

## SOCIETY OF LADY CAPTAINS OF KENT GOLF CLUBS

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

The 59<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting was held at The Weald of Kent Golf Club, Headcorn,  
Monday, 2nd March 2020 at 11.00 am.

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

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

Present: President Mrs. Pat Noble, Captain Ms Rebecca Goldsmith, Vice-Captain Mrs. Jenny Knight, Hon. Secretary Mrs. Pam Bentley, Hon. Treasurer Mrs Sue Jones, Immediate Past Captain Mrs Judy Smith. Committee members Mrs. Christine Farley, Mrs. Marion Sellar, Mrs. Sophia Davis, Kent Captain Mrs. Cheryl Power, and 114 members.

1. APOLOGIES A list of apologies was held by the Hon. Secretary. There were 43.

2. MINUTES OF THE AGM held 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019 These were agreed  
Proposed by Katrina Howard (Chart Hills)  
Seconded by Ellie Symonds (Upchurch)

3. MATTERS ARISING None

#### 4. HON TREASURER'S REPORT

Good morning ladies

This is my fourth year as Treasurer and may I say what a pleasure it has been to work with Rebecca and the committee this year.

I apologise for the slight delay in getting the report out, but I got there eventually. The report was for year Nov 2018-19.

The Society's funds final balance continues to be in around the same, so this shows the funds for each year are now being spent.

Membership continues to rise and fall. But numbers remain healthy.

We have 378 members which includes 23 new members for this year

70 Life members including 6 Honorary Life members

We also have 30 members who I am waiting to hear from about this year's subscription

We have 140 attendees here today

Postage & 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 changes, please will you inform me, and remind anybody else to do the same.

Society clothes sales were very good at £1046.00

Total stock holding stands at £3181.00

Moving forward, we would like to get as many members as possible paying their subs by Standing Order. This saves so much time and effort for the Treasurer. Currently, we have as many as 120 members paying by cheque each year.

Another thing moving forward is we would like to give members the opportunity to make direct payments into the Society account for events, as we did for the AGM this year. Next year, this

information will be included on all the forms. However, the option to pay by cheque will remain.

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

I look forward to my time on the Committee in the coming year with the new Captain Jenny.

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

#### ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS

Proposed by Linda Barnet (Park Wood)

Seconded by Sue Woodley (Park Wood)

#### 5. CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Lady President, ladies - a very good morning, and welcome to the 59<sup>th</sup> AGM, and what a delight to see so many of you in attendance.

A special welcome to the Captain of the KCLGA, Cheryl Power. Thank you, Cheryl, for your support for our Society and as your term draws to an end, congratulations on your successful Captaincy, especially in a time of great change.

Strictly speaking, I am particularly looking forward to meeting our Guest Speaker, but first to business.....

Captain's Report. Doesn't time fly when you're having fun!

I had an amazing year as your Captain and thank you for your support throughout, but time has flown by and suddenly I'm reading my Captain's report. In a year when it would have been more appropriate to wear flippers than golf shoes, I have well and truly been your 'raining' Captain. I have been most fortunate that all of our Meetings and Matches (bar one) were played with good numbers and full teams.

Matches - I received 41 entries with handicaps ranging from 8 to 30. Everyone played at least one match.

Our first match was Sussex away at Manning's Heath on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May. Played on a warm sunny day in a competitive, but friendly spirit, the course was a beautiful and challenging setting, with 3 matches going to the 18<sup>th</sup> green. We won 5-3

On Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> May, we ventured into Essex to play at Romford. The format chosen by the host Captain, was the aggregate of each teams score. Amazingly, both teams scored 195pts, match drawn.

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July, found us back on home ground v Surrey at Hever Castle. The course was in splendid condition and Hever looked after us very well, the food was excellent, with a good atmosphere at dinner. The match was close with many games finishing on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately we lost 5-3.

Emails were flying back and forth the week before Friday 9<sup>th</sup> August for the match hosted by the Kent Captains at West Kent G.C. Once again, I got the prayer mat out and despite the dreadful forecast, we managed to squeeze the match between two weather fronts avoiding the rain.

The salver was won by the Kent Captains with 395pts to 382pts.

Best scores 1<sup>st</sup> Liz Stephens and Alan Dickson 42pts

2<sup>nd</sup> Valerie Harrison and Jim Bayes 41 pts

Our last match was our return match against Sussex on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September, home at Lamberhurst. The course was in good condition but playing long due to the heavy overnight rain. A closely fought match the last two results tipped the balance, with Kent again winning 5-3

Unfortunately, the match against the KCLGA Committee arranged by Cheryl Power for Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October did not go ahead. For various reasons we only had 4 committee members able to play which meant the match was not viable.

#### MEETINGS

The Spring Meeting on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May held at Canterbury G.C. was organised by Julie Flanders assisted by Anne Prout and Pat Young. I was delighted and much relieved that it was a beautiful Spring day, following a week of torrential rain, when the course had been closed. I said at the time,

what a difference a day makes, 24 beautiful hours.  
There were 80 entries, 26 clubs represented with 6 in the prizes

The Armada dishes were won by Jan Sayle & Stephanie Figgis (Faversham) 39pts  
The Major Cups were won by Anne Payne (Cherry Lodge) & Hilary Faldon(Lamberhurst) 38pts

Once again, the extreme weather conditions changed for the better allowing us to enjoy the Cobnuts Meeting at The Ridge on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June, organised by Christine Farley, assisted by Liz Stephens. There were 52 players representing 18 clubs, 7 in the prizes.  
The Cobnut Salvagers were won by Sally Seboa & Barbara Osbourne (Dartford) 36 pts  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lindsay Robinson & Gill Brown ( Sittingbourne & Milton Regis) 35pts

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September found us at Royal Blackheath for our Autumn Meeting, organised by Liz Stephens assisted by Christine Farley. Guess what? Yes - there was torrential rain prior to the day, but arriving at Royal Blackheath the sun was out and the course looked beautiful. There were 64 players, 19 clubs represented, 9 in the prizes.  
The Armada dishes were won on countback by Stephanie Figgis (Faversham) & Heather Pickering (Redlibbets) 40 pts  
The Vine Cups won by Denise Carr & Amanda Rose (Nizels) also on 40 pts

I congratulate all the clubs we played this year for presenting their courses so well in very difficult and challenging conditions, and thank them for making us most welcome for our meetings and matches.

A special thank you to Bearsted G.C., who for many, years have accommodated the Society for our committee meetings as well as the Annual Past Presidents and Captains meeting and lunch and also the Incoming Captains Meeting.

Thank you to Annie Idle for organising a most enjoyable annual golf day with lunch at Canterbury for the Past Presidents and Captains.

My grateful thanks to Amanda Rose for continuing to work tirelessly behind the scenes keeping our website up-to-date.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my year and I hope you did too. It has been an absolute honour to be your Captain and a pleasure to work with this excellent committee. They all work so well together, like a well-oiled machine.

Ladies, I thank you for your hard work, support, kindness and encouragement. If I ever got stuck for an answer, I knew I could always phone a friend.

Julie, Liz and Christine who did a splendid job organising the meetings. Thank you for your enthusiasm and good humour.

Sophia Davies, a delightfully efficient lady, did an excellent job organising the Incoming Captains Meeting.

Our wardrobe mistress super Marion for bringing the clothing to every meeting, always ready with a kind word and for being on standby for the matches..

Our Treasurer, Sue Jones, for making sure the books balance, keeping our membership records up to date, dealing with the last minute entries for the AGM, and liaising with The Weald of Kent on today's table plan. Sue has had a difficult year: I'm delighted to see her here today.

Our Secretary, Pam Bentley, for her good advice, preparing and sending out the paperwork for the AGM, and keeping our records and me in order. Pam also refurbished our table cover which is on the table in front of us.

I would also like to thank Colin, Peter, John, Steven, Mike and Donald. Who are they? The Committee's answering service, they diligently took messages when their wives were out playing golf. John trudged down the garden to find Sue and Colin even got Judie out of the shower! Thank you gentlemen.

To those who will be stepping down, thank you for everything you have done over the past three years, Judie always available and is the fastest draw in the County when replying to emails.

Christine Farley, nothing was too much trouble, even stepping in at the last minute for the Lamberhurst match despite the terrible weather forecast. ( Rebecca presented Christine with a bouquet of flowers)

Pat who has guided 3 captains, Annie Idle, Judie Smith and myself, thank you for for your straightforward no-nonsense approach, which has served the Society well.

I will look back on this year with many happy memories, the banter and laughter with you all and the many more ladies within the society who have become friends; to me, this is what it is all about and it is something to treasure.

Jenny has supported me well this year and is well prepared to take over the reins. I'm sure her year will be a great success.

Jenny, I wish you lots of luck and better weather. I sincerely hope that you enjoy your Captaincy as much as I have.

#### 5.ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President: Mrs. Sue Batchelor                      Proposed by Mrs. Pat Noble  
(Rochester& Cobham)                      Seconded by Mrs. Joyce Canning

All were in favour

Unfortunately, Sue was unable to attend the meeting, so Captain Rebecca read out her acceptance speech.

She then thanked Pat for her hard work, dedication and support to the Society during the last three years as President and presented her with a gift on behalf of the Society..

In response Pat said she had thoroughly enjoyed her term of office as President, being fortunate to work with such three good Captains Annie, Judie and Rebecca.

Captain: Mrs. Jenny Knight                      Proposed by Ms Rebecca Goldsmith  
(Nizels)                      Seconded by Mrs. Pam Bentley

Vice-Captain: Mrs. Kathie Maberley                      Proposed by Mrs. Pam Bentley  
(Littlestone)                      Seconded by Ms Rebecca Goldsmith

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

All were in favour from the floor.

Mrs. Christine Farley retires from the Committee after serving three years

There are 2 vacancies on the Committee. The following nominations have been received

Mrs Elaine Coomber                      Proposed by Mrs Annie Idle  
(Redlibbets)                      Seconded by Mrs Jan Thompson

Mrs. Rhona Hunt                      Proposed by Mrs. Fran Fearn  
(Canterbury)                      Seconded by Mrs. Sue Batchelor

All were in favour.

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

Jenny thanked Rebecca 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, Kathie Maberley, and presented her with her badge.

## 6. INCOMING CAPTAIN'S SPEECH

Lady President, Past Captain Rebecca. Ladies

It is an honour to stand here before you at the AGM. I was very surprised and excited when I received a phone call in October 2018 from Judie Smith, asking me if I would like to take on this position. After a few days of thought and discussion with my husband, I was delighted to accept.

When I was growing up in Hertfordshire I was a very keen tennis player, but didn't have the opportunity to play golf until my late forties. On leaving school, I became a Primary School teacher and enjoyed teaching children in schools in Kent and overseas when we spent two years in Australia and 8 years in Singapore. Life was always busy as my 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> sons were born in Singapore and it was only after we returned to England and the younger boys started to play golf that I took it up. We often went out to play and practice together. My starting handicap was 41. In 2000 I joined Nizels and quickly became hooked on the game. After serving as Handicap Secretary on the Ladies Committee, I became Lady Captain in 2008, but sadly as a non-playing Captain as I had suffered a bad shoulder injury in the spring of 2009. I have, however, enjoyed the fun and the friendship with the ladies I have met over the years in home and away competitions, since joining this Society in 2009. And I look forward to meeting lots more of you from around the County in 2020.

Thank you to all 140 of you who are attending our AGM today. As many of you are aware, we organise meetings and matches throughout the year. You will have received all the details with the AGM papers. There are no restrictions on who can sign up for these and no handicap limits, so please don't be shy. It's a great way to meet other ladies with the same interest and play other courses in Kent, Surrey Essex and Sussex. Thank you to all of you who have already sent your forms in to me. Please do have a look on our website as all the information is there as well.

We have a wonderful committee. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all of the committee for their hard work and commitment. They are all marvellous, well organised and totally reliable. I would like to mention two ladies, in particular, who are dedicated to keeping the wheels of the committee turning: Pam Bentley keeps us up to speed with her secretarial skills and Sue Jones with her mathematical skills does a wonderful job as Treasurer. Sue also organises all the subscriptions and a lot of the AGM preparation. Sue would be very grateful if more of you were able to organise a standing order with your bank for your subscription as that would make Sue's job much easier. Pam and Sue - we could not cope without you!

I would like to thank Pat Noble for serving as President for 3 years and for her helpful advice. I am looking forward to working with Sue Batchelor and wish her well for a successful operation. I am very pleased to welcome Kathie Maberley as my Vice-Captain, and Elaine Coomber and Rhona Hunter onto the committee this year and we will look forward to working together.

We organise a meeting at Bearsted in the autumn to explain how our society works and to encourage new Lady Captains from around the county to join us. Over 30 ladies attended last year and we are pleased that some of those ladies could join us today. I would like to wish all of the new captains of Kent every success in their year.

After an incredibly wet winter, let's hope we see plenty of sunshine on our lush green courses, while we are playing this wonderful game. Good luck to you all for a great season of golf in 2020.

Thank you for listening.

## 7. COUNTY CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Immediate Past Lady President Pat, Kent Lady President Chris, in absentia, new Lady President Sue, new Lady Captain Jenny and your Committee, Past and Present Club Lady Captains and, last but not least, Immediate Past Captain Rebecca.

Thank you for inviting me here today to give you an update on the KCLGA activities. This is my 3<sup>rd</sup> and final year of attending this event representing the KCLGA, and I have enjoyed the occasions and your kind hospitality very much.

I'm so glad you have enjoyed your year, Rebecca. You have been an excellent and enthusiastic Captain and I do hope you enjoy the rest now, and your golf ( have we turned a corner with the weather I wonder?) I haven't been able to enter many of your events sadly but those I did, I enjoyed very much. There is always a lovely welcoming and friendly atmosphere and I hope to be able to play in more events in the future. This is a great Society which is very well run with many lovely ladies involved. Long may it continue to flourish.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your once again very generous donation of £200 towards the Kent Juniors. It is very much appreciated. Thank you very much.

The KCLGA has had another excellent year and I have very much enjoyed my second year as Captain and that is not in any small way due to having a wonderful and very supportive Committee around me as well as the friendliness of all the lady members I had the pleasure of meeting.

All our members individual and inter club knockout competitions were very well supported during the year and hugely successful and we are grateful to all who participated and hope that this support will continue into the future.

With regard to our County teams, although not a lot of silverware came our way, all enjoyed their matches and the camaraderie with their team mates and opposition.

Both our 1<sup>st</sup> and Junior teams were narrowly beaten into 2<sup>nd</sup> place at their County weeks by Surrey and Sussex respectively with Junior County Week being frustratingly curtailed because of the weather. This year they will be travelling to Puttenham Golf Club in Surrey.

Our Junior Elite girls have been going from strength to strength with handicaps falling again and with another year's experience under their belt, I feel they are very soon to become a real force to be reckoned with..

Our top five Junior Elite girls played for the 1<sup>st</sup> team this year at County Week and did remarkably well and we were very proud of how they conducted themselves and performed, it being their first time playing at this higher level. They were extremely excited to be there and are all very keen to be selected again this year when we go to East Sussex National in June. We will once again hope to have our girls studying over in the United States playing in the team at County Week with two confirming their availability so far. Also, Sharna Dutrieax from Wrotham Heath, who is 21 years of age and is now playing off plus 4 has confirmed she will be available. Sharna was listed as 6<sup>th</sup> in the England Order of Merit last year and we are very proud of her achievements.

We continue to support junior girls of all ages and handicaps and also some without handicaps with some girls as young as 8 and 9 years old participating. We run a busy coaching schedule throughout the year and we are delighted and pleased to tell you that more and more girls are taking up the game. We have to keep encouraging them as without these girls coming through the system, there is no future for girls and ladies golf.

Our monthly coaching sessions are very successful. It's a great way to give girls from many different areas and clubs the opportunity to meet other like-minded girls and make new friends. We had two sessions yesterday with Intermediates and beginners and I was so pleased to see their attention and enthusiasm and some excellent swings were in evidence. Oh to start so young!  
As well as on our website, please follow Kent Ladies Golf on Instagram and Facebook to keep up with ongoing events in the County.

Kent Golf Union have made great strides and have been very successful on the recruitment front with lots of new initiatives over the past couple of years. They now run Kent Golf Approved Academies in 5 centres throughout the County with more on the horizon, for new to golf boys and girls. The pros

who head up these academies are so enthusiastic which is what makes it all work so well.

The KGU also continue to run the Golf Sixes League which is a national Golf Foundation initiative and this year sees the introduction of the inaugural 10s Tour. These are competitions for very young and very new to golf boys and girls with high or no handicaps and the take up has been very impressive to say the least.

If you have any girls at your club that you think might be interested in getting involved no matter what age, with or without a handicap, please let us know. We don't want to miss a potential Laura Davies, Georgia Hall or Charlie Hull! I have been amazed this year at just how many girls there are wanting to try out golf and I know there are still many more out there who we don't know about yet.

The England Golf sponsored Girls Golf Rocks Programme (for complete beginners) is going ahead again this year with five clubs in Kent having been selected to be hosts.

To back all these efforts to get more girls and boys into the game, it is important that Clubs are welcoming and encouraging to junior players and I know that many 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. However, there are still clubs in the County who do not have the same outlook as far as juniors are concerned and this is a real shame as they are definitely missing out and are not really planning for the future.

Our Junior County Champion this year was Ellena Slater from Tudor Park and our new Junior Captain this year is Millie Thompson from Sittingbourne who is really looking forward to the season ahead and had lots of ideas and plans.

Our County Champion this year was Nicole Stewart from Chart Hills (one of our girls who is studying in America). She played some amazing golf despite being injured for the whole of the match play stage with a torn ligament in her leg and consequently was not fit to play in County Week which was a bit of a blow. She has now fully recovered I'm very pleased to say.

Our Senior County Match Play Champion was Tita McCart from Sundridge Park and Littlestone and our Senior County Stroke Play Champion was Kim Morris from Sundridge Park.

Kim and Ellena went on to represent Kent at their respective Champion of Champions held at Woodhall Spa in September. Nicole had already gone back to the US, so fit or not, unfortunately was unable to compete.

So, as you all know, Unification talks have been ongoing over the past year and these have been very productive and successful with good cooperation on both sides. We are very grateful to the KGU, Peter Long in particular, for their hard work in getting the paperwork and legalities prepared on all our behalves. We are anticipating a vote in favour of Unification from both the men and the ladies at our respective AGMs at the end of the month and we will go forward from there.

If the vote goes through, the new Organisation will be called Kent Golf Limited. There will be a Board of Directors which will have a minimum 30% of either gender and these Directors will establish Sub Committees to run the various aspects of golf from finance to coaching.

The benefits of being a unified body will be one voice for golf in the County with one single common purpose and strategy and importantly, pooled resources of personnel.

We do not envisage any great differences in the way ladies and girls golf in the County would be organised and enjoyed. All our coaching and competitions including interclub knockouts such as the Tappin Trophy, Captains Cup, Bradley Cook etc and our individual competitions such as the Doxfords, 3 Feathers etc would remain the same from the player's perspective and there will be a Competitions Sub Committee chaired by Nikki Bell with ladies on it to run these events much the same as they do now.. The Championships are however, proposed to be run centrally by what is now the current KGU Admin Office. We will always be looking for volunteers to run/ or help out at various events around the County so if anyone thinks they would like to be involved or knows of anyone at their clubs who might wish to offer their services, please let us know. If you have any questions please just ask.

So, thank you for listening and I wish you Jenny, a very enjoyable year as Captain and all of your Committee and members a very enjoyable golfing year ahead and we hope to see many of you at the various Kent Ladies' Competitions this year. I am sure you are all looking forward to a lovely lunch as I am and I thank you Rebecca, once again, for inviting me to come along and join you today.  
Thank you.

#### 8. AOB

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12.20