

**MINUTES OF THE SURREY LADIES COUNTY GOLF ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD
ON MICROSOFT TEAMS**

MONDAY NOVEMBER 30TH AT 11.00AM

Present: Val Howard (President), Ann Gems (Vice President), Lorna Robey (Captain and EG Representative), Sue Wild (Vice Captain), Jane Henman (Honorary Treasurer), Joan Weight, Caroline Warren, Mandy Hiscocks, Ruth Bailey, Grainne Harrington, Katrina Davis, Juliette Dunlop, Karen Duncan, Jane Bathurst, Karen Francis and 84 members.

In attendance: Sarah Brown (County Secretary)

The President welcomed the Members and thanked them for supporting the County. She also welcomed our Honorary Life Presidents.

The Secretary convened the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence:** – These were received from 6 Delegates.

There were also 44 proxy forms received from Delegates.

2. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 23rd November 2019** had been circulated and were approved by the members and signed as a true record of the meeting.

3. **Matters Arising:** – There were no matters arising from the 2019 AGM minutes.

4. **To Receive Reports for 2020**

- a) **The Captain Mrs Lorna Robey presented her report.**

The Captain reported on the limitations imposed on golf across the county in light of Coronavirus. She also thanked the Vice-Captain, Committee and Secretary for their support during her tenure (see full report attached).

The President thanked Lorna for all her hard work, time and commitment to the association.

- b) **The County Secretary, Ms Sarah Brown presented the competition report.**

The Secretary reported on the calendar of events which was badly disrupted by the Coronavirus pandemic (see full report attached).

The President thanked Sarah for her report.

- c) **Junior Organiser Report, presented by Mrs Karen Francis**

The Junior Organiser reported on activities that were planned and those that were disrupted by the pandemic (full report attached).

- d) **Mrs Lorna Robey, England Golf Representative, presented her Report.**

Lorna Robey reported on the current issues relating to England Golf (see full report attached).

5. To Receive and Approve the Statement of Accounts.

The President called upon the Honorary Treasurer, Mrs Jane Henman to present the accounts for 2020. The Accounts were Proposed and Seconded by Proxy vote. The members voted in favour of the adoption of the accounts.

The President thanked Jane for producing the figures again this year as it is a huge task. Also, a special thank you to Chris Braidwood for her valuable advice.

6. Election of Officials and Executive Committee for 2020.

President **Valerie Howard** - in office

Vice-President **Ann Gems** - in office

The County Captain and 1st Team Captain Lorna Robey has completed her term of office and retires under Rule 8 (i)(d).

County Captain **Sue Wild** – proposed by Lorna Robey and seconded by the Executive Committee

Lorna thanked Sue for all her support over the last 2 years and the meeting voted (by proxy) in favour of Sue's appointment. Sue will be presented with her Captain's badge when lockdown restrictions allow. Sue's address to the meeting is as follows:

"Firstly, I would just like to congratulate you, Lorna on your two years as Captain of our association. I don't imagine that they have turned out to be anything like your expectations. Golf-wise a very successful first year, winning the South Region County Match week under your captaincy and coming third nationally plus a host of successful events taking place in the county. It has been a totally different, but probably more difficult second year during which you have had to deal with a string of cancellations and changed plans. All of which you have dealt with efficiently and with full recognition of the reality of dealing with COVID. It is a tribute to your organisational skills that we have been able to put on the events that did survive. Thank-you for all your hard work. I have here a token of our appreciation, which I hope to be able to get to you shortly.

I am looking forward to serving as Captain of our association for the next two years. I hope that we manage to get a full year of golfing events in next year and that you will want and be able to play in them. We will be hoping that we can add some extra incentives given that we have been unable to do much this year. I have had wonderful support from my club, Betchworth Park, and its members and am delighted that they have agreed to host the championship in April – COVID willing!

You will notice that I have appointed a first team Captain, Nicola Taylor to run our county team. Although it's something I would have loved to do, I felt that having someone who is able to command a place in the squad and in addition is so much nearer the average age of the team would be better both for team selection and spirit. This will be of added importance in the coming year

with the format of county match week changing and more emphasis being put on the selection of foursomes pairings.

I will also be focussing on meeting with the men of Surrey Golf Union to discuss the possibility of unification with them. This is something that England Golf are very keen on and makes sense in today's climate. I stress that we will be looking for a merger, not a take-over.

I come from a family with a strong tradition of committee membership – my mother and grandmother both served as Captains of Yorkshire in the distant past. I will try my best for you all and the county over the next two years.”

Vice-Captain **Katrina Davis** – proposed by Sue Wild and seconded by the Executive Committee

Sue introduced Katrina: Katrina has been on the Surrey committee for 2 years and prior to that was on the Burhill committee. She is currently Ladies Handicap secretary at Burhill. She started playing golf when she met her husband and gained her first handicap whilst living in Istanbul. They briefly moved back to the UK before moving to Barbados with young twins. On her return and after stopping work 12 years ago Katrina joined Burhill and has been an active member since. She has played for Burhill in the Hicks, Derry and Centenary teams and captained both the Centenary and Derry Cup teams, each for three years. Earlier this year Katrina passed the R&A rules exam and has started to referee at Surrey events. Her husband and son are keen golfers and even her daughter started playing during lockdown and found she enjoyed it.

The meeting voted (by proxy) in favour of Katrina's appointment and she will be presented with the Vice Captain's Badge when lockdown restrictions allow.

Honorary Treasurer

Mrs Jane Henman completes her term in office and retires under Rule 8(i)(f).

Mrs Indra Jutlla, proposed by Sue Wild and seconded by The Executive Committee.

Val Howard introduced Indra: Indra Jutlla CVO, retired in April 2019 from the Royal Household as Financial Controller and Assistant Treasurer to The Queen. A qualified accountant FCCA, she qualified in 1995 and having held a variety of accounting related posts, joined the Royal Household in 1998 initially as Head of Internal Audit. A keen golfer, she is currently a member of The Royal Household GC, Betchworth Park GC (Home) and Royal Dornoch GC. Indra is a past Lady Captain and Treasurer at Royal Household GC and past Lady Captain at Surrey National golf Club.

The meeting voted in Mrs Indra Jutlla by proxy for the election.

7. Executive Committee -Appointments for 2020.

These were elected at the Delegates meeting on 12th October 2020:

Mrs Katie Laud, Worplesdon
Mrs Rosie Watson, Effingham
Mrs Cathy Graves, Cuddington – sadly has stepped down subsequently
Mrs Michele Spink, Walton Heath has been co-opted in place of Mrs Cathy Graves.

The following were re-elected en-bloc at the Delegates meeting on 12th October 2020:

Mrs Grainne Harrington, The Richmond
Mrs Jane Bathurst, Hankley Common
Mrs Juliette Dunlop, Tandridge
Mrs Karen Duncan, West Hill
Mrs Karen Francis, Fulwell

Mrs Ruth Bailey, Mrs Caroline Warren, Mrs Joan Weight and Mrs Mandy Hiscocks complete their term of office and retire under Rule 8(ii)(a)(ii). The President thanked these 3 members for all their time and commitment to the Association.

8. Appointments for 2020

1 st Team Captain	Ms Nicola Taylor
2 nd Team manager and Stovold Manager	Mrs Katrina Davis
Senior Team Manager	Mrs Jan Gilkes
England Golf Representative	Mrs Sue Wild
Senior League Manager	Mrs Scynthia Larson
Pearson Trophy Manager	Mrs Lynne Daniel
Handicap Advisors	Mrs Christine Staff
	Ms Sarah Brown

The President thanked these ladies for their continued work on behalf of the Association.

9. AOB

None.

10. Presentation of Trophies and Awards.

Due to the virtual nature of the meeting no presentations were made (see attached list for 2020 awards).

The President thanked the members for attending. There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.45am.

The next SLCGA Annual General Meeting will take place on Monday 29th November 2021 at 11am at Betchworth Park Golf Club.

Mrs Valerie Howard, President..... 29th November 2021



SLCGA AGM – Captain's Report

Madam President, Vice-Presidents, Past Captains and Ladies of Surrey Ladies County Golf Association. I have to say I never expected that I would be presenting my final report as your County Captain talking to everybody on the computer!

To say this year has been something of a disappointment is an understatement. In January and February the weather was terrible and many of our courses were closed for days on end. By the time we got to March we were all looking forward to the Spring and some golf. All the fixtures were organised, we had an enthusiastic Executive team in place and I had high hopes for our Seniors, Ladies and Junior Teams. On 12 March we held our annual Vice Captains lunch at Sutton Green. This was a great success as usual with lots of lively discussion and all the ladies looking forward to their year of captaincy. Then on 23 March life as we had known it changed and we went into lockdown.

The next few months were spent cancelling all our events. The Summer knockouts were cancelled early on, when we realised that it was going to be too difficult to run the competitions over the summer as many courses were restricting guests and tee times were in short supply.

By the time we got to June we were wondering if we would be able to hold any events this season. So you will understand why we were delighted when New Zealand confirmed that they could host the Summer Foursomes at the end of July. This was our first event of the season. Not surprisingly everybody was a little nervous about ensuring that we were following all the government guidelines about social distancing and the organisers were very enterprising with their collection of scorecards in separate sealed plastic bags! In the end it was a very successful day and it was lovely to see so many people out supporting the event.

Our Autumn Meeting was held at Surbiton in September with a full field of 72 ladies. The club provided an excellent lunch and there were some good scores. All in all another enjoyable day. By now we were all very used to social distancing, so I am pleased to say that when the police arrived following a tip-off they had nothing to report!

Thank you to all the ladies who supported these two events and to those of my Committee Members who ran the events so smoothly and efficiently.

We decided that we would try and finish the knockouts which started in Autumn 2019 as they were all nearing completion at the time of lockdown. We managed to play the finals in October when we would normally hold the Spring knockout finals!

All the Inter-County events were cancelled this year. At a South Region Captains Meeting in July it was agreed that the County Rota would be rolled over. This means that Surrey will host JCMW in 2021 at Puttenham Golf Club with accommodation at Surrey University and County Match Week at Burhill in 2022. England Golf had hoped to run a County Finals event open to all Counties, but that too was cancelled in August. This was all very disappointing. I had such high hopes that we would retain the South Region Trophy we won at County Match Week last year as we have some very talented golfers in Surrey at the moment. I can only wish them good luck for 2021 and make sure that I am there to support next year.

There have been some individual successes in Surrey which I must mention – Annabell Fuller won the English Open Amateur Stroke Play and was Runner-up in the Women's Amateur Championship, Lottie Woad won the Frilford Heath Scratch and Abbi Rowlands was runner-up in the English Girls Stroke Play. Congratulations to them.

All that is left for me now is to give my thanks and farewells. I enjoyed my two years as Vice-Captain with Rosemary Wallis (past President) and Sally Parrish (past Captain). During my two years as Captain I have been very fortunate to have the support and advice of our President Val Howard and Vice-Captain Sue Wild. We had a lot of fun last year and I was looking forward to more of the same this year, but it was not to be. Thank you also to my Executive Committee. They have been such a great group – always helpful, efficient, well organised and ready to pitch in to do whatever was necessary. Sarah Brown has been a very efficient secretary and has managed admirably despite the difficulties of working from home during these strange times. I could not have managed without all of you.

I have also enjoyed meeting so many of you, the Surrey ladies, over the last four years. I hope our paths will still cross at Surrey events once life returns to some semblance of normality. Surrey is a County with a long and distinguished history and it has been a great honour and a privilege to be your County Captain. I am sorry that it was in effect only for one year but it was a year I shall always remember – not least for the fun and the friendship which is such an important part of the game we all love.

I know I am leaving the County in very capable hands and I wish everybody the very best for next season – hopefully Covid free!

Lorna Robey
SLCGA Captain
November 2020



SLCGA AGM – Competition Report

It gives me great pleasure to present the SLCGA competition report for 2020.

Sadly, this year we have a very different picture to previous reports where we've reviewed a full calendar of meetings and knock out competitions that run throughout the year. Unfortunately, due to Covid 19 we've had a hugely reduced diary, and to some extent we feel lucky to have been able to play any golf at all!

With lockdown restrictions beginning in March we were sadly unable to go ahead with the Championship events (County, Senior and Junior) nor could we run the ever-popular Druce Trophy – normally our largest event.

By July we were back on the golf courses, and some events were able to run in line with strict protocols laid out by England Golf. This meant that we were able to return to the New Zealand club for the Summer Foursomes, albeit with a slightly reduced attendance - 80 players (40 pairs) rather than the normal 100. And, observing England Golf's guidelines, we were able to contest the two trophies over 27 holes. This year's winners of the The Molly Gourlay trophy are Maria Diegan and Delia Perry from Wimbledon Park, while the Pam Barton trophy was won by Sally Parrish and Rosemary Wallis of Burhill and West Hill respectively. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed being out and supporting the competition despite it being one of the wettest days that we had over the summer season!

Happily, we were also able to run the Autumn Meeting at Surbiton in September. And such was the appetite to play competitive golf and to support the SLCGA events, it was hugely over-subscribed and booked to capacity within a week of the announcement that it would go ahead! Congratulations to Julie Clark and Judith MacFarlane who won the competition.

Our knock-out competitions also suffered badly this year. The Winter Knock outs from 2019-2020 normally culminate in a Finals event in April but we were only able to complete them in October after a long lay-off. This included the Derry Cup, the Helme Shield (team knock outs) and the Rothschild Trophy and Monk Plate. The Finals were held at the RAC and, although a little different (no spectators or supporters), everyone enjoyed a lovely day and were well-looked after by the team at the RAC. The Autumn Matchplay final was held at Walton Heath who were kind enough to accommodate the match at the last minute as one of the finalists was from the RAC and a neutral venue was therefore required.

Details of all winners can be found in the Awards and Certificates document on the website.

The Summer knock outs (team and individual) were all cancelled. No sooner had the draws been made than the announcement came that we had to go into lockdown. It was not feasible to relaunch them due to uncertainty around future restrictions and also difficulties in gaining access to golf clubs for matches. Most clubs have confirmed that they will be playing in 2021 and fees were rolled over. As normal, communication will go out in January to announce the new competitions.

You'll remember that Surrey were due to host Junior County Match Week at Puttenham GC this summer. Of course, that was also cancelled, but the good news is that County events have been rolled over, so this will still take place in Surrey in 2021, again scheduled to take place at Puttenham in August.

The dates for the 2021 events have been secured with venues – many will take place at the venues that should have hosted them in 2020. Details are listed on the website under the Events section. The entry forms will be available in the New Year. They will be emailed to Delegates and will be available to download from the website in January.

I would like to thank the Delegates for sharing our updates with their members and supporting events where it has been possible this year. It has been the strangest of years and your ongoing support and understanding is very much appreciated. We look forward to a return to our normal form next year.

Sarah Brown
SLCGA County Secretary
November 2020



SLCGA AGM – Junior Report

This has been my first year as the Junior Organiser and I felt positive and empowered to help young girls playing golf in Surrey. I sought support from Joanne Woodham, Alison Baber and Pam Mace and we have met a couple of times to discuss how best to support the Performance and the Development Squad this year. We agreed that we needed to organise more friendlies to help the girls gain experience and also to encourage peer connections.

At the beginning of the year I was able to attend the Laura Davies day at Hoebridge GC on 5th January. Laura very kindly gave up her time to coach 12 of our girls covering both the Performance and Development squads. Annabelle Dimmock came along and helped with a putting coaching session and has also given a huge bag of ex sponsored clothes to hand out to the girls. This was a great opportunity to chat with the girls and also meet the parents.

My main prerogative was to meet as many of the juniors in both squads in the first few months and I attended coaching on the 8th March and 13th September. As a Psychologist, I was able to deliver an informal mind-set skills training session on the day which was good fun and helped me to get to know the girls better.

Then I think we all know what happened...

So, the rest of the year has mainly been very difficult and a lot of events have been cancelled. My thanks to Joanne Woodham for organising a 12 a-side match against Hampshire scheduled for 19th April which was subsequently cancelled. We had also been in discussion with other counties and will continue to find some dates next year to arrange friendlies.

I worked with England Golf to organise a development day at Foxhills Golf Club for 26th April. We had 85 girls who were signed up to come along which also meant being able to meet some of the professional women who were there on their practice day before a qualifying event for the British Open and such a shame for it to be cancelled. However, we have a great format and it was good to see such a great sign up so hopefully we will organise again for next year.

Personally, I really felt for Lorna when junior county week was cancelled having put so much time and effort in to organising it and I was also gutted for our performance squad not to have the chance to compete at a prestigious level.

It was good to see that 14 Surrey Golf Clubs have been signed up to the Girls Rock initiative with England Golf which encourages girls to play at grassroot level and hopefully next year we will be able to report on how this is progressing.

As far as individual performances, where golf has been allowed there have been some individual successes during the year:

- Abbi Rowlands (Foxhills) shot a superb opening round of 69 in the English Girls Amateur Stroke Play competition and ended up in second place following a play off.
- Annabel Fuller (Roehampton) winning the English Women's Open Amateur Stroke Play (only just turned 18 so sneaking this in to my junior report!) and Runner-up in the Women's Amateur Championship.
- Lottie Woad (Farnham) was selected for the England Girls Squad
- Heidi Man who started the year with a 23 handicap, has come down to 12 and recently played in the IMG World Junior Qualifier and won and has qualified to play in the IMG World Championship at Torrey Pines in July 2021

So all in all a very frustrating year but what I have seen is how many talented and up and coming girls we have playing golf in Surrey and hopefully next year we I can report back on a more upbeat and successful year.

Karen Francis
SLCGA Junior Organiser
November 2020



SLCGA AGM – England Golf Report

Due to Covid-19 there have been no meetings at Woodhall Spa in 2020. Instead England Golf has been holding regular updates on-line with all the Voting Members.

The main topics under discussion have been:

Chief Executive

The new CEO Jeremy Tomlinson joined England Golf at the beginning of January. No sooner had he got his feet under the table than we went into lockdown. He has worked hard to promote golf and England Golf, at a time when all sports are lobbying the Government as to the merits of playing their particular sport.

Covid-19 Fund

England was allocated £2.25 m. from the R&A Covid-19 Fund. There were 775 applications from clubs across England. 15 Surrey clubs were awarded funding. England Golf later added a further £500,000 to this fund, to be awarded to clubs which had narrowly missed out on the funding. A further 5 Surrey clubs were allocated funding. The Covid-19 fund was generally considered to be an excellent initiative. The extra £500,000 allocated by England Golf was felt to be a good use of funds accumulated because expenses were down due to Championships and coaching being cancelled.

World Handicap System

Final agreement was reached with the R&A/USGA re the new master WHS licence to England Golf and the other Unions through CONGU. England Golf has been sending regular updates to clubs and has posted a Players Reference Guide to Handicapping on the website. As we all know, WHS was launched on 2 November, 3 days after our second lockdown. Not the most convenient time for clubs and players alike!

Independent Golfer

This is a complex and important issue which has been on the Agenda for the last 3 years at least. It has now become a priority. At a recent meeting of the Golf industry's main bodies the R&A spoke of the future of golf not being just in the hands of members but very much all participants and in particular Independent Golfers. Furthermore, the R&A has spoken of the need to connect with all golfers using the WHS and issuing handicap indexes to drive greater levels of participation. This has now become a core strategy for the R&A and they want to drive this through all the home nations, preferably through the governing body, if not directly. England Golf must now decide how to move forward on this issue.

Clearly there is much work to be done at national, county and club levels.

England Golf Administration & Finances

Staff were put on furlough during lockdown as you would expect. All championships and coaching programmes were cancelled until August. This has led to an unexpected surplus in the accounts, hence why England Golf contributed additional funds to the Covid-19 Fund.

The Championships and competitions which were run later in the Summer were all run very successfully despite the strict Government guidelines. It is felt that the game has handled itself very well during the pandemic. Indeed many clubs have increased their membership as independent golfers realise the benefits of club membership.

England Golf has been conducting regular on-line updates with the Voting Members of the Counties. They have realised that for many people this is a preferred method of meeting, thereby avoiding the time spent travelling to Woodhall Spa. Accordingly they have reduced the number of General Meetings to 2 a year, and will be increasing the number of regular regional and on-line updates.

Insurance

You will remember that last year England Golf in association with Bluefin Sport provided all golf club members with a £10m. personal liability insurance package. EG reserves were used to cover the first 6 months cost and after that it was agreed it would be part of EG's ongoing budget. The Bluefin cost was 29p per member. At the time of renewal this year the underwriter quoted a significant increase in the premium cost. An alternative quote was accepted for 34p per member.

England Golf Board

Following the recent Board Elections there are now 6 ladies on the Board. There are 12 members of the Board made up of three appointed independent directors, eight elected directors and the Chief Executive.

Summary

England Golf has managed itself relatively well during the pandemic. It has engaged with Counties and players through regular updates. It has continued to promote the benefits of the sport wherever possible. It has engaged with the Government in attempts to keep the sport going during lockdown. Initiatives to get more women/girls into golf will have stalled this year, but they will remain an important issue. I am sure for many there are questions over its handling of the new WHS system. This will undoubtedly take time to bed in. The Independent Golfer will be the next big challenge to England Golf.

Lorna Robey
SLCGA Captain
November 2020