

SOCIETY OF LADY CAPTAINS OF KENT GOLF CLUBS

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016

The 55th Annual General Meeting was held at the Weald of Kent Golf Club, Headcorn on Monday
7th March 2016

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

Ms Joan Harris, Honorary Secretary, read the notice convening the meeting.

PRESENT: President Mrs. Mary Robinson, Lady Captain Mrs Valerie Harrison, Lady Vice Captain Mrs Pat Whitty, Hon. Secretary Ms Joan Harris, Hon. Treasurer Mrs Sylvia Worboys, Committee Members: Mrs Kathie Maberley, Mrs Linda Barnett, Mrs Joan Hopley, County Captain, Mrs Anne Billings and 106 members.

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

1. **MINUTES**

Agreed: Proposer: Ann Lake (Rochester & Cobham)
Seconder: Katrina Howard (Chart Hills)

2. **MATTERS ARISING**

There were none.

3. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The bank accounts show that our current account stands at £3,215.22 and our deposit account is a healthy £5,531.87. We had 33 new members join the Society and 2 became Life Members. Mrs Joyce Canning was made an Honorary Life Member for previous services to the Society.

The total expenses are slightly lower than last year due mainly to the fact that postage stamps were purchased in 2014 in advance to offset the proposed increases in cost. Our printing costs were also lower which indicates the reduced membership. Sales of clothing were also down and our stockholding is quite high as shown in the accounts. However, Kathie Maberley has a selection of goods here today and will be only too pleased to see you. I believe that the above comments cover the main areas but I will attempt to answer any questions you may have.

I feel sure that you will join me in giving a heart warming thank you to Doreen Lyddon from Dartford G.C. for auditing the accounts for many years going back as far as our dear Shirley Dunlop's time as the Treasurer. Doreen has indicated that this is the last year that she will carry out the duties of external auditor.

Finally I would finish my tenure as Hon. Treasurer of the Society by saying how much it has been my honour to serve the Society and like to thank all the committee members throughout my term for their patience and understanding. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in this position and know that my successor will be afforded the same courtesies. Thank you.

ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS

Proposer: Janet Alldread (Sundridge Park)
Seconder: Paddy Todd (Sundridge Park)

4. **CAPTAIN'S REPORT**

Welcome Ladies and grateful thanks to you all for attending this AGM and lunch. I have been asked to try and keep my speech short as it costs so much for the printing. I will try.

I cannot tell you of the great privilege it has been for me to be your Captain this last year. I have followed in the footsteps of many great captains with trepidation hoping that I did not slip up and disappoint you.

Matches:

These have proved really difficult this year, not the playing, but trying to fill teams. We started our year with a match against Sussex in May here at the Weald of Kent. A cold damp day, trying to rain but not quite. Unfortunately we lost 6-1. We then went away early June to Langdon Hills to play Essex. We could only field 5 pairs rather than 6. Result another loss for Kent. Our next match was Sussex away at Sweetwoods in August. This ended up being a cold day, really spoilt by hard rain for the last few pairs. Glad I got to play first. A closer match this time, with only a 5-3 loss. The match with the Men's Captains was as usual run by Ian Dunlop, ensuring a fun filled and dry day for all. The Ladies won again as we did last year. We also had a fly past by the Red Arrows celebrating our victory. Amazing who you get to know through golf!! Our match against Surrey at Faversham in September was a great disappointment to me. Of all the Ladies in our society, about 500, I was only able to get 5 ladies to play. This was the first ever match that has had to be cancelled from lack of support.

It looked like the same thing was going to happen with our match against the Kent Junior girls, but at the last hour I managed to arrange some Faversham Captains to play. Still we only went out with 8 Lady Captains, but we did manage to scrap a win, 2 ½ - 1 ½. All of our opposition in all of our matches have been such great company and a real joy to play with. Wherever we played we also had great hospitality from the golf clubs.

My very grateful thanks to all the ladies that played this year and hope that more of you will support Pat this coming season.

Meetings:

Our Spring Meeting was held in May at Faversham Golf Club. It was rather cold and a little wet. 48 ladies played and I hope enjoyed the day. The winners of the Armada Dishes were Christine Farley and Helen Johnson from Sidcup. Major Cup winners were Trisha Cheesworth and Nieves Clark from Chestfield and Broome Park

Our Cobnuts Meeting was held at The Weald of Kent Golf Club in June. Another cold and drizzly day. With 44 ladies playing. The winners of the Cobnuts Salver were Margaret Fullager and Sheila Fullager and the runners up and Maureen Yates and Helen Albery. All from Faversham.

The Autumn Meeting was held at West Malling Golf Club and to celebrate the last meeting of our year we were able to arrange a famous pop group to attend. WET WET WET!!! 32 brave souls went out in the rain and 32 very, very wet ladies came in. I was extremely surprised to find that everyone completed the course. The winners of the Holland (Armada) dishes were Janet Alldread and Jenny Knight from Sundridge Park and Nizels. With Pat Whitty and Jo Harris from Hever as runners up and winners of the Vine Cups. All of the golf clubs hosting our meetings have looked after us superbly. Our thanks to them.

I would like to thank Betty Martin, Jenny Knight and Joan Hopley for ably running the societies meetings. I would also like to thank our Lady President for giving so much of her time to the Society and officiating at all of the meetings.

Committee:

We are saying a sad farewell to Sylvia, who after serving on general committee for 3 years and as our Hon Treasurer for 11 years has decided to retire. The committee will miss you. I am delighted to confer Honorary Life Membership, with playing rights to you. I would also like to present you with a gift in appreciation of all your time and hard work you have given to the Society.

I wish Bobbi, Betty and Jenny happy retirement from their tasks on the committee and I would also like to thank all the other ladies that have served me so well on my committee.

Pat it only remains for me to say thank you for all your help this year, you made my role easier. Next year will see you take our society from strength to strength and really making its mark as you help expand our internet world. Good Luck.

I have really enjoyed my year, I love playing golf as you all do and to be a figurehead of our society has been the icing on my 2015 cake.

At the AGM in March 2014 Wendy Kefford said "We were very lucky with the weather last summer, not a wet match or meeting." I think it was all being saved up just for my year in 2015.

ADOPTION OF REPORT:

Linda Barnett (Parkwood)
Lesley Devos (Nizels)

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Captain: Mrs Pat Whitty Proposed by Mrs Mary Robinson
(Hever Castle) Seconded by Mrs Valerie Harrison

Mrs Harrison then presented Mrs Whitty with the badge of office. Mrs Whitty thanked Mrs Harrison for her hard work during the year.

Vice Captain: Mrs Ann Idle Proposed by Mrs Pat Whitty
(Redlibbets) Seconded by Mrs Jean Pickin

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs Susan Jones Proposed by Mrs Mary Robinson
(Chestfield) Seconded by Mrs Sylvia Worboys

Committee Members: No forthcoming volunteers from the members. It was left to approach Mrs Whitty after the meeting if anyone interested.

6. INCOMING CAPTAINS REPORT

When I joined the Society in 2007, I had no idea I would one day be standing here about to become the Society's Captain. I feel very honoured to take on this role.

The society was formed with a vision to create social golf meetings where we can continue to meet our many friends and acquaintances throughout the County. This would not be achievable without the continued support of the Lady Captains of Golf Clubs in Kent. So please do encourage your friends to join in order that this great Society can continue to grow. I originally joined the committee in 2009 and served for 3 years until 2012 without a specific role. I volunteered to run the Cobnuts meeting and assisted the organiser on other meeting days. This helped me learn more about the society, make a contribution and also to understand the committee roles. We currently have 2 vacancies on the committee similar to the one I started in and I very much hope that members will consider volunteering for these roles. It would really help if we can get the committee back up to full strength.

Having served 3 years on the committee I returned to being a member until I was contacted to consider taking up the role as vice-captain which I was delighted to accept. I am very much looking forward to working with the committee, to meeting more lady members and I would like to thank Valerie for her hard work and commitment she will be a hard act to follow, and to Sylvia, for 11 years of dedicated service as our Treasurer, you will be greatly missed.

From a personal point of view since joining I have made many friends and have enjoyed participating in meetings and matches, which are all played in a friendly and fun atmosphere, with all levels of handicaps taking part. This year we have some lovely courses to play, for instance at Burhill v Surrey and Piltdown v Sussex. I do hope many of you will support the Society in all the events. The society's website has been updated, my thanks to Amanda Rose for all her help and patience. It is my intention to continue to keep this updated during the year with news and pictures of events. I intend to give a brief demo of the updated site at the end of the AGM – don't worry it will be brief – I don't want to keep you from your lunch! In order to move forward and improve communication we would like to ensure we hold correct information for each individual member, including email addresses where members have one. Forms will be provided at lunch for you to complete, please leave them on the table by the door as you leave. Please try and ensure your writing is clear. For any member that are not staying for lunch please approach Jo Harris our Hon Secretary for a form, and again leave on the table. One of my aims this year is to encourage more ladies to join the society – there are just under 100 golf clubs in Kent and we will be looking to see where we have no representation within the society, hopefully make contact with the Lady Captain to at the very least understand why they are not members.

And finally.....to each and every lady member I do hope you all have a great golfing year and I look forward to your continued support.

7. COUNTY CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Madam President, captain, captain's committee and ladies Good morning and thank you for inviting me here today, I plan to give you a brief account of last year's county news and also our plans for the coming year.

Last year began with our usual practice matches against the men of North Foreland and Littlestone, the Kent Colts and the Essex Ladies. We are very grateful to all those involved that help in our preparation for County Week. Our Championship was held at Rochester & Cobham Park in April. The places for the matchplay were hotly contested with some fine scores being carded. Anne Wheble from Dartford had a magnificent 75/73 to win the Jackson Plate, a mere 7 shots ahead of 2nd place Nicole Amos from Faversham, whilst in the Seniors qualifier, Terri Linskey (Wrotham Heath) shot a 76 (nett 66), the same 7 shot margin – but over just the one round! In the matchplay, we witnessed some magnificent, strongly contested golf. Rachel Martin (Sundridge Park) and Stephanie Marshall (Birchwood Park) went to the 24th hole, Tita McCart (Sundridge Park) and Stephanie again, 20th, and Kim Morris (Sundridge Park) and Nicole Amos, the 21st – all signs of hard fought matches.

The final saw a great show of golf between Tita McCart (Sundridge Park) and Sharna Dutrieux (Wrotham Heath) with Sharna becoming our youngest Champion to date. The 2nd Flight was won by our incoming CTO Sandy Catford, whilst Senior honours went to Mira Lee (Knole Park) in the Championship and Christine Edgar (Sundridge Park) in the 2nd Flight. County Week saw the team heading to Worthing in Sussex. The paperwork suggests that Kent didn't do very well, finishing in 4th place but you would have had to have been there to see the full picture. The girls all played their hearts out. The matches were very close and many of the losses were only a whisker away from being wins. Our 2nd team play matches against other counties for Stovold trophy. The matches give valuable experience to our up and coming youngsters as well as giving some of our experienced single figure players the opportunity to play competitive golf at County level. We are very pleased that 5 players gained 2nd team colours last year. Tita McCart, who gained hers in between her 1st team appearances, Nicki McGee (Weald of Kent), Darcie Smith (Chart Hills), Lily Price (Royal Blackheath) and Nicola Smith (Sittingbourne). Our Junior girls..... Once again we had a clash between the British Girls and Junior County Week which meant our lowest handicappers were absent for the 2nd year running for county week. We took along an 11, 12 and 15 handicapper for the experience, whilst all the other counties took only single figure handicappers. We are sure that all the girls took away something useful from the week. As the Juniors are the life blood of our future County teams, we run a Futures programme. We ran six sessions on a monthly basis with two coaches, Karl Knight (Wildernesse) and Sophie Daws (a former Kent Junior), across three centres, Wildernesse, Pedham Place and Etchinghill. 26 girls attended, some with no previous golfing experience and some fairly new to golf, Encouragingly, this has been a great success and we have continued these sessions over the winter and hopefully to expand this summer's programme to include new girls – so if anyone knows of any girls from the age of 8 upwards that would like to try golf in the company of other girls – please do get in touch. Apart from the Kent team golf, there are, of course, many individual and team competitions. All of these were fiercely contested and the results are on our website. Congratulations must go to all the winners, Also to Sittingbourne for winning the Kent Pearson final

We also had some good results from some individual players -

In the English Girls, Fiona McCann (North Foreland) came 4th and Sharna, 9th.

Cloe Frankish (Chart Hills) won the English Girls U16 and the Scottish U21.

Stephanie Marshall became the English Medal Champion.

Ainee O'Connor qualified for the final of the Faldo Series for the second year running.

Tita McCart became the Dutch Senior Strokeplay Champion for the 2nd consecutive year.

The Senior team came 2nd in the 10 Counties Championships, losing out by a single stroke over the combined 54 hole score.

The Junior team played in the Aylesford Trophy – a stableford competition hosted by Hampshire, teams of six girls from Hampshire, Dorset, Berkshire, Kent, Sussex, Dorset and Wiltshire from four different handicap categories. Our team of Jessica Murray (Redlibbets), Ellen Walker (Dartford), Megan Simmonds and Megan Roberts (both Sundridge Park), Mollie Mumby (Walmer & Kingsdown) and Joely Buckland (Chislehurst) did us proud and won by 6 points, the first time since 2009. Our county champion, Sharna Dutrieux (Wrotham Heath), has been named in the England U18 squad and we wish her every success. In November I took over from Ingrid as County captain

I am very fortunate to take over a very organised and well run committee. We are all working for the same thing, promoting and encouraging girls and ladies to enjoy playing golf throughout the county. We now have in place a training officer, a position we have been unable to fill for a few years. Sandy Catford from Charthills / Princes golf clubs, has taken on the role with great enthusiasm, organising training plans for our elite players, second team, seniors, intermediate juniors and our young girls in the futures programme. Bringing them under one umbrella.

We held an invitation only elite training day in January, for our first, senior, junior and 2nd team players at Pedham golf centre. Players playing 9 holes, then after lunch, a talk was given by Simon Willis from Kent county cricket academy, on player profiling and mental strength. This seemed to be very well received and a very positive start to our training year. Regular training sections will take place throughout the coming months for these elite teams.

Following on from this, we also held a meeting for all our junior players, all standards were invited, with their parents. This also was very popular with over 24 juniors attending, all with a least one parent. Nicola Smith from Sittingbourne G. C. was announced as this year's junior county captain. We will be hosting Junior county week this year. Being held from 15th to 17th August at Sundridge Park, we will be playing against Sussex, Hampshire, Surrey and Middlesex. We have, on paper, a very strong junior team so we are hoping for great things on home soil. Please come along and support our girls if you can, the standard of golf is very impressive and the team would appreciate your support. They are our future.

Two of our coaches who are helping the junior players are both ex Kent county players, Jerri Sewell and Sophie Dawes, an excellent example for our young players to see that these girls have managed to make a career out of their talent and commitment to golf. We have had two first team practise matches against, Littlestone men, North Foreland Men and we also have one at the end of April against the Kent colts. Our Championship will be held this year at Wildernesse Golf club from 5th to 7th April, Again your support would be greatly appreciated. County week in June is being hosted by Surrey at Walton Heath, we hope to take a strong team, we have put together a two year development plan for our first team so if we are unsuccessful this year, we hope to achieve our goals in 2017 at Littlestone, as we will be hosting county week We have five girls currently studying in America on golf scholarships. Ainee O'Connor from Sundridge Park is about to join them on a golf scholarship this coming August. As I mentioned before Sharna Dutreix from Wrotham Heath has been offered U18 England training and is already enjoying the experience. This year we are running a various team events throughout the summer, all can be found on our website, please come along, they are great fun, good value and a good way to meet fellow golfers from other clubs.

I would like to thank the Society and all its members for their kind donation to our junior girls, this is very much appreciated and we thank you for your continued support.

Many thanks for listening and I look forward to seeing you at county events during the coming year.

8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Query from the floor. Can there be more space on the forms for some details. Also could the match/meetings be put on the website.

Thanks given to Amanda Rose for her help in setting up the Society's website.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 12:22 p.m.