

KENT COUNTY LADIES' GOLF ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
3 March 2017

Present:	The President/Vice President	Mrs Elaine Tappin
	Vice President	Mrs Sarah Miller
	Vice President	Mrs Sylvia Barnshaw
	Vice President	Mrs Marilyn Brown
	Captain	Mrs Anne Billings
	Hon. Secretary	Mrs Sue Barnes
	Competition Secretary	Mrs Mandy Mole
	County Training Officer	Mrs Sandy Catford

Committee: Mrs Marilyn Brown Mrs Tita McCart Mrs Chris Corke
Ms Felicity Dunderdale Mrs Janet Green Mrs Margaret Jeffs
Mrs Lucie Moxham Mrs Karen Pickering Mrs Sue Siddle

There were 85 members in attendance.

1 Apologies:

Apologies for absence had been received from 12 clubs and 12 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 Sue Barnes 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 Captain advised that the Hon. Treasurer Mrs Nicki McGee was unable to attend the AGM and read the Treasurer's report in her absence.

"Madam President Captain and Ladies.

I hope you have all seen a copy of this years' full accounts - please note that these are for 17 months.

Firstly a massive thanks to Shell Foster at Burntoak Bookkeeping for all of her work with the 2 year ends, Shell has decided that this will be her last year end for KCLGA.

Just a few things that I'd like to point out:

On the Income & Expenditure for main account you will see that we have received £3,141.00, this has come through from England Golf and is a 25% share which came via the Kent Golf Union towards our coaching.

You will see that the committee travel and expenses are quite a bit more than previous years, this year our County Training Officer has been super active and travelling all over the country attending seminars, meetings and every training session. All committee members are entitled to claim mileage and any other expense (within reason) relevant to their role.

Please note that on the Income & Expenditure for the juniors account, we have listed a donation of £150.00 from Society of Lady Captains Kent, this is a miss-print and should read £200.00

As we mentioned last year, we are in a strong financial position and we will not be increasing entry fees for our members meetings this year so that we can give something back to you, the members who support the Association. On this note we had a good sign up from clubs who opted for the KCLGA Trophy – 41 in total. We will also ensure that we have good prize tables, so please, please, encourage your ladies to have a look on the website and enter some of our competitions, they really are good value for money.”

Anne Billings Captain asked if there were any questions.
There were none.

Anne asked for a Proposer for the adoption of the accounts Sarah Miller Vice President proposed and Joan Evans Weald of Kent seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously.

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

5 The Captain’s Report: - Anne Billings

“Madam President Vice Presidents Ladies.

Good morning and thank you for attending our 2017 AGM.

As many of you will be aware this is the first time our AGM has been held in March, due to moving our financial year end to 1st January. Many of you will have attended the AGM in November and heard my speech detailing last year’s golf successes, our developments in training and promoting golf throughout the county.

Since then we have continued to encourage the younger players to progress in all levels of their games. In January, our juniors were invited to play a match against the U16’s England regional girls and the Sussex junior U18 squad at Royal Ashdown on their West course. This was great experience for all players especially our younger girls. We were successful against the regional squad and lost by one point to Sussex. A very promising start to the year.

Also in January, under the supervision of our training officer, Sandy Catford, we held our squad training day at Pedham golf centre, inviting our first, second and senior squad players, we also invited our junior players and their parents, to meet and be with lower handicap players, hopefully encouraging them to progress in all aspects of their game.

Sandy has put together an extensive training programme for all county players, from first team players to the young beginners. Training will take place at various locations throughout the county so hopefully there is something for everyone.

Sadly, Mrs Amanda Spooner has resigned her position as County Junior officer due to a change in her personal circumstances and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Amanda for all her hard work over the past four years.

This year we have been invited by England golf and the golf foundation to take part in the Golf rocks programme, this is to encourage young girls to get into golf throughout the county. Many of our junior girls have volunteered to be Ambassadors for this scheme. Charles Molony from England golf has kindly accepted to come along today and will be telling you more about this programme later.

The 2017 Kent Championship will be held at Littlestone in April and the County week will also be held there in July as we will be hosting the event. Many of our matches and practises will be held at Littlestone this coming Spring, so hopefully we will be fully prepared for County week and links golf.

Junior Championship will be at Wildernesse in early June and Junior County week will be hosted by Hampshire at Royal Winchester golf club in August. Our Junior captain for this year is Nicole Stewart from Chart Hills, who is are current ladies and junior Champion.

Our 2nd team will be led by Cheryl Power, my Vice Captain. They will be competing again for the Stovold Trophy. After just missing out last year on winning the trophy, hopefully this year they will be successful.

We do hope you will consider supporting our teams this summer.

As always there are many events and competitions for you all to enter this year. All details and dates are on the website and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible, over the coming months."

Anne Billings Captain then added that there remains one vacancy on the Committee should anyone wish to join us. As a Committee we are able to co-opt a lady to the Committee at any time. If any lady would like to be considered would they please contact a member of the Committee in the first instance.

6 Anne called upon Competition Secretary Mandy Mole and Vice President Marilyn Brown Kent's Handicap Advisor to give their reports:

Competition Report – Mandy Mole

"President Elaine, Vice Presidents, Captains and members, as Lady Captain Anne has already said, because we are not long past our last AGM, you will be relieved to know that my report will be brief.

Entries for this year's competitions are steadily trickling in. As I always comment, we are so grateful to those who always support us and I hope we will see some new clubs join us this year.

Our new system of on line entries being paid for by direct debits is now 'up and running' and I hope this has made it more attractive than posting a cheque. As with all new initiatives there are always teething problems, but on the whole this is working well and we are very grateful to Tita making the system run smoothly. I must emphasise, if you still wish to enter by post and cheque this is not a problem.

There has been another change this year. Although entries for the fun competitions, by this I mean the non-qualifying competitions, are initially sent to me, once payment has been received, the entry will then be passed on to the committee member who is in charge of running that competition.

We start the year's events with the Championship at Littlestone, closely followed by the Mixed at Faversham and the Rook Salver at Mid Kent. The Champions of Champions is on the 14th May and the closing date for this is 31st March.

All the competitions can be found on the website and in the Fixtures Book. I do stress to all of you to keep an eye on the website as it is constantly updated and news of any changes is always posted on there as well as forwarded to Delegates.

We look forward to seeing many of you this year and I hope you all have a very successful season."

Handicap Advisor - Mrs Marilyn Brown

"Madam President, Captain, Ladies

I have a couple of points to make before I get on to the recent addition of Recording of Non qualifying Away Scores. One is a bit of a moan and the other a question.

I have received a steady stream of queries on handicaps, both from Ladies Sections and Club Management - probably averaging two a week, but until yesterday I have only ever received one email

acknowledging my reply. I know you might not like what I have replied, but I do need to know that my reply has got to you. Recently a lady asked me a quite complicated query which resulted in England Golf advising and I duly sent the information only for the Club to ask me the same thing a week later. Neither acknowledged my email. Did it get there? Who knows?

If your Ladies Section still processes your competitions and handicaps, does your Club Management supply you with a CONGU Manual and any updates?

If your Club Management is processing things are they doing it correctly? I do know of some Clubs who do not carry out the Annual Review which is a requirement of CONGU. A brief check on Monday of this week showed that approximately half the Clubs in the County have not carried this out and yesterday was the cut off date.

The announcement that Away Non Qualifying Scores should be returned has rather alarmed some people. Whilst the information may not be used until Annual Review time it will create some extra work for handicap secretaries and people who run Club Opens, be it team events or 4BBB, but not Texas Scrambles, Foursomes or Greensomes. A form similar to the old form for reporting scores from a club of which you were a member, but not your home club, should be displayed for people to fill in and also there is a form for those running team events to return to prizewinners' home Club.

Ladies Invitations and Charity events that comprise home and Away players do not need to be returned.

I have samples of these forms here and all this information was sent to Delegates earlier in the year.

I also have samples of some fact sheets which are available on the CONGU website under the Quick Guide to Handicapping.

If you have any queries today I will try and answer them afterwards.”

7 Any Other Business:

Anne Billings:

- a) England Golf AGM – Wednesday 12 April 2017. (NB: The AGM will be attended by Marilyn Brown as the County Representative to England Golf).
- b) Delegates Golf Day – Monday 5 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 9 November 2017 at Bearsted Golf Club

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.

There were no questions

8 Date of Next Meeting:

Date of the next meeting Thursday 8 March 2018, at Ditton Community Centre.

9 Anne Billings Captain then introduces Charles Molony – England Golf Development Officer.

Charles Molony – England Golf Development Officer

“Madam President Captain Ladies

Good Morning all, my name is Charles Molony and I work for England Golf as a Development Officer within Kent and London.

There are 35 of me across the country, roughly one per county and we provide a one to one support service and meet with clubs, general managers, secretaries, professionals, club members, volunteers, community groups with the aims to provide more players, more members of clubs and stronger clubs. Anyone that shows an interest in Golf I will try to meet with.

Usually during meetings we discuss the clubs' goals, where they wish to go in the future and then discuss our various initiatives that might be able to help with that. As you may know, we also work closely with a number of partners such as the Golf Foundation, The PGA and Kent Sport so are able to signpost the club to other support and resources if we can't provide it.

England

I thought I'd give you a brief outline of what's happening nationally in England in terms of participation in Golf before going closer to home and discussing what we are doing in Kent to grow the game in Kent.

Every two years England Golf asks clubs to complete a membership. Last year we had a good response rate and some encouraging results. Whilst the average number of members at a golf club remained stable, in comparison with 2014, at around 460, 30% of clubs experienced an increase, so clearly some clubs are starting to show signs of growth. The average number of women at golf clubs across the country also remained exactly the same at 70. This stabilisation is positive and we hope to build on this in years to come.

We hope that golf can tie into campaigns such as 'This Girl Can' and benefit from this increased drive. I suspect many of you might have seen the 'This Girl Golfs' video which again aimed to break down many of the perceptions within golf. If you haven't seen the 'This Girl Golfs' video, google it, it's well worth a watch. England Golf will also run various national campaigns during key months of the year. For example June will be Women & Girls Month. July will be Family Month. During these months, there will be a massively increased spend in advertising and driving traffic to the 'Get into Golf' website where the aim is to have clubs promoting beginner activity relevant to that audience.

Kent

And now on to Kent. In almost every meeting I have with Golf Clubs, one of the most common questions I ask is how can I get more women and girls to the club, to use the facilities and then to ultimately become members.

It certainly is a large topic and clearly an area of joint concern and interest for club managers. Personally I think it's a huge area of potential growth if you consider that % of golf club members that are women is around just 15%.

In Kent, this year we are running the Girls Golf Rocks Initiative. This is an initiative targeting 5-18yr old girls and utilising some of the current Kent Girls Under 18 players as ambassadors. We had an open recruitment to select the facilities involved and have selected 5 facilities across Kent due to the enthusiasm of their professionals and also the level of welcome they might give to a group of young girls. The facilities we selected are Kings Hill, West Kent, Birchwood Park, Boughton and Tonbridge Golf Centre.

In January we had a photo shoot and a training day for the ambassadors, which went really well and we've created some promotional marketing material off the back of that day. The format is there will be a two hour taster session followed by a 5-week introductory course, where each participant will also get a free 7-iron and then a par 3 jamboree style event where all the girls from all of the five centres will get together have a fun competition and talk about their experiences of getting into golf. The obvious aim is to get these girls to sign up to membership but we know that this can take time.

If you know of any girls or parents, grandparents of girls that have shown an interest in getting into golf, then please don't hesitate to signpost them to one of the five centres. The Taster sessions are taking place during the Easter Holidays.

Club Support

After the talks, please come and see me and we can discuss anything that I have mentioned today or we can discuss arranging a meeting and some of the support available to clubs. We have lots of fact sheets, resources, editable posters that can be used to promote your club and your club's activities.

Thank you for listening today, thank you to the KCLGA for inviting me to talk, are there any questions?"

There were no questions.

There being no more business Anne declared the meeting closed at 10.35am.

Signed:  Date: 08.03.2018