



SOCIETY OF LADY CAPTAINS OF KENT GOLF CLUBS

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

The 62nd Annual General Meeting was held at The Weald of Kent Golf Club, Headcorn, Monday, 4th March 2024 at 11.00 am.

The President, Mrs. Ann Lake, 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. Ann Lake, Captain Mrs. Sue Jones, Vice-Captain Mrs Marion Sellar, Hon. Secretary Mrs. Sophia Davies, Hon. Treasurer Mrs Sally Jemmett, Immediate Past Captain Mrs. Kathie Maberley, County Representative Mrs. Jude Mackenzie and 120 other members.

1. APOLOGIES A list of apologies was held by the Hon. Secretary. There were 60.

2. MINUTES OF THE AGM held 6th March 2023. These were agreed
Proposed by Mrs Jenny Knight (Nizels G.C.)
Seconded by Mrs Val Harrison (Faversham G.C.)

3. MATTERS ARISING None.

4. HON TREASURER'S REPORT

Good morning Ladies,

I will try and keep this short but as some of you know I do like a good chat. It is definitely one of the benefits of being the Treasurer, you get to speak to and meet lots of lovely ladies. I would like to start by thanking several people. Firstly, our captain Sue and all her committee for their support during the year. I would also like to thank all the ladies for their prompt payments via BACS for matches, meetings and of course this AGM meal. I know some of our ladies still struggle with BACS payments and we are happy to accept cheques from the small number of you who are unable to pay by bank transfer. My only real request is if you haven't already done so, please set up a standing order to pay your annual

subscription. Just to confirm, it is up to you to set the amount you transfer, we cannot automatically increase what gets transferred to our account,

Now on to the bank balance... you should all have received a copy of the financial end of year report for year 1st December 2022 to 30th November 2023. 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 £3106.51- this is £51 more than 2023. However, unlike previous years, we only paid £420 deposits for 2024 matches. Also, because of the increased costs for meeting room hire together with the subsidies we give for matches and other events our expenditure will increase this year.

As at 3rd March 2024, membership numbers are good. The total of 446 Members includes 27 new Members for this year and 46 Life Members (7 of whom are Hon Life Members). I would also like to thank Colin Reid from Burgess Hodgson in Canterbury for his help with auditing the Society's report. We will be making a small donation to his choice of charity.

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

ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS

Proposed by Mrs Yvonne Bridge (Chestfield G.C.)

Seconded by Mrs Elly Symonds (Upchurch G.C.)

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,

Once again, a warm welcome to everyone attending today. I would also like to thank Jude Mackenzie for being here today as the Kent representative. Every Captain starts her speech with "I can't believe it's over so quickly" but really 12 months does go so quickly. From sitting having coffee with Kathie, being given all that guidance information for the upcoming year, to now. But having said that, I have made the most of it and enjoyed every moment of this last 12 months representing the Society and being Captain. Once the year gets going you don't have time to think but the support of the committee just makes things so much easier. Obviously, challenges come along as we do play an outdoor sport! The first match

unfortunately had to be postponed due to torrential rain but, after that, I was so lucky and every other event through the year was rain drop free! The matches we held this year were:

Sussex at home and away at Tenterden and West Hove

Surrey away at Chipstead

Essex Home at Chestfield

The results didn't go our way but, you know what, they were well fought and played in great spirit, which was wonderful to be part of. Then, of course, the match against the Kent Men was held this year at Ashford. This was a lovely day with some good laughs. Obviously we came second! I really must try and find my competitive streak again. A huge thank you to all the ladies who signed up to play in these matches. The response from everyone when I was short of players was amazing.

The meetings are a great part of the Society's year, which I thoroughly enjoyed. Before I give you an update, I want to extend my thanks and appreciation for all the help given at each of these events. The three main organisers from the Committee were Fran Fearn, Catherine Hazelden and Anna Cooper. Thank you for all your hard work and for making these events so enjoyable. But it doesn't end there. Each event involves additional helpers in front and behind the scenes - Fran Hollingsbee for organising the clothes sales so well at each event and for additional help. Sophia Davies, our Secretary, who sends out all your reminders, information and so much more. Sophia is retiring as Secretary after serving 4 years and seeing myself, Kathie and Jenny through our Captains' years. I thank you and also Sally Jemmett, our Treasurer, whose commitment to the rôle has been second to none - receiving and chasing annual subscriptions and other payments, assistance at the events and, of course, all the work undertaken in compiling all the information for today's AGM. My thanks also go to our President and my Vice Captain for their unwavering support.

The Meetings were all very successful this year. The Spring Meeting was held in beautiful sunshine at my home club Chestfield on the 16th May. We had 60 players and the winners of the Armada Dishes were Kathie Maberley from Littlestone and Jo Sillitoe from Chestfield. In 2nd place and winners of the Major Cups were Lydia Hoare and Jan Kidd from Redlibbets and 3rd were Gillian Newson from West Malling and Lisa Kiddie from Wildernesse. Gifts with the prize vouchers were Sun cream in support of skin cancer month. Thank you to all those attending. As the course was in great condition I think all that played had a lovely day.

Cobnuts was held at Pedham Place on the 27th June. Another very successful day, full of sunshine, with 64 ladies attending. The feedback we had about the course was brilliant. The winners of the Cobnut salvers were Marion Sellar and Maggie Unwin from Chislehurst.

In 2nd place were Sheila Cutter and Jenny Dewynter from Westerham and in 3rd place Pat Young from Westerham and Linda Barnett from North Downs.

Helped by a donation from our president, Ann Lake, I sourced the gifts with the vouchers from the local Cobnut farm.

The Autumn meeting, held at Mid Kent on the 26th September, was attended by 72 players. Again, we enjoyed a lovely sunny day so “thank you, to whoever was looking down on us!” Winners of the Armada dishes were Judith Houghton and Janet Alldread from Sundridge Park. In 2nd place and the winners of the Anne Vines Cups were Sophia Davies and Di Lemerle from Lamberhurst and in 3rd place were Anne Oxtoby and Enid Jenken from Mid Kent. Gifts with the vouchers were lovely chocolate and biscuit goodies - just because I liked them!

More details and photos can be found on our website and, on that note, I would also like to thank Amanda Rose for all the assistance that she gives the society in updating our website.

Jenny Knight arranged the annual away day for past Presidents and Captains at Nizels. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend but a good time was had by all. The Society holds the Incoming Captains’ meeting at Bearsted in October and this continues to be very well supported with a good number of new Captains joining the Society. With Bearsted being quite central, we still hold any face to face committee meetings there. We appreciate their continued support and also thank the Weald of Kent club for looking after us all today.

I would say that I was looking forward to a quieter year this year but my husband is our club’s Centenary Captain so I guess it will have to wait till 2025. Thank you everyone for your support and it leaves me to just say an enormous “Good Luck” to Marion for the coming year. You will be great.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Hon. Secretary confirmed the following nomination for Captain:

Mrs Marion Sellar (Chislehurst G.C.)

Proposed by Mrs Sue Batchelor (Rochester & Cobham G.C.)

Seconded by Mrs Judie Smith (Wilderness G.C.)

Sue then spoke recommending the appointment.

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

Mrs Linda Barnett (North Downs G.C.)
Proposed by Ms Rebecca Goldsmith (Tandridge G.C.)
Seconded by Mrs Sue Jones (Chestfield G.C.)
Rebecca then spoke recommending the appointment.

The Hon. Secretary confirmed the following nomination for Hon. Secretary:

Mrs Catherine Hazelden (Ashford G.C.)
Proposed by Mrs Mary Daly (Ashford G.C.)
Seconded by Mrs Sue Jones (Chestfield G.C.)
Mary then spoke recommending the appointment.

The Hon. Secretary then confirmed that the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs Sally Jemmett offered herself 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 Mrs Kathie Maberley was retiring from the Committee and that Mrs Anna Cooper, Mrs Fran Fearn and Mrs Fran Hollingsbee offered 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 Mrs Maggie Collen (Shortlands G.C.) had been co-opted on to the Committee - proposed by Mrs Marion Spencer (Shortlands G.C) and seconded by Mrs Judith Houghton (Sundridge Park G.C.). Mrs Marion Sellar spoke on behalf of Mrs Marion Spencer and Mrs Janet Alldread (Sundridge Park G.C.) spoke on behalf of Mrs Judith Houghton 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 gift to Mrs Sophia Davies.

Mrs Sue Jones, the outgoing Captain congratulated Mrs Marion Sellar, the incoming Captain and presented her with her badge of office.

Marion thanked Sue and, after congratulating her on a successful year, presented her with her Past Captain's badge and a gift from the Society. She welcomed the incoming Vice-Captain, Mrs Linda Barnett, and incoming Committee Member, Mrs Maggie Collen, and presented them with their badges.

7. INCOMING CAPTAIN'S SPEECH

Madam President, Past Captain Sue, Ladies,

Never in my wildest dreams did I see myself standing here as your 2024 captain!

I am delighted and honoured to accept the position. It will not be easy to follow Sue, who has been young, dynamic and always fun to be with. I shall not be your first Scottish Captain so hopefully we'll understand each other and we'll all survive.

I was born and educated in Edinburgh and graduated there as a Physiotherapist before marrying Donald and working in South Africa for three years. We have two sons and six grand children so family life is still very important to us. I came to golf later in life when our boys needed a parent to be a member of a club. I joined Bearsden Golf Club near Glasgow where my love for the game was born! After some time I was their Competition Secretary then eventually asked to be Vice Captain. Alas I never took up that position as my husband's job was moved to London and we bought a house in Chislehurst, where I joined the golf club in 1989 and became Captain in 2000, which enabled me to be a member of SLCKGC and so to enjoy over the last 24 years many meetings and some matches. I joined the committee in 2018 when Judie Smith became Captain and she asked me to look after the clothing and, as a result of Covid, my time in that rôle was extended to 4 years.

That is all in the past; now I am inheriting a really strong committee and we shall all be here to see that everything runs smoothly. We would still like one more lady to join the committee and we shall be looking for a new Treasurer next year if Sally cannot be persuaded to stay. Any offers? Speak to any of us later!

All I ask now is for you to play in the Meetings and some of the matches. Thank you to everyone who has already applied. We look forward to another fun year, so let's play more in 2024!

8. COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Jude Mackenzie, Kent Golf Director of Clubs and Communications and Women in Golf Charter Champion gave the following report.

Thanks for inviting me to speak here today. Firstly, may I congratulate Sue on an excellent year and wish Marion all the best for her term. And thanks, too, to all those serving on the committee.

So, two past lady captains are talking in the club bar. One says to the other, 'Joan, why are you wearing a sling?' Joan rolls her eyes with frustration and answers, 'because my family have banned me from putting my hand up for any more voluntary jobs.'

It's a great pleasure for me to be standing in front of some of Kent's foremost golfing lady volunteers. You are the people that did put your hand up at your club to make a difference. Winston Churchill said, 'We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.' And I would like to thank you all for what you have and are giving to women's golf. I've put my hand up a few times in my 45 years as a golfer and done most of the various jobs that lady golfers do, except Treasurer. My friends at Sundridge Park know that I can't count, so that would be dangerous. You might want to remember that if I play you in a match!

At Kent Golf I am director of Clubs and Communications, which is how we engage with you all – the golfing members. And I am Women in Golf Charter Champion for Kent, which means I oversee our action plan to encourage women golfers, whether they are new players, experienced players or working in golf. An important message for me to give here, and for you to hopefully pass on at your clubs, is that Kent Golf is for all of us. Whether you are new to the game, or love playing other courses, or love to just have fun playing golf, or playing for your county. Kent Golf has something for you, and for all your lady members. And your support in building participation is much appreciated.

Today I'm not going to give you a long list of those opportunities, they are all on our excellent website. Instead I want to focus on four subjects. Firstly, how did we do last year? The South Region championships (county week) was held at my own course, Sundridge Park. Our Kent girls played brilliantly and lost out by a fine margin to the victors, Sussex. Our women's senior team won their equivalent, the Mulligan Larson Trophy, for the third year running. A great achievement. And our Junior girls were third in Junior County week, just missing out on second place. Well done to all our women and girls.

Secondly, our competitions.

Please sign up to our Kent competitions and encourage your ladies to do so.

This year I would particularly like to highlight three. The South Region All-Age at Mid Kent on 3 September. This competition only comes to Kent every five years, and we would love a really good show of our ladies. The 36-hole competition is max handicap 18.4, the seniors (over 50) 18-hole competition is max 36.4. Mid-Kent is one of my favourite courses in Kent,

so I am very much looking forward to taking part. The Joan Piper is now a one-day competition for a junior and an adult. It's on Thursday 22nd August at Bearsted. And the Summer Mixed Greensomes is on 30 June at Sene Valley, a lovely day out and my husband and I donated the nett trophy, so I have a particular interest in that one!

Thirdly, our work to encourage women.

Can I have a show of hands if you know that your club has Women in Golf Charter status? In Kent we now have 29 clubs with charter status, with six on the cusp of achieving the status. That's about 30%, so good, but some way to go. The Charter is just your club signing up to say it is committed to encouraging women. It doesn't mean that you have achieved everything. There isn't a club in Kent, or anywhere in England for that matter, that has anywhere near equality in numbers of men and women and that's why this is necessary. For our part at Kent Golf, we ran a workshop for the Charter champions a few weeks ago and we have an action group for women's participation that is organising taster sessions, beginner's lessons, fun competitions, rules evenings etc. There is an active programme from the county to support everything you are doing at club level to increase female participation. The takeaway for you is, please support your Charter Champion, and if you don't think you have the Charter, perhaps make some gentle enquiries at your club about why. If you have lots of women, then you deserve recognition, and if you don't have lots of women then you need an action plan to put that right. Madeleine Albright, the former US secretary of state said, 'There is a special place in hell for women who don't help other women.' That might be putting it a bit strongly for golf, but it underlines the importance of using our influence to address the big gender imbalance in golf.

Fourthly, women's first team captain.

At the moment the position of Captain of our women's first team is vacant. This role is on the Board and shares the role of Kent County Captain with the men's equivalent. It was ably held by Tita McCart previously. We would very much like this role to be filled, so I would love you or someone you know to put your hand up for this. Please think about it.

So, that's all from me. Thanks again for all your hard work. There is no truth to the rumour that the society colours include navy because it stands for, 'never again volunteer yourself'! I need to apologise that I can't stay for the full lunch. I have to get to a board meeting for a charity that I'm involved with. Yes, I put my hand up again! If you need to speak to me about anything then the Sundridge Park table have my contact details.

9. AOB

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 11.52