

MINUTES OF THE SURREY LADIES COUNTY GOLF ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT WINDLESHAM GOLF CLUB, GROVE END, BAGSHOT, SURREY GU19 5HY ON SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2015

Present: Jill Thornhill (President), Rosemary Wallis (President Elect), Chris Braidwood (Vice President), Alison Taylor (Captain and EG Representative), Sally Parrish (Vice Captain), Ann Gems (Junior Organiser), Julia Brook (Training Officer), Gill Longdon, Anne O'Connor, Sue Wild, Elizabeth Bennett, Judy Searle, Anita Fairley, Fiona Horrocks (Executive Committee) and 117 members.

In Attendance: Lis Hobday (Acting Secretary)

The President welcomed the Members and thanked them for supporting the County. She addressed the meeting and advised them that the County Secretary, Penny Hall, had regrettably suffered a broken hip and was now recuperating.

The President welcomed Honorary Life Vice Presidents Mrs Diane Bailey MBE, President of the Ladies Golf Union, Mrs Sue Birley and Mrs Anne Cotton, Vice-President Mrs Chris Braidwood, Past Captains, Past Officers and the members of SLCGA.

The President informed the meeting of the death in October of Mrs Shirley Morrogh. Shirley, a member of Hankley Common GC, was Captain of the Association in 1987 and 1988 and led the team to victory in the County Finals in 1988. The assembled were also notified of the passing of Catherine Bailey, a member of Tandridge Golf Club. Catherine represented Surrey for many years and in 1988 and 1989 won the Senior Ladies' British Open Amateur Championship.

The President reported that the Association had had a good year, led by an inspirational Captain supported by a hard-working and enthusiastic committee.

The Acting Secretary convened the meeting.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Mrs Jane Henman (Honorary Treasurer), Mrs Christine Staff, (Handicap Advisor), Miss Delyth Roberts (2nd Team/Stovold Manager), 9 Delegates, 5 Members and 1 Club.
2. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 1 December 2014** 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 2014 AGM Minutes.
4. **To Receive Reports for 2015**

a) The Captain Mrs Alison Taylor presented her report.

I said in my acceptance speech a year ago that to be County Captain was a daunting task. In the last 12 months I have driven just under 14,000 miles and sent nearly 4,000 emails! However, it has been a great honour to be your Captain in 2015 and a year I have thoroughly enjoyed.

There have been many golfing highlights and we have 3 worthy County Champions in Lauren Horsford, Felicity Christine and Martha Lewis.

At Club level, the most significant achievement was The Wisley first winning the Surrey Pearson Trophy at Bramley on the hottest and longest golfing day of the year, and then going on to win the Inter-County Pearson final at Harpenden.

At National level, Elizabeth Prior (Burhill) finished 2nd in both the English Women's and English Girls' Championships and won the England Golf Girls Order of Merit. She has now been selected to be part of the England Women's squad for those at university in America. Inci Mehmet (Royal Mid Surrey) and Samantha Fuller (The Roehampton Club) represented England in the Home Internationals at Royal Wimbledon GC while Lizzie and Sammy both played in the Girls' Home Internationals at Lanark. England won both events and I would like to congratulate Royal Wimbledon on hosting the very successful Home International matches in their sesquicentenary year.

Katharine O'Connor (West Byfleet) became the Welsh Ladies' Amateur Champion and Martha Lewis (St George's Hill) played for England at Under 16 level.

County Match Week took place at Worthing and the 1st team went into the final day unbeaten. Unfortunately, we lost the foursomes to Sussex, left ourselves too much to do in the singles, and finished the week runners-up. We were actually unbeaten in 7 of the 8 sessions that week but will be back and intend to make the most of home advantage playing at Walton Heath in 2016.

The 2nd team finished runners-up in the Stovold Trophy losing their only match to Sussex. The seniors only lost one friendly match and finished 2nd in the newly formed senior league. They also came 2nd in the Inter County Team Championship missing out by a single shot to Sussex. It really was the year for coming 2nd.

SLCGA however is not just concerned with top golfers and county teams. We have tried to provide fun and competitive golf for ladies of all abilities and to increase enthusiasm for the game at all levels. We have a good working relationship with the County Union and are indebted to them for helping us launch the new website in May. We have shared information, ideas, equipment and best practice to maximise golf development in the county.

Surrey is a big county and a large committee is essential to spread the workload. I would like very much to thank Sally, my Vice-Captain for her invaluable help throughout the year and my committee for their significant contribution, ideas and support. We have been lucky enough to have real experts in IT and rules, but above all, ladies with a huge amount of common sense and energy.

From the start of 2015, we set out our aims to strengthen the links, create better relationships and improve communication between the Executive Committee, the Delegates and Lady Members of SLCGA. I believe we have gone some way to achieving this. We have made progress in many areas but we have a long way to go and challenges to face if we want to be a modern and effective organisation. 2016 looks to be a busy and exciting year and I very much look forward to being your Captain for a second year.

The President thanked Alison and said that she had worked tirelessly for the benefit of the Association. It had been a privilege and fun to work with her and she wished her continued success in 2016.

b) The Captain, Mrs Alison Taylor, presented the Competition Report on behalf of Mrs Penny Hall.

We started the year with the Championship at Walton Heath and a new upper handicap limit of 12. With a full field of 63 entries, Lauren Horsford (Wimbledon Park) led the qualifiers and went on to beat Lizzie Prior (Burhill) in the final.

The Seniors Championship was won by Felicity Christine (Woking) at New Zealand and again we broke all records by having an event oversubscribed! The Junior Championship saw Martha Lewis (St George's Hill) victorious at Worplesdon. The Intelligent Golf package,

loaned by the County Union, was used at these 3 events for the first time. The live scoring proved to be a popular and exciting addition and will be repeated in 2016.

The Druce Trophy, hosted by the Royal Automobile Club was won by The Roehampton Club and an electronic scoring system, designed by Fiona Horrocks, produced the results faster than ever before.

The other SLCGA meetings on the whole were well supported, but the entry numbers in some individual knock outs was disappointing. There is no doubt that the key to attracting entrants is good publicity and I am grateful to the Delegates for their hard work in keeping their members informed of our events and encouraging entries. I hope I can rely on all the Delegates for their continued support in 2016.

A thorough review of all the competitions the Association runs, which included an on line survey, was carried out and we are indebted to Fiona Horrocks for the considerable amount of time she spent on this project. As a result, there will be a new one-day team event in 2016 for bronze division players only. This is, in part, due to demand but also fits our strategy of trying to attract ladies of all standards, particularly ladies new to the game who may have come through your club academies, to play in our events.

All the competition and match dates for 2016 have been posted on the website and I would at this point like to mention a major change for next year.

All the competition entry forms will be emailed to Delegates and posted on the website in early January and are not available for collection today. The entry forms are currently being redesigned, modernised and standardised by Gill Longdon. However, we also need to cut down on the mountain of paperwork printed in the office, with the associated costs, and to give out all the forms today would have entailed the printing of over 3,000 pieces of paper.

I know this is a new task for the Delegates but hope you will accept this and help us to be more efficient. I reassure you that we will closely monitor the number of entries for both club and individual competitions and email reminders will be sent out before closing dates.

Finally, I would like to thank the 30 clubs who hosted our championships, meetings, matches and finals this year and to the lady members and staff who made us so welcome at their clubs. We do appreciate your continued support.

The President took the opportunity to record officially her thanks to Penny for her contribution to Surrey Ladies golf this year and stated that her depth of knowledge and experience were much appreciated.

c) Mrs Ann Gems, Junior Organiser presented her Report

It gives me great pleasure to give my junior report today. Many of the girls' successes have been posted on our website and detailed in my reports to our club delegates, so please bear with me as I recount some of the girls' achievements over the past 12 months.

What a difference 12 months makes! Our Junior County Championship was played in May at Worplesdon GC. Instead of pouring rain we played on a beautiful spring day on a beautiful golf course. To play in tee shirts and shorts is a pleasure; to play in full waterproofs is not! Martha Lewis (aged 15) from St George's Hill, who narrowly missed out in 2014, won in 2015. She also won the U15 championship. Her scores of 77 & 70 (3 over par) were excellent and she won by 10 shots from Jemma Milton from Hankley Common. Pavani Kumar (Royal Mid Surrey) won the U13 championship with a gross 80. The handicap trophy went to Emilia Di Matteo from Burhill, with nett scores of 67 & 68, thereby reducing her handicap significantly! Thank you so much to the members of Worplesdon GC for allowing us to play on their lovely course. It was a pleasure, as always, to be there, and we were made to feel so welcome. My thanks to Penny and Helen for organising everything on the day and, of course beforehand.

I would also like to briefly mention some other winners of our Surrey events.

The Spring Meeting was held at Strawberry Hill Golf Club in April. The weather was good and the day was expertly organised by the most enthusiastic Strawberry Hill ladies. They were everywhere, walking, spotting, providing refreshments and supporting. Thanks so much to you all. The scores from the girls reflected this enthusiasm. Strawberry Hill is only 9 holes and not as long as some but it is narrow and tricky, well I always thought it was! Salysa Mason from Surrey National GC scored 50 points off 23 handicap and Jemma Milton had 35 points to win the scratch prize (40 points off handicap).

The Summer Meeting was held at Surbiton GC. Bella Cordwell from Wentworth scored a gross 77 to win the scratch prize and Kaylin Screene from Croham Hurst had a nett 70 to win the handicap medal. The stableford competition for higher handicaps was won by Daisy Walsh from Bramley with 37 points. My thanks to Surbiton GC for accommodating us on a very busy day when they were undertaking so much work on the course.

The Adult and Junior Greensomes Competition was held at Guildford GC, and was won by Declan and Aine Hunt, from Effingham, with 42 points. We were well looked after by all the staff at the club and I would like to thank our President for doing the admin on the day.

Ellen Yates from Hoebridge is our U10 champion. This event is contested over a par 3 course annually and was so efficiently organised by Clare Grigsby. Many congratulations to all our other worthy winners.

What a difference 12 months make.

In 2014 the Surrey girls were the proud winners of Junior County Week at Goodwood. Unfortunately, we were not able to repeat this at Effingham this year. The Hampshire girls were the eventual winners. Surrey was represented by; - Amber Chana Captain (Foxhills), Jess Adams (Foxhills), Maddie Barrow (Betchworth), Bella Cordwell (Wentworth), Sarah-Jane Dalglish (West Byfleet), Annabell Fuller (Roehampton), Pavani Kumar (Royal Mid Surrey), Jennifer Vincent (Effingham), Sarah Wilmore (Windlesham).

The matches were all very close and with 3 new girls and 3 playing in their last Junior County Week, the team over the next year or two will look quite different. The girls were a delight to be with and whilst I know they were disappointed not to have won I am still very proud of them. My thanks go to Alison for staying with us for the 3 days and the beds at Juniper Hall were almost comfortable! The planning for our county weeks start at least a year in advance and I must thank Penny for her invaluable contribution throughout. To Helen Williams thank you for your support during the 3 days of competition and for keeping us calm and smiling.

Everyone at Effingham GC were fantastic, from the General Manager Steve Slinger, Head Professional Lee Boxall, The Food & Beverage Manager Jan Hanecak, and all the indoor and outdoor staff. I must mention Steve Hoatson who patiently and efficiently coped with our endless questions and requests. The Lady Captain Carolyn Stirrat was so helpful in so many ways during her busy year in office. The course was in wonderful condition and all the counties expressed their appreciation. A wonderful venue and although we didn't win, it was a very successful event. We look forward to August next year when Kent are hosts at Sundridge Park.

Surrey girls were successful away from Surrey too.

I must first mention Lizzie Prior (Burhill) who is now at University in Las Vegas on a golf scholarship. I first met Lizzie in 2008 when her handicap was 23 (she is now of +3.5)! She and her father Mike played against my son and me in the final of the Burhill family foursomes and thrashed us! Since then I have been fortunate enough to watch Lizzie's golf develop and this year, her last as a junior, has been amazing. In 2015 she played for England in the winning team in the Girls' Home Internationals. She was tied second in both the English girls' championship and the English women's championship; she won the Critchley Salver breaking the course record, the Fairhaven Nations Cup and the German girls Open. By the end of this extraordinary season she won the English girls order of merit by a considerable margin and was 'crowned' England Golf's top girl for 2015. What an achievement by, in my opinion, one of the nicest, craziest girls around. We wish Lizzie every success in America.

Lauren Horsford (Wimbledon Park) won the Surrey Ladies Championship beating Lizzie in the final. She qualified for the finals of the Faldo Series in Germany and came fourth. Sammy Fuller represented England in both the girls and women's Home Internationals, following wrist surgery. She also tied 1st in the Irish Girls' championship and lost in the play-off. Martha Lewis represented England in an U16 match against Spain and is now in the England girls coaching squad. Annabell Fuller, Bella Cordwell, Jess Adams and Ellie Lace (Royal Mid Surrey) have all been selected for U16 England coaching in the last 12 months. Annabell (aged 13) has recently broken 70 for the first time in a tournament which helped her to win the U21 Grand Final of the Lee Westwood Golf Tour by 13 shots.

Over the past few years I have been lucky enough to watch all the girls I have mentioned grow up and see how their golf has improved. It is so important to develop the next group of girls, not only to play in the county and national teams, but also to try and ensure that they enjoy the game and have fun whilst socialising with their peers. With this in mind we run Playing Days at Hoebridge. These are open to any girl with or without a handicap or indeed any golfing experience. In the last 12 months we have had girls as young as 5 & 6, coming along and playing 9 holes. My thanks go to Alison Trinick for organising these events during the school holidays and providing such fun prizes. Many of the Playing Days follow on from a coaching session organised by our Training Officer Julia Brook, who works so hard on our behalf, mostly behind the scenes and does a wonderful job.

The more experienced girls have coaching from our 4, highly qualified enthusiastic Professionals, Greg Brodie, Ben Ross, Laurence Pawley and Simon Fowler under the umbrella of the County Academy Programme. Although there are far fewer girls taking part than boys in this programme, the numbers are slowly increasing every year. In this connection please let us know if there any girls at your club who would like to take part in any of our coaching or events. If there are any questions please get in touch with me or Julia, or any of the Surrey Ladies Committee.

I have thanked a number of people throughout my report and I am sure I will have missed someone out - if so my sincere apologies. At this point I would like to add a special thank you to our retiring President Jill Thornhill for all her input and support over the past 3 years, and particularly her patience with some of our younger girls!

Thank you to all the parents and chauffeurs! Grateful thanks to all the clubs and societies who have contributed to our 'junior fund'. Thanks to all the clubs who have allowed us to play on their beautiful golf courses and to all their enthusiastic and supportive ladies sections.

I am looking forward to a wonderful golfing year in 2016 and seeing more girls on Surrey's fairways. If you know of anyone who would like to be involved in helping to develop girls' golf in the County, please let me know or ask them to get in touch with me direct.

The President thanked Ann for all her work with the Juniors and said how the talent was a joy to behold. She also took the opportunity of thanking the Training Officer Julia Brook for masterminding the coaching sessions which are held throughout the year.

d) Mrs Alison Taylor, England Golf representative presented her report.

The Annual General Meeting last April saw Mr Nigel Evans OBE from Cheshire take office as President, and Surrey's Judith Hanratty CVO, OBE, re-elected to the board of directors for a further two years.

2015 has been dominated by discussions surrounding the complex Governance and Affiliation Review. The board met with considerable opposition at times from Unions and Associations and, over the past months, several of the original proposals have been withdrawn or amended. The main proposals, which will be presented for decision on 3 December, include changes to the composition and powers of the board, the real time

collection of affiliation fees and the affiliation of short courses and driving ranges as part of an attempt to target the independent golfer. The Association will be voting in favour of all the proposals.

Halting the decline in regular participation and club membership are clear priorities for England Golf and there are some encouraging signs that progress is being made and that the decline is slowing.

In the South Region, Surrey hosted Junior County Match Week at Effingham and the South Region Foursomes at Windlesham and in 2016 we host County Match Week at Walton Heath. The South Region Ladies' Championship will next year be played as a one day instead of a three-day event to try to attract more entries.

England Golf held their first ever Golf Week at Frilford Heath with various club and county based events. This proved to be a popular and successful time and will be repeated in 2016.

England Golf also presents annual awards. In 2015, the 'Volunteer of the Year' was named as Margaret Bedford (Strawberry Hill) for her outstanding dedication and contribution to junior golf. Windlesham GC won the 'Golfmark Club of the Year'.

2016 will I am sure be equally challenging particularly as David Joy resigned as Chief Executive in October after only 2 ½ years in post. Work also begins next year to develop a strategic plan for England Golf for 2017-2021.

The President thanked Alison for her work with England Golf on behalf of the Association.

5. To Receive and Approve the Statement of Accounts

The President advised the meeting that the Honorary Treasurer, Mrs Jane Henman was unable to attend but had asked the Association's Past Treasurer Mrs Chris Braidwood to act on her behalf.

The Treasurer had included a formal financial review on the front page of the published accounts. The President enquired as to whether there were any questions to which there were none.

The accounts were Proposed by Lorna Dolinska (Leatherhead) and Seconded by Rosemary Rice (Woodcote Park). The members voted unanimously in favour of the adoption of the accounts.

The President thanked Jane Henman, and also Chris Braidwood who once again had reviewed the accounts and given valuable advice.

6. To Ratify the Amendment to Rule 3(i) a - as approved at the Delegates' Meeting on 7TH October 2015.

Proposed new wording; -

"...The Committee shall fix the annual rate of subscription to the Association at least ten months prior to the effective date and any variation thereof shall be notified to member Clubs."

The meeting approved the new wording.

7. Election of Officials & Executive Committee for 2016

The President Jill Thornhill stated that she had completed her term of office and would retire in accordance with Rule 8 (i)(b).

President: Mrs Rosemary Wallis, Proposed by Mrs Jill Thornhill

during her time as President. Her commitment and dedication to the county as President had gone way beyond the call of duty.

The President thanked the members for attending the meeting and Windlesham Golf Club for the use of their facilities.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.15pm.

The next SLCGA Annual General Meeting will take place at The Roehampton Club on Monday 28th November 2016 at 11am.