



SOCIETY OF LADY CAPTAINS OF KENT GOLF CLUBS

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

The 60 th Annual General Meeting was held at The Weald of Kent Golf Club, Headcorn, Monday, 7 th March 2022 at 11.00 am.

The President, Mrs. Sue Batchelor, welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introduced the Officers and Committee members present at the top table.

The Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Sophia Davies read out the notice convening the meeting.

Present: President Mrs. Sue Batchelor, Captain Mrs. Jenny Knight, Vice-Captain Mrs. Kathie Maberley, Hon. Secretary Mrs. Sophia Davies, Hon. Treasurer Mrs Sue Jones, Immediate Past Captain Mrs Rebecca Goldsmith. Committee members Mrs. Marion Sellar, Mrs Liz Stephens, County Captain Mrs. Tita McCart, and 107 other members.

1. APOLOGIES A list of apologies was held by the Hon. Secretary. There were 44.

2. MINUTES OF THE AGM held 4 th March 2020 These were agreed

Proposed by Mrs Mary Robinson (Chestfield)

Seconded by Mrs Judie Smith (Wilderness)

3. MATTERS ARISING None.

4. HON TREASURER'S REPORT

Good morning, ladies.

The financial end of year report for year Nov 2020 to Nov 2021 was included with the AGM papers sent out in January by our Hon Secretary, Sophia Davies.

The society's final balance is a little higher because of 2020 and nothing being played. You will notice a high spend on badges - these are for Past Captains and Presidents. The company mistakenly made too many so we negotiated a cheaper price and purchased all as funds were available.

Membership continues to rise and fall. But numbers this year are very healthy.

We have **409** Members which includes **28** New Members for this year

48 Life Members including **6** Honorary Life Members

Life members are now a little lower as this year we have included a note in with the papers asking these ladies if they still wish to still receive the end of year papers and for many reasons a lot have chosen not to.

I would like to say a big thank you to all members now paying their subs by standing order. We have now gone from 120 to just 12 ladies who pay by cheque. This saves so much time and effort for the Treasurer. And for the first time I can stand here and say I have no outstanding subscriptions.

We have 116 attendees here today.

Postage and Printing costs continue to stay low due to use of emails. May I just say again to keep this process successful if your email address changes, please will you inform us or remind anybody else to do the same.

Society clothes sales were very good this year at £1,046.00. Total stock holding stands at £3,181.00.

This year we have ordered a colour run of jumpers from Glenbrae as they have discontinued our blue colour. This means we can now keep our same colour for a good while yet. Costing for this will show in this year and the following year's figures.

The transition to now being able to pay for all events via bank transfer has gone extremely well. We will at this stage still leave the facility to pay via cheque.

I would like to again extend a big thank you to Colin Reid from Burgess Hodgson in Canterbury for all his help with auditing the societies report. The Society is making a small donation to his company's charity.

I would like to thank everyone for their support while I have been Treasurer.

If anyone has any questions, I will do my very best to answer them.

ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS

Proposed by Ms Rebecca Goldsmith (Parkwood)

Seconded by Pat Davoodbhoy (Rochester & Cobham)

All were in favour from the floor.

5. CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Lady President, ladies – a very good morning and welcome to our 60th AGM and how wonderful that so many of you could be here today. A special welcome to Tita McCart, Kent Captain. We are looking forward to hearing your speech later, Tita, when we will be able to hear about the changes that have happened in Kent. We wish you every success for your term as Captain. I understand that you are the Senior Match Play Champion, so I'm sure that a few of us would love a few tips on "match play" success!

We have another special treat for you today : as we have the privilege of hearing from Mickey Walker, previous Captain of the Solheim Cup on 4 occasions. I am sure that I am not the only one who felt incredibly elated when Europe won the last Solheim Cup. What an amazing achievement!

Well..... it has been a long 2 years since the last time I stood here in front of you all. It has often felt like a marathon! As Dame Donna Kinnar, Chief Executive of Nursing said in 2020 "It's been one of the toughest years in the history of the NHS". During that 2 year period we have suffered a global pandemic which has affected each and every one of us in different ways. We have been in lockdowns, suffered many restrictions to our old way of life, and had to tiptoe around waiting for an effective vaccine. Sadly, many lives have been lost and there has been heartbreak in many families when they have seen their loved ones suffering from coronavirus. COVID has been a silent enemy. Our thoughts are with any of you here who have been in this situation. Please accept our sincere condolences.

But, despite all the setbacks our Society of Past Lady Captains has survived. I stayed on as your Captain during 2021, as all of our Meetings and Matches were cancelled in 2020. I am very grateful to all of the committee who remained positive throughout this strange time and were very supportive – some of them even stayed on an extra year. Thank you ladies, for your support and friendship. As we could not have any physical committee meetings at Bearsted, until autumn 2021, we started having Zoom committee Meetings which were very successful and a good means of communicating when travel was restricted. So you see, that our Society meetings and matches were being organised and discussed, even remotely! We couldn't organise a special event to mark the 60th Anniversary of our Society, but we hope that you have all enjoyed using the pens that were organised by the committee and hopefully reached all of you around the county.

All of our Matches went ahead in 2021, apart from the first Away one, which was cancelled by Sussex. Thank you to all of you who signed up to play in the matches – I received 39 entries with handicaps ranging from 8 to 36 and everyone played at least once.

Our first match was Essex at home at West Malling in mid -June. We had waited a whole year to play this match. All of the ladies were amazingly positive considering that there was continuous rain all day which got heavier and heavier. However, we were up to the challenge on a soggy course, all in complete rain gear! It felt like winter, not the middle of summer!! However, we were not down-hearted : there was a very lively atmosphere

amongst the ladies, despite having to wear masks inside the clubhouse, and losing 3 ½ to 2 ½.

By contrast, in July, on a boiling hot day we played "Away" in Surrey at Tyrrells Wood. This beautiful course was in immaculate condition and a good test of our golf. We were treated to a splendid meal in a very imposing clubhouse and wonderful hospitality, so we were not too disappointed at losing 6-2.

Then on August 16th we were finally allowed to enter Ashford clubhouse, without masks and use the locker rooms for changing after the meal. That felt amazing! Our usual Meeting with the Kent Captains had been changed from West Kent to Ashford. It was organised very efficiently by the Captains and the golf was played in good spirits with plenty of banter.

After a delicious dinner the golf results were announced : The Salver was retained by the Kent Captains who scored 381 pts. to 334 pts. Best scores : 1st Liz Stephens and Chris Hazeldene (40pts), 2nd Susan Phillips and Graham Sutherland (38pts on countback).

Our last match was held in September at Sittingbourne & Milton Regis when we hosted the Sussex team. Despite drizzly rain and the course being lush, the match was played in good spirits. Unfortunately, we were defeated by 6 ½ to 1 ½ . But, despite our defeat, there was a lovely ambience amongst the ladies while we discussed all the holidays and days out that we had missed during 2020 and 2021.

MEETINGS

It was "touch and go" whether we were going to be allowed to hold The Spring Meeting at Faversham, but eventually by moving the date forward a month to May and following strict COVID guidelines we were able to go ahead with Sophia Davies as the organiser and Rhona Hunter assisting. They did a fantastic job. We were very excited to eventually hold a Meeting and meet "mask to mask", even though committee attendance was limited and the ladies had to sit round the tables, spaced out for lunch, in their golf clothes. We could not hold a prize-giving or have speeches and there was no socialising inside! The cool weather, after heavy overnight rain, was Spring-like with a blustery wind and April showers. One elderly Faversham member collected up a Nearest the Pin board and delayed the return of it to the club, by 2 days - that mystery delayed the result...!! Sophia and I were scratching our heads in disbelief for 2 days, (wondering where the board had gone), but with a great sign up of 68 brave ladies, 18 clubs represented and 5 clubs in the prizes we agreed that it had been worth all the effort.

The Spring Armada dishes were won by Jenny Spedding & Janet James (Ashford) with 39 points and the Major Cups were won by Sally Seboa & Yvonne Bartlett (Dartford) 37points. Once again, COVID restrictions were in place at The Weald of Kent for our Cobnuts Meeting on July 12th, delayed by one month. Many apologies to everyone for the changes of date to our Meetings, but I was determined to try to work round all of the restrictions which were being enforced. Thank you again to all the ladies who signed up to play, but unfortunately Mother Nature was at work too. After extremely heavy overnight rain, all buggies were cancelled and therefore, some ladies had to cancel on the day, but our wonderful organiser

Julie Flanders was not daunted and re-arranged the start sheet for us! There were 48 entries, representing 20 clubs, only 3 in the prizes.

The Cobnut Salvagers were won by Jan Sayle and Val Chandler from Faversham with 33 points, Runners Up were Bobbi Ramsammy & Jacky Houghton from Nizels with 32 points

Finally, it came to our Autumn Meeting and amazingly there were no restrictions in place on October 1st! Only the torrential overnight rain continuing that morning created an atmosphere of uncertainty. Buggies were banned (even with a medical certificate which is required to use one at the Spring & Autumn Meetings). Liz Stephens organised the day extremely well, despite having had Covid a few weeks before. The ladies set off in the rain, but fortunately the sun played ball and shone for us. All 76 ladies were up to the challenge and produced some terrific scores. West Kent GC proved to be an excellent venue. The buffet meal was appreciated by all present and the friendly staff added to the superbly relaxed atmosphere of the day. 26 clubs were represented at the meeting and of those 8 clubs were in the prizes.

The Autumn Armada Dishes were won by Jackie Taylor & Amanda Rose (Nizels) with 43 points. The Vine Cups won by Angela Rossi & Wendy Swift (Sidcup) with 42 points on countback.

I would like to thank Amanda Rose for updating our website on a regular basis. It was a good opportunity to thank her in person at the Autumn Meeting. Amanda is a great member of our backroom team.

Congratulations to all the clubs we played at in 2021 for presenting their courses so well in very difficult and challenging conditions. Thank you to them all for welcoming us, despite the tricky circumstances.

My thanks to Bearsted G.C. for the use of their committee room from September onwards. They welcomed us and provided a great venue for our Annual Past Presidents and Captains Meeting and Lunch, as well the Incoming Captains Meeting, which was very successful with more than 20 new ladies signing up to join our Society. Welcome ladies, if you are attending today and we look forward to meeting you at some of our events.

Thank you also to Judie Smith for organising a most enjoyable annual Golf Away Day at The Ridge for the Past Presidents and Captains.

Despite all of the uncertainties in 2020, when I felt like the lady -in-waiting, living through strange times, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Captain. It has often felt like a roller-coaster, but it has been an honour to serve as your Captain.

When the clubs started opening up in 2021, we were still playing the waiting game. Club employees were furloughed and all the clubs were struggling to find new chefs.

Fortunately, with the roll out of the vaccines life began to open up and confidence returned. During the whole of this time the committee have been brilliant – so kind, supportive and encouraging. Thank you so much for all the time and effort you have all put into the committee. Ladies: You have been an excellent team!

Sue Batchelor, our President – you have always been there for a chat and sending me positive vibes, especially when we were in lockdown. Thank you for your friendship and pearls of wisdom!

Sophia, Julie and Liz – you were all amazing organisers of the Meetings and handled whatever circumstances were thrown at you.

Sophia took on the secretarial job on the committee with enthusiasm when Pam Bentley (having served her time on the committee, stepped down in 2020). Sophia has worked efficiently and tirelessly, keeping us up to speed with committee business.

Now, I would like to thank all of the ladies who are stepping down from committee: a special thank you to Rebecca, our retiring Past Lady Captain, who has guided me during my time. You have shown great spirit, humour and friendship.

Pam Bentley, you have not been forgotten! Pam served on the committee as a great secretary for 4 years: you were such a cheerful, kind member of the committee. You retired during 2021 when we were not able to meet, but now we have an opportunity to thank you for all the hours you put into committee work. We wish you every success with your new venture.

I would like to thank Rhona for her time on the committee. She has decided to step down and so we wish her well. Sadly, Elaine has suffered ill- health and has been in and out of hospital. Please accept our thanks Elaine for serving on the committee for a short time and we hope that you will gradually recover full strength.

Liz, you have served on the committee for 4 years. You have always been positive and shown great spirit whatever the circumstances. Thank you so much for your input.

Marion – the sales of our Uniform have soared during the 4 years that you have been housing and selling our Society sweaters and shirts! Thank you so much for all the time and effort you have put in to keeping this show on the road! You are going to be a hard act to follow!

Sue Jones – you have spent 6 years already on the committee in your role as Treasurer: what a superstar you are! You have been so much more than a “treasurer” : you have now set up a banking system where we can all pay for our Meetings and Matches online; you have kept our membership records up to date, dealt with entries for the AGMs and organised the table plan for all your years on the committee. You are a real asset on our committee. On behalf of all the ladies of the SLCKGC thank you for all the hours you have invested in this Society.

Where would we be without our backup teams? That is, our husbands who support us while we’re out at the meetings or playing golf, who carry heavy boxes in and out of the house and even in the case of my husband, very kindly polishes the silver trophies before the Meetings! I would like to extend a huge “Thank you” to them as well.

Now... it remains for me to step aside, pass the baton on and wish Kathie the very best of luck as your new Captain. Kathie has waited patiently for an extra year to take on this position and you are certainly well prepared.

Kathie – I would like to wish you every success in your new role as Captain.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Captain: Mrs. Kathie Maberley (Littlestone) Proposed by Mrs Jenny Knight (Nizels)

Seconded by Ms Rebecca Goldsmith (Parkwood)

Vice-Captain: Mrs Sue Jones (Chestfield) Proposed by Mrs. Mary Robinson (Chestfield)

Seconded by Mrs Jenny Knight (Nizels)

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs Sally Jemmett (Chestfield) Proposed by Mrs. Sue Jones

(Chestfield) Seconded by Mrs Kay Barnard (Chestfield)

Hon. Secretary: Mrs Sophia Davies (Lamberhurst) Proposed by Mrs Jenny Knight (Nizels)

Seconded by Mrs Sue Jones (Chestfield)

All were in favour from the floor.

Mrs Elaine Coomber, Mrs Rhona Hunter, Mrs. Marion Sellar and Mrs Liz Stephens retire from the Committee.

Two ladies had been co-opted on to the Committee.

Mrs. Anna Cooper

Proposed by Mrs Judie Smith (Wilderness) Seconded by Mrs. Kathie Maberley (Littlestone)

Mrs. Fran Fearn

Proposed by Mrs Anne Lake (Canterbury) Seconded by Mrs. Sue Batchelor (Rochester & Cobham)

The following member had been nominated to join the Committee

Mrs. Fran Hollingsbee

Proposed by Mrs Penny Perkins (Chestfield) Seconded by Mrs Sue Jones (Chestfield)

All were in favour.

Jenny Knight, the outgoing Captain congratulated Kathie Maberley on her election and presented her with her badge of office.

Kathie thanked Jenny and congratulated her on such a successful and enjoyable year. She presented her with her Past Captain's badge and presented her with a gift from the Society. She welcomed the incoming Vice-Captain, Sue Jones, and presented her with her badge.

7. INCOMING CAPTAIN'S SPEECH

Lady President, past Captain Jenny, ladies

Good morning to you all and what a delight it is to be here as your Captain.

After the last two years I doubt any of us thought today would really happen, but it is lovely to see so many of you here today.

What can I tell you about me. Don't worry I'm not going to give you my life story. I have a husband, three children and 10 grandchildren, which makes birthdays a logistical nightmare at times. Enough said, I'm sure some of you can relate to that.

I have always been passionate about sport, both watching and taking part, having played hockey, netball and badminton and been a very keen athlete both in track events and cross country running.

But to golf....My introduction to golf was on a par 3 course, which I went round so many times I could have done it blindfolded!

Once on a full course I was bitten by the bug and worked hard to get a steady handicap. Having started my golf at Etchinghill where I joined in 1999, my passion for the game led me to get involved with the junior section to help and encourage youngsters, who are always a delight and fun to be around. I became Lady Captain there in 2005. That is when I joined this Society.

Within a couple of years of my captaincy I felt I needed to stretch my wings and through a gentle nudge by my teaching pro, I ventured to Littlestone in 2007 and discovered a whole new type of course and what a pleasure it has been. Again I was soon involved with the juniors and took my level one PGA coaching course so that I was able to be much more involved.

I was invited to become Lady Captain at Littlestone in 2011, which I accepted as an honour.

I have also worked on committee with Kent ladies golf, prior to the amalgamation with the men and I am so pleased that we are now one body under Kent Golf.

During the time I have been playing I have met many ladies, both in matches and at Opens, which brings in the social side of golf, giving one the chance to get to know people a little better and this has certainly increased my enjoyment of golf.

Whilst playing and searching for improvement in my golf, I was incredibly fortunate to meet

Mickey Walker at one of her teaching weekends quite a few years ago and through her coaching and the trips that she has organised we have become friends and I am extremely grateful that she has agreed to come today and I am sure you will find her talk very interesting.

Over the years I have enjoyed playing both socially and competitively all around the country and here I am today on another new journey.

Today:

As you are aware the Society organises both meetings and matches and I would encourage you to participate in as many as you are able. Some of you will note that a couple of the venues have changed from my original choices to endeavor to make the costs reasonable. Since the AGM papers went out I have had a few replies, but would hope that some, if not all of you, will play in at least one of the matches. There are no limits with Handicaps and it is always a joy to see new faces as well as the more regular ones, so don't be shy, please take a look at the list and state your preferences. We also have the Spring and Autumn Meetings along with Cobnuts for our more mature ladies.

On another note, we have a very reliable committee and I welcome those who have recently joined us. Willing hands make team work so much easier. My grateful thanks to Sophia our secretary for her ability to keep us all on track and Sue for all her work as treasurer over the past few years ensuring subscriptions get paid and everything is kept in order. I am looking forward to working with Sue as my Vice Captain.

Later in the year we have a meeting inviting incoming Lady Captains to attend. This is held at Bearsted golf club, which not only gives them a chance to meet other incoming Lady Captains, but explains how our Society works and encourages them to join. We welcome all the new Lady Captains who are here today and hope that you have a very successful year.

Let us hope that the weather is kind and that no further storms, of any description arrive at our doorsteps and that we are able to have an enjoyable golfing year.

Thank you.

8. COUNTY CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Welcome, ladies

My name is Tita McCart - At the unified Kent Golf Limited I wear 3 'HATS'; County Captain, Director of Communications and player of the Seniors Team.

Thank you to Jenny and her committee for inviting me to speak today. And congratulations to Kathie being appointed Captain. Wishing you a joyful year.

May I first of all thank the Society for their very generous £250 donation towards the Kent Juniors. It is very much appreciated. Thank you very much.

I have been asked to update you on Kent Golf, which has now been unified for just over 1 year. We believe unification between the men and women organisations was a logic progression and unavoidable in the long run. One organisation dealing with the same 'product' achieves more than 2 separate organisations. And in our case some areas were already working together such as the juniors.

Early on Kent Golf issued their mission statement –

- Making golf accessible and welcoming to all
- Supporting affiliated clubs
- Organising competitions and championships for Men, Women and Juniors
- Developing elite talent
- Achieving successful County Men, Women and Junior Teams

Kent Golf is run by a Board with sub-committees (consisting of dedicated volunteers) as well as an office with paid staff, who are very well qualified and work incredibly hard.

The Board and all committees need to be represented by at least 30% of either gender.

Currently we have 3 female directors, a female president as well as a female County Secretary. Nice to see 2 of my Board 'colleagues' here today; Chris Lohan, our President and Cheryl Power, our Director of Golf Development and Junior Girls Team Manager and some more colleagues. As you can appreciate we always need more volunteers so please contact us if you are interested.

In December we submitted our application for the England Golf County of the Year Awards and we're delighted to be one of the finalists! The winner(s) will be announced live on England Golf's YouTube Channel on 20 April. Wish us luck! I think we deserve it!

The unified organisation has achieved plenty in 2021 and today I will highlight some of them.

For our women members not much has changed as all the competitions are the same as before unification. Despite the many months of lockdown last year, we were able to run many competitions, which were well received.

Happy to say that this year our club KOs are back running again after 2 years.

Kent golf is not just about low handicap players – we hope to be able to offer something to every woman golfer in Kent – all those women that you, as Captains, represent. Some examples; a Team Waltz, a 4BBB, a Mixed event, an Autumn meeting – competitions for all women, open to all handicaps. They can be really good fun, are usually very good value for money and it gives you a chance to play a variety of different courses across the county. I hope you will encourage your members to enter these events and to dispel the myth that “I’m not good enough to enter a Kent competition” they really ARE open to everyone and we look forward to hopefully seeing you all at an event in the course of 2022. All information, dates and online entry forms are available on our website.

All our Teams were fortunate to play their matches against other counties in 2021 and I like to congratulate our Seniors women team winning the Mulligan Larson league for the first time and the Boys U16 team winning their East League. We are always looking for players for our teams, please encourage your members to put their names forward.

A date for your diary is Junior County week, which Kent is hosting this year at Kings Hill from Monday 8 to Wednesday 10 August. All support is very welcome and you will see some fabulous golf. In June 2023 Kent will host the Women’s County Match Week at Sundridge Park.

Kent Golf News, our monthly eNewsletter is very popular and membership is growing further. We hope you have already signed up and please encourage your members to do so too. These eNewsletters hold a lot of useful information such as upcoming competitions, reports, team news, WHS info, England Golf and much more.

Recently we produced 3 posters; a general one, women and junior fixtures ones. These can be downloaded from the website, printed and posted on your notice boards. Can we please ask you to check if these are on your notice boards?

We also send out a regular eNewsletters to the Kent Club Delegate. Does your club have one? The Club Delegate link between your club and Kent Golf is vital and really a great way to get information out to all the clubs. We would be grateful if you can check if your club has a Delegate and if not, please encourage them to appoint one.

Following the start of the global pandemic, when we could no longer host events or develop players, we introduced various grants for Kent golf clubs in order to give something back. Clubs could apply for grants of up to £2,000 to support initiatives such as disability, juniors, women, diversity and environmental/sustainability. We also created a Junior Development Support Grant (up to £1,000) to encourage clubs to build up their junior sections using the funds in imaginative and creative ways. Added to that we’ve given marketing grants to attract new members.

Having become signatories to the Women in Golf Charter, we ran a successful social media campaign aimed at reaching a wide community of non-golfing ladies. 11 ladies attended our first ever 'Women on Par' event held at Westerham Golf Club in September. Another event is planned for in the Spring.

Kent Golf run approved Junior Academies. The aim of these Academies is to give all young golfers in the County the chance to have fun and enjoy their first taste of golf in a relaxed, friendly environment, with excellent coaching by qualified and experienced PGA Professionals at high quality and well-equipped venues. We have now also started our approved Junior Disability Academies at both Stonelees and Kings Hill for both juniors with physical and learning disabilities.

Following unification, the County Card scheme has been extended to all female members of affiliated Kent Golf clubs at no charge. A County Card can now be obtained via the igCounty app. The app works on both Apple and Android devices. The app offers a host of features, including news, upcoming and past competitions and contact details.

I hope I haven't bored you too much, but as you can see Kent Golf have lots of initiatives, which we try to communicate with our members via different media; website, newsletters, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Therefore not to miss anything of importance, please sign up. And we definitely need your help as Lady Captains to disseminate the information to your club members.

A couple of upcoming events I like to mention today are:

- the Open Forum WHS Presentations directed at General Managers, Club Secretaries and those involved in handicap management at your clubs! These forums are on 14 and 15 March (early morning, afternoon and evening sessions) at Sittingbourne & Milton Regis Great chance to ask questions from the experts!

- The Champion of Champion at Ashford on Sunday 24 April.

Has your 2021 champion entered yet? Your runner-up can enter if the Champion is unavailable.

All the information on the topics I covered are on our website – kentgolf.org, but if you have any questions or want to know more please contact Sarah McDonald, our County Secretary.

Thank you very much for listening.

9. AOB

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12.20