



BERKSHIRE COUNTY LADIES VETERANS GOLF ASSOCIATION

53rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2018

AT GORING & STREATLEY GOLF CLUB

MINUTES OF MEETING

Heather Wing Honorary Secretary opened the 53rd Annual General Meeting.

Apologies: Heather Wing advised that 17 people had sent in their apologies and 53 people had signed the attendance book.

Welcome:

Barbara Lamb Captain of BCLVGA then welcomed all attendees to the meeting and especially Olive Tomlinson Honorary Member of the Association.

Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 9th February 2017

Barbara Lamb asked if the Minutes of the previous meeting were a true record, this was confirmed by a show of hands. The Minutes were then duly signed.

Matters Arising

Barbara Lamb asked if there were any matters arising. There were none.

Captain's Report

Barbara Lamb then delivered her report to those present.

“Good morning ladies and a very warm welcome to the 53rd AGM of the Berkshire Vets.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my year as captain – I started the year not knowing many Lady Vets – but have had the pleasure of meeting so many of you and have really enjoyed doing so, and now feel I know a great number

I really hope that you have had a great time at the events and matches that the committee have organised. I would like to say a big thank you to the committee for the sterling work they have put in to ensure that not only did the events run smoothly, but they have worked hard to move the Association forward.

On a personal note I would like to say a sincere thank you for your support and hard work and I have really enjoyed working with you. I would especially like to thank Heather and Val for their contribution and wish them well as they leave the committee

Without the committee this association would cease to exist, so again ladies thank you for your time and efforts. Little plug! We are always looking for new blood so if you feel a yearning please contact the Committee.

The Association plays 5 matches every year against other counties

Our first match against Wiltshire took place at N&C we won 4.1/2 to 2.1/2. Don't get too excited

This was followed by a match against Oxford played at Badgemore Park which was close run, but unfortunately we lost 6 to 1

Our match against Hampshire played at N&C was also lost 4 to 3

We then played Reading and District Men at N&C and unfortunately we were trounced with the result being 6/2 to the men.

HOWEVER. Our final match was against Berkshire Lady Captains at Temple and I am pleased to say we won 5.1/2 to 1.1/2.

Although we only managed to win two matches they were all most enjoyable days out, the weather was kind and they were all played in good spirit.

A big thank you goes to all the ladies who played in the matches, especially those who filled in at the last moment. THANK YOU

Last year, because we have sufficient funds, it was decided to subsidize the matches, as we still have a healthy balance we have decided to continue with this during 2018.

We also stated that we would renew and repair any of the trophies that needed it; this was carried out on several of our trophies.

Also because the trophy that is presented to the Scratch Silver Winner at the Autumn meeting, is now full, the committee decided to replace this and here is the new trophy. All the names of the previous winners have been carried forward.

The original trophy was presented by Mrs Leatham in 1965 and as it has been won 9 times by Anne Thomas the committee felt it was only right that it ended up on her sideboard, so I would like to present the trophy to Anne. BUT unfortunately Anne can not be with us as she has bronchitis so I will take it to her and present it.

The committee have discussed the possibility of introducing a 9 hole competition, the idea being that we have a number of members who no longer feel able to play 18 holes. It would

be a separate competition altogether with coffee on arrival and followed by afternoon tea. Thinking of holding it at Billingbear as a trail in 2018

Can I ask if you feel that would be a good idea and if you would be interested in playing.”

There was overwhelming support for this idea which possibly will take place at Billingbear Golf Course later in the year. In view of this response the Committee would now proceed to make further enquiries.

I noticed during the matches last year that we seemed to be the only county without a school uniform, so we have commissioned some shirts and these will be available to order between the end of the meeting and lunch. They are £15.00 each.

Because they are purchased from a company in Newbury we have a slight logistic problem in getting these all out to you once ordered, so we would appreciate it if one lady from each club could volunteer to have the shirts posted to her. Please see Doffi and Caroline if you are interested in buying one, we have all sizes for you to try.

The same company had produced the new table runner which now carries the correct logo.

We have introduced the use of BACS as a payment method which makes it easier and more efficient. We are also working on a new computer system which we hope will enable you to send an on-line application form to us in the future.

Now it gives me great pleasure to announce the winner and runner up in this year’s Gittins trophy, which was a close fought match.

The runner up is Jill Shirley from Sonning – (Jill was not present to receive her prize)

The winner of the Gittins Trophy is Chrissie Eccleston from Castle Royle.”

Chrissie Eccleston received the Trophy and then thanked the Committee for organising the Competition and all those who had entered and played in the Competition and wished everyone well for the coming year.

Calcot kindly donated 2 4ball’s so we will raffle these. I would like to ask Olive and Alison (the new Vice Captain) to pick numbers between 1 and 52 and the winners will receive the free 4 balls.

In conclusion I would like to wish all our members a happy golfing year to come and to wish Betty all the best for her year. I know she will be a very good captain and continue to take the Association forward.”

Barbara then asked if there were any questions from those present and there were none.

Barbara then presented a gift to Heather Wing retiring Hon. Secretary and Val Doyle retiring Competition Secretary, thanking them for their contribution to the Association over the past few years.

Honorary Secretary's Report

Heather Wing Honorary Secretary then delivered her Report to those present.

“Ladies I want to briefly set out how our current Membership stands:

- 202** Members of which
- 24** are new members
- 7** are Associate
- 3** are Honorary

In 2017 – 25 members did not renew, but after a follow up email to these individuals, a number indicated that they will rejoin and have since done so.

Generally therefore our numbers are holding up reasonably well. Where we have lost some of our members, we have been advised that this is due to ill health, domestic changes and moving home and that regrettably they can no longer sustain their membership – we are sorry to see them go and thank them for their support for the Association over many years. It is heartening however that we still see to be attracting new members to the Association and 24 new Members is very healthy.

In terms of club representation - the Clubs that supply most of our membership come from; **East Berkshire, Royal Ascot, Maidenhead, Mapledurham, Newbury & Crookham, Castle Royle and Reading** with numbers as follows:

East Berks – 33

Maidenhead – 26

Royal Ascot – 26

Mapledurham – 21

Newbury & Crookham – 13

Castle Royle – 12

Reading 12

The numbers renewed are marginally lower than in previous years and although as stated some have moved away or have decided they are no longer able to play golf, this does not explain why many have yet to rejoin. Hopefully it is a simple matter of the membership pack sitting in a drawer somewhere waiting to be filled in.

On a positive note its great we have so many new members and very good to welcome Caversham Heath members to the Vets.

Ladies you will be aware from the Packs we sent out, that I will be passing the secretarial baton onto Jo Thompson from Mapledurham, as my term of office has come to an end.

I have really enjoyed my time as your Hon Secretary and the contact I have had with our Members. I have also been privileged to work with great Committees and 3 super Captains, Irene Manson, Maureen Rogers and Barbara Hamblin. I hope you will support Jo your new Secretary over the next few years and I wish her, Betty and her new Committee every good wish for the future.

Thank you”

Barbara Lamb then asked if there were any questions for Heather and there were none.

Competition Secretary’s Report

Val Doyle Competition Secretary then presented her Report.

“Good Morning Ladies, having started my tenure of this role as a Golf Committee ‘newbie’ and probably a thousand questions later, I think I may have just about got the hang of it!!

It has been an interesting two years, with lots to learn about the way Golf operates and the challenges it faces attracting new people to the sport. Not an easy ask when it takes 4 hours to play a round and you must contend with the British weather.

However, a healthy number of you did just that this year as part of this association, I will now run through the **topline results** from our four meetings during the year, they are as follows: -

The **Spring Meeting** took place at Calcot Park Golf Club, with 60 Ladies competing for the Olive Tomlinson Salvors, Sonia Selwood and Marilyn Pembroke from Calcot Park took first place.

The early **Summer Meeting** was played at Downshire with the maximum number of 96 Ladies, 1st place here went to Gwen King and Lynne Chisholm, from Maidenhead.

The late **Summer Meeting** was played at Mapledurham, where The Summer Bowl was well supported by 66 Ladies and won by Di Wizard from Reading Golf Club.

The **Autumn Meeting**, held at the Captain’s home Club, Newbury and Crookham with 32 Ladies competing for our **scratch trophies** the Silver Scratch Cup going to Jo Russ from Newbury and Crookham and the Bronze Scratch Cup to Barbara Langdale from Hennerton.

So the Honours were spread around the County this year.

Looking back on the numbers for the 2016 meetings they stood at 253 and this year is 254, I reported that last year we didn’t get wet in 2016 but cannot report the same for 2017.

Before I bid you ‘au revoir’ I would like to ask for your help and feedback, **after the meeting**, with two items of interest for the Committee

Firstly, the **new rules for handicaps being extended to 54** and I want to canvass opinion about what is happening at your Club, what do you think is the way forward for us?

Secondly; the project to review our **computer system and methods of communications**. I am staying in touch with the Committee after stepping down today to research a plan to amalgamate our data and communications using technology. So, if you have a strong opinion or previous experience of doing this or would like to contribute, please let me know after this formal part of the day.

I would like to thank my colleagues for the support I have been given over my 2 years in post and wish them every success for the future. I extend my best wishes to Caroline on her appointment and offer her my support for as long as it may be useful. I now look forward to **playing some golf** with the Ladies of the Berkshire Vets.

May I ask if there are any questions please?" There were no questions for Val.

"Thank you for your attention please let me have your feedback after the meeting finishes."

Honorary Treasurer's Report

Doffi Parkinson then presented her Report to those present.

"Lady Captain, Fellow members,

This is my 1st year as your Treasurer, and I'd like to start by thanking the previous Treasurer, Linda Gower, for a smooth handover, and also to my fellow committee members who have been so supportive, especially over the last 3 months.

My thanks also go to Jeff Gardner, our Auditor, who has kindly agreed to audit again next year; subject to ratification from Members.

During the year, we have closed the deposit account, as interest rates are so low, and also introduced payment by BACS. I would urge all of you who are comfortable with this, to use it, as it makes life so much easier... for me!!!

At this time last year, Barbara, our incoming Captain, said that our rationale was to return some of the accumulated funds to members, in 3 ways; by subsidising costs of matches against other counties; by refurbishing some of the trophies and offering better prizes at the meetings. (I'm sure you will all have been delighted with Barbara's topical themes at these!)

Our plans went slightly awry with the first 2 meetings at Calcot and Downshire, as we were offered discounts for various reasons, which we didn't like to turn down! So we made a loss of £403.49 over the year, and the intention is to follow this strategy in the coming year.

Our current account stands at £6,920.50 and after adding Debtors and deducting creditors the Association's balance carried forward for 2018 is £6,953.50p.

If there any questions, I will try and answer them." There were no questions to Doffi.

Adoption of Accounts & Appointment of Auditor

Barbara Lamb then asked those present for approval of the Accounts. Irene Bidwell East Berkshire GC proposed adoption of the Accounts and this was Seconded by Morag Campbell Sonning GC. Barbara then asked for a show of hands to approve the Accounts and this was unanimously carried.

Barbara Lamb then asked for approval to appoint the Auditor Jeff Gardner. This was proposed by Heather Wing Royal Ascot GC and seconded by Alison Goudge East Berks GC. Barbara Lamb then asked for a show of hands to appoint the Auditors and this was unanimously carried.

Proposals

Barbara Lamb then asked Heather Wing Hon Secretary if any proposals had been received from Members. Heather Wing advised that none had been received.

Election of Officers

Barbara Lamb then advised those present that it was time to move onto Election of Officers.

Barbara advised that she has proposed Betty Johnston as Captain and asked for someone to second this proposal. This was seconded by Wyn Bartley from Reading GC.

Barbara advised that Betty Johnston has proposed Alison Goudge as Vice Captain and asked for someone to second this proposal. This was seconded by Nan Robertson from East Berkshire.

Barbara advised that Heather Wing has proposed Jo Thompson as Honorary Secretary and asked for someone to second this proposal. This was seconded by Jeanette Dawe from Calcot GC.

Barbara advised that Val Doyle has proposed Caroline Dover as Competition Secretary and asked for someone to second this approval. This was seconded by Deirdra Cuthbert from Bradfield College.

Barbara Lamb then asked for a show of hands to approve all those proposed and this was unanimously carried.

Handover to new Captain

Barbara Lamb then congratulated Betty Johnston on her election as the new Captain of the Association and presented her with the Captain's Badge and invited Betty to address the Members.

Captain Elect Address

Betty Johnston the newly elected Captain then addressed those present.

“Ladies - A warm welcome to Goring & Streatley Golf Club on this exceptionally chilly day. I am honoured and delighted to have been chosen your Captain for 2018 and I hope we will have a happy and successful golf year. First of all I would like to thank Barbara for giving us an exciting and fun filled year. Who can forget the Wimbledon Prize table at the Summer meeting? She will be a hard act to follow.

I would like to present you with this gift on behalf of the members in recognition for all your hard work throughout your year. (Betty Johnston then presented Barbara with a gift from the Committee)

Next, I wish to thank all the ladies who applied to play in the matches this year. My aim is to include all ladies in at least one match, either as a player or as a reserve. If, selected as a player or a reserve, please would confirm that you are still available for the match(es). The letters are in preparation and will be sent out or emailed in next week.

I guess I'm an unknown quantity for most of you as last year I was unable to play in any matches (thank you NHS for my new hip) and was only able to attend the meetings.

A little golf history: I have been playing golf for some 24 years and have been a member of both Goring & Streatley and the Vets for some 20 years. Joan Frisby and Chris Carter, past Vets captains, were my mentors. I have also been involved with the BCLGA website for many years.

I am delighted to present Alison Goudge (who is not an unknown quantity) as my Vice-captain for 2018 and also please say hello to Jo Thompson as our new Honorary Secretary and to Caroline Dover, the new Competition Secretary. With the help of the committee I hope this will be a successful and enjoyable year for us all.

Now to the business. As you may be aware there have been a few changes in the CONGU handicapping system which governs us. The one that affects players most is the introduction of a category 6 for all players with handicaps 36.5 to 54. You can find all the details on the CONGU website, www.congu.co.uk. What this means for the Vets this coming season is that if your handicap is in Category 6 you can still enter all the events, but you will be assigned a

handicap of 36 for the event and please give Val any relevant feedback on what your club is proposing re category 6 players

And finally, I am looking forward to meeting you all and to welcoming you here for the various matches and meetings during the year.

I would also like to thank in advance, the staff and caterers at Goring & Streatley for their support which I know I will get.”

Betty Johnston then asked if anyone had any questions about her address, there were none.

Any other business

Betty Johnston then asked if there was any other business from Members.

Glyn Carroway from East Berkshire said that she had noted what the Committee had decided to do about restricting handicaps for the 4 meetings the Association runs in the year and proposals relating to the 9 hole competition, but wondered what we were planning to do in relation to matches. She asked whether the Committee were aware what other Counties we play against were proposing to do about restricting handicaps. Betty Johnston said that this will be discussed at the next committee meeting and that she plans to talk to the other Counties in due course. Our decision relating to this will be dependent on the feedback she receives from the Counties.

There were no other questions from the floor.

Vote of thanks

Olive Tomlinson Honorary Member stood to give a vote of thanks to the Committee for the meeting today and for all their hard work and that she was pleased that the Association was still thriving.

Meeting closed at 11.40am

Heather Wing, Honorary Secretary BCLVGA

February 2018

Minutes Approved by

Designation

Date