

KENT COUNTY LADIES' GOLF ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
13th November 2014

Present:	The President	Miss Audrey Disbury
	Vice President	Mrs Sarah Miller
	Vice President	Mrs Sue Coombe
	Vice President	Mrs Hazel Bristow
	Vice President	Mrs Elaine Tappin
	Vice President	Mrs Dorothy Featherstone
	Captain	Mrs Ingrid Long
	Vice Captain	Mrs Chris Daniels
	Hon Treasurer	Mrs Nicki McGee
	Hon. Secretary	Mrs Sarah Brooks
	Competition Secretary	Mrs Mandy Mole

Committee: Mrs Marilyn Brown, Mrs Diana Reese, Miss Beverley Drake, Mrs Kathie Maberley,
Mrs Sue Barnes, Mrs Pat Whitty, Mrs Elaine Lopategui, Mrs Julie Flanders

There were 132 members in attendance.

1 Apologies:

Apologies for absence had been received from 5 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 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. There were no Matters Arising.

3 Ingrid Long asked the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs Nicki McGee, to present the accounts for the year ended 31st July, 2014:

"Madam President, Captain, Ladies. You will all have seen a copy of the KCLGA accounts for the year ending July 2014, either online or you will have a print out with you.

Net income for the year totals £49,514.00.

Whilst the net income appears to be up by some £10,000 last year this was due to the monies raised by the members and was used to send the 1st team to National Finals in September.

Expenditure for this year has risen to £42,210.00.

The main expenses being of course the National finals, but also Junior training and the 2nd team.

This year the 2nd team had to travel long distances that involved 2 overnights stays for the team of 8. Whilst we can control the venues of the 2 home matches, we have no say as to where the away ones are held.

The website has also cost us more but I'm sure will agree that it has been well worth it.

We aim to maintain affiliation fees, individual entry fees and team entry fees for KCLGA events throughout the coming year; and as our finances are in a healthy position, we will try to ensure that we have good prize tables for the events held

for our members.

The cost of the County Card is also staying the same and for all of you who have seen our website, you will see that this extends for 15 months, rather than the usual 12 months.

The competition account has a balance of £3,793.00.

The junior account balance is £4,084.00. The account shows a deficit of £1,101.00, this is mainly due to new kit being purchased for the junior squad.

And finally I would like to thank Shell Foster for preparing the Accounts.

Are there any questions?"

Jenny Brown (Nizels) stated that whilst she herself had prepared these Accounts for Year End 2014, she would like clarification on what the item of £2,144. 00 was relating to Junior Training as detailed on them.

Ingrid responded to this question by stating the Junior girls had this year been training with the Junior boys at very little expense to ourselves (KGU/KGP had been providing the training). Following on from this training, a small group of Junior girls had been invited to Warm Weather training with the Junior Boys in the Spring and whilst the girls had contributed to the cost of this training trip, there had been some confusion and after the event, a bill was received by KCLGA for their portion of the costs, the same portion that had been borne by the KGU for their Junior boys. The Committee discussed the matter in great depth and accepted that despite the confusion the amount had to be paid. Both the KGU and KCLGA have decided that there will not be such training in 2015. There are however many positives to be taken from this training session – it should be noted that the girls who attended have benefitted greatly, that can clearly be seen by their play this year and notable performances by Mollie Lawrence (Rochester & Cobham) who has represented England in many international matches as well as Ainee O'Connor (Sundridge Park) who has had many significant wins and top leader board finishes.

Ingrid finished by thanking Nicki for her report as well as adding her thanks to past Treasurer Jenny Brown in 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, Sue Batchelor, Rochester & Cobham proposed and Alison Kingston, Canterbury, seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously.

4 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 Audrey Disbury and carried unanimously.

5 The Captain's Report: - Ingrid Long

"Madam President, Vice Presidents, Ladies.

I can't believe that a whole year has gone past since I took over as Captain and with all the lovely weather we have had, there has been lots of golf going on around the County.

The year began with our usual training sessions and practice matches against the men of North Foreland and Littlestone, the Colts and the Essex Ladies all of which are invaluable in helping get our County team match fit for the season. The first major event of the year was of course our County Championship which was held at my home club of Sundridge Park. The competition was as fiercely contended as usual, with some great golf played over the 3 days. Mandy, running

her 1st championship, worked like a Trojan (a mere 17 hour day on the Tuesday) but with willing helpers from the committee, things went smoothly and the 3rd day saw Marnie Barber from North Foreland becoming our County Champion. Kim Morris from Sundridge Park was runner up whilst the 2nd Flight saw Sandy Catford (Chart Hills) beat Sharna Dutrieux (Wrotham Heath). Sundridge Park took the Team Shield and Abbie Evans (Faversham) the Consolation plate.

In the Senior Championship, Mira Lee(Knole Park) beat Andrea Ottermeyer (Littlestone) to win the newly introduced 2nd Flight (on 20th Hole) whilst I was delighted and very proud to win the Senior title on my home course and whilst I was Captain against Gina Philips of Nizels.

Many thanks to Sundridge Park for hosting the event.

We went to County Week at Muswell Hill in June with high hopes after last year's success but the competition was even stiffer this year. With some of our squad members involved in both GCSE and A level exams, not all of them were available for some or any of week but the team of 10 certainly pulled together and gave their all. The weather was glorious, team spirit was high and with 9 of our 10 players aged between 13 and 22, some valuable experience was gained. Every single player contributed with points on the board, including all 4 rookies and with our youngest player just 13 years old, we hope that we have a squad that will grow in strength over the next few years. We finished a very credible 3rd with good wins against Middlesex and Sussex but a very strong Hampshire side went on to win not only the regional title but the national one in September too.

Our 2nd team battled hard this year, earning a very well deserved half against Surrey and a great win away from home against Middlesex. However, strong sides from Hampshire and Sussex defeated us and we lost 3rd place to Surrey on countback. You will find full match reports in the Report Booklet. These matches provide excellent experience for our up and coming youngsters and some great competitive golf for our more experienced single figure golfers. It's good to see the pride with which many ladies play for the county and I'm pleased to be able to present one of our regular 2nd team players with her County Colours – Laura Cork from Cherry Lodge – would you like to come up.

Our Juniors have once again had a good year under Amanda and Marilyn. Just 48 hours before Junior County Week started, both our Junior Captain and Vice Captain were offered places in the British Girls alongside Mollie Lawrence which meant we lost our 3 lowest handicapped players. However, again with great spirit, the girls fought long and hard and it came down to the wire. On the last afternoon, we were still in a position to win the title but needed to win the last 3 matches still on the course. All 3 went to the last putt on the 18th but unfortunately the result did not go our way and Surrey took the title.

The Juniors have had some notable individual successes with both Cloe Frankish (Chart Hills) and Mollie Lawrence (Rochester & Cobham) representing England in the Scottish U16 Championship and Mollie in the U16 Irish and in matches against Switzerland and Spain.

Mollie was also 4th in the Henry Cooper, 5th in the Astor & Bridget Jackson trophies, 7th at Liphook and 18th in the English Girls. A great year Mollie. At this point, I'm delighted to be able to present Mollie with her 1st team colours for winning 3 points this year, to add to her 3½ points last year.

Ainee O'Connor (Sundridge Park) has also had a good year, dropping her handicap to 2, becoming our Junior Champion, South Region Girls Champion and earning herself a trip to West Virginia by winning the Faldo series event at Hollinwell. She had a week in America, spending time with Nick Faldo and Fanny Sunesson – a great experience for her. Just to show that it's not just golf she is good at, she also gained 13 GSCEs at A & A*

As mentioned previously, Nicole Amos (Faversham) has also had another outstanding year with her 1st team debut, dropping her handicap to 5 and finishing 10th in the Scottish U14. Not bad at the tender age of just 13!

Three of our girls have gone off to study in the States - Emily Royer (Chart Hills), Sophie Barger (Sundridge Park) and Holly Standing (Ashford). I'm sure you will join me in wishing them well with their studies.

Lacey Clark (West Kent) also deserves a mention as she was presented with a Young Volunteer of the Year Award by England Golf, going into schools, colleges and to taster events to help people get into golf.

Once again the Seniors were not to be outdone. Tita McCart (Sundridge Park), as well as spending lots of her time setting up and updating our new website, repeated her wins by taking both the Dutch Senior Matchplay and Strokeplay titles. However, the highlight of this year has to be our Senior team taking the Ten Counties Senior Championship title at Littlestone in September. Our team Captain and President, Dis, did a fantastic job organising the event, even down to the flowers which had the colours of all 10 counties participating in the event in them. The team, Gerry Bray from Littlestone and Kim Morris, Tita McCart and myself, all from Sundridge Park were not only delighted to win this for our county, but even more so for Dis – a just reward for being such a great and inspiring President.

Our clubs have been very busy this year, with all the Kent Club competitions being fiercely contested. All the results are in the Booklets and 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.

Congratulations must also go to Sidcup for winning the Four Counties Pearson Trophy at Muswell Hill, we certainly enjoyed being there to support you – but you will hear more about that later from Juli Fayers.

Many people still feel that County golf is just about elite golf, but it isn't. Alongside our 1st, 2nd and Senior teams, we have 3 club competitions, the 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. But more importantly we hold 7 members meetings every year. 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, yet for several of our events, numbers have been a little on the low side.

I would now like to enlist the help of everyone here today. Whether you are a Lady Captain, one of our hardworking delegates or just a member interested in County golf, could I ask you to go back to your clubs and encourage just 1 lady, 1 pair or 1 team to enter some events that we run next year – with 91 clubs affiliated to the county, just one entry from each club would mean that our meetings would thrive. We have a hard core of entrants who enter several events every year – and it's always great to see our regulars, but we would love to see some new faces.

I would like to finish with a few thank yous.

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

To Mandy, you have done a great job in your 1st year as Competition Secretary, I am sure you will be able to do it all next year in your sleep. (Ingrid presented Mandy with flowers).

To Sarah, always at the end of a text or an email and great for a laugh when we get together – couldn't do without your organisational skills. (Ingrid presented Sarah with flowers).

To Chris, my trusty Vice – thanks for the last 4 years of hard work and wise counsel this year, go and enjoy your family more, especially the new arrival due in the new year. (Ingrid presented Chris with flowers).

I have to thank Dis for being such a fantastic President over the last 3 years. She has been alongside Chris and I every step of the way on our Kent journey and always comes out with very wise words whenever consulted. The players in all the teams love and respect her, whatever the age difference. Always ready to have a laugh and a joke and the odd glass of wine, you will be sorely missed. Please accept this gift from your Committee and think of us all every time you look at it.

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."

6 Election of County President:

Ingrid confirmed the election of President, Mrs Elaine Tappin, proposed by Miss Ausdrey Disbury and seconded by herself. Dis spoke in support of her nomination:

"It gives me great pleasure in proposing Elaine Tappin as the next President of our Association. She has been a valued friend and colleague over many years and I am sure that many of you here today have either played golf, bridge or seen Elaine at various functions throughout the County.

Elaine first joined the Kent Committee in 1989 and after only 2 years became County Secretary. Whilst she held the post for 5 years I was lucky enough to be County Captain whilst she was Secretary and I always marvelled at her expertise and efficiency.

After a break of 5 years Elaine was asked to be County Vice Captain and this in turn led to a very successful rein as Captain by leading Kent to success at the English County Championship Final at Hendon in 2003, made even sweeter as the last time Kent were successful was in 1971-72.

Though semi retiring in 2004 she still had time to become West Kent's Lady President.

Her valuable contribution to the County was duly recognised in 2012 when she was elected as a Vice President. So I hope you will all agree that with these impeccable credentials she certainly deserves to be your next Lady President.

Elaine, I wish you well."

Ingrid also spoke in support of her nomination: "It gives me great pleasure to second the proposal, Dis has said it all, we are really pleased to have Elaine on board."

Dis presented Elaine with her President's badge.

Elaine Tappin responded by saying:

"Past Lady President, Lady Captain, Ladies

I am truly delighted to accept the office of Lady President of the Kent County Ladies Golf Association.

I shall be following Audrey who has been your Lady President for three years and to follow in her footsteps is a daunting task, I hope that she will be there for me to call upon. I hope that during my three years of Presidency I will see a lot of old friends and make a lot of new ones.

I am immensely honoured to become your President and thank you all most sincerely for giving me this opportunity."

7 Election of Vice Captain:

Ingrid confirmed the election of Vice Captain, Mrs Anne Billings, The Wildernesse Club, proposed by herself and seconded by Mrs Chris Daniels.

Ingrid spoke in support of her nomination:

"It gives me great pleasure to propose Mrs Anne Billings as our new Vice Captain. Anne started her golf up in Yorkshire at the tender age of 8 but moved to Kent in 1977 so I think she can probably call herself a Kentish girl now. She joined Sevenoaks hockey club, where coincidentally I was also briefly a member - so we probably met a lot sooner than we were both aware of, it's certainly a small world.

She has been an active member of Wildernesse for 30 years and after marrying her husband, Stephen, helped set up the Ladies section when Stephen opened Redlibbets in 1997. She has been Ladies Captain at both Redlibbets and Wildernesse and so comes to this position with a wealth of experience and knowledge.

Her daughter, Alice, is at University whilst her son, Sam, is a professional cricketer so she has a good understanding of the pressures on parents when supporting a talented child in sport – again, a great experience that she can bring to this job. She is chairman of KHoCA, a charity supporting mentally disabled people in Kent and enjoys gardening, cooking and watching cricket. I'm sorry Anne but you may have to get a gardener and teach Stephen how to cook but sure we can give you some time off to go and watch your son play cricket!

I'm looking forward to working with you as I'm sure the committee are too, so welcome on board."

Chris also spoke in support of her nomination:

"I have no hesitation and am delighted to second Mrs Anne Billings for Vice Captain.

I first met Anne 10 years ago when serving on the KCLGA committee and rather interestingly that must have been a "good year" since Anne is the 5th person to become County Captain following Corinne, Marilyn, Ingrid and myself.

Anne's personality, golfing ability, organisation and interpersonal skills will certainly stand her in good stead and I wish you good luck and enjoyment."

Anne Billings responded by saying:

"Madam President, Lady Captain. Lady Vice Presidents, Ladies – I am very honoured to be here today as your new Vice-Captain and would like to thank Ingrid and Chris for the nomination and would also like to thank my fellow members of Wildernesse and Redlibbets for all their support.

As Ingrid has mentioned I have lived now in Kent for over 37 years, married a Kentish man, so I feel I can now consider myself a Kentish girl. I believe in traditional values and standards but also know we must also move forward. I am looking forward to working with Ingrid and the Committee, supporting them in every way I can and doing my best for the county.

Thank you."

Ingrid presented Anne with her Vice Captain's badge.

8 Election of Honorary Treasurer:

Mrs Nicki McGee, Weald of Kent proposed by Mrs Sarah Brooks, The Wildernesse Club and seconded by Mrs Mandy Mole, Littlestone.

Having been co-opted as Treasurer by the Officers in October 2014, Nicki McGee was formally nominated.

Sarah spoke in support of her nomination: "Following on from the Officers co-opting Nicki McGee as Treasurer back in October, I am pleased to now formally propose her. With a strong banking background having worked for the Royal Bank of Scotland for 13 years and experience as both the Ladies Secretary and Ladies Treasurer at her home Club, Weald of Kent, where she is now Lady Vice Captain, Nicki is also a very strong golfer having started her golfing career at the age of 13 at Newquay Golf Club. Nicki has represented both the County of Cornwall, South West Juniors and has this year played in the Second Team for Kent. I have no hesitation in proposing Nicki for this role."

Mandy also spoke in support of her nomination: "I have no hesitation in seconding Nicki as Treasurer."

9-11 Election of Officers:

Competition Secretary, Mrs Mandy Mole, Littlestone proposed by Mrs Elaine Lopategui and seconded by Mrs Kathie Maberley.

Honorary Secretary Mrs Sarah Brooks, Wildernesse proposed by Mrs Diana Reese and seconded by Mrs Marilyn Brown.

County Junior Organiser, Mrs Amanda Spooner, Sundridge Park proposed by Mrs Pat Whitty, and seconded by Mrs Sue Barnes.

Ingrid asked for a show of hands to approve the elections (items 9 – 11) 'en bloc' and all were approved and carried unanimously.

- 12 Ingrid announced the election of the new committee members; Under Rule 2 of the Association the following ladies retire - Mrs Lorraine Knight and Miss Beverley Drake.

NB: A third vacancy exists due to Mrs Mandy Mole moving into the role as Competition Secretary in 2013.

Nominations had been received for:

Miss Felicity Dunderdale, Tudor Park, proposed by Mrs Sam Watson and seconded by Mrs Judith Dent, both Tudor Park.

Mrs Karen Pickering, Ashford, proposed by Mrs Jenny Spedding, and seconded by Miss Audrey Disbury, both Ashford.

Mrs Margaret Jeffs, Redlibbets, proposed by Mrs Ray Grint, Redlibbets and seconded by Mrs Ingrid Long, Sundridge Park.

Mrs Julie Flanders, Nizels, proposed by Mrs Nikki Bell, and seconded by Miss Beverley Drake, Shortlands.

Mrs Flanders was co-opted since the last AGM and is now formally nominated.

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.

Ingrid went on to give a vote of thanks to the retiring Committee Members.

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

Competition Report – Mandy Mole

"President Dis, Vice Presidents, Captains and Members, I am pleased to report on Competitions for 2014.

With the season underway by April, this was a somewhat daunting position and certainly 'a baptism of fire'. However, I have been humbled by the tremendous support I have received from the clubs who have hosted our events. The Lady Captains have offered so much help, whether it was flowers for the Prize Table, Starters or just making sure we were fed and watered and generally looked after in the best possible way. I must also give my thanks to all those who have played in our events. Numbers have generally been disappointing but as always there has been a core of clubs who always support us for which we are very grateful and repeating Ingrid's words, there are so many more of you that we would love to see.

The Championship kicked off events for 2014 and was held at Sundridge Park. Ingrid has mentioned all the worthy winners from a very successful three days.

The Finals of the Milstede, Lohan, Holland and Three Feathers were organised to be played at Rochester & Cobham but due to the playing success of Bassey Dunbar and Megan Simmons from Sundridge Park, the Milstede and Lohan had to be played on different days. The Holland and Three Feathers went ahead as planned and the day was enjoyed by 35 players, caddies and supporters. Congratulations to Mira Lee and Rosemary White from Knole Park who won the Holland Trophy. The Three Feathers, always a popular event was won by Bassey Dunbar of Sundridge Park in the Gold, Christine Frost in the Silver and Julia Pye in the Bronze who played a marathon taking the match on the 21st hole! The Lohan Trophy played at a later date was won by Bassey Dunbar and Megan Simmons from Sundridge Park.

The Tappin and Coombe Cup finals were held at Langley Park. The weather was beautiful and the sun shone on Sheila Pitt and Dora West from Shortlands in the Coombe Cup and Nizels in the Tappin who were worthy winners. The Bradley Cook competition was run under a new format this year and as with all changes there are always the 'positives' and 'negatives'. It was generally felt that the changes offered a more inclusive competition to a larger number of clubs and it will therefore continue on this basis next year. With the final taking place at Ashford, the Bradley Cook Trophy was a maiden victory for Nizels and the Plate won by Chart Hills.

After battling through the 30,000 ladies who entered the 61st Peugeot Coronation Foursomes, the Redlibbets pair of Tina Earley and Elaine Coomber won the regional final at Kings Hill going on to compete with the other 15 regional winners in the Grand Final played at St. Andrews on the 22nd September, and missing out on winning the whole event on countback. Also, Gerry Bray and Freda Cardwell from Littlestone qualified in the top three out of 15,000 entries for the Grand Final of the Ping 4BBB with an incredible 46 points which was played at Gainsborough on 9th September. My congratulations go to both pairs for producing such an excellent display of golf.

Although there will be a few minor changes next year which will be mentioned at the Captain & Delegates Meeting in February, I would like to draw your attention to the change in date of your Club's entry for the Champion of Champions from the 31st January to the 31st March. Although the entry is later, your entry must still be for the 2014 Club Champion. This is in the 2015 Year Book and will also be on the website.

The full results of all competitions are documented in the Results Booklet and on the website and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sue Barnes and Tita McCart for all their hard work for keeping the County up to date with all the competitions information. Thank you also to all the referees President Dis, Captain Ingrid, Vice Captain Chris, Marilyn Brown, Secretary Sarah from the Committee and Cheryl Power, Jane Marr and Peter Long.

I must offer my sincere gratitude to Dis, Ingrid, Marilyn and the committee for their help in running the competitions and Sarah for her support and her inspirational ideas for prizes and sending out requests for entries. And finally thank you to you the ladies of Kent and your clubs for supporting us this year."

Pearson Trophy Report for 2013/14 – 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: Etchinghill, Hever castle, Nizels and Sidcup. The finals were hosted by Royal Cinque Ports. The morning may have been dull and damp, but not the golf! Hever Castle beat Etchinghill and Sidcup beat Nizels in the semi finals in the morning setting up an interesting final for the afternoon. Sidcup went up 3/1 leaving Hever Castle with lots to do, which they did, fighting back to 3/3. The result was decided on the 19th hole with the win going to Sidcup. Well done to them on their 1st Kent Pearson Trophy win. Our thanks to Royal Cinque Ports for hosting the Kent finals.

The Inter-County Finals were held at Muswell Hill in Middlesex which had hosted County week the month before. Sidcup made every effort to be prepared, playing a third practice round the afternoon before the final. The first semi final was Kent against Hampstead in Middlesex, another 9 hole course. Sidcup had a comfortable 4/2 win before being called in. Herts beat Surrey in the 2nd semi-final. Setting up a Kent/Herts afternoon final. Herts put up a valiant fight but were unable to defeat a strong Kent club in Sidcup, another 4/2 win. Well done to Sidcup for their great efforts and team spirit and also for bringing the trophy back to Kent.

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

Juli asked for all finalists to come forward and asked for representatives from Etchinghill, Nizels, Hever Castle as well as the winners Sidcup to collect their Certificates.

Ingrid Long thanked Juli Fayers for her report.

Ingrid took this opportunity to thank the recently retired Pearson Trophy Manager Chris Corke for eight years in her role for Kent with seven of those years on the Committee and presented Chris with a gift on behalf of the Committee and the ladies of Kent.

Handicap and England Golf Report – Mrs Marilyn Brown

“Madam President, Vice Presidents, Captain, Ladies.

There is little further to add to my report which appears in the Reports Booklet. There is an England Golf meeting next week which I will be attending. The AGM has moved from February to April as a result of the change in accounting year. Streamlining of committees within England Golf, as reported last year, has resulted in these coming in either on or under budget. A Regional meeting for Unions and Associations was held recently to further discuss the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

Handicaps

At its meeting in 2 weeks time the Handicap and Course Rating committee will decide if the Review of CONGU UHS and new Manual will be delayed until 2017 rather than brought in in 2016.

A handicap survey has been prepared and will be sent to Clubs shortly to enable feedback to be given to CONGU. There is also a possibility that the regional workshops held a few years ago will be reinstated.

Handicap queries should be addressed to the County Handicap Advisor or through the CDH handicapping enquiry tool. Queries regarding CDH should go via CDH and Course Rating direct to England Golf. Ladies' sections should ensure that a copy of the CONGU manual is available to them to assist in the running of their members' handicaps.

The year date is to be adjusted again to 1st January.

I have received a steady stream of enquiries on handicaps throughout the year and if there are any today I will be happy to try and answer any queries at the end of this meeting.

Course rating is continuing in the County with two mixed teams carrying out this work.”

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 2014 placed on each attendee's chair).

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

- Langley Park for the Tappin Trophy and Coombe Cup Finals,
- Ashford for the Bradley Cook and Parallel Plate Finals,
- Royal Cinque Ports for the Kent Pearson Finals,
- Kings Hill for the Captain's Cup Final,
- The Wildernesse Club for the Winter Fourball Final,
- Sundridge Park for the Championship and Lohan Trophy Final,
- Mid Kent for the Milstede Trophy Final,
- Rochester & Cobham for the Three Feathers and Holland Trophy Finals.

Ingrid took this opportunity to present the Bradley Cook Parallel Plate Salver to Chart Hills (explaining that it was not available to be presented at the actual finals held in October). Ingrid then handed over to President Dis in order that she may make a presentation.

President Dis continued by saying "Everyone here today must be fully aware of the number of Kent Trophies awarded each year for excellence on the field of play, but there are many unsung heroines behind the scenes on your Committee, whose hard work and dedication largely goes unrecognised. To offset this, the President's Prize is awarded each year to the Committee member who, in the President's opinion has performed her duties above and beyond her remit. This year my choice is someone who has just completed ten years in this particular competition, including two years as deputy. During that time, she has steered two of our Kent teams to success in the Inter County Championships – West Malling in 2012 and Sidcup this year. The competition I am referring to is of course, the Pearson Trophy which I am sure you are all aware takes a great deal of organisation, considerable dedication and patience, which this recipient fulfils to the letter and so I have great pleasure in asking Chris Corke to come forward please. Many congratulations Chris."

Dis presented Chris with the President's Prize Trophy and Chris offered her thanks to Dis, the Committee and ladies.

14 Vice President:

It was proposed by Mrs Ingrid Long and seconded by Mrs Sarah Brooks that Miss Audrey Disbury, Ashford be made Vice President.

Ingrid spoke for her proposal:

"Dis, as I'm sure you all know, is sport personified. She played cricket at County and National level, playing for the England team for 15 years between 1957 and 1972. A right hand batsman and right arm off break bowler, in her first test match she bowled 25 overs for just 48 runs and was not out batting whilst in her last, she opened the batting and scored her highest score of 47 to help win the match and the series against the Kiwis (isn't it amazing what you can find out on the internet!) Dis then went on to be Chairman of selectors for England, Chairman of Kent, Manager of the England World Cup and Captain of Senior England. A fantastic career.

Having turned her cricketing swing into a golfing one (and like most cricket and hockey players, she has never been troubled by an overswing!) she again excelled, both at playing and organising. She has been Ladies Captain and delegate for Ashford and CTO, Captain and now President for us here in Kent. Always competitive (but definitely in the best way), capable and very supportive, she, along with our other Vice President's, will make a great ambassador for golf in Kent. All this aside, she's also a really nice person. She's given so much of her time and with such enthusiasm that I have enjoyed getting to know her well over the last 3 years. I hope that by making her Vice President it will enable me to leave her phone number on my speed dial list so that she will still be available to impart her words of wisdom should I need them!"

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

"I believe Ingrid has said it all and I am very pleased and proud to second my friend Dis as a Vice President. Everything Dis has done for the County and the game through the years has been done with care and passion and has been truly outstanding".

Ingrid Long asked for a show of hands for this proposal. All were in favour and the proposal was carried unanimously.

Dis responded by saying,

"I am extremely honoured and thank you for your kind words.

I would like to take this opportunity to say that you have a dedicated hard working committee which I was lucky enough to be a part of. It has been a priveledge to work with you all. As always the lead comes from the top and for this I would like to thank Ingrid who has always led by example. Finally thank you to you all from the Juniors through to the Seniors for all your support throughout my 3 years. It has all been much appreciated. I don't doubt that I will be there hovering in the background next year. Thank you all once again."

15 **Any Other Business:**

Ingrid Long:

- a) Captain and Delegates meeting at Bearsted Golf Club on Thursday 19th February 2015, Bearsted Golf Club at 10.30am.
- b) England Golf AGM – Thursday/Friday 16/17th April 2015. As mentioned by Marilyn Brown earlier, this will be attended by her as the County Representative to England Golf.
- c) Delegates Golf Day – Friday 12th June 2015, Sittingbourne Golf Club. This popular event will be extended to include Lady Captain's, Vice Captain's as well as Club Delegates.

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) Jenny Brown (Nizels) two questions. It is in the public domain that the KGU has voted in favour of a merger with the KCLGA (it is on their website). First question - will Kent ladies, ie the membership, have the opportunity to debate the 'pro's and 'cons' of a merger before the KCLGA engages in formal discussions? Second question - England Golf and County Golf Unions (including the KGU) are facing VAT court business. Are the Committee aware that if a merger took place in the foreseeable future, this may jeopardise the ladies assets and funds? Ingrid responded by saying: Yes, you are right, we have been approached by the KGU. We have had one single half an hour meeting. That is all at this stage and that was purely to find out whether their and our Constitution would allow for a merger if we so wished. That is as far as we have got. England Golf are keen for counties to merge and are running a workshop on 27th November that Sarah and I will attend. We have had no formal discussions. What we think might happen is that we will have some discussions with the men and yes, the final decision will be with you the members. There is no point in us asking you if you want to merge if we do not know what is on the table. We will have full and frank discussions with the men and if at that stage if we have something to offer you and if you think it is in our best interests to go ahead, we will then come to you the members with full information so that you can inwardly digest it, discuss it with your members back to your clubs and then bring it to a vote as to whether you wish us to go ahead with a final consultation to sort out what we would do. There is an out line proposal that the Men are working on which we have not got in full yet. The Men are very 'pro' a merger but the ultimate decision will be with you the members, as to whether the Ladies wish to go ahead. We can assure you that we are not going to push you into doing anything that would be to the detriment of our Ladies. The initial thoughts from the men is that there would be an overall umbrella which would be 'Kent Golf' – but that the Ladies Section and the Men's Section would carry on pretty much as it is with us running our own events, with them running their own events but having an umbrella at Board level that would benefit all of our members. If we have coaching for our elite squads, we can only afford two or three sessions, if we have mixed training, then it might be open for ten or twelve sessions a year. We and the Men use the same coaches and it would give us the scope to actually benefit from a lot more. The final decision will be yours, the members and we are certainly not going to do anything unless we have the go ahead from you. But that is somewhere down the line, we are talking two or three years perhaps before it happens, if it happens – if you want it to happen. As to the VAT issues, again, we are not going to enter anything that might be of detriment to our Ladies. We have not looked into it but we are not going to rush into anything that may not be to our benefit. Ingrid asked if Ladies were happy with what she had said, were there any further questions. All were satisfied, there were no further questions on the subject and Ladies showed their appreciation for the update from her by applauding.
- e) Elaine Lopategui (Sundridge Park) announced that following an idea from Vice President Dorothy Featherstone she was in the process of working on a design and obtaining a sample of a ladies scarf which would detail our KCLGA County Rearing Horse logo and colours. Elaine showed a hard copy sample and asked ladies for feedback on the scarf.

- f) Margaret Hawkins (Woodlands Manor) advised that they were part of a Business Ladies League and if more clubs would like to join the league then they would be welcome. Sarah Brooks asked Margaret to supply her with details of the League so that it may be advertised on the County Website.
- g) Gill Poulter (Sundridge Park) spoke of the SLCKGC 'Incoming Captain's Meetings' – two of which to be held in the coming weeks at Canterbury and Redlibbets – and urged more incoming Captain's to come along and meet each other and also learn a bit more about the Society.
- h) Sarah Brooks asked ladies to continue to keep her informed of any change in the Club Delegate.

16 **Date of Next Meeting:**

Date of the next meeting Thursday 12th November 2015, at Ditton Community Centre.

There being no more business, Ingrid declared the meeting closed at 11.04am.

Hazel Bristow, 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. Hazel also wished everyone a successful golfing year in 2015 and a safe journey home.

Signed

Date