

SOCIETY OF LADY CAPTAINS OF KENT GOLF CLUBS

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015

The 53rd Annual General Meeting was held at the Weald of Kent Golf Club, Headcorn on Monday 2nd March 2015.

The President, Mrs. Mary Robinson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Mrs. Barbara Osborne, Hon Secretary read the notice convening the meeting.

PRESENT: President Mrs. Mary Robinson, Lady Captain Dr Bobbi Ramsammy, Hon Secretary Mrs. Barbara Osborne, Hon Treasurer Mrs. Sylvia Worboys, Mrs. Pat Davoodbhoy, Mrs Rebecca Goldsmith, Mrs Betty Martin, Mrs Jenny Knight, Mrs Joan Hopley, Mrs Kathy Maberley, Mrs Elaine Tappin, County President & Mrs Ingrid Long, Kent Captain & 102 members.

APOLOGIES: A list of apologies had been posted in the room.

Dr Bobbi Ramsammy introduced the officers, welcomed members and read out a list of members the Society had been advised of who had died: Mrs. Gladys Birrell and Mrs Lucie Dear, both from Dartford. Mrs. Julie Horsey, Mrs Maureen Lawrence, Mrs Rosemary Honour & Mrs Janet Mannering all from Sittingbourne. Mrs Helen Thomas from Sene Valley and Mrs Dorothy Featherstone from High Elms/Langley Park. A minute silence then followed.

1. **MINUTES:** Minutes of the AGM held on Monday 3rd March 2014, having been circulated, were approved. Proposed by Noreen Costello (Faversham) and seconded by Christine Armitage (Chislehurst).

2. **MATTERS ARISING:** There were no matters arising.

3. **TREASURERS REPORT:**

Good morning Ladies. Firstly I would like to mention that our bank balances shown on the Receipts & Payment Account are in a healthy position. Again this year our membership has decreased slightly. We had 36 new members join and 4 existing members became Life Members. Under the expenses column, the postage has increased due to the ever increasing cost of stamps. Our printing and stationary has been kept lower and this is probably due to our decrease in membership.

We hold stocks of clothing of £4,139.00. We purchased £2,203 and sold £1,239.00. Other than the items mentioned the movement of our finances continue to remain stable. If you have any questions regarding our accounts I will be happy to answer them.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Doreen Lyddon on behalf of the Society for auditing these accounts and to say that she is willing to continue being our Auditor if everyone is in agreement. Proposed by Pat Davoodbhoy (Rochester & Cobham) and seconded by Shirley Dunlop (Dartford).

Question arose from Naomi Worsold (The Ridge) - as to why can't some of the competitions be subsidised. **Action: To take to the next committee meeting.**

4. CAPTAINS REPORT:

Firstly I'd like to reiterate Mary's welcome to you all. I'm delighted that so many of you are able to attend the AGM and lunch.

I've enjoyed my year as your Captain, I've made many new friends and strengthened my friendship with many of you whom I knew before the year started.

Once last year's AGM was over there was a brief respite before the matches and meetings started in earnest. As I am sure you will remember last winter was one of the wettest we had encountered for years so I was a bit worried that the trend would continue, however, on the whole, we were lucky weather-wise.

Our Spring Meeting at Broome Park was first. Betty organized this meeting and did a grand job, with Joan as her able assistant. It was a typical late Spring day, blustery and a bit chilly, but not too much precipitation.

The winners, and holders of the Armada Dishes, were Wendy Kefford and Jenny Wilson (Chestfield), runners up and Major Cup winners were Susan Sampson and Sylvia Walker (Chislehurst) and third were Kathie Maberley and Margaret Benn from Littlestone and Etchinghill respectively.

Soon after this we kicked off our matches with an away fixture against Sussex Lady Captain's and Secretaries. This was held at Highwoods Golf Club near Eastbourne. Although it was mid May we had a perfect summer's day. The match was played on a very challenging golf course, but despite that Pat Davoodbhoy managed to eagle the 14th hole. Well-done Pat.

When we got in the well-stocked pro shop was holding a sale in our honour and we did them proud! With serious damage to many credit cards, a delicious meal followed. And we won 5/3. A perfect day.

Fairly soon after this we played the match against Essex Lady Captains at Park Wood. A pleasant enough day weather wise and the match was halved. We had a delicious chicken meal afterwards followed by very naughty desserts.

The Cobnuts meeting was next. The day was a bit like the curate's egg!

Weather wise we had four seasons in one. Pat Davoodbhoy organized the meeting meticulously, ably assisted by Rebecca. Pat went the extra mile, when we realized that High Elms couldn't supply glasses for our halfway house she made a trip to the local supermarket to get some.

The winners of the Cobnuts Salvagers were Jan Jeavons and Josephine Moseley (Redlibbets) – for the second year running, so I urge all the over 65 year olds to give Jan and Josephine a run for their money this year. Second were Janet Hathaway and Carol Wilkinson (Sidcup) and third were Tricia Cheeseworth and Kay Young from Broome Park.

There was then a bit of a lull in the proceedings until August when matches came thick and fast, we played the away match against Surrey Lady Captains at Cuddington. It was the Surrey Lady Captains 50th Anniversary so we were presented with commemorative pens. The match was halved and we had an excellent 2-course meal afterwards.

A few days later we played our return match against Sussex at Hever Castle. Kent won 6 and a half to 3 and a half. Hever Castle looked after us so well that I joined the club as a flexi-member a couple of weeks later. In the same week we had the annual match with the society of Kent Golf Captains.

What an enjoyable day. Ian Dunlop organized this to perfection, even managing to arrange that the Red Arrows, Spitfires and Lancaster's gave us a fly past as we came down the 18th and to cap it all the Ladies won.

Then at the end of the month we played the Junior Girls at Nizels, this match saw an end to our winning streak! We were soundly beaten losing all 5 matches. Although one lady captain was on a winning team as Chris Daniels played for the Junior Girls as they were a player short!

We rounded off the year with our Autumn meeting at Nizels. Rebecca organized this with her usual efficiency and Joan and Sylvia assisted. Nizels looked after us well and it was another beautiful summer's day.

First and winners of the Holland (Armada) dishes were Jacky Houghton and Julie Flanders from Nizels, second and winners of the Vine Cups were Pat Whitty and Joan Harris from Hever Castle and third were Rita Trott and Hilary Burdis from Nizels and Knole Park.

Our matches and meetings are our main ways of celebrating the life and work of our Society and I would urge those of you who haven't participated to do so. They are a wonderful way of having an excellent day's golf, making new friends and having a good meal. Usually for a cost of around £35 to £40 – there isn't much that you can get for that price these days.

One of the difficulties that I faced this year was getting enough Ladies to play in the matches – very often I was scratching around at the last moment to fill teams for matches and our meetings were also not well attended. Indeed, at one point there was the strong possibility that our Autumn Meeting might not go ahead due to very low numbers.

Please Ladies I would urge you to support us, and if you are not able to through age, infirmity or other reasons, to encourage past lady Captain's to support our endeavors. I am sure that none of us wants to see the Society and its activities dwindle and die.

On a more positive note in the year we were delighted to confer Honorary Life Membership, with playing rights, on two of our Past presidents – Jean Stirling and Sheila Ball. Lovely to see them both here today and congratulations.

Another advance, which I am sure you will welcome, is the development of our own web site. Mary led this project and I hope that some of you have already visited the site. www.slckgc.weebly.com. The site is in its infancy; Amanda Rose from Nizels has kindly agreed to be webmaster (I don't think web- mistress sounds quite right). Please visit the site and let us know what you think and make any suggestions for improvement.

My year was nearly over when. In November, we hosted the two incoming Captain's meetings, at Canterbury and Redlibbets Golf Clubs. The Canterbury meeting was very well attended the Redlibbets one less so. But both meetings had a very vibrant and enthusiastic feel to them. My thanks To Tina Parris who organized the Canterbury meeting and to Gill Poulter who organized the Redlibbets meeting.

Thanks also to Ingrid Long who addressed both meetings to keep the attendees up to date with activities and developments in KCLGA. Thanks also to Anne Billings, the newly appointed Vice Captain of KCLGA, who attended the Redlibbets meeting on her birthday. Good luck Anne for your years to come. It is so good to have the close relationship that we do with KCLGA, one that I hope is mutually beneficial, and thank you in advance Ingrid for your forthcoming update on the KCLGA year.

I am aware that I have gone on too long but this is my swan song so bear with me!

It would be remiss of me not to give thanks all the clubs that have offered us their hospitality. Unfailingly they gave of their best to provide us with a great day. Thank you all, those of you who are here who represent those clubs please convey our thanks when you go back.

And finally, I hear a sigh of relief; none of what has been done this year would have been possible without our wonderful committee.

Mary, our President, and Valerie, soon to be Captain, thank you both for your support during the year.

Barbara, you had done your time on the Committee, and could have retired gracefully, but no, in our hour of need you stepped up to the plate, and put in an extra year as Honorary Secretary. I am sure there are lots of mixed metaphors in there. But I have to say the prospect of a year of Captaincy without an Hon Sec filled me with dread, so Barbara, my very grateful thanks.

Sylvia likewise - you have become an institution for the Society, thank you so much for keeping us in order financially.

And to single out one committee member who has done sterling work, my friend, and fellow Nizels member Jenny Knight. Jenny has gone above and beyond the call of duty to sort out our clothing stocks and orders. She has dealt with changes in suppliers and logo transfers with her usual sang-froid. Many thanks Jenny.

Finally thanks to the two committee members who have served their time, Rebecca Goldsmith and Pat Davoodbhoy, enjoy your retirement.

Well that is it. A delightful year for me, thank you all for making me so welcome, for your friendship and companionship. I'll never forget it.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Captain	Mrs Valerie Harrison (Faversham)	Proposed by Mrs Mary Robinson Seconded by Dr. Bobbi Ramsammy
---------	-------------------------------------	---

Dr Bobbi Ramsammy then presented Mrs Valerie Harrison with the badge of office. Mrs Harrison thanked Dr Ramsammy for all her hard work during the year.

Vice Captain	Mrs Pat Whitty (Hever Castle)	Proposed by Mrs Mary Robinson Seconded by Dr Bobbi Ramsammy
--------------	----------------------------------	--

Hon. Secretary	Ms Joan Harris	Proposed by Dr Bobbi Ramsammy
----------------	----------------	-------------------------------

(Hever Castle)

Seconded by Mrs Pat Whitty

Hon. Treasurer

Mrs. Sylvia Worboys
(Chestfield)

Proposed by Mrs Valerie Harrison
Seconded by Mrs Barbara Osborne

There were two vacancies for Committee:

Mrs Linda Barnett
(Park Wood)

Proposed by Dr. Bobbi Ramsammy
Seconded by Mrs Rebecca Goldsmith

Mrs. Ros Whalley
(Walmer & Kingsdown)

Proposed by Dr. Bobbi Ramsammy
Seconded by Mrs. Valerie Makin

All the above ladies were elected unanimously.

The auditor, Mrs. Doreen Lyddon from Dartford Golf Club as proposed by Mrs Kathie Maberly (Littlestone) and seconded by Mrs. Sue Batchelor (Rochester & Cobham)

Mrs Valerie Harrison presented Dr Bobbi Ramsammy with her Past Captain's badge and thanked her for her hard work and organisation of the year.

6. INCOMING CAPTAIN'S REPORT: Madam President – Ladies.

I was astounded to be asked to take up this prestigious position. I only hope that I can do you all justice and repay everyone's faith in me.

Bobbi your year has taught me so much. Not least of all how hard you have worked to make it so successful.

Now my first duty as your Lady Captain is to give Bobbi a small gift from the Society.

I would like to reiterate what Bobbi said in her speech. It is always hard to find ladies to play in matches and competitions at club level, so you would not think that with hundreds of lady members that we would have a problem. But we do!

The aim is not necessarily to field the best, but for you all to have the opportunity to play. I look forward to meeting and playing with many of you this year. So please enter, no one is excused!

7. COUNTY CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Madam President, Mary, Lady Captain, Valerie, fellow members.

Thank you for inviting me to update you on the County's activities.

I can't believe that it's over a year since I took over as Captain and with all the lovely weather we had last summer, there was lots of golf going on around the County.

The year began with our usual training sessions and practice matches against the men of N.F and Littlestone, the Colts and the Essex Ladies all of which are invaluable in helping get our County team match fit for the season. This year we have the same practice matches but have broadened our training sessions to include all single figure golfers, juniors through to seniors.

We are also in the process of setting up a 6 month coaching program for young/beginner golfers to try and encourage more girls to take up the game. If you know of any young girls who may be interested, please do get in touch.

The first major event of the year was, of course, our County Championship which was held at my home club of Sundridge Park. The competition was as fiercely contended as usual, with some great golf played over the 3 days. Mandy Mole, running her 1st championship, worked like a Trojan (a mere 17 hour day on the Tuesday) but with willing helpers from the committee, things went smoothly and the 3rd day saw Marnie Barber from North Foreland becoming our County Champion. Kim Morris from S.P was runner up whilst the 2nd Flight saw Sandy Catford (Chart Hills) beat Sharna Dutrieux (Wrotham Heath)

S.P took the Team Shield and Abbie Evans (Faversham) the Consolation plate.

In the Senior Championship, Mira Lee(Knole Park) beat Andrea Ottermeyer (Littlestone) to win the newly introduced 2nd Flight (on 20th Hole) whilst I was delighted and very proud to win the Senior title on my home course and whilst I was Captain against Gina Philips of Nizels.

We went to County Week at Muswell Hill in June with high hopes after 2013's success but the competition was even stiffer. With some of our squad members involved in GCSE and A level exams, not all of them were available for some or any of week but the team of 10 certainly pulled together and gave their all. The weather was glorious, team spirit was high and with 9 of our 10 players aged between 13 and 22, some valuable experience was gained. Every single player contributed with points on the board, including all 4 rookies and, with our youngest player just 13 years old, we hope that we have a squad that will grow in strength over the next few years. We finished a very credible 3rd with good wins against Middlesex and Sussex but a very strong Hampshire side went on to win not only the regional title but in Sept the national one too.

Our 2nd team battled hard last year, earning a very well deserved half against Surrey and a great win away from home against Middlesex. However, strong sides from Hampshire and Sussex defeated us and we lost 3rd place to Surrey on countback. These matches provide excellent experience for our up and coming youngsters and some great competitive golf for our more experienced single figure golfers. It's good to see the pride with which many ladies play for the county.

Our Juniors once again had a good year under Amanda and Marilyn. Just 48 hours before Junior County Week started, both our Junior Captain, Fiona, and Vice Captain, Ainee, were offered places in the British Girls alongside Mollie Lawrence which meant we lost our 3 lowest handicapped players. However, again with great spirit, the girls fought long and hard and it came down to the wire. On the last afternoon, we were still in a position to win the title but needed to win the last 3 matches still on the course. All 3 went to the last putt on the 18th but unfortunately the result did not go our way and Surrey took the title.

The Juniors had some notable individual successes with both Cloe Frankish (Chart Hills) and Mollie Lawrence (Rochester & Cobham) representing England in the Scottish U16 Championship and Mollie in the U16 Irish and in matches against Switzerland and Spain.

Mollie was also 4th in the Henry Cooper, 5th in the Astor & Bridget Jackson trophies, 7th at Liphook and 18th in the English Girls. She also gained her 1st team colours.

Ainee O'Connor (Sundridge Park) has also had a good year, dropping her handicap to 2, becoming our Junior Champion, South Region Girls Champion and earning herself a trip to West Virginia by

winning the Faldo series event at Hollinwell. She had a week in America, spending time with Nick Faldo and Fanny Sunesson – a great experience for her. Just to show that it's not just golf she is good at, she also gained 13 GCSEs at A & A*

I mentioned, Nicole Amos (Faversham) last year, well she has also had another outstanding year with her 1st team debut, dropping her handicap to 5 and finishing 10th in the Scottish U14. Not bad at the tender age of just 13!

We have 6 girls accepted for England under 16 training - Sharna Dutrieux, Nicole Amos, Nicola Smith, Nicole Stewart, Darcie Smith and Chloe Burden.

4 of our girls have also gone off to study in the States (Emily Royer (Chart Hills), Sophie Bargeron (Sundridge Park), Abbie Evans (Faversham) and Holly Standing (Ashford). I'm sure you will join me in wishing them well with their studies.

Lacey Clark (West Kent) also deserves a mention as she was presented with a Young Volunteer of the Year Award by England Golf, going into schools, colleges and to taster events to help people get into golf.

On behalf of the Juniors, I would like to thank the Society for their continuing support and their very generous donation each year – I hope you feel it is bearing fruit.

Once again the Seniors were not to be outdone. Tita McCart (Sundridge Park), as well as spending lots of her time setting up and updating our new website, had repeat wins in both the Dutch Senior Matchplay and Strokeplay titles.

However, the highlight of this year has to be our Senior team taking the 10 Counties Senior Championship title at Littlestone in September. Our team Captain and President, Dis, did a fantastic job organising the event, even down to the flowers which had the colours of all 10 counties participating in the event in them. The team, Gerry Bray from Littlestone and Kim Morris, Tita McCart and myself, all from Sundridge Park were not only delighted to win this for our county, but even more so for Dis – a just reward for being such a great and inspiring President.

Our clubs have been very busy this year, with all the Kent Club competitions being fiercely contested and congratulations must go to all the winners. A special mention must be made of Sidcup for winning the 4 Counties Pearson Trophy at Muswell Hill, Dis and I certainly enjoyed being there to support them.

As Past Captains of our Kent clubs, you all know that events are only successful if there are sufficient entrants to make them so.

Some of our County events have been very popular – we had 99 players at the Rumble at Hever but a few need a boost in numbers. Could I ask you to help us by encouraging your members to take part – help us to dispel the myth that County golf is only about elite golf – it's not, we really do care about and run events for all ladies, of any handicap.

Finally, we have had to say some farewells. To our Vice Captain, Chris Daniels, after 4 years hard work, I'm sure she is enjoying spending with her grandchildren, especially with the recent arrival of a granddaughter, a sister and cousin to Chris's grandsons!

We also had to say goodbye to our President Dis. She has been fantastic during her 3 years, always there to support and add her wise counsel – and to share the odd glass of wine with! Both will be

sorely missed, however we welcome on board, Anne Billings and Elaine Tappin, both members of this Society, and I'm sure that we will have a great time moving the County ever forward.

I couldn't finish without mentioning Dorothy Featherstone. To many people, Dot epitomised all that was Kent Ladies golf. Her energy was boundless, I doubt that anyone who ever received an e mail from Dot, didn't get one from her in the early hours of the morning! She supported Kent to the full. Even when she was ill, she came all the way to Cheshire to the National Finals and spent her 79th Birthday with the team. She was a very courageous lady and will be very sorely missed by everyone that knew and loved her.

Thank you for your attention Ladies. Valerie – I hope you have a great year and I hope to see lots of you during the year, at both County and Society events.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

There being no other business the meeting closed at 12:20 p.m.