



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

### **Minutes of the Delegates Meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at The Isle of Wedmore Golf Club at 11 am**

The meeting was chaired by Captain Christine Harris, who opened the meeting by welcoming the Delegates to this first in-person Delegates meeting since Covid. She then invited Carole Lumley-Frank to lead a short reflection to remember Queen Elizabeth the Second who died on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September 2022. The meeting then kept a minute's silence.

#### **1. Apologies**

- a. **Committee Members:** Sue Bamping (Vice-Captain), Kay Lockett (Vice-President) and Lesley Organ (Committee Member)
  - b. **Delegates:** Ros Chidgey (Minehead), Sylvie Coach-Tucker (Long Sutton), Linda Edmondson (Brean), Rosary Fife (Clevedon), Judith French (Mendip Spring), Greta Hillier (Wheathill), Gill Magrath (Wells), Marilyn Nash (Stockwood Vale), Barbara Shaw (Cricket St Thomas) and Diana Webster (Enmore Park)
  - c. **Honorary Members:** Diana Bowerman
- 2. To confirm the Minutes of the Zoom Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022.** Carole Lumley-Frank proposed and Pat Follet seconded that the minutes be accepted as a correct record: agreed unanimously.
- 3. Matters arising from the Minutes of 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022.** None
- 4. Captain's Report.** Christine began by saying that during the Zoom meeting on 4 April 2022 she had happily announced that 2022 'looks like being a little easier'. However, she was wrong as Covid 19 still had a way of upsetting plans made for Matches. Due to the lockdown, and the fact that Devon and Cornwall had not played in any of the matches during 2020 and 2021, she had to organise four home matches instead of two. Nevertheless, all matches went ahead, and seemed to be enjoyed by everyone.

Match Details were as follows:

Monday 23 May Somerset v Cornwall Shield at Worlebury GC 6/1 win for Cornwall

Monday 20 June Somerset v Gloucestershire Friendly at Clevedon GC 4½ / 2½ win for Somerset

Monday 4 July Captain v Captain Elect at Saltford GC 3 ½ / 2½ for Vice Captain (this match is in place of the Friendly against Wiltshire)

Monday 11 July Somerset v Devon Shield at Wells GC 4/3 win for Devon

Monday 15 August Somerset v Hampshire Friendly at Saltford GC 4/3 win for Hampshire

Monday 22 August Somerset v Dorset Shield at Crane Valley GC win for Dorset 5/

Chris told the Meeting that the Captain and Vice-Captain are advised not to play in matches unless required to do so, however, she and Sue found themselves playing when ladies had to

drop out at short notice. She added that usually it was not too difficult to arrange for cards to be written on the morning of the match, however they found a pencil and a rubber were essential along with a course rating table and calculator for the handicap allowances. Also, although Handicaps can be checked the day before using the England Golf app, we soon discovered some handicaps are not updated overnight as we had been led to believe, some even take 3-4 days to change.

There have been many changes to the way the Senior Ladies operate and now it is much easier to pick teams, send out an email to the Delegate to put on the board for players to see whether they have been chosen or are a reserve for the matches they signed up to. Chris said she was extremely fortunate that Fay, our Membership Secretary, had given her a list of all Delegates and players so that she could make contact either by email or phone.

The BACs system appeared to under control by the end of the year and she especially thanked Jan Bishop for her patience and good humour. She dealt with whatever problem faced her. No doubt we will be reviewing the process by the end of the year. Chris then told the Delegates not to worry Don't worry if any of their players are not able to use the BACs system and we are flexible enough to take cash on the day.

Chris reminded the meeting at all SW Vets meetings are via Zoom and considered that this may have contributed to some misunderstandings regarding the handicap boundaries for Division 1 and Division 2 players. Also, there was a typo in the Constitution, which indicated Division 1 went up to 24. However, things are now back to the original.

SW Vets Report Chris reminded the meeting that Somerset take over from Dorset at the end of this year and will have responsibility for the SWVLGA in 2023 and 2024. As all Senior ladies are automatically members of the SW Vets, we are hoping for lots of support from Somerset ladies.

Chris concluded by saying a very big thank you to the Delegates for their support this year and that she could not stress enough that the link between the Senior Ladies Committee and the playing membership is vital.

5. **Vice-Captain's Report** In her absence Marilyn read Sue Bamping's Report.

"Good morning, ladies please accept my apologies for my absence today. I will be attending Wheathill Lady Captain's away weekend which is already booked and paid for. I feel I need to honour this obligation. I hope that you have been able to enjoy your golf this summer despite Covid, the heatwave and the cost of travelling. Please thank your ladies for using the BACS system when purchasing kit, it has made things a lot easier. I trust that you have picked up the notices when you signed in. I thought it would be a good idea to let you know the matches that have been organised for next year. If this information could be put in your club diaries it might help prevent clashes with club fixtures, and also encourage ladies to volunteer to play, when they see the variety of venues. The date for the friendly against Gloucestershire has yet to be finalised – I am awaiting a reply. I expect to let you know at the AGM on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October at Long Sutton.

In August, I was involved in the final organisation of our team in the last Shield match against Dorset at Crane Valley. We were two players short, but I was helped by a Club Delegate, and without her assistance we could not have fielded a complete team. I would like to thank you all for help and support you give us throughout the year. Somerset Senior

ladies would not be able to function effectively without your support. The backroom girls are just as important as the players. I would like to thank Chris for her support throughout the year. She has always been at the end of the phone when I have had queries. If neither of us has known the answer, someone on the committee usually does; so, thank you to you all as well, you are a good team.

#### Match Details for 2023

22 May 2023 Shield v Cornwall at Carlyon Bay

27 June 2023 Shield Match v Dorset at Wheathill 11 am

10 July 2023 Shield Match v Devon at Honiton 1 pm

1 August 2023 Captain v Vice Captain Wheathill at 11 am

22 August 2023 Friendly v Hampshire at Meon Valley at 11:18

Match against Gloucestershire to be arranged

6. **Competition Secretary's Report** Janet began by saying that it had been quite a busy time. Tall Pines was a difficult call but after numerous emails, three in five weeks, making little difference to the take up it was time to admit defeat. She told the meeting that she put forward many arguments to Delegates to try to encourage members to enter. After the first attempt, which included a poster explaining how the game at Tall Pines affected the awarding of points for the Shield, one of the Burnham & Berrow members emailed to ask whether she thought the Competition would take place. At the time, based on members who had said they were interested, she had said it looked promising. They put in two more teams on the strength of that. Other emails pointed out that a game of golf can go well or badly wherever you play, Home or Away and every email emphasized players could enter as individuals or pairs it did not have to be a three.

From Delegates replies, it seems ladies were involved other matches/competitions around this time or away on holiday. After all these emails there were 8 full tee times (not 9 as she reported at the Officer's Meeting as the last two tee times were a single and a pair). Therefore, this was not financially viable event and she and Carole decided to cancel to give the teams that had entered the opportunity to sign themselves in to other competitions/matches.

Looking to 2023 they discussed how we could change this competition to encourage more participants as this was the second year that we had cancelled the autumn Competition. Taunton and Pickeridge kindly offered us two alternative times, and we discussed the format. They decided to keep the date but change the format to a 3 Ball Waltzing Bowmaker. Hopefully, this fun event will encourage more members to enter.

We discussed whether the Shield should be awarded this year and how that should occur as only two competitions had been played and decided to present the Shield using the official points system.

Janet reported that the next Competition will be at the AGM. So far there are 14 teams signed up for the 9 Hole Bowmaker and Putting Competition. There is very little time left for entries as the closing date is next Monday. However, that means there is still the opportunity to take part and she asked Delegates to remind their members to do so quickly. She added that we have streamlined this event so that presentations take less time. Also, we are aware that with finances being what they are at present it is becoming more difficult for members when the golfing calendar is so full.

Janet told the meeting that due to the streamlining the prizes we had many now redundant trophies. Carole is liaising with the Junior section to find out whether they are interested in using some of these. Two of the silver trophies have been sold adding £100 to our finances.

### Questions about Competitions

- a. Carole explained that before disposing of any trophies the Committee had looked carefully at the origin of the Trophies, and whether any family members might want a particular trophy returned.
- b. Doreen Cummins (Burnham and Berrow) asked if there could be a combined diary for Somerset Ladies Golf and the Seniors on the website. **(Action Chris to check with Lesley Matthews about having a combined list of Competitions)**
- c. Fay Galley told the meeting that as Delegate for Bath that she passed on information regarding competitions and matches to the team captains at her club.

### 7. **Treasurer's Report.** Jan began her report by giving the following financial details:

Bank Balances as at 31<sup>st</sup> August: Current Account £1,618.62 Deposit Account £4,559.57

She informed the meeting that all Competitions and Matches have now been played and it has been nice to have completed these this year, although Covid still had a say with some last-minute withdrawals and changes due to illness. We have used BACS for the first time which has been largely successful but a few learning points for next year. She added that in fact the entire year, her first as Treasurer, had been a learning curve as she had no previous idea as to how SCSLGA operated! Certainly, she had not expected quite so many emails so, had now opened a separate email account so these do not get mixed up with business or personal stuff. This will appear in the handbook etc for next year. [jangolfbishop@gmail.com](mailto:jangolfbishop@gmail.com)

She then told the meeting that she would also like to look at when we end the Financial Year. At present it is August 31<sup>st</sup> which a tight timescale for the AGM (and so excludes the AGM expenses) Jan told the meeting that she felt the November 30<sup>th</sup> would be more practical and better reflect the golfing year. This will not affect the AGM date and will mean the competition is included, so the accounting and golfing year will coincide.

Discussion June Mills explained that the end of year used to be 30<sup>th</sup> September, and this was moved to 31<sup>st</sup> August to give more time before the AGM. Caroline Lumley-Frank pointed out that the late Summer Competition used to be in August but was moved to September to avoid clashes with holidays. Note there is nothing in the Constitution to prevent this change.

8. **Membership Secretary's Report.** Fay told the meeting that numbers are down considerably this year which is quite understandable. Total number is just over 350 plus Honorary Members. She then thanked the Delegates for their hard work, especially when she kept nagging them for their up-to-date membership lists! She added that it had been a difficult task in the last three years to get the lists done and the money collected and so she thanked the Delegates for their efforts. Fay concluded by saying that she would be contacting them all at the end of the year.
9. **President's Report.** Carole began by saying that it felt good to be here face to face. While Zoom Meetings had their place, she hoped they were a thing of the past. 2022 had given the Committee many challenges. The effect of Covid on our lifestyles has left us a bit more hesitant to travel and mix. Consequently, Match selection numbers and event numbers have been down. She said that she had seen the efforts our Captain went through to field teams. Covid related withdrawals had been high and Janet, our Competition Secretary had gone to great lengths to ensure most Competitions had gone ahead. Despite all this, the team spirits and enjoyment of Matches, had been excellent. The Mendip and Weston-Super-Mare

Bowmaker were very enjoyable too. Carole concluded by saying she was proud of the Committee and their dedication to our senior golfers. She also appreciated the support and enterprise of our Delegates. There had been a couple of times that Delegates have found last minute players to replace withdrawals for which she thanked them. She concluded by saying that we are planning our 2023 season and hope to give you another year of excellent County Senior golf.

10. **Vice President's Report.** In her absence Marilyn read Kay Luckett's Report

"I am sorry that I am unable to attend your Delegates meeting today. At our last Officers meeting I presented my choice for Vice President for the year 2022/23, this was unanimously agreed by our Senior Ladies Committee. A Past Club Captain, Past County Senior Lady Captain, Secretary (her attention to detail is second to none) to her Ladies section at Taunton & Pickeridge; I am sure by now you will have guessed my choice is Jill Paul. I look forward to working with Jill during my year as President. Enjoy your golf"

The meeting fully supported this choice.

11. **Secretary's Report.** Marilyn began her report with the Good News that the Committee has agreed to recommend to the members at the AGM that Kate Smith take over from her as Honorary Secretary. Kate has been involved with golf in Somerset for a number of years, including having been Lady Captain at Bath Golf Club in 2012 (where she first met her). So, she has had excellent previous experience of Golf Committees A few years ago she moved to Sidmouth, but will be moving back to Somerset in November, where she is currently considering which of two or three Golf Clubs to join. Marilyn told the meeting that she had had several in-depth discussions on what the role involves, and that she was fully confident in Kate's ability, and very importantly enthusiasm, to be our next Honorary Secretary. She added that Kate plans to come to the AGM and has agreed to take the two boxes of archive material, plus of course the famous black secretary's briefcase, from her then! Marilyn told the meeting that she has agreed to write the AGM minutes, and get these completed, before setting off for her long anticipated Australian holiday. Kate also knows she can contact her at any time if she needs help.

Marilyn ended her report by saying that although the past four years have been challenging to say the least at times, especially with Covid, she wanted to say how much she had enjoyed working with her fellow officers and committee members.

12. News from the Clubs:

- a. Bath: Fay Galley told the meeting that the course was in good condition considering the dry and hot conditions over the summer. She then told the meeting that there is an excellent new chef at Bath. (As other Delegates reported on new chefs, this seemed to be a recurring theme!)
- b. Burnham and Berrow: Doreen Cummins told the meeting how much members had enjoyed various events over the summer. She also sends Event Posters to her members.
- c. Clevedon: In the absence of their Delegate June Mills reported on Clevedon Club news, saying how much they had enjoyed hosting the Match v Gloucestershire. In two weeks, the club will be hosting the Euro-Pro Golf Tour.
- d. Enmore Park: Diana Webster told the meeting that the course was looking wonderful and that they also had new caterers.

- e. Isle of Wedmore: Carole thanked Jenny Thomas for making us so welcome at the Club for this Delegates Meeting including the lovely flowers.
- f. Long Sutton: In the absence of their Delegate Carole Paterson told the meeting how much their new owner has done to improve the course since taking over.
- g. The Mendip: Elaine Richardson told the meeting that their new 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> holes were now bedding in. (Chris Harris commented that she missed the old 17<sup>th</sup> which had been a real signature hole).
- h. Minehead: Janet Handley told the meeting that they had a new Delegate, Jenny Elliot, who would be taking over the role in the near future.
- i. Oake Manor: Pat Campbell reported that they have recently purchased new buggies. Their course is in good condition and that they have several new senior ladies who have enjoyed the Matches and that things are looking very positive for next year.
- j. Saltford: Mary Dolman told the meeting that she was stepping down after 13 years as a Delegate and that they were still looking for a replacement. One possibility was to share the role between two ladies. Chris Harris then expressed her personal thanks to Mary for agreeing to staying on for the extra year.
- k. Stockwood Vale: In the absence of their Delegate Yvette told the meeting that although small the lady's section is thriving.
- l. Taunton and Pickeridge: Pat Follet said that their course has held-up well in the draught conditions. They have a new Club Manager and also a new Green Keeper.
- m. Wells: Jenny Davis said they also have a new Head Green Keeper. The Driving range is thriving and bringing good income for the club. Jenny told the meeting that she has been working with the girl golfers and that is most rewarding. She has also been involved with Future Golf.
- n. Weston-super-Mare: Jan Bishop said how good it had been to welcome ladies to the Bowmaker Competition in May. Their 6<sup>th</sup>Hole was now back to normal. They also have a new manager.
- o. Worlebury: Sue Kinch told the meeting that earlier in the season they had a problem with leatherjackets damaging the course. They also have new caterers. From December they will cease to have a Lady Captain.

### **13. A.O.B**

- a. Mary Dolman asked if there was any particular reason why the competitions next year were focused on the south of the county. Janet explained that one of the driving factors was cost and the Committee's aim to keep costs under £20. She highlighted as an example Enmore Park where the standard cost would be £35, and they were prepared to offer a discount to bring the cost down to approximately £22:50. However the cost of prizes would need to be added to the overall price. Diana Webster offered to speak to staff at the club about this. Chris Harris said that the Committee would need to look at pricing and think outside the box.
  - b. Sue Bamping suggested having a Delegates Friendly Match i.e. among the Delegates and not Delegates v the Committee.
  - c. Another suggestion was to combine Delegates meetings with 9 holes of golf after the meeting.
14. There being no other business Chris Harris closed the meeting at 12:25 and invited Delegates to stay for coffee and cake and take the opportunity to socialise.

Christine Harris Captain SCSLGA