

KENT COUNTY LADIES' GOLF ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
10th November 2016

Present:	The President/Vice President	Mrs Elaine Tappin
	Vice President	Mrs Sarah Miller
	Vice President	Mrs Sue Coombe
	Vice President	Mrs Hazel Bristow
	Captain	Mrs Anne Billings
	Vice Captain	Mrs Ingrid Long
	Hon. Secretary	Mrs Sarah Brooks
	Competition Secretary	Mrs Mandy Mole
	County Training Officer	Mrs Sandy Catford

Committee: Mrs Marilyn Brown, Mrs Jan Sayle, Mrs Tita McCart,
Mrs Sue Barnes, Mrs Karen Pickering, Mrs Julie Flanders, Mrs Margaret Jeffs

There were 96 members in attendance.

1 Apologies:

Apologies for absence had been received from 6 clubs and 19 members.

The President opened the meeting by welcoming and thanking members for attending. She introduced the top table.

The President then called upon the Captain, Mrs Anne Billings to chair the meeting. Anne called upon Mrs Sarah Brooks, Hon. Secretary to read the notice convening the meeting.

2 Anne Billings, Captain, asked if the Minutes of the last meeting could be taken as read.

This was agreed and the Minutes were signed as a true record.

3 Anne Billings, Captain, asked if there were any Matters Arising.

There were none.

4 Anne Billings advised that the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs Nicki McGee, was unable to attend the AGM and therefore asked Sarah Brooks to read the Treasurer's update on the current financial position.

"Madam President, Captain and Ladies. As it has been decided to amend the financial year end to 31st December, the accounts for the 17 month period will be reported at the next AGM.

This year there will be no changes to the cost of Affiliation Fees, entry fees for any KCLGA competition or to the County Cards.

The junior accounts are to be incorporated into the main KCLGA accounts and we are also looking at online banking for all competitions.

A big thank you to Shell Foster from Burnt Oak Bookkeeping - I have had the accounts looked at by her and here are the following significant numbers/events for the period up to 31st July 2016.

The balances on the accounts are as follows:

Main account - £3,608.82

Competition account - £10,087.81

Deposit account - £35,406.05

Income so far
Affiliation fees collected - £10,245.95
County Cards - £3,832.00

Expenses

County Week - £5,876.31
Training (inc County Week) - £2,750.00
Brooches for Championship - £1,060.00
Trophies for Kent Ladies Trophy - £805.00
Insurance - £1,806.80
Juniors - £5,581.15
Junior County Week - £9,630.00
Junior South Region Girls - £1,487.00

Competitions

A full analysis will be provided at the next AGM - but in short each competition has made a very small loss or a very small profit."

Sarah asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Anne publicly thanked Nicki for her report and looking after the KCLGA finances.

Anne asked for a Proposer for the adoption of the accounts, Kay Clark, The Wildernesse Club proposed and, Di Ranger, Mid Kent, seconded the proposal, which was carried unanimously.

5 Appointment of Auditors:

Anne Billings asked for approval of the appointment of Burnt Oak Book-Keeping Ltd as Auditors for the remainder of the current financial year, this was proposed by Nicki McGee, seconded by Elaine Tappin and carried unanimously.

6 The Captain's Report: - Anne Billings

"Madam President, Vice Presidents, Ladies.

Welcome to 2016 AGM and thank you all for coming here this morning. I would like to give you an account of this year's county activities but would like to point out, that all results, photos and reports are now on our website.

We started the New Year with a training day at Pedham Golf Centre inviting our elite players from all our various squads. Under the guidance of our new CTO Sandy Catford, the day consisted of getting squads together on the range and playing 9 holes. Simon Willis from Kent County Cricket Academy came to speak to players on player profiling, the day was a great success getting everyone together, a good start to the year.

The following weekend, a similar event was held, this time for the juniors and their parents, again at Pedham Golf Centre, we laid out our plans and fixtures for the coming year and answered any questions they may have. It was very well received by both girls and parents. Nicola Smith from Sittingbourne was announced as Junior Captain.

First team practice matches against the men of North Foreland, Littlestone men and the Kent Colts took place in early spring, which was invaluable practice for our County team squad players.

The first major event of the year was our County Championship, which was held at my home club, The Wildernesse. The event ran very smoothly under the guidance of Mandy Mole and her band of willing helpers.

The competition was as fiercely contended as usual, with some great golf played over the 3 days. On the third day, 17 year old Nicole Stewart from Chart Hills became our County Champion. The 2nd flight was won by Nancy O'Connor from Sundridge Park. Senior champion was Nicki Bell from Nizels. The Senior 2nd flight was won by Gill McMillan from Sene Valley. Sarah Brooks from Wildernesse took the Consolation plate. The team shield went to Chart Hills.

The County team was announced at the prize giving of the championship.

This year **County Week** was held at Walton Heath in June, we took a very young team but all were in high spirits and with a good team atmosphere. We had managed to get the team together on various occasions prior to county week which meant they all knew each other well. 8 out of 9 players were under 23 years of age, so some valuable experience was gained. This squad has huge talent and we hope for great success at Littlestone next year in June, when we are hosting the event.

At Walton Heath, we gained a very good half against Hampshire on the first day and had a good win against Middlesex, but losses against Sussex and Surrey, placed us in fourth place. Surrey went on to represent our region at the national finals in Hampshire in September.

Due to her excellent contribution to this year's county team, I have great pleasure in presenting Fiona Mc Cann from Royal Cinque Ports, with her first team colours.

Our **2nd team** – Playing again for the Stovold Trophy, under Ingrid's guidance, they put on a very good fight this year. They drew at home with Surrey at Redlibbets. Won away against Hampshire at Hayling. Had a good win away at Hendon against Middlesex but lost to Sussex at home, playing at Faversham. Sussex went on to win the trophy. It was a very close run thing this year, coming down to the last match against Sussex and Surrey. We were second drawing with Surrey. A wonderful effort. Thank you Ingrid for captaining the 2nd's this year.

We have two members of the second team squad who have gained their 2nd team colours this year, Lacey Clark (West Kent) and Nicole Amos (Chart Hills).

Our **Juniors** have had a wonderful year under the guidance of Amanda, Sandy and Marilyn.

This year we have managed to run a Junior training programme throughout the year at Pedham and Etchinghill.

The junior championship was held at Redlibbets in June and Nicole Stewart was again the successful winner. A great achievement winning both the ladies and junior championship in the same year. Maria Badadi (Kings Hill) won the handicap prize.

The Juniors have had some notable individual successes, Sharna Dutrieux from Wrotham Heath gained international honours playing for England under 18's in the European Team Championships in Norway and also representing England in U18's home international at Conway in Wales.

Of her experience she wrote: -

"The experiences I've had this year has been amazing, I was so proud to wear my England Uniform and be part of the England team, knowing I was representing my country. My parents were very proud of me. The hard work and hours of practice was all worthwhile. I would like to thank the county for all their support."

Chloe Frankish from Chart Hills won the English girls U18 championship.

The junior team of Sharna Dutrieux and Nicola Smith won the South East region team event at The Army GC in August with Sharna recording a ladies course record over both 18 and 36 holes.

Nicole Amos (Chart Hills) and Megan Simmons (West Kent) have been chosen for England U16's regional squad. Junior County week was held in August at Sundridge Park. This year we hosted the event, organised with great efficiency by Amanda and Ingrid, with Mandy in the office, with her team of willing helpers. The event ran very smoothly. The sun

shone and the course was in great condition. Our young team, captained by Nicola Smith, did us all proud by becoming county champions. It was a wonderful team effort with great team spirit. Every girl played so well fighting to the end, giving them memories they will treasure for a long time.

Nicole Stewart, our County Champion and Junior County Champion commented on her summer's golf, I quote – "Although winning the ladies and Junior championship were highlights for me this year, my favourite form of golf is match play and after not losing a match at Junior county week and our team winning as a whole, that was my best highlight. The girls and ladies of the county, made this year the best for me and I appreciate all the help and support I was given."

In September Marilyn and I took a junior team of six players, captained by Nicola Smith travelling to Alresford in Hampshire, to compete in the Alresford Trophy against six other junior county teams. Yet again we were successful beating Wiltshire by one point to take the Trophy for the second year running. Team members were Nicola Smith (Sittingbourne) Elli Burdis (West Kent) Molly Mumby (Princes) Megan Roberts (Sundridge Park) Joely Buckland (Chislehurst) and Maria Badadi (Kings Hill)

I would like to give a special thanks to Marilyn Brown for her continuous support to the juniors during county week and her running of all junior competitions throughout the year.

The juniors have various junior matches throughout the year and all were very well attended with at least twelve juniors wanting to play in each match. These matches were run by Lily Price, an ex junior player, I would like to thank Lily for her time and pleased to say, she is happy to continue in this role next year.

Nicola Smith's Junior captain's report on this year's successes is now on the website.

Once again the **Seniors** were not to be outdone. Tita McCart (Sundridge Park) repeated her wins by taking both the Dutch Senior Match play and Stroke play titles.

Winning the International Dutch Senior Open at Nunspeet by 7 shots. Fourth time since 2010. In the first round she shot a new course record of 75.

In the Dutch seniors match play championship 2016 at the Lochemse Golf Club, she won for the fourth year running and the 5th time since 2011.

She also played in the European Seniors Ladies Team Championship at Sierra Golf Club in Poland. The Dutch team finished in 6th place, which was their 2nd best result.

However, the highlight for our Senior team was taking the Ten Counties Senior Championship title at Royal Mid Surrey in September. The team of Kim Morris, (Sundridge Park) Captain - Sandy Catford, (Chart Hills) Tita McCart (Sundridge Park) and Angela Jones (Chart Hills) took the title.

Sadly, as you may all know, Audrey Disbury (Dis to her friends) passed away this summer, a Past Captain, Vice President, recent President and great supporter of Kent county golf especially Senior golf. She is and will be sorely missed but she will have been very proud of all our teams this year.

Our clubs have been very busy this year, with all the Kent Club competitions being fiercely contested. All the results are on the website. Congratulations must go to all the winners as well as thanks to all the organisers from my committee. They all work very hard throughout the year and are very much appreciated.

Many of you applied to hold the "Kent Ladies Trophy" at your clubs, in recognition of the support that the lady golfers give to KCLGA. This trophy played for annually, in a competition decided by the Ladies of your Golf Club. Hopefully you have all enjoyed playing for the trophy and will continue to play for it for many years to come.

Congratulations must also go to Broke Hill for winning the Kent Pearson Trophy at Bearsted this year they went on to represent Kent in the five counties final at Leatherhead Golf Club in Surrey. You will hear more about that later from Juli Fayers.

County Club competitions, The Rooke Salver, Bradley Cook, Tappin Trophy and Captains Cup. 3 pairs knock-outs, the Winter Four Ball, Holland Trophy and Coombe Cup and the singles knock out, the Three feathers were all well supported.

We held various Members meetings this year, run by Mandy Mole. Golfing Allsorts at Faversham, Team Rumble at West Malling, Random Waltz at Weald of Kent, The Doxfords at West Kent. ABC Division meeting at Cherry Lodge. These are open to ALL our members, whatever their handicaps and gives everyone a chance to play different courses, meet new people and have a good day out at a reasonable cost. I would like to take this opportunity, to thank all the clubs around the county that support the County, without their support and generosity, we would not be able to run all these events.

I would like to thank all the referees that have helped at many of our events this year, Cheryl Power, Jane Marr, Ingrid Long, Peter Long, John Young and Mark Ward.

To all my Officers and Committee members, thank you all for your hard work and commitment. You give up your time freely, with great enthusiasm and it is very much appreciated.

To Elaine, my wonderful President, always encouraging and never without a wise word. Thank you.

To Mandy, Sandy, Amanda and Nicki. Thank you all for the wonderful job you all do. Hopefully you will all continue to enjoy your roles as officers this coming year.

This year we have some special goodbyes and thank you's –

From the committee –

Julie Flanders for all her hard work on the committee running the Captain's Cup and organising the county cards and helping with the county kit. Thank you

Sue Barnes – for all your hard work with the website and helping Mandy on many competitions, she did an amazing job updating the website minute by minute during the County Championship. All very impressive. Sue will be taking on the role of County Secretary from Sarah Brooks.

Anne presented both Julie and Sue with a gift from the County.

Which leads me on to Sarah - our County Secretary. Sarah is retiring after 6 years as County Secretary. She has worked tirelessly for 4 Captains and 3 Presidents, always on the end of a text message or email. Thank you so much for all your hard work and I would like to hand you a thank you gift from all the Association.

And finally, Ingrid, my trusty Vice – Thank you so much for all you help and guidance over the past 2 years. You have been a fountain of all knowledge and a true friend. Here is a little pressie for you, now go, continue playing wonderful golf and enjoy your growing family.

On a personal note, my golf is not great, I have hardly played but have loved watching some wonderful golf this year, encouraging players, meeting so many of you and making new friends not just in the county but all over the country. It has been fun.

And finally.....

Last but certainly not least, I would like to thank YOU, the members for supporting the County. Please encourage others to do the same – it is YOUR County and we, on YOUR committee, will try and do our best to provide you with County events to enjoy and teams that you can be proud of.

Thank you.”

7 Election of Vice Captain:

Anne confirmed the election of Vice Captain, Mrs Cheryl Power, Langley Park, proposed by herself and seconded by Mrs Ingrid Long.

Anne spoke in support of her nomination:

"I have great pleasure in nominating Cheryl as Vice Captain of the KCLGA.

Cheryl has been a member of Langley Park golf club for 31 years. She was lady captain in 2002/2003 and has served 5 separate 3 year terms on the Club's Ladies Committee, four of which as Handicap Secretary and/or Competition Secretary and has served on the main Club Committee as Chair of Social. She served on the KCLGA Committee for 5 years, 4 years of which as Membership Secretary.

I look forward to working with Cheryl over the next two years and I have every confidence she will do an amazing job to help the progress of KCLGA."

Ingrid also spoke in support of her nomination: "I am very happy to second the nomination of Cheryl as Vice Captain."

Anne presented Cheryl with her Vice Captain's badge.

Cheryl Power responded by saying:

" Thank you Anne, Madame President, Vice Presidents, Ladies

I was very shocked but of course extremely honoured to be asked if I would stand as Vice Captain of the Kent County Ladies Golf Association.

For those that know me they will not be surprised to learn that one of my first reactions was the worry of being able to get up in, what will feel like for me, the middle of the night to attend the numerous Kent events throughout the year – being more of a night owl - but I'm up for the challenge and all I need now is a reliable alarm clock - or two?

I am very much aware that I will have two very difficult acts to follow in Ingrid and Anne who, respectively, have done and are doing a fantastic job – the wonderful team spirit throughout and impressive results are very much a testament to that.

I know I have much to learn but I will do my best and very much look forward to supporting and working with Anne this year and indeed all the other hardworking members of the committee and all of the teams along with their coaches etc.

I am also looking forward to the opportunity of meeting and getting to know many other Kent ladies over the next four years.

Finally, I would very much like to thank my friends from Langley for coming along today to show their support – it is much appreciated.

Thank you."

8 Election of Honorary Secretary:

Mrs Sue Barnes, Mid Kent proposed by Mrs Sarah Brooks, The Wildernesse Club and seconded by Mrs Marilyn Brown, Mid Kent.

Sarah spoke in support of her nomination:

"I am extremely happy to propose Sue Barnes for the role of Honorary County Secretary.

Sue joined the Committee some three years ago and within a short space of time with the help of others, embarked on the redevelopment of our County Website. Over her time on the Committee, Sue is always happy to raise her hand and help where needed. Sue has produced the County Year Book each year – no mean feat I can assure you – as well as helping the Competition Secretary with the running of competitions, in particular the County Championship, the County Junior Organiser with Junior County Week and over the summer assisting me with the Kent Ladies Trophy and Delegates Golf Day.

This past year, Sue has worked alongside me, learning the ropes as she prepares for her new role. As a past Lady Captain and Lady Secretary of her home club Mid Kent – both great credentials, I have no hesitation in proposing Sue Barnes as your new County Secretary."

Marilyn also spoke in support of her nomination:

"I have no hesitation in seconding the proposal."

Sarah presented Sue with the Secretary's Badge.

Sue Barnes responded by saying:

"Thank you ladies for accepting me as your Secretary and I will do my utmost to continue with the high standards of Sarah's work, but please be patient with me while I am settling in to the this role."

9-12 Election of Officers:

Honorary Treasurer, Mrs Nicki McGee, Weald of Kent proposed by Mrs Sue Barnes, Mid Kent and seconded by Mrs Jan Sayle, Faversham.

County Training Officer, Mrs Sandy Catford, Chart Hills proposed by Mrs Tita McCart, Sundridge Park and seconded by Mrs Juli Fayers, Nizels.

Competition Secretary, Mrs Mandy Mole, Littlestone proposed by Mrs Karen Pickering, Ashford and seconded by Mrs Chris Corke, Wrotham Heath.

County Junior Organiser, Mrs Amanda Spooner, Sundridge Park proposed by Mrs Margaret Jeffs, Redlibbets, and seconded by Miss Felicity Dunderdale, Tudor Park.

Anne asked for a show of hands to approve the elections (items 9 – 12) 'en bloc' and all were approved and carried unanimously.

- 13** Anne announced the election of the new committee members; Under Rule 2 of the Association the following ladies retire - Mrs Sue Barnes and Mrs Julie Flanders.

Nominations had been received for:

Mrs Janet Green, Princes proposed by Mrs Sandy Catford, Chart Hills and seconded by Mrs Jan Sayle, Faversham.

Mrs Lucie Moxham, Littlestone, proposed by Mrs Marina Bobeldijk, Littlestone and seconded by Mrs Ingrid Long, Sundridge Park.

Mrs Sue Siddle, Rochester & Cobham proposed by Mrs Marilyn Brown, Mid Kent and seconded by Jo Beslee, Rochester & Cobham.

Anne asked for a show of hands to accept the nominations. 'All in favour', and as these were the only candidates nominated all ladies were duly elected.

Anne added that there remained one vacancy on the Committee should anyone wish to join – the Committee is able to co-opt a lady to the Committee at any time.

Anne asked all nominated ladies to stand up, welcomed them to the Committee and introduced them to all present.

14 Anne called upon Committee Members to give their reports:

Competition Report – Mandy Mole

“President Elaine, Vice Presidents, Captains and members, I am pleased to report on Competitions for 2016.

In a difficult climate for clubs having to compete against each other for ladies to enter their competitions and Opens, so many of you remain loyal to the County Events and enter teams to make our events viable. As always, we are so grateful to the Lady Captains who give us so much support, be it flowers for the prize table, acting as Starters or just generally making sure we are welcomed and every need is catered for to ensure the smooth running of the day. We are indebted to the clubs and managers who make it possible for us to host these events at a competitive price and offer their support and expertise to ensure that the day is successful. Kent is very aware that the 'margins' are very tight and without their support and generosity we would not be able to offer our varied schedule.

Before I continue I will take this opportunity to draw your attention to the absence of the Reports Booklet. Sue and Tita do such an amazing job at reporting events it is now felt that the booklet is largely redundant and all the information you need is now available 'at the touch of a finger'.

In April, the Championship was kindly hosted by the Wildernesse Golf Club. It proved an outstanding venue and despite having a very difficult and wet winter, the course was in fantastic condition. Our sincere thanks go to Andrew Lawrence the Secretary, Tom Scott the Deputy Secretary, all their team, and Sue Partridge the Lady Captain for making it a very successful event.

The Knockouts were once again very well supported - especially the Coombe Cup which is for our more 'senior' ladies with over ninety competitors entering. It is worth mentioning at this point, that providing the club allows buggies and the conditions are suitable with the host clubs agreement, it has been decided that for the over 80's, buggies will now be allowed without the need for a medical certificate. It had also been decided that next year, the banding for the Three Feathers will change in order to even up the numbers in each group. As from 2017 they will therefore be Gold 0-15. Silver 16-22, and Bronze 23-35.

I would like to offer my thanks to all the committee members who have done an amazing job of running all the knockouts and organised the Finals at the different venues. A large amount of work goes into these and they are run with wonderful efficiency throughout the season. Thank you also to Bearsted, Canterbury, Ashford and Faversham Golf Clubs for giving us courtesy for all our Finals and all the Referees, Cheryl Power, Jane Marr, Peter Long, John Young and Mark Ward for giving us their rules expertise and so much of their precious time.

This year has been busy and the numbers of ladies taking part for the first time in our events has been encouraging. We introduced two new fun competitions to replace the Scramble and Betterball, and these proved very popular. The Association work very hard to make the events inclusive - yes we have our 'elite' competitions but these are far outweighed by the ones on offer to all handicaps. There are approximately 70 ladies sections in Kent but at best we only have about 12 clubs entering our events at any one time. Many Delegates work hard to promote our events but there are still some clubs who think we only cater for the 'single figures'. If that were true I and many of the Committee would not be here! Please continue to do your good work and spread the word that we cater for all levels of golf! A full list of the results for all the competitions can be found on the website. All the competitions for 2017 will be found in the Fixtures Book and on the website – and many of you will be delighted to know that from 2017 there will be the facility to enter on-line. This has taken time to set it up in order that we can ensure that it will be secure. However, for those who would still rather enter on paper, the entries can still be sent to me through the post.

I must offer my gratitude to a wonderful team. Elaine, Anne, Ingrid, Marilyn, Sue and Tita for managing the website and members of the Committee who have given me incredible support this year - the Kent Calendar could not happen without a huge 'team effort'.

Finally, my sincere thanks to all of you who have supported us - it is always good to see so many appreciative familiar faces and many of you who have entered for the first time this year. Please continue to spread the word that they are relaxed, enjoyable days and that we would like to see so many more of the Kent ladies who are tucked away in all the corners of Kent. I look forward to seeing many of you at our events next year and you will always be greeted with smiling, welcoming faces from members of the Committee.

Thank you to all of you for supporting us and I wish you a very happy and successful golfing year in 2017.”

County Training Report – Sandy Catford

“It’s been a pleasure to work with the players this year, and I’d like to thank them for their hard work and dedication to their games, and also the patience and dedication of the parents involved. The time they give up is phenomenal and very appreciated.

We’ve been fortunate to work with coaches who are committed, experienced, enthusiastic and bring the best out of our players.

The strategies we’ve used for training the various squads have been highly successful, reflected in the successes we’ve enjoyed through the year. In consultation with the county coaches we’ll be carrying on more of the same with a few tweaks, particularly with regard to junior training.

We’ll continue to offer training to players outside of the elite squads and are working towards a broader offering of coaching opportunities.

Again the trial ‘Master Classes’ were overall very successful but we want to consider the best way of teaching a broad range of abilities so that everyone benefits. We are committed to the idea that a Kent Ladies Academy should exist to benefit every lady who wants to get more out of her golf, young or old.

England Golf has been highly enthusiastic about our approach to multi level coaching, and we’re the only county to support our senior players in the way we do. They approve of our idea of a Ladies Academy and have offered their support/advice as required. Once we have a blueprint of how we want things to work they’d be keen for us to share this with other counties as an example of good practice.

We’re currently working on schedules for the coming year with training re-starting again early in the year. Dates will be circulated via the website and club delegates, as well as a newsletter which will launch in 2017.”

Pearson Trophy Report for 2015/16 – Juli Fayers, Pearson Trophy Manager.

“The Kent Pearson Trophy was competed for by 44 teams this year.

The four teams through to the finals were: Broke Hill, Hever Castle, Royal Cinque Ports and Shortlands. The finals were hosted by Bearsted GC. The first semi-final was contested between Hever and Shortlands. Hever went into an early lead and eventually secured a 4-2 win with the final match called in. In the second semi-final RCP went up 2-1. However, it was not long before Broke Hill had pulled it back to 2-2 and then secured another 2 wins giving them the 2nd final place against Hever Castle.

The afternoon matches were very competitive. With both clubs alternating wins until they got to 3-3. In the 7th match, Broke Hill were 1up going down the 18th eventually winning the match and the Pearson Trophy. Congratulations to Broke Hill. The first time in the finals and a first win.

The Inter-County Finals were held at Leatherhead Golf Club in Surrey. Herts v. Middlesex and Kent v. Surrey. Broke Hill were up against Leatherhead on their home course. This did prove to be an advantage and Surrey won the first 4 games although Kent were up or all square in the remaining 3. Well done to Broke Hill in their first Inter-County final.

The afternoon final was between Surrey and Herts, who had only just pipped Middlesex in the other semi-final. Surrey got off to a quick start and were 3-1 up before eventually winning 5-2. Kent will be hosting the Inter-County finals at Hever Castle next year. Let's hope that Kent have the home advantage.

Our thanks to Bearsted GC for hosting the Kent finals.

Thanks also, to the Kent President, Kent Captain and Vice Captain for their presence, refereeing and continued support. It is much appreciated."

Handicap, Course Rating – Mrs Marilyn Brown

"I have received many and varied enquiries about handicaps from both Club Managers and Handicap Secretaries. Some answers were not necessarily what they wanted to hear and sometimes no acknowledgment was received of my reply. Just an acknowledgement email would be sufficient so that I know the email has been received. With less straightforward queries I consult with the Handicapping Department at England Golf for confirmation, which is why sometimes it takes a few days to answer.

There is movement towards a Worldwide Handicapping System in 2020, but at this stage it is not certain whether this will be going towards the incremental or average system the two major forms currently in use across the world.

Kent are leading the way in the country with the number of county courses having been rated. If you have had your course rated recently you will understand that this takes quite a few hours and involves 6 people each time as each set of tees has to be rated separately. To date 41 courses have been done, with eleven this year and a further 2 to be done before the end of the month. All courses will have to be done by 2020 and congratulations must go to Mark Ward and John Young and their teams of helpers, including ladies, for their efforts this year.

England Golf and South Region - Mrs Marilyn Brown

"The new Chief Executive of England Golf, Nick Pink, took office in April and has travelled the length and breadth of the country to introduce himself and familiarise himself with the different aspects of golf encountered regionally. He has attended Regional meetings, sadly not many Kent Clubs choose to attend these Regional Meetings.

Affiliation fees show a decline of 2%, which now puts into question the projected stabilisation of figures for 2017.

Sport England Funding is changing the way it is supporting sports. It will now measure on outcomes and sustaining membership rather than Active Person Survey and once a week participation. EG current funding ceases at the end of 2017 and negotiations and presentations for further funding will take place during 2017.

The merger of the LGU and the R & A will come into effect on 1st January next year and 2017 will be the final year of the £2.50 fee.

Golf Express has been a popular campaign. This is a promotion to prove that golf doesn't have to take all day and that 9 holes can be good.

Girls Golf Rocks will be coming to Kent next year and currently recruitment of coaches to roll out this programme is being undertaken. Ambassadors from our Junior Girls will be invited to help out on this programme.

Pace of Play still continues to be a hot topic in both Championships and Club play. Penalties were invoked in some Championships this year – not particularly well received, but point made. Ready golf is to be encouraged in all formats. After 18 years with EG, Craig Wagstaff, the Finance Director, will retire at the end of March next year.

Regional competitions were not particularly well supported this year and it has been decided that for 2017 the Foursomes/Greensomes will not run. As venues had been booked, decision to combine the Women's and Girls Championships will be reviewed after 2017."

Anne thanked the Officers, Committee Members and all Competition Organisers for the time they give to the Association and for their reports all of which are available to view on the website.

Anne continued by publicly thanking the clubs that hosted County Matchplay Finals:

- Ashford for the Three Feathers, Holland Trophy, Lohan Trophy and Milstede Trophy Finals,
- Canterbury for the Bradley Cook and Parallel Plate Finals,
- Sundridge Park for Junior County Week,
- Bearsted for the Winter Fourball Final and Kent Pearson Trophy Final,
- Sittingbourne for the Captain's Cup Final,
- The Wildernesse Club for the Championship,
- Redlibbets for the Junior Championship,
- Faversham for the Tappin Trophy and Coombe Cup Final.

Before moving on to item 15, Anne handed over to President Elaine in order that she may make the presentation of the President's Trophy.

President Elaine continued by saying

"Very sadly, my predecessor, Audrey Disbury passed away in June this year and we all miss her dearly. She loved our sport and she did everything she could to support and help Ladies golf at all levels. Before becoming County President, Audrey had been County Captain and County Training Officer (no less than three times !! twice after she had finished her Captaincy). When she was President, Audrey donated this Award to the County. It was her wish that the Award be presented to an Officer or member of the KCLGA Committee whose efforts on behalf of all of us had had a positive and enduring effect on the work that we do for our members.

This year I would like to give the award to someone whose appointment as an Officer has made a very big difference to our success as a voluntary sporting organisation. As you have already heard from our County Captain, Kent has enjoyed a very successful year in our competitions against other counties in the South. This time last year Sandy Catford became our new County Training Officer. Sandy has made a huge difference to our coaching and we now have very professional training programmes encompassing not only all Juniors from young novices through to those who have been selected for elite England coaching; but also our 1st team, 2nd team and our Senior Squads.

Sandy has introduced additional programmes for all ladies with handicaps from 10 – 15 and Academy sessions for ladies of all abilities.

So, after only one year in the job, Sandy has organised County Training programmes that encompass all of us - all ages and all abilities. Sandy, I believe Dis would have been chuffed to know that you were the winner of her award this year."

Elaine presented Sandy with the President's Prize Trophy and Sandy offered her thanks to Elaine, the Committee and ladies, by saying

"This is not just from Dis, this is for Dis. She has been a pal to me since I was about 11 and I can't tell you how much this means to me. Thank you".

15 Rules of the Association:

Anne ran through the proposed changes to the Rules of the Association, explaining that several amendments to the current rules were necessary, ie to reflect the change in our accounting year. With the year end now 31st December, it is necessary to move the KCLGA AGM from November to March effective March 2017. Anne referred ladies to the 'Rules of Association' sheet as attached to the voting slip (see Appendix A). Anne went on to say that Tellers would be coming round to collect completed Voting Slips and once counted the result would be announced a little later.

The changes are proposed by Mrs Sarah Brooks, The Wildernesse Club and seconded by Mrs Nicki McGee, Weald of Kent.

16 Vice President:

It was proposed by Mrs Sarah Brooks, The Wildernesse Club and seconded by Mrs Ingrid Long, Sundridge Park that Mrs Marilyn Brown, Mid Kent be made Vice President.

Sarah spoke for her proposal:

"I am pleased to propose Marilyn Brown for Vice President.

Throughout my years as Secretary, particularly in the early days, Marilyn was a tower of strength to me and many a time do I refer to her as the 'font of all knowledge'. On a more personal note, at difficult times, Marilyn has known just what to say and suggest – hence I write a lot of lists and tick off tasks as they are done.

Marilyn joined the Kent Committee in 1999 and in 2000 was elected as Competition Secretary serving the County in this role for five years. In 2006, she was elected Vice Captain, taking the helm as County Captain in 2007 and 2008. Marilyn continues to work tirelessly for the County and since retiring as County Captain has worked in the capacity as South Region and England Golf Representative, Lohan Trophy Organiser and in more recent years has added to her roles, that of Junior Competition Secretary and County Handicap Advisor.

Always one of the first to volunteer to assist others – be it, help run an event, referee a final, caddy for a county player or pop to the Trophy Shop and obtain a quote. Marilyn, where do you get your energy from? Let alone find time to play golf at your home club Mid Kent whilst still very involved in the running of the family business and looking after the grandchildren. I could go on...

I am sure that you will all agree, Marilyn Brown will be an excellent Vice President for the Association."

Ingrid also spoke in support of Sarah's proposal adding:

"I think Sarah has said it all, but personally having worked closely with Marilyn for the last four years, she is the go to girl. If you need any knowledge about Kent, she will have it either at her fingertips or in a box somewhere at home. I dread to think how many boxes she has got relating to Kent, but she has got it all. She has been super to work with and I think it is a very fair recognition of everything that she has done for the Association. Well done Marilyn."

Marilyn responded by saying;

"I am truly honoured and flattered to accept the nomination to be a Vice President of KCLGA and follow in the footsteps of many great friends and servants to Kent ladies golf.

My involvement in the various aspects of the county have kept me sane in times of personal difficulty and for this I thank you all.

I hope to have many more years of supporting the County.”

Anne asked for a show of hands for this proposal. All were ‘in favour’ and the proposal was carried unanimously.

17 **Any Other Business:**

Anne Billings:

- a) England Golf AGM – Wednesday 12th April 2017. (NB: The AGM will be attended by Marilyn Brown as the County Representative to England Golf).
- b) Delegates Golf Day – Monday 5th June 2017, Redlibbets Golf Club. This popular event will be extended to include Lady Captain’s, Vice Captain’s as well as Club Delegates.
- c) *Captain & Delegates meeting on Thursday 9th November 2017, Ditton Community Centre.

Anne invited questions from the floor, asking members to take the microphone provided to them and state their name and club as well as their question.

Sarah asked that if there are any changes to Delegates, could ladies please advise either herself or Sue in order that the database be amended to ensure that all information continues to reach clubs via the appropriate person.

- d) Carol Turl (Nizels) with a proposed change in the AGM date, would the Year Books be posted out to clubs in November next year?
Sarah Brooks explained that from an administrative standpoint, nothing would be changing. With the AGM (hopefully) moving to March, the Captain & Delegates Meeting would (hopefully) be moving to November each year, with Year Books continuing to be distributed at the November meeting. Sarah added that the ladies would benefit from an extra month in the validity of their next County Card given the proposed date changes.
- e) Diana Divall (Chelsfield Lakes) – with the proposed changes in the Handicap System, when would the slope come into effect?
Marilyn Brown/Anne Billings responded by saying the slope would come into effect in 2020, when all courses had been rated.
- f) Tita McCart (Committee) reminded all ladies that there were still items of kit available for sale at greatly reduced prices.
- g) Julie Flanders (Committee) reminded all ladies that free copies of the Centenary Book were available.
- h) Hazel Bristow (Ashford) – advised all present that Vice President, Sue Coombe was celebrating her 90th birthday this coming Saturday, 12th November (NB: Applause from the floor).

Anne Billings asked Sarah Brooks to announce the result of the Vote.

Proposal 1 – 46 Clubs voted ‘for’, 0 clubs voted ‘against’

Proposal 2 – 45 Clubs voted ‘for’, 1 club abstained

Proposal 3 – 44 Clubs voted ‘for’, 1 club voted ‘against’ and 1 club abstained.

All proposals were therefore carried.

*This item was announced after the result of the Vote was declared.

18 **Date of Next Meeting:**

Date of the next meeting Thursday 2nd March 2017, at Ditton Community Centre.

There being no more business, Anne declared the meeting closed at 11.15am.

Sue Coombe, Vice President, thanked Anne Billings, County Captain, on behalf of all the members for chairing the meeting and praised the commitment of the County Officers and Committee.

Signed

Date

Appendix A

Proposed Changes to the Rules of the Association

Proposal 1

As announced at the 2015 AGM, for ease of accounting, the KCLGA year end has been changed from 31st July to 31st December. Due to this change, which is effective 2016, it has become necessary to change the date of the AGM from November to March. This will allow for a full years' accounts to be given to the Ladies by the Treasurer. Therefore in order to move the date of the AGM, Rules of the Association 3 and 4 need to be amended.

- 3 The election of members to the Committee shall take place in the following manner. Any two members of the Association may nominate a member or members. The name of each member so nominated shall be sent in writing to the Hon. Secretary, or member of the Committee having previously obtained the consent of such member or members. The name of each member so nominated shall be sent in writing to the Hon. Secretary by **1st February [instead of 1st October]** of each year.
- 4 The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held in Kent in **March [instead of November]** at such place and time as the Committee shall determine, twenty-one days' notice of the time and place of such Meeting shall be given to each affiliated club.

Proposal 2

Rule 12 - this suggested amendment is due to most communication now going by email, the use of the website and Fixture Books.

- 12 A **[remove the word - printed]** copy of the Rules shall be sent to each affiliated club for display to members.

Proposal 3

Rule 14 – this suggested amendment allows the Committee to raise the Capitation Fee below or above the level of inflation – any raise would only undertaken if necessary and required.

- 14 Capitation Fees for 2017 are £7.15 per lady/junior girl club member and will only be raised **[remove the words - in line with inflation]** if required. All fees are collected directly from golf clubs.