

SOCIETY OF LADY CAPTAINS OF KENT GOLF CLUBS

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019

The 58th Annual General Meeting was held at The Weald of Kent Golf Club, Headcorn, on Monday 4th March 2019 at 11.00am

The President, Mrs. Pat Noble, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Mrs. Pam Bentley, Hon. Secretary, read the notice convening the meeting.

PRESENT: President Mrs. Pat Noble, Captain Mrs Judie Smith, Vice- Captain Ms Rebecca Goldsmith, Hon. Secretary Mrs. Pam Bentley, Hon. Treasurer Mrs Sue Jones, Committee members: Mrs. Betty Fish, Mrs. Valerie Makin, Mrs. Christine Farley, Mrs. Liz Stephens, Mrs Marion Sellar, Kent Captain Mrs. Cheryl Power, and 106 members.

APOLOGIES. A list of apologies was held by the Hon Secretary. There were 72

The Captain read out the names of Society members who had passed away in 2018/19, and called for a minutes silence. Mrs. Anne Vines (Littlestone) Hon Member, Mrs. Bunty Jones (Chestfield) Mrs. Avril Fenwick (Sidcup), Mrs. Joan Burnham (West Kent), and Mrs. Jenny Burton (The Imperial & Sene Valley)

2. MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ON 5TH MARCH 2018 These were agreed.

Proposed by: Dr. Bobbi Ramsammy (Nizels)
Seconded by: Mrs. Pat Davoodbhoy (Rochester & Cobham)

3. MATTERS ARISING None

4. HON. TREASURER'S REPORT

Good morning ladies

This is my third year as Treasurer and may I say what a pleasure it has been to work with Judie this year.

Society report was included with AGM papers for year Nov 2017 to Nov 2018.

The society's funds continue to be in a healthy position.

We have had a good up take of new members again this year, some returning but at the same time unfortunately members have had to leave for various reasons. The renewal of membership always brings in some lovely letters and comments about the Society.

So year on, membership remains healthy.

We have 383 Members, which includes 25 new members for this year

60 Life Members including 6 Honorary Life Members

We also have 25 members who I am waiting to hear from about this year's membership.

Postage and printing costs continue to stay low due to the 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

any body else if you know of a change.

Society clothes sales continue to be good at £674.00

Total stock holding stands at £2663.00

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 Society's report.. The Society is making a small donation to his Company's charity.

I look forward to my time on Committee in the coming year with Rebecca as Captain.

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

There were no questions from the floor

ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS

Proposed by: Mrs. Sue McBain The Ridge
Seconded by: Mrs. Mary Robinson Chestfield

5. CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Lady President, Ladies. Good morning and welcome to the AGM. It is wonderful to see so many members here and I thank you for all your support today and during my year as Captain. A special welcome to Cheryl Power, our KCLGA County Captain. I believe Cheryl has been a member of our Society for 16 years as we were both Club Captains in the same year. I also look forward to meeting our Speaker Chris Hare, who will entertain us after the lunch.

2018 has been one of weather extremes. This time last year the Beast from the East abated just in time for a thaw and thankfully after some doubt we were able to go ahead with the AGM and lunch when Nicholas Owen entertained us with an informative and humorous talk about his life and career as a journalist and broadcaster. The year has flown by and here we are again today.

There has been excellent support for all the matches, fun and social days out, played in a competitive but very friendly spirit. They say the sun shines on the righteous which was the case at every match apart from the one with the Kent Captains at West Kent in August. I must have done something very naughty for as we drove off, there was heavy rain and then thunder and lightening struck. After 5 holes we were called off the course which had become waterlogged and so had the players! Harry Wanless, Match Organiser, arranged for the meal to be brought forward two hours and a tasty dinner was appreciated by everyone. An honourable draw was agreed with Mike Lintonbon, the Mens' Captain.

In June on a lovely summer's day we beat Sussex away at Willingdon, Nr. Eastbourne, 4.5 to 3.5 and halved the return match at King's Hill in September. We also halved our match with Essex played at Sittingbourne on another very hot day. On 28th June, in the continuous heatwave, we played Surrey away at Walton Heath. The heat and the heather defeated us all and we lost 7/1. The Surrey Captain was a member at Walton Heath and arranged for a delicious meal in the Ryder Cup dining room where we were surrounded by mementos and photographs of golfing history. Some ladies were also lucky to spot Justine Rose assisting Sky television with preparation for the British Masters held in October.

Finally our committee had hoped to continue the match versus KCLGA committee but this was

postponed and we hope can be played this year.

Now on to our Spring, Cobnuts and Autumn meetings which again have all been very well supported.

The Spring meeting at Bearsted G.C. was thankfully a dry but breezy day. 68 players entered and at 9.10 am Laura Pickett of Nizels G.C. started her round with a hole in one at the 1st hole. Laura was presented with a glass paperweight engraved with the Society's initials. Instead of buying drinks we thank Laura for her donation of £75 towards Society expenses. The winners Ingrid Long and Elaine Lopatequi (Sundridge Park) received the Armada dishes and runners up Liz Stephens and Sheila Wanless (Bexley Heath G.C.) the Major Cups

The Cobnuts Meeting was well supported with 54 players at Faversham G.C. where we were very well looked after. It was a grey and misty start but soon the sun shone and it was a lovely sunny June day. Faversham members Sheila Fullager and Jan Sayle were the winners of the Cobnuts Salvors.

I was very happy the Autumn Meeting was held at my home club, Wildernesse. One of the very few grey days but luckily mainly dry. With 76 players we were fortunate to use three starting tees which greatly helped the flow of the competition. The winners, Sheila Fullager and Margaret Fullager (Faversham G.C.) won the Armada Dishes and Diane Lemerle and Bridget Groves (Lamberhurst G.C.) the Anne Vines Cups. We were well looked after by Wildernesse who truly spoiled us with a marvellous cold buffet and delicious desserts.

I thank all the golf clubs and their Lady Captains where our meetings and matches have been held for their support and help on the day. We depend on these clubs to be able to offer a package which is attractive to our members and I thank them most sincerely for their consideration. A special thank you to Bearsted G.C. who for many years have accommodated the Society for our committee meetings and the Annual Past Presidents and Captains Meeting and Lunch and more recently our Incoming Captains Meeting.

During the year it has become apparent that buggies are sometimes required. Our rules accept that if buggies are available and there is a medical reason then a buggy can be used by the member. In future we will ask any members requiring a buggy to book with the Club Professional but they must also inform the Competition Organiser.

The Committee have tried to keep you updated with all our events. Modern technology and email makes this a speedy way to communicate but does not come without responsibilities. Sue Jones has overseen all the applications for our meeting and lunch today and has been challenged with a number of last minute applications. Please try to respond within the closing dates given. As with all businesses and organisations we have established a Data Protection policy which can be seen on our website. I thank Amanda Rose for keeping our website updated.

Finally, I thank the committee for the wonderful support you have not only given me but also the support you have given each other. You have worked so well as a team. Special thanks to those retiring: Annie Idle, who is now away celebrating a special birthday, has contributed as Past Captain and always ready to give me help and advice. Also Val Makin and Betty Fish who ran successful meetings last year.

And now to those continuing on committee: Christine Farley who ran the Cobnuts Meeting assisted on the day by Liz Stephens. Christine also organised the annual Incoming Captains

Meeting in November where new Captains were introduced to the Society and invited to join. Marion Sellar for overseeing the Society clothing and also assisted Betty Fish at the Autumn Meeting.

Sue Jones, Treasurer, keeps all our monies and membership records up to date.

Pam Bentley, Secretary, for overseeing all paper work for Committee Meetings and AGM, keeping us informed and answering queries.

Pat Noble, President, has attended and assisted all our meetings. Thank you for always being at hand with your support and advice.

Lastly, Rebecca Goldsmith, who has supported me throughout the year. She is well prepared and has a wealth of experience in golfing matters and I wish her luck and every success in her year as Captain.

Now it is time for me to step down. I have enjoyed every moment and shall look back with very fond memories of having fun, making new friends and catching up with old friends. I thank you for this opportunity and for all your support and companionship.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Captain: Ms Rebecca Goldsmith
(Park Wood)

Proposed by Mrs. Judie Smith
Seconded by Mrs. Pam Bentley

Vice Captain: Mrs Jenny Knight
(Nizels)

Proposed by Dr. Bobbi Ramsammy
Seconded by Mrs. Judie Smith

Both the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Sue Jones, and the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Pam Bentley, both offer themselves for re-election.

All were in favour from the floor.

Committee members

Two members retire from the committee this year, Mrs. Valerie Makin, and Mrs Betty Fish. There there are two vacancies. One nomination has been received.

Mrs. Sophia Davies
(Lamberhurst)

proposed by Mrs. Kathy Mercer
seconded by Mrs. Margaret Finnimore

Julie Flanders was co-opted onto the committee after the AGM last year. She offers herself for election to serve 2 more years

All were in favour from the floor

Any member interested in filling the vacant position were asked to contact the Captain or Secretary.

Mrs. Judie Smith, the outgoing Captain congratulated Ms. Rebecca Goldsmith on her election and presented her with her badge of office.

The Incoming Captain, Ms Rebecca Goldsmith thanked the outgoing Captain Mrs. Judie Smith and congratulated her on such a successful year. She thanked Judie for her support and guidance and said she would be a hard act to follow. She presented her with her Past Captain's badge and a small token of the Society's appreciation.

She welcomed the Incoming Vice-captain, Mrs Jenny Knight ,to the Committee and presented her with her badge.

INCOMING CAPTAIN'S SPEECH

Lady President, Past Captain Judie, ladies

I hope you are all sitting comfortable. I wish I was.

That is a small tribute to my father, who is largely to blame for me taking up golf. I joined Cherry Lodge G.C. in 1986 when he was Vice-Captain. My mother was also a member and kindly trudged round with me while I learned how to play the game - I'm still learning.

Fast forward to 1991, the year I was elected Ladies Captain of Cherry Lodge G.C. I was also encouraged to join the SLCKGC. At the age of 31 I was quite young to be a Ladies Captain, Now fast approaching my 60th year, born and bred in this beautiful County of Kent, I am proud and honoured to stand before you as your captain for 2019.

I am lucky to be supported by an excellent committee who are not only hard working and dedicated but are a delight to work with. I look forward to welcoming our new committee member, Sophia Davies onto the committee, who has already been instrumental in helping me secure Lamberhurst G.C. for our match against Sussex. There is still a vacancy for a committee member.

When the AGM notice and application forms arrive in dark January, the golfing season seems such a long way off and I know how easy it is to put them to one side to be filled out later. In fact, it was not until I had received an email from Sue Jones, a reminder to those who had not sent in their form for the AGM luncheon that it occurred to me that I had not sent in mine. Oops. She said she was pretty sure I was coming, so had marked me as green on her table plan. Thank you Sue for your patience in working out the table plan and fitting in us late comers.

There are 125 at luncheon today. I recognise many names from the inter club friendly matches and Pearson matches, and of course those whom I have met through the Society. I thank those of you have already sent in your applications for the Meetings and Matches, because for all the work that the committee and I do, it is fruitless without your support. You don't have to be a scratch golfer to enter these events and they are tremendous value for money and extremely good fun. The matches are subsidised, so come on, fill out those forms and join in.

It was Park Wood ladies AGM on Saturday. The laughter and banter reminded me why I love belonging to a golf club. Our Ladies Captain for 2019 is Bernie Baggott. I wish Bernie and all the ladies captains this year every success, may the weather be fine, but not too hot. May the fairways be wide and the greens receptive, and may you have the support you need. Enjoy your year, and have fun.

When I stood with excited trepidation at the AGM in 1991, and again in 1994 as inaugural Ladies Captain of Park Wood G.C., to make sure that everyone could hear my speech, I placed my mother at the back and spoke directly to her. I would start by saying 'can you hear me mother'?

Thank you for listening. Have a happy golfing year.

7. COUNT CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Lady President Pat, Kent Lady President Chris, Lady Captain Rebecca and your Committee, Past and Present Club Lady Captains

Thank you for inviting me here to give you an update on KCLGA activities. We have had an excellent year with an increased support for our County Competitions which is in part due to us using of our website and social media more to reach out and make more and more members aware of our existence and of what we offer. Our newsletter is now up to around 1,000 subscribers which helps us communicate regularly.

With online entries for all our competitions now fully up and running, it has also made everything a lot easier, both for entrants and for us.

We will be running our usual competitions for Members - the Team Rumble, Doxford Trophies, ABC Meeting, Three Feathers and the Championships, along with all our Club knockouts and many of these events have been subsidised making them very good value for money.

We continue to encourage and support our Junior girls of all ages and handicaps and they had their usual busy schedule this last year with handicaps tumbling continuously. Training was very successful and the girls always look forward to it and thoroughly enjoy the sessions which mainly take place at Pedham Place.

We are very lucky to have a very talented and enthusiastic Junior Squad coming through and they narrowly missed 2nd place at Junior County Week. We have a chance to do well this year with them showing a great commitment to the County and they are all really excited and if it doesn't happen this year, then certainly the following year when they will have another year's experience under their belts as they are still very young. This year's Junior County Week is at Hayward's Heath, Sussex, in August.

We have a new Junior Organiser in Lily Price from Royal Blackheath who is doing a great job and really enjoying this role. We are working on team bonding with social gatherings and they have recently undertaken some fund raising and a few of the parents have kindly provided sponsorship for new kit etc, all really positive and a great way of creating good team spirit.

At this point I'd like to thank this Society for their very generous £200 donation for our Juniors. It is much appreciated..

Our Junior County Champion this year was Millie Thompson for Sittingbourne

Our new Junior Captain this year is Annabel Dalton from Knole Park who is enjoying her role.

The England Golf sponsored Girls Golf Rocks Programme is going ahead again this year and Kent Golf have set up Junior Academies around the County, both of these initiatives aimed at new to golf girls and boys and its all looking very encouraging.

To back this up, it is important that Clubs are welcoming and encouraging to junior players and I know we have Clubs in Kent that do a fantastic job in this regard, offering membership at very low prices with free lessons, good access to the course, arranging competitions etc for these young players. However, more clubs need to follow suit in order for us to be successful in attracting and retaining these youngsters and keeping them wanting to continue to play golf.

Our first team also looks strong with our girls coming back from the US to play for us in the Summer at County Week having also just missed out on 2nd spot last year. This year's County Week is at Hendon Golf Club in Middlesex at the end of June

Our County Champion this year was Darcie Smith from Chart Hills.

Our 2nd team ran by Anne Billings, my Vice Captain, and our Seniors, ran by Angela Jones, also enjoyed their golf this year whilst also not actually bringing home any silverware.

Our Senior County Champion was Ingrid Long from Sundridge Park.

For those of you who might not know, Anne had a very serious back operation last month but is recovering well and hopes to be up and about very soon.

I wanted to mention that we have introduced a new Competition this year, a 36 hole Seniors Stroke Play Championship which is to be played over 2 days at Sundridge Park on the East Course on the 8th & 9th August. Please try and support this event if you can. The handicap limit is 24 and there will be both scratch and handicap trophies and prizes as well as age specific prizes, over 50's, 60's and 70s. Full details and the Entry Form are on the Kent Ladies website. The scratch aggregate winner over the 36 holes will go on to represent Kent at the England Golf Seniors Champion of Champions event at Woodhall Spa in September.

I am absolutely delighted that Tita McCart has taken on the role of Kent Ladies Vice Captain and we have been working well together already with her very successfully having taken on the role of County Training Officer during the year. This role is now needing to be filled of course.

I am very much looking forward to the year ahead with a wonderful hard working Committee who I know will support me throughout and work hard on behalf of ladies golf in the County.

Finally, I would like to let you know that next month we will be resuming talks with the KGU about the possible merger (or Unification which it is now being called) between our two organisations. We will obviously keep everyone informed of developments

Thank you for listening and I wish you, Rebecca, a very enjoyable year as Captain and all of your Committee and members a very enjoyable golfing year ahead and I hope to see some of you at the various competitions run by this Society and those run by the KCLGA.

8. AOB

There being no other business the meeting closed at 11.50