



## **SOCIETY OF LADY CAPTAINS OF KENT GOLF CLUBS**

### **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023**

The 61 st Annual General Meeting was held at The Weald of Kent Golf Club, Headcorn, Monday, 6 th March 2023 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. Kathie Mabberley, Vice-Captain, Mrs Sue Jones, Hon. Secretary Mrs. Sophia Davies, Hon. Treasurer Mrs Sally Jemmett, Immediate Past Captain Mrs. Jenny Knight, County Captain Mrs. Tita McCart and 120 other members.

1. APOLOGIES A list of apologies was held by the Hon. Secretary. There were 53.

2. MINUTES OF THE AGM held 7 th March 2022. These were agreed  
Proposed by Ms Rebecca Goldsmith (Limpsfield)  
Seconded by Mrs Elly Symonds (Upchurch)

3. MATTERS ARISING None.

#### **4. HON TREASURER'S REPORT**

Good morning, ladies.

I thought I would introduce myself as you are all probably used to seeing Sue Jones give this report. I'm Sally Jemmett and this is my first term as Honorary Treasurer for the society. I was fortunate to follow Sue, who set up all the systems to streamline the processes. I would like to start by thanking Sue and also Captain Kathie and all her committee for their support during the year.

You should all have received a copy of the financial end of year report for year 1 st December to 30 th November 2022. This was included with the AGM papers sent out in January by our Honorary Secretary, Sophia Davies. I will now briefly cover some of the key points.

We had a healthy year-end balance of £3055.92. You may however have noticed that the final balance is lower than previous year end. This is because we purchased a very large quantity of jumpers (as explained at the 2022 AGM). To balance this reduction, the year-end value of our clothing stock has increased by £1,753.50. Fran Hollingsbee continued with the brilliant work done by previous committee members, and thanks to her hard work the society clothes sales were exceptionally good at £1,968.

As at 6 th March 2023, membership numbers are still very healthy. We have:  
429 Members which includes 34 new Members for this year. And,  
46 Life Members, 7 of which are Honorary Life Members.

If you have not yet set up a standing order to pay your annual subscription, this would be very much appreciated. We are relying more and more on the use of emails which keeps our Postage and Printing costs low, so it is important to let me know if your email address changes. We have also virtually eliminated the use of cheques. I must give a big thank you to all the ladies for your prompt payments by Bank Transfer for all the events held throughout the year. Of course, I am happy to accept cheques from the small amount of you who are unable to pay by bank transfer.

I would also like to thank Colin Reid from Burgess Hodgson in Canterbury for his help with auditing the societies report. We will be making a small donation to his company's charity.

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

#### ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS

Proposed by Ms Jean Walker (Chislehurst)

Seconded by Mrs Mary Robinson (Chestfield)

All were in favour from the floor.

The Captain confirmed our present Auditor Colin Reid of Burgess Hodgson is willing to continue.

All were in favour from the floor.

#### 5. CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Lady President, Ladies, good morning and welcome to our 61 st AGM. What a delight to see so many of you here today. I welcome Tita McCart, Kent Captain, who will enlighten us about progress within Kent later.

Where has this past year gone? It doesn't seem possible that it was only this

time last year that I was taking up the mantle of Captaincy. As usual, the Society has had plenty going on.

The first outing was our Spring Meeting at Sittingbourne with 72 ladies playing. The weather was a little chilly but a good time was had by all. The Spring Armada Dishes were won by Kathy Mercer and Margaret Finnimore from Lamberhurst. The Major Cups were won by Janet Moore and Diane Lemerle from Kings Hill and Lamberhurst.

The Cobnuts meeting, which was held at Littlestone Warren, had 52 ladies playing with the Salvers being lifted by Marion Sellar and Maggie Unwin from Chislehurst with runners up Mary James and Jan Fitzgerald from Rochester and Cobham.

The Autumn Meeting, held at Rochester and Cobham, had 68 ladies playing and the winners of the Autumn Armada Dishes were Maggie Collen and Marion Spencer from Shortlands. The winners of the Ann Vine Cups were Claire Moore and Jackie Poole from West Kent.

Our Friendly Matches for the year started with a match against Sussex at Redlibbets, where we had a healthy win of 6 ½ to ½ . Our return match, which was held at Sweetwoods, gave Sussex their revenge winning 5 ½ to our 1 ½ . Unfortunately our match with Essex, which was to be played away, didn't happen, as they were unable to field a team. But a few of our ladies enjoyed a day out at Boyce Hill in Essex just for the pleasure of playing the course.

Our match with Surrey, which we had to postpone from the summer due to the heatwave, was eventually held at the Darenth, with a win for us of 6 ½ to 1 ½ . Another match of note was a friendly meeting with Society of London Lady Captains held at Mid Kent, which only happened as their Captain, Janet Alldread, is from Kent. We came second with score of 2-6.

Our much enjoyed annual match with the Kent Captains, which was held at West Kent, gave us an extremely pleasurable win, the first since 2015. A lovely day was had by all with much laughter and great comradeship. It only leaves me to thank the members of my committee, in their respective roles for their support. Without their help I could not have managed. My grateful thanks also to Amanda Rose for looking after the Society Website so admirably.

I wish you all a positive and healthy year ahead. I shall be stepping back now and passing on the role of Captaincy

## 6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Hon. Secretary confirmed that Sue Batchelor was retiring as President of the Society, after serving her 3 year term and that Ann Lake had been nominated to serve as the President for the next 3 years. She had been proposed by Sue Batchelor, seconded by Mary Robinson and all Past Presidents had given their approval.

Sue Batchelor confirmed that Ann Lake would be a supportive , knowledgeable and enthusiastic President.

All were in favour from the floor and then Sue Batchelor gave the President's badge to Ann.

Ann gave an acceptance speech, thanking the Society for electing her.

Kathie presented Sue Batchelor with the Past President's badge and a gift.

The Hon. Secretary confirmed the following nomination for Captain:

Mrs Sue Jones (Chestfield)

Proposed by Mrs. Mary Robinson (Chestfield) Seconded by Mrs Jenny Knight (Nizels)

Both then spoke recommending the appointment.

The Hon. Secretary confirmed the following nomination for Vice- Captain:

Marion Sellar (Chislehurst)

Proposed by Judie Smith (Wilderness) Seconded by Sue Batchelor (Rochester & Cobham)

Both then spoke recommending the appointment.

The Hon. Secretary then confirmed that the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs Sally Jemmett and the Hon. Secretary, Mrs Sophia Davies offered themselves for re-election.

The Captain asked for a show of hands to elect these ladies to serve as Officers of the Society for the coming year. All were in favour from the floor.

The Hon. Secretary confirmed that Jenny Knight and Julie Flanders were retiring from the Committee and that Anna Cooper, Fran Fearn and Fran Hollingsbee offer themselves for re-election.

The Captain asked for a show of hands to elect these ladies to serve on the Committee for the coming year. All were in favour from the floor.

The Hon. Secretary confirmed that Catherine Hazelden (Ashford) had been co-opted on to the Committee - proposed by Beryl Sutherland (Ashford) and seconded by Sue Jones (Chestfield). Pauline Pfeffer (Ashford) spoke on behalf of Beryl Sutherland recommending the appointment.

The Captain asked for a show of hands to elect this lady to serve on the Committee for the coming year. All were in favour from the floor.

The Captain thanked the retiring members of the Committee and gave a card to Jenny Knight (Past Captain).

Kathie Maberley, the outgoing Captain congratulated Sue Jones, the incoming Captain and presented her with her badge of office.

Sue thanked Kathie and congratulated her on a successful year and presented her with her Past Captain's badge and a gift from the Society. She welcomed the incoming Vice-Captain, Marion Sellar, and incoming Committee Member, Catherine Hazelden, and presented them with their badges.

## 7. INCOMING CAPTAIN'S SPEECH

Lady President, Past Lady Captain, Ladies.

I can't tell you how proud, honoured and scared I am to be the Society's Captain for this year 2023. When Jenny called me, I thought it was just for a chat! Then suddenly the penny dropped, reality set in, three gin and tonics later! But really, I am delighted to take on the rôle.

I joined the Society in 2015 and thanks to Mary [Robinson] became Hon. Treasurer in 2016 through to 2022 when I became Vice-Captain.

As a child, I had two wonderful ladies in my life - my mum, who taught me everything I know (well nearly). Unfortunately I not have enough time with her as I lost her far too young. Then her sister, who introduced me to golf but unfortunately, at the time, it didn't get past hitting plastic golf balls with plastic clubs up the garden! There were some comments along the lines of "she has a lovely swing"! Then, growing up, I loved sport having a go at anything and everything but settled with swimming, 13 times a week, which must have driven my parents mad! Never one for picking up a book, I love watching and learning. Show me how to do something and I will certainly have a go.

It wasn't until 2011 when my husband was coming up for retirement that I decided to take the plunge! It went from dragging my golf bag around the par 3 course at Boughton saying "stupid game - I can't do this" to playing 6 times a week and never saying "No" to anything! I'm sure we have all been there! My Handicap soon went from 36 to 12! And it's now on the way back up! Life throws us all different curve balls at different times but how much easier are those curve balls to deal with when we have friends, and boy taking up golf certainly gives us those.

My working life has always been spent customer facing and I hope those skills will carry me through this role. I am a firm believer in inclusivity and friendship golf and this society has certainly brought me that and, with that in mind, I very much hope that some of you will be joining us in the events I've planned for this year.

The Spring Meeting this year is at my home club Chestfield and I certainly look forward to welcoming you there as the course has come on leaps and bounds. This event is on the Tuesday 16th May. Cobnuts is for all members over 65 and is at Pedham Place on Tuesday 26th June. The Autumn Meeting will be at Mid Kent on Tuesday 26th September.

Our year gets under way with Sussex (Home) match at Tenterden on April 24<sup>th</sup>. The other matches are:

Surrey (Away) at Chipstead on 28th July

Kent Captains at Ashford on Monday 21st August

Sussex (Away) at West Hove on 29th August

I am very much hoping the Essex (Home) match will take place this year and I have booked that at Chestfield on 11th September

For those of you that have already booked into these events thank you so much for your support. Entry forms for all events are on the table but also all this information can be found on our website. If any of you have never looked on the website just Google the society and up it comes! I am looking forward to seeing many of you at these events.

Thank you.

## 8. COUNTY CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Good morning,

I am Tita McCart – the Kent County Captain and Women's 1 st Team Manager and I am part of the Kent Senior squad.

I would like to thank Kathie and her committee for inviting me to provide you with a report on Kent Golf. As well, I would like to thank the Society for their very generous £250 donation towards the Kent Juniors. It is very much appreciated. Thank you very much.

2022 has been tremendously successful. Last April, Kent Golf was announced England Golf County of the Year. It was a very proud moment for all our staff, board members, volunteers and everyone in Kent. - Our womens' 1st team won their regional county week match at Burhill in June. This was the first time since 2013 and the team went on to the national finals at Stoneham in Hampshire. Unfortunately 3 of our plus handicap players were unable to play as they had already departed to the States to attend college.

This year Kent are hosting the County Match Week at Sundridge Park. Do come and watch some wonderful golf.

- Our junior Girls team won their regional county match week in August. We're very grateful to Kings Hill for hosting and it was a great week for all.
- Our womens senior team won their league for the 2nd year running
- Our U18 Boys Team won the SE League and SE Boys Team Qualifier, which took them to Furness for the national finals.
- Our mens seniors team also won their league and went on to the County Finals at Rothley Park

There have been many individual successes, but I would like to mention two in particular:

- Jack Lee (Rochester & Cobham) called up to England Boy's Squad 2022/23
- Kipp Popert (our junior disability academy ambassador from Wildernesse) recently won his fourth victory on the G4D Tour (Golf for Disabled) and is now ranked number 1 in the World Ranking for Golfers with Disability.

I am sure most of you and your clubs try to recruit more juniors and women into your clubs. And so does Kent Golf! We are very much committed to making the game of golf accessible to all and have been running junior approved academies and in 2022 we started academies for women as well as disability academies for juniors and young adults. For the 2nd year we ran a very successful and fun 'women on par' event at Westerham.

In 2019 the R and A launched the Women in Golf Charter, supported by England Golf and other organisations from across the industry. The purpose of the Women in Golf Charter is:

- To encourage more women and girls to play the game and join clubs
- To inspire more families to enjoy golf as a group leisure activity
- To open up more opportunities for women to work within the golf industry
- Develop an inclusive environment for women and girls within golf

So far 20 Kent clubs have signed up to the Women in Golf charter. If your club hasn't signed up yet perhaps you can encourage them to do so.

We like to encourage all Kent women and girls to enter our many competitions, which are open to all handicaps. Two competitions I would like to mention today:

- The Champion of Champions at Royal Blackheath on Sunday 14 th May.

This is open to all club champions. If your club champion is not available, the runner up can be entered.

- The Women Amateur Championship at Sheerness on Saturday 22 nd April

36 holes with maximum HI of 18.4 on closing date of entry.

Both competitions will have gross and handicap prizes.

All information, dates and online entry forms will be available on our website.

All I am talking about today will have been in our monthly Kent Golf electronic newsletter, website and social media channels. I'm hoping most of you have signed up and will encourage your club members to sign up too!

2023 competition posters have been emailed to general managers and may I please ask you check if these are up on your notice boards. The greatest achievement would be to never again hear from ladies who say they didn't know about Kent Golf, what we do and what competitions we run.

Two weeks ago a successful Delegate and Women in Golf (WIG) Charter Champion day was held at Kings Hill. If your club didn't attend perhaps they can join in when we run the next one. It is another way of learning and understanding what Kent Golf has to offer.

Does your club have a Kent delegate? This link between your club and Kent Golf is important and really is a great way to obtain information. We would be grateful if you can check your club has a delegate and if not to encourage your club to appoint one.

The County Card scheme is available to all members of affiliated Kent Golf clubs free of 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, club and county contact details.

All the information I mentioned today is on the Kent Golf website, which is constantly being updated and improved – [kentgolf.org](http://kentgolf.org)

Kent Golf cannot do what it does without the help from our dedicated volunteers, so we are very grateful to anyone who gives up their time to help with running competitions or sit on our sub-committees.



If you have entered one of our competitions this year I wish you lots of fun and I'm sure you will make new friends.

Thank you very much for listening and please come and see me later if you have any questions.

9. AOB

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12.15