS quoting your Club as reference and the membership secretary emailed with the new member details.

Competitions

Entry fees for comps have been coming in thick and fast and come to £1,860.

A request please – whilst I thank you all very much for using BACS for payments can I please ask that you quote references. There is no issue with ladies paying for several teams and more than one competition but it is helpful to have the correct competition references quoted.

Matches

Please ask ladies to submit match fees in the week prior to the match. That way we won't need to issue refunds if anyone has to drop out and it will be straightforward to allocate funds to the correct match.

Accounts

As you may remember we changed the financial year end to November 30th. John Parker, Chartered Accountant at Westcotts and also the Treasurer for Somerset County Golf has very kindly completed the independent review and everything is in order. These will be presented at the AGM.

8) Membership Secretary's Report.

- a) My apologies for not being here today to meet you all once again and to meet the new delegates. The number of members this year is very much the same as last. Thank you for your patience with me nagging you to return your membership list! Let's hope all this rain means a lovely sunny summer. See you, I hope on the golf course during 2023.

9) **President's Report.**

- a) I am very pleased to be attending our first Delegates meeting of 2023. I do hope you will encourage your club members to support the competitions arranged for the forthcoming year. As I am sure you will have noticed all the competitions this year are team events. The Summer Bowmaker at Cricket St Thomas is well supported, we need more to sign up for the Spring and Autumn Events. Please try and persuade some of your members to attend the AGM and 9 hole Bowmaker at Minehead on 19th October, I know it is quite away to travel, we will make you very welcome.

As I expect you know Somerset Seniors are running the South West Vets: Field Days for the next two years. In 2024 the venues are as follows, Spring Field Day is at Yeovil and the Autumn one is at Weston super Mare. Please encourage your members to support these competitions a really good day out with your friends.

You are the link between the members and the Officer's committee, and I thank you for your hard work.

Finally, may I wish Captain Sue Bamping and Vice- Captain Ros Chidgey an enjoyable and successful year.

Enjoy your golf in 2023 and have fun.

10) **Vice President's Report.**

- a) Somerset took over the running of the SW Vets from Dorset in November 2022 for two years. The Counties affiliated are Cornwall, Devon, Dorset and Somerset.

All ladies over 60 who are members of their County Associations are automatically members of the SW Vets.

Somerset have formed a sub-group to organise the Vets. The members are Kay Lockett, Jan Bishop, Carole Paterson and Jill Paul. We have held our first Zoom meeting with Representatives from the other Counties to discuss the Field days and Shield matches. Our Charity is the Children's Hospice SW. There will be a Ball Draw at the Field Days. The Field Days this year are at Bowood on 1 June 2023 and Stover on 21 September 2023. The information and Entry forms are on our website and I hope you'll encourage your members to take part. Bowood are giving a discount on rooms.

b) **SW Vets Report Zoom Meeting 13 March 2023**

I felt quite pleased with myself back in September 2022 when I managed to book both Spring and Autumn Field days. Spring at Bowood GC and Autumn at Stover GC.

Unfortunately, after the loss of our Queen. King Charles has chosen the weekend of May 6th- 8th for his Coronation. It quickly became clear that Ladies were not going to travel on a Bank holiday (8th May)

We managed to change the date to 1st June, We also changed and resent posters, changed websites. I have sent individual entry forms to many SW ladies. We now wait to see however it's not looking good. 6 entries so far. We need your help to promote to push the spring meeting.

Q> Is it worth allowing buggy use without a medical certificate at Bowood, is the course especially challenging, there are longish walks between holes. Discuss.

Autumn Meeting Stover GC. 21st September.

Stover is getting full, 40 pairs already. A very different story. I have extended tee times, now a 930am start (was 10am) We have tee times for 106 players. Sometime soon we will close the event, we can have a few reserves but refunding by BAC's if we're oversubscribed will be a further challenge.

We could go to a 9am start, we would have to travel very early to set up. I may get a few times after 1pm but they have a club event in the afternoon.

Carole Paterson. Past President Somerset Senior Golf Association.

11) Secretary's Report.

- a) There was no report from the Secretary.

12) News from the Clubs:

- a) Mendip Spring: Glynis Nicholas is a new delegate who was pleased to be meeting the other delegates. She reported the course was looking good and had managed to stay open during the winter.
- b) Long Sutton: Sylvia Coache-Tucker informed the meeting that there had been changes made to two of the tees for both men and ladies. The fifth tee has been moved further back and a new tee built for the 11th.
- c) Saltford: Sue Jacobs, is a new delegate taking over from Mary Dolman. She reported that the course was gradually drying out and in good condition, even so it had been shut for a couple of days over the winter due to the extreme weather conditions.
- d) Burnham & Berrow: Jane Harries reported that the course had not shut because of wet weather, although fog had closed it for a couple days. The club has been fortunate to have been chosen to host the Final Qualifying for The Open June 2023 and preparation work is well under way. It does mean that for the short term, mats will have to be carried to protect fairways.

13) A.O.B

- a) Electronic Entry for competitions: Christine Harris (CH) asked the attendees if they would like a fillable form on the SCSLGA pages to be included as well as the sign up on the SGU website. In answer to a question from Yvette Gregg regarding the fact that she was not sure that she had actually entered, Janet Handley (JH) said that ladies could check their entry had been successful if they followed the link for entrants. JH said that those entries she received by post she always acknowledged which was something those attending were in favour of. Carole Paterson said that all entries from South West Vets were by downloaded entry forms sent to her in the post to which she sent an acknowledgement. JH suggested that if we did have our own entry form, we would not need to use the IG electronic entry. CH and JH to produce a form for the 2024 entry.

There being no further AOB, Sue Bamping closed the meeting, thanking the Senior Ladies' Committee for their continuing support. She then thanked all the Delegates who had attended the Meeting and invited them to stay for tea/coffee and cake and to socialise.

Susan Bamping
Captain SCSLGA