

KENT COUNTY LADIES' GOLF ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
12th November 2015

Present:	The President	Mrs Elaine Tappin
	Vice President	Mrs Sarah Miller
	Vice President	Mrs Sue Coombe
	Vice President	Mrs Hazel Bristow
	Vice President	Mrs Elaine Tappin
	Vice President	Mrs Sylvia Barnshaw
	Vice President	Miss Audrey Disbury
	Captain	Mrs Ingrid Long
	Vice Captain	Mrs Anne Billings
	Hon Treasurer	Mrs Nicki McGee
	Hon. Secretary	Mrs Sarah Brooks
	Competition Secretary	Mrs Mandy Mole
	County Training Officer	Mrs Sandy Catford

Committee: Mrs Marilyn Brown, Mrs Diana Reese, Miss Felicity Dunderdale, Mrs Kathie Maberley,
Mrs Sue Barnes, Mrs Karen Pickering, Mrs Elaine Lopategui, Mrs Julie Flanders,
Mrs Margaret Jeffs

There were 110 members in attendance.

1 Apologies:

Apologies for absence had been received from 3 clubs and 20 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 Ingrid Long to chair the meeting. Ingrid called upon Mrs Sarah Brooks, Hon. Secretary to read the notice convening the meeting.

2 Ingrid Long, 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 Ingrid Long, Captain, asked if there were any Matters Arising.

Hon. Secretary Mrs Sarah Brooks "in the 2014 Minutes it was incorrectly reported that Mrs Sue Batchelor of Rochester & Cobham was the Vice Captain (in relation to the Proposal of the Accounts). This has been corrected in the 2014 Minutes."

Captain Mrs Ingrid Long "Under AOB last year, the question of a merger with the men was raised. Just to update you, we have had several meetings with the men and there is an ongoing dialogue. However we are taking things slowly and if and when we are at a stage when we have a firm proposal, everything will be presented to you, the members for a decision to be made. In the meantime, notes from any meetings we have are published on our website so that it is a completely open process."

4 Ingrid Long asked the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs Nicki McGee, to present the accounts for the year ended 31st July, 2015:

"Madam President, Captain and ladies. You will have seen a copy of the accounts for the year up to July 2015, either from our website or you will have a print out with you.

Net income for the year totals £31,148

Whilst this is very different to last year's income we have to understand that there was £10,000 raised for the National Finals in 2013.

Expenditure for this year has dropped to £24,256

For County Week this year we managed to get a very good deal on the accommodation and have saved around £3,000. You will note that there appears to be a new amount for coaching £2,200, on previous years this was built in to the figures for First, Second and Senior Teams but we feel it is better to itemise these costs.

This year we have purchased new Kent tee markers, these will be used for the Championships and regional events, we have updated the County's kit and purchased shirts, stocked up on County logo'd golf balls for our teams as we negotiated a great deal and have invested in a new programme launched with the Futures (girl golfers aged 8 upwards) (you will hear more about this from Ingrid).

Despite clubs asking us for ever increasing prices to hold our meetings, as we are in a strong financial position we will not be increasing entry fees for our members meetings this year so that we can give something back to you, the members that support the Association. We will also ensure that we have good prize tables so please encourage your ladies to enter our competitions.

A few short years ago the Association's finances were not in a very healthy state so, the then committee, made a concerted effort to reduce costs. Technology has helped in that we have been able to drastically reduce printing and postage costs with the use of e-mails and I doubt that anybody has claimed for a phone call in years. Officers have sort to secure deals on everything and slowly but surely we have regained a sound financial position.

As outlined in my report, the future of the Association, is to a large extent our Juniors and so we have already put in place plans to use some of our funds for the futures training alongside more training to try and improve our County teams performance at all levels.

Therefore, we would like to promise you that at our first committee meeting of the year, due to be held next month, that we look for a positive way in which we can give something back to you, the members that support our events.

We think it would be a step backwards to directly reduce entry fees to competitions, these costs are rising year on year and we have already gone to print on all our entry forms etc but we are confident that we can do something in the short term and look at maintaining costs over the next couple of years. We will get back to you with details at the Delegates meeting.

It is very difficult to know what is round the corner and exceptional items do pop up now and again, for instance the cost of armada dishes and silver frames presented at our finals rises year on year.

County Cards are staying at £3.00 this year and some of you will have handed in your orders today, if not you can look at the Kent Ladies website where you can download the form and place your order, or your club delegate will collate a list and these will be ready for collection at the Delegates Meeting in March.

The competition account has a balance of £5,634

The junior account has a balance of £5,686, County Week expenses were down on last year and no kit was needed this year.

This year's accounts will run from August 2015 to December 2016 to make things easier and also it makes sense to run until the end of the playing season, rather than mid-way through.

Finally I would like to say a massive thanks to Shell Foster for preparing the Accounts.

Are there any questions?"

Barbara Down (Littlestone Warren) (NB: the question was also sent to the Committee via the Secretary prior to the AGM and before reiterating the question at the AGM, Barbara Down did state that some of the answers to her question had been addressed in the Treasurer's report.)

"Could the Committee please tell the membership why the Association accounts show that £57,183 is now the amount held in the General Fund Reserve, with over £6,000 having been added from last year. With the addition of the other "contingencies" this amounts to a total of £78,879. Whilst I appreciate that holding some level of reserve is essential, I believe this amount is far too high when income from affiliation fees and expenditure are in the region of £24,000 (only one third of the reserve). Would it be possible to reduce this reserve over the next few years to benefit the membership in general, for example, perhaps reduce the competition entry fees which may encourage a higher entry."

Ingrid responded by saying

"Yes, we did receive this question in advance and that is why Nicki's speech changed quite a bit between the beginning of the week and now. We agree that it is too much to hold, we went through a bad patch and have worked very hard to build funds back up again and in a way, we are a victim of our own success. It is very hard to budget for things, particularly say, for County Week which happens quite late in our financial year and predict when extra costs might occur – we did not have any large exceptional items this year and thus we added to our reserve rather than eat into it. We like to keep 12 - 18 months of costs in reserve, £15,000 in case we get to national finals. When we went to national finals in 2013, our members were great in fund raising for us as we didn't think we had enough money. We had hoped for half of the needed funds to avoid depleting our reserves again but in fact, the response was so fantastic that the members raised all of it for us. We now know that with bigger reserves, if we get to national finals in the next few years, we know we can fund it and will not have to call upon the members again. We do have an excess of funds, which is why we are looking to do something for you. Quite what it is, we are yet to discuss at our next committee meeting, but we do have some ideas. If you come along to one of our meetings we will make sure that one, you have a good time and two, we will do something that will directly get you some of that money back. We will continue to ensure that over the next few years we will keep working to keep costs down and that you the members get something back."

Ingrid finished by thanking Nicki for her report as well as her hard work preparing the accounts and looking after the KCLGA finances.

Ingrid asked if there were any further questions. There were none.

Ingrid asked for a Proposer for the adoption of the accounts, Alison Kingston, Canterbury proposed and, Chris Daniels, Chart Hills seconded the proposal, which was carried unanimously.

5 Appointment of Auditors:

Ingrid Long asked for approval of the appointment of Burnt Oak Book-Keeping Ltd as Auditors for the coming year this was proposed by Nicki McGee, seconded by Elaine Tappin and carried unanimously.

6 The Captain's Report: - Ingrid Long

"Madam President, Vice Presidents, Ladies.

They say that time flies when you are enjoying yourself which must mean that I have had a fantastic two years as it feels like only yesterday that I took over as your Captain.

This year began with our usual practice matches against the men of North Foreland and Littlestone, the Kent Colts and the Essex Ladies. We are very grateful to all those involved that help in our preparation for County Week.

Our Championship was held at Rochester & Cobham Park in April. The places for the matchplay were hotly contested with some fine scores being carded. Anne Wheble from Dartford had a magnificent 75/73 to win the Jackson Plate, a mere 7

shots ahead of 2nd place Nicole Amos from Faversham, whilst in the Seniors qualifier, Terri Linskey (Wrotham Heath) shot a 76 (nett 66), the same 7 shot margin – but over just the one round!

In the matchplay, we witnessed some magnificent, strongly contested golf. Rachel Martin (Sundridge Park) and Stephanie Marshall (Birchwood Park) went to the 24th hole, Tita McCart (Sundridge Park) and Stephanie again, 20th, and Kim Morris (Sundridge Park) and Nicole Amos, the 21st – all signs of hard fought matches.

The final saw a great show of golf between Tita McCart (Sundridge Park) and Sharna Dutrieux (Wrotham Heath) with Sharna becoming our youngest Champion to date. The 2nd Flight was won by our incoming CTO Sandy Catford, whilst Senior honours went to Mira Lee (Knole Park) in the Championship and Christine Edgar (Sundridge Park) in the 2nd Flight. Our thanks go to Rochester & Cobham for hosting the event and working so hard to give us a good course to play on so early in the year and especially to Mandy and her team for ensuring that everything ran so smoothly over the 3 days.

County Week saw the team heading to Worthing in Sussex. The paperwork suggests that Kent didn't do very well, finishing in 4th place but you would have had to have been there to see the full picture. The girls all played their hearts out. The matches were very close and many of the losses were only a whisker away from being wins.

Sharna, our Champion played 3 other County Champions in the singles – winning 2 matches and only narrowly losing the 3rd – all her opponents were lower in handicap than she was.

Against Surrey, Nancy O'Connor played a girl, 9 shots lower than her in handicap and only lost on the 18th green. The week showed how important it is to start well in the morning foursomes and get points on the board by lunch – something we are planning to work on over the winter. Despite us not having any plus handicap players at present like some of the other Counties, our matchplay skills are right up there with them. We are learning to take the positives from our experiences and hope to be in the winners frame soon.

First team colours were awarded to Sharna after her great winning performances and to Ainee O'Connor following a magnificent 7&5 win on the last day. On talking to the two Senior players in our 1st team, it appears that neither of them have been awarded colours for past appearances. Sandy Catford played in 1985 and 1986 as well as the last three years and has clocked up 17 points, whilst Tita McCart played in 1990-92 and 2013 and 2015, earning 11 points. Sharna and Ainee are both at school so unable to be here but I'd like Sandy and Tita to come up and receive their very well earned County colours.....

Our 2nd team also played with pride and you can read a full report from Anne in the report booklet. The matches give valuable experience to our up and coming youngsters as well as giving some of our experienced single figure players the opportunity to play competitive golf at County level. We are very pleased that 5 players have gained 2nd team colours this year. Tita McCart, who gained hers in between her 1st team appearances, Nicki McGee (Weald of Kent), Darcie Smith (Chart Hills), Lily Price (Royal Blackheath) and Nicola Smith (Sittingbourne). Would they all like to come up to receive their 2nd team colours.....

And so to our Junior girls..... Once again we had a clash between the British Girls and Junior County Week which meant our lowest handicappers were absent for the 2nd year running. We took along an 11, 12 and 15 handicapper for the experience, whilst all the other counties took only single figure handicappers. We are sure that all the girls took away something useful from the week, not least how to evacuate a building twice in the middle of the night for misbehaving fire alarms!

On the last afternoon, our 15 handicapper, Megan Simmonds (Sundridge Park) was pitched against a 3 handicapper and what a fight. As it was the last match out on the course, she had about 40 people watching her match and we were treated to a standard of golf, well below her handicap. I'm sure that the experience and confidence boost in winning the match on the 17th (playing off scratch I may add) was a factor in Megan reducing her handicap from 15 to 10 in the two weeks immediately after County Week – definitely a player to watch for in the future.

Kent is hosting Junior County Week next year (15th-17th August) at Sundridge Park so if you would like to see some rising stars do come along and support our Junior team. And yes, we have set the date to avoid a clash with the British Girls!!

As the Juniors are the life blood of our future County teams, we have, this summer, run a Futures programme. We ran six sessions on a monthly basis with two coaches, Karl Knight (Wilderness) and Sophie Daws (a former Kent Junior), across three centres, Wilderness, Pedham Place and Etchinghill. This has got 26 girls, some with no previous golfing experience and some fairly new to golf, to get together to learn new skills and get out on the course. Encouragingly, this has been a great success and we are looking forward to continuing sessions over the winter and hopefully to expand the summer programme to include new girls – so if anyone knows of any girls from the age of 8 upwards that would like to try golf in the company of other girls – please do get in touch with our CJO Amanda Spooner.

As our Treasurer has explained, we ended up not spending all of our budgeted funds, mainly due to the very good deal that we managed to secure for the accommodation and food at County Week and now that we know the figures available, we are aiming to use these funds to expand the futures programme and to try and secure some training for our juniors with handicaps that have not yet reached the level whereby they come to our elite training. If we don't have youngsters coming through our County system, we run the risk of not being able to put out a decent, competitive County team. We are needing to rely on the youngsters more and more – our County team this year had no one in it between the age of 24 and 54!

Apart from the Kent team golf, there are, of course, many individual and team competitions. All of these were fiercely contested and the results are in the reports booklet and on the website. Congratulations must go to all the winners, to Sittingbourne for winning the Kent Pearson final (more on that from Chris Corke later) and, indeed, to all of the organisers from your committee.

On attending events around the County and speaking to lots of ladies, many are still not aware that our members meetings are open to every single lady golfer in Kent. To that end and to try and raise awareness of our events, we have produced some "at a glance" flyers with all our fixtures on them. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE take them back to your clubs, give them to your ladies and encourage them to enter our competitions. If every lady that pays an affiliation fee were to enter just one competition, they would get value for money – there aren't many courses in the County where you could play 18 holes of golf, have a two course meal and stand a chance of winning a very nice prize for £47.50 – the cost of the entry fee plus your affiliation fee!

On a positive note, whilst we didn't win County Week or Junior County Week, Kent players have had some notable successes this year.

In the English Girls, Fiona McCann (North Foreland) came 4th and Sharna, 9th.

Cloe Frankish (Chart Hills) won the English Girls U16 and the Scottish U21.

Stephanie Marshall became the English Medal Champion.

Ainee O'Connor qualified for the final of the Faldo Series for the second year running.

Tita McCart became the Dutch Senior Strokeplay Champion for the 2nd consecutive year.

The Senior team came 2nd in the 10 Counties Championships, losing out by a single stroke over the combined 54 hole score.

The Junior team played in the Aylesford Trophy – a stableford competition hosted by Hampshire with six girls from each of Hampshire, Dorset, Berkshire, Kent, Sussex, Dorset and Wiltshire from four different handicap categories. Our team of Jessica Murray (Redlibbets), Ellen Walker (Dartford), Megan Simmonds and Megan Roberts (both Sundridge Park), Mollie Mumby (Walmer & Kingsdown) and Joely Buckland (Chislehurst) did us proud and won by 6 points, the first time since 2009.

Our county champion, Sharna, has also just been named as one of the England U18 squad and we wish her every success in the forthcoming year.

We plan to keep working hard at building our county teams at all levels and I would like to thank everyone who has, over the year, turned up to cheer on the teams, wherever they were playing whether in or out of county.

I must, of course, finish with a few thank yous and goodbyes. Four committee members are standing down having completed their terms of office – Diana Reese (Winter 4 ball and Bradley Cook), Elaine Lopategui (Coombe Cup), Kathie Maberley (Captains' Cup) and Pat Whitty (Tappin and Holland Trophies). Thanks to each of you for your hard work and commitment in running your competitions, helping at our members' meetings and with futures training. Pat is unable to be here today, but can Diana, Elaine and Kathie please come up to receive a small token of appreciation. (NB: Ingrid presented Diana, Elaine and Kathie each with a gift of appreciation).

The county would grind to a halt without the hard work carried out by all committee members, but a special and personal thanks from me, must go to our officers.

To:

- Mandy for the smooth running of all of our competitions
- Sarah for all her admin work as secretary
- Amanda and Marilyn for their work with the juniors
- Nicki for keeping our finances in order
- And last but not least to my right and left hand women, Anne and Elaine

(NB: Ingrid presented each Officer present as well as Marilyn Brown, with a gift of appreciation).

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you over the last two years and could not have fulfilled the Captain's role without each and every one of you pitching in and committing yourselves the way that you do. I could not have had a better team to have worked with.

To you, all the ladies in Kent, thanks for all your support over the last 2 years, for welcoming me and the team into your clubs. I've enjoyed meeting you all and hope that you will continue to support the County's events. Anne, enjoy your two years as Captain and over the next year, although I hope to spend a bit more time with my family, especially the Grandchildren, I can assure you that I will be around for you, to help in whatever way you want..... Kent is in very safe in your hands."

President Elaine thanked Ingrid for her report and two great years as Captain by saying

"on behalf of all of us here today, in fact on behalf of all the ladies of the county, I would like to say a **huge** thank you to Ingrid for being such a wonderful Captain over the last two years, she has done such a good job and has really gone the extra mile for us and we have been very lucky to have had you. Ingrid, thank you so much."

and then presented Ingrid with her Past Captain's badge.

7 Election of County Captain:

Ingrid confirmed the election of Captain, Mrs Anne Billings, proposed by herself and seconded by Mrs Sarah Brooks. Ingrid spoke in support of her nomination:

"Last year, in proposing Anne as Vice Captain, I spoke of her list of credentials (and you can see them in last year's minutes) so I won't repeat them again, however, I will add that having served with her for the last year, I have no doubt that she will make an excellent Captain. If I had to give one bit of advice I would say...write it down/write everything down. At county week, the girls laughed that I was forever writing things in my little black book so I thought, perhaps you could use a book that is at least in the correct county colours!" (NB: Ingrid presented Anne with a blue note book).

Sarah also spoke in support of her nomination: "I am very happy to second the nomination of Anne as Captain."

Ingrid presented Anne with her Captain's badge.

Anne Billings responded by saying:

" Lady President, Lady Vice Presidents, Lady Past Captains, Ladies – I am very honoured and pleased to accept the position of County Captain.

I am in a very fortunate position of following in Ingrid's foot steps, I am taking over from a very hard working, organised and efficient Captain. She has answered all my endless questions with patience and with a smile and I thank her for making my Vice Captain's year very enjoyable and most informative.

With Elaine, Ingrid and all the Committee alongside me, I hope we can continue to bring Kent golf to the fore and build upon the amazing foundation we have in place.

On a personal note I would like to thank all my friends from the Wildernesse and Redlibbets for all their support."

8 Election of County Training Officer:

Sandy Catford, Chart Hills proposed by Mrs Anne Billings, The Wildernesse Club and seconded by Mrs Ingrid Long, Sundridge Park.

Having been co-opted as County Training Officer by the Committee in September 2015, Sandy Catford was formally nominated.

Anne spoke in support of her nomination:

"It is with great pleasure, I would like to propose Mrs Sandy Catford as County Training Officer.

Sandy was 4 when she started playing golf, she lived opposite Chestfield Golf Club and one of her first memories was hitting 5 irons from her front lawn, over a busy road, a bus stop, a car park, a putting green and a greenside bunker onto the 18th green. She would hit 3 balls and pick them up on her way to school. If she missed the green she would add an hour onto her 2 hour practise that evening after school. That rather sums her up – you do it properly or not at all. She won the Kent Girls twice at Sundridge Park and Wildernesse – played for Kent at county week aged 14 and 15. Then discovered boys and gave up

5 years later she was back, she got down to scratch and was approached by England for a potential team place. She refused, saying that it would be wasted as she intended to turn pro, which frankly she says she regrets – representing your country is an experience that shouldn't be missed – I have to agree.

She played as a pro on the European circuit for three seasons without high finishes but earned enough to keep it going until she rang her husband from the Swedish Open saying "enough of this malarkey, lets start a family"

Four children later and after a 23 year total break from golf, her passion for the game was stronger than ever. She has represented Kent in the first team for the last four years and is openly ambitious for her own golf (that England place on the senior team maybe!) But her commitment to the development of other Kent players, particularly the juniors, is even stronger. I know she will take on the County Training Officer job with her whole heart. I am in no doubt she will be a great addition to the Kent Committee and look forward to working with her and taking the county forward."

Ingrid also spoke in support of her nomination:

"I have no hesitation in seconding the proposal."

9-12 Election of Officers:

Honorary Treasurer, Mrs Nicki McGee, Weald of Kent proposed by Mrs Karen Pickering and seconded by Mrs Pat Whitty.

Competition Secretary, Mrs Mandy Mole, Littlestone proposed by Mrs Marilyn Brown and seconded by Miss Felicity Dunderdale.

Honorary Secretary Mrs Sarah Brooks, Wildernesse proposed by Mrs Sue Barnes and seconded by Mrs Margaret Jeffs.

County Junior Organiser, Mrs Amanda Spooner, Sundridge Park proposed by Mrs Diana Reese, and seconded by Mrs Julie Flanders.

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

- 13 Ingrid announced the election of the new committee members; Under Rule 2 of the Association the following ladies retire - Mrs Pat Whitty, Mrs Diana Reese, Mrs Elaine Lopategui and Mrs Kathie Maberley.

Nominations had been received for:

Mrs Jan Sayle, Faversham, proposed by Mrs Mandy Mole, Littlestone and seconded by Mrs Pam Bentley, Faversham.

Mrs Chris Corke, Wrotham Heath, proposed by Mrs Anne Billings, Wildernesse, and seconded by Mrs Helen Lejot, Wrotham Heath.

Mrs Tita McCart, Sundridge Park, proposed by Mrs Bassey Dunbar and seconded by Mrs Elaine Lopategui, both Sundridge Park.

Ingrid 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.

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

- 14 Ingrid called upon Committee Members to give their reports:

"Before I call upon our Competition Secretary, Mrs Mandy Mole, our newly appointed County Training Officer, Sandy Catford would like to say a few words."

County Training Report – Sandy Catford

"Firstly, a message from the coaches. The ladies seniors coaching went from strength to strength in 2015. We had three sessions:- at Boughton, Etchinghill and Pedham, with all three facilities offering different options for sessions. Who said you can't teach an old dog new tricks! The ladies quickly understood that the sessions weren't just all about technique, but were primarily about them looking at their own game from a slightly different angle.

(PGA Professional) Tim Milford and I are really looking forward to working with the First Team squad and the senior ladies in 2016. We've got a firm foundation for some real progress and results ahead.

A quote from Martina Navratilova (in relation to a senior playing against a junior) "just remember, the ball doesn't know how old you are".

I'm delighted to be appointed to the role as County Training Officer and am very much looking forward to working with our Kent players. We have a wealth of talent; young and not so young. The secret is to support each other, with an absolute commitment to constant progression and development, always with an eye on the future. We shouldn't measure ourselves simply on the squad that we can produce in any one year, we need to cultivate future teams. Junior golf is something I feel utterly passionate about, so I'll be working with our elite girls too. I've played since I was four, and County has been a massive part of my experience. I'm pleased that I can do something to give back.

Although my role of CTO is only just beginning I've had a taster of things organising the seniors this year. We introduced some training sessions for single figure seniors for the first time ever and they really paid off. Our senior squads fought hard against much lower handicap opponents and I am confident that future training will support and encourage them to just get better and better. The aim is to expand the training to sessions for 10-15 handicaps. Maybe there are a few 50+ ladies out there who still aspire to single figures. I think there are and as senior organiser I would love to help that happen for them. If clubs could send me a list of their 10-15 handicap seniors I would be very grateful.

In short, I just want to get stuck in. I'm liaising with the county coaches to put together a schedule and over the Christmas holidays we can start the ball rolling. I've played alongside many of the girls and I know them both as players and as individuals, and they're good kids. If I can help them even in a small way to achieve their goals then I will be satisfied I've carried out my job properly and in doing that we'll get a top quality squad and without a doubt we'll win some stuff along the way."

Competition Report – Mandy Mole

"President Elaine, Vice Presidents, Captains and members, I am pleased to report on Competitions for 2015.

As in previous years, the season has been busy and although the number of competitors have sometimes been less than in previous years, it has been very encouraging that the number of clubs taking part have increased. We always try to vary the clubs and locations, thus giving all clubs an opportunity to take part in a competition which is 'local' to them. As always, we are indebted 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 also extremely grateful to the clubs and their Manager/Secretaries for allowing us to use their courses as a venue. Without their support and special rates we would be unable to offer these events to the County.

The Championship was the first event of the year and kindly hosted by Rochester & Cobham Golf Club. Ingrid has already mentioned all the winners and there is a detailed account in the Reports Booklet. However, my congratulations go to Sharna Dutrieux, County Champion and Mira Lee, Senior Champion. I must offer my personal thanks to Sue Siddle, Lady Captain and her helpers who gave the County tremendous support over the three days.

The Finals days were once again combined, the Holland Trophy, Three Feathers and Lohan Trophy being held for the first time at Gillingham Golf Club on a damp and dull day - although it did not deter a large number of supporters from cheering on their finalists. The course proved tricky to those who were not familiar with it and provided the spectators with some exciting play.

The Holland Trophy was fiercely contested and golf at its best was displayed by both teams. Tita McCart and Janet Ball of Sundridge Park were the eventual worthy winners.

After some hard fought battles, The Three Feathers Gold was won by Helen Lejot of Wrotham Heath. Silver, Judith Houghton of Sidcup and Bronze, Fran Chatham of Nizels.

The Lohan Trophy was a tight match, going down the 19th and Sharna Dutrieux and Heather Bennett of Wrotham Heath finally closed the match.

The Tappin Trophy and Coombe Cup finals were held at Wildernesse Golf Club. In contrast, the day was sunny and warm congratulations go to the team from Canterbury, Andra Barney and Joy Flynn who claimed victory for the Coombe Cup. The Canterbury team were over the moon as this was the first time their Club had won this competition. The Tappin Trophy was won by Julie Harris, Kim Wellman and Molly Ball from West Malling and this was also a 'first' as they also had not been victorious in this competition before.

Thank you again to Gillingham and Wildernesse Golf Clubs for allowing us courtesy of their courses for these competitions.

A full list of the results for all the competitions can be found in the Results Booklet and on the website. At this point I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to Sue Barnes and Tita McCart for their extremely hard work which is on-going throughout the year. Without their dedication and commitment the County would not be so well informed about the Association. Thank you also to all the Referees, Cheryl Power, Jane Marr, Peter Long and Mark Ward for giving us their rules expertise and so much of their precious time.

We are introducing two new 'fun' events next year which will replace the Texas Scramble and Betterball. More details will be given at the Delegates Meeting in March but if you can't wait until then, you will be able to find them on the website and poster. Entries have worked well this year with most clubs using the website to download forms although many are still using the Fixture Book. You will also notice that the poster has undergone changes becoming more 'user friendly' and now clearly listing the year's competitions. Unfortunately there has been a change of venue since some documents went to print and the 'Golfing Allsorts' Pairs Competition will now be held at Faversham Golf Club and not Chestfield on 17th June. Different venue same date! Our apologies for this change but it was due to circumstances beyond our control. The change is in the Year Book and will be on the website as well as in your Fixture Books but the Fixtures Poster is incorrect so could I please ask you change it.

Affiliation fees will be increasing next year and the extra income will be used to help maximise opportunities for our junior golfers and help keep our events offered to all the lady golfers in Kent to the same costs as this year.

I must offer my gratitude to a wonderful team. Elaine, Ingrid, Marilyn and members of the Committee who have been amazingly supportive this year - and the Kent calendar of events would not have happened without them.

Finally, my sincere thanks to all of you who have supported us - many 'old' timers who enter in every event, new clubs who have 'dipped their toes in the water' for the first time, and to those of you who hopefully will 'take the plunge' and join us next year! They are really fun days, excellent value and a good way to meet fellow golfers in the county.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our events next year."

Pearson Trophy Report for 2014/15 – Read by Chris Corke on behalf of Juli Fayers, Pearson Trophy Manager.

"The Kent Pearson Trophy was competed for by 46 teams this year.

The four teams through to the finals were: Lamberhurst, Nizels, Sittingbourne and Royal Cinque Ports. The finals were hosted by Faversham GC. It was a glorious sunny day, perfect for a golf final. A well contested first semi-final against Nizels was eventually won by Lamberhurst on the 18th hole of the final match. The second semi-final did not take so long. Sittingbourne won 4 of their first 5 matches, meaning that the last two were called in. A Lamberhurst v. Sittingbourne final. The afternoon matches were played in slightly cooler temperatures. Sittingbourne got off to a cracking start, winning 3 matches very convincingly. The fourth match was going Lamberhurst's way when Sittingbourne won their deciding 4th match. Well done to Sittingbourne, who last won the trophy 20 years ago.

The Inter-County Finals were held at Harpenden GC in Herts. Sittingbourne were up against Moor Park, three times winners of the Pearson Inter County Trophy. After 9 holes Sittingbourne were holding on well. 2 matches up, 1 all square and 4 matches down. But, still a lot of golf to play. The Sittingbourne ladies fought well, holding the opposition and pulling back in some matches. Kent won two matches and were 2-3 down before finally losing the fourth match. The afternoon final was between Herts and Surrey, who had only just pipped Middlesex in the other semi-final. The Pearson Trophy could have gone to either county. Eventually being won by Surrey after some extremely good competitive matches.

Our thanks to Faversham GC for hosting the Kent finals.

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

Chris asked for the semi-finalists and finalists to come forward and asked for representatives from Lamberhurst the semi-finalists as well as the winners Sittingbourne to collect their Certificates.

Ingrid Long thanked Chris for reading Juli’s report.

Handicap and England Golf Report – Mrs Marilyn Brown

“I hope you are all aware of the changes to CONGU coming into effect in January. If not please ask your Club Office for any correspondence that has been sent out. There is also an opportunity for Clubs to attend area handicap seminars which will be running. You can register your interest through the England Golf website and you will be informed of the date and venue of the nearest one. I would encourage Clubs to send a representative where possible.

I have received many and varied queries throughout the year, many of which could be resolved with Clubs making sure that those dealing with handicaps have access to the CONGU handbook. However, I accept that it is not the most straightforward and logical publication, but I understand that the 2016 edition will be more user friendly.

The Course Ratings teams have been carrying out the re-rating of Kent courses. Compared with the rest of the Country the Kent teams have led the way with a third of all courses now done. This is a lengthy process and the hope is that all our courses will have been done in the next five years.

England Golf

I have very little to add to the report in the booklet as voting on the Governance Review takes place at the Voting Members Meeting at the beginning of December. Some of the proposals are to enable continuous improvement to England Golf since the merger of EWGA and EGU. Some proposals have been withdrawn by the Board including EG centrally collecting affiliation fees from Clubs and the creation of a central database of golfers via the affiliation process.

Clubs were recently invited to attend a meeting to have their say on the proposals in the Governance Review, some of which affect the County Organisations and Clubs. Sadly, Kent do not seem interested in the workings of the Governing Body and not one club from the County attended. The County Development Officer and myself were the only attendees from Kent.

Talks are ongoing between the LGU and the R&A with a view to a possible merger and by December it is envisaged that significant progress will have been made. The £2.50 levy paid by ladies has long been a contentious issue.”

Ingrid thanked the Officers, Committee Members and all Competition Organisers for the time they give to the Association and for their reports (as well as those detailed in the AGM Report Booklet 2015 placed on each attendee’s chair).

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

- The Wildernesse Club for the Tappin Trophy and Coombe Cup Finals,
- West Kent for the Bradley Cook and Parallel Plate Finals,
- Faversham for the Kent Pearson Finals,
- Princes for the Captain’s Cup Final,
- Knole Park for the Winter Fourball Final,
- Rochester & Cobham for the Championship
- Gillingham for the Lohan Trophy Final, the Three Feathers and Holland Trophy Finals.

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

President Elaine continued by saying

"It is a very great pleasure to present this beautiful glass Horse - our Kent emblem. This is not a trophy or cup for winning a golf competition. It is an award presented to the County by my predecessor, Audrey Disbury. It is given in recognition of the care, diligence, effort and work carried out by one member of the KCLGA Officers and Committee.

This year I would like to present the award to one of our officers whose job on Committee is a big one. Everything she does is done with quiet efficiency, wonderful organisational skills and always with a cheery welcoming smile for everyone. This year however, she has carried on working very hard for us all whilst having to deal with a serious medical problem. I'm very happy to say that those problems are now behind her and all is well.

Mandy Mole, Kent Competitions Secretary - this award is for you."

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

"I'm totally overwhelmed and speechless, which is fairly unusual for me. I have got to say, I am absolutely over the moon, I could never win a prize for my golf, but this is just the best. Thank you so much. Thank you to all of the Committee as you deserve it as well and thank you to all of you ladies, because if you didn't play, I wouldn't have a job".

15 **Any Other Business:**

Ingrid Long:

- a) Captain and Delegates meeting at Bearsted Golf Club on Thursday 3rd March 2016, Bearsted Golf Club at 10.30am.
- b) England Golf AGM – Thursday 14th April 2016. (NB: The AGM will be attended by Marilyn Brown as the County Representative to England Golf).
- c) Delegates Golf Day – Friday 3rd June 2016, Ashford Golf Club. This popular event will be extended to include Lady Captain's, Vice Captain's as well as Club Delegates.

Before we go on to questions from the floor – I am happy to say, that today, we have two Vice Presidents here who are celebrating their birthdays – so could we say a big happy birthday to both Sue Coombe and Sylvia Barnshaw. (NB: Applause from the floor).

Ingrid 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.

- d) Hazel Bristow (Ashford) – I noticed that the Affiliation Fee is going up and I wanted to know by how much? (Ingrid Long/Sarah Brooks - 70 pence) why, if we have all of this money?

Ingrid Long responded - it was twofold. As mentioned, we are discussing a possible merger with the men. One of the points that came up during the merger discussion meetings was - that the men and the ladies would have to pay a uniform Affiliation Fee – we could not pay less than the men and the men could not reduce theirs. The men are proposing to raise theirs by £1.00 for 2016. Rather than to put up ours by (say) £1.50 in one go in a few years time, we felt smaller increments from now would be more acceptable. We would of course make sure that all Affiliation Fees would be used wisely.

Sarah Brooks added, that in the coming years given the merger discussions between the LGU and R&A there is a high probability that the £2.50 LGU levy will cease and thus with small increases along the way, in the longer term lady members will be not be paying any more in terms of Affiliation Fees/Levies and will actually see more benefit for these sums paid. In fact, if (and that is if) the merger with the men does go ahead, one of the items being discussed is with one 'uniform' county affiliation fee, ladies be entitled to the same county card rights as the men. The men pay an additional £10.00 for their county card and have reduced green fees across the entire country, whilst the ladies currently pay just £3.00 and have playing rights across a mere few counties in the south of the country.

- e) Gill Poulter (Sundridge Park) spoke of the SLCKGC 'Incoming Captain's Meetings' – two of which to be held in the coming weeks at Canterbury (19th November 2015) and Redlibbets (26th November 2015) – and urged more incoming Captain's to come along and meet each other and also learn a bit more about the Society.
- f) Margot Pronger (Sheerness) also spoke of the SLCKGC. Both she and Gill Poulter advised that the Society and its meetings needed more support and with the new incoming Captain, Pat Whitty, it was hoped that the Society would achieve more focus with a complete re-vamp of their website. Details of this and other items/events will be discussed at the SLCKGC AGM in March.

NB: Sarah Brooks added that many in the County think I am the Secretary of the Society and I always refer such ladies to the link from the KCLGA website to the SLKCGC website. It would help greatly if I too were kept informed of changes in the Society Committee, in particular the Secretary and Captain.

Anne Billings offered words of thanks to retiring Captain Ingrid Long

"It is with great pleasure I have been given the job of thanking Ingrid for all her hard work over the last two years as County Captain. I have really enjoyed working with Ingrid.

She has given 100% to the county, her work ethic and her attention to detail has been faultless. She has organised and supported the elite players and juniors in all their team events and training, her organisation of county week for the Kent team at Worthing last June was amazing and will be a hard act to follow. She has supported many club players in all the various county competitions, playing in senior and 2nd team matches for the county as well as her club Sundridge Park. She also entered many of the county events.

She has run the committee in a very calm and efficient manner, supporting everyone in the various tasks. With a small sub committee, Ingrid has begun cautious negotiations with the men on a future merger.

I look forward to Ingrid becoming my Vice Captain in the coming year as her experience and knowledge will be invaluable to me but I also hope it will give her more time with her family, especially her grandchildren. We promise we will all try not to take up so much of your time next year.

Ingrid - thank you, please except this gift as a big thank you from us all."

Anne presented Ingrid with a wrapped gift and bouquet of flowers as well as the Vice Captain badge.

16 **Date of Next Meeting:**

Date of the next meeting Thursday 10th November 2016, at Ditton Community Centre.

There being no more business, Ingrid declared the meeting closed at 11.16am.

Sarah Miller, Vice President, thanked Ingrid Long, County Captain, on behalf of all the members for chairing the meeting and praised the commitment of the County Officers and Committee.

Signed

Date