Bristol & District Lady Golfers' Alliance

95th Annual General Meeting

11.00 am on Wednesday 13th November 2024

Knowle Golf Club

Stephanie Moorfoot (Chair) welcomed the 39 members of the Alliance to Knowle Golf Club and thanked Ryan Coles Club Manager, Rachel Jefferey Assistant Club Manager and Paul French Catering Manager for the Clubs hospitality and assistance in setting up for our AGM.

Stephanie introduced members of the Alliance Committee
Heather Priestley – Results Co-ordinator
Jeanette Cook – Somerset Liaison Representative
Barbara Lewis – Treasurer
Erica Steed – Honorary Secretary
Sam Robinson – Championship Secretary sent her apologies.
Glenda Hanmer – Gloucestershire Representative sent her apologies.

Jeanette also helps to monitor the messages that we receive by email.
I would like to thank the Committee for their hard work and input this year. We have had some quite lively, but amicable discussions, on a variety of subjects. I have certainly learnt a lot.

Notice convening the Meeting.

Erica then declared the 95th Annual General Meeting of the Bristol & District Lady Golfers' Alliance open.

1. **Minutes silence to remember those who died during the year.**

- Jillian Kirk - Henbury Golf Club
- Ruth Jones – Henbury Golf Club
- Sheila Smith Justice – Henbury Golf Club
- Noreen Conway – Clevedon Golf Club
- Heather Bleach – Clevedon Golf Club
- Pip Vyvyan – Lansdown Golf Club

2. **Apologies**

Mary Perkins (Bath), Carol Brooking (Bath), Andrea Phillips (Bath), Andrea Jenkins (Chipping Sodbury) Danielle Williams (Long Ashton), Liz Meiklejohn (Filton), Annie Patten (Isle of Wedmore), Helen Gould (Long Ashton), Cathy Ring (Long Ashton), Caroline Hall (Filton) and Alison Bracey (Bristol & Clifton

3. Minutes of the 2023 AGM

Minutes were adopted without any amendments.
Proposed by Jo Francis-Pope
Seconded by Carolyn Stait.

4. To Receive the following Reports:

i. Honorary Treasurer

As you can see the accounts are very simple. Income £680, expenditure £1166, a deficit of £486 and reserves reduced for the Alliance League to £4873.

The Championship breaks even and has reserves of £1282.

Costs are only going to increase, for example the bank in line with other banks are now going to charge to run the account, only £4.50 a month, but an extra expense.

To quote Mr Micawber from David Copperfield “Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure nineteen six, result happiness. Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure twenty pounds ought and six, result misery.

I am not saying that we are in a miserable state yet, but to cover our costs running the Alliance League, fees would have to increase to £40 per team. But there is no point having reserves and not using them. We need to use them judiciously. At the present rate the reserves will disappear within 8 yrs. Therefore, I am proposing that from next year we increase the Alliance fee to £25 per team. Though our reserves will still be decreasing, it means they will last a little longer before another increase in a few years’ time. Any questions on this or the accounts?

Barbara asked for a show of hands to those who were present at the AGM who have no objection to the fees increasing to £25.00 for 2026.

All agreed.

Proposer: Alysia Reece
Seconder: Marion Speed

ii. Honorary Secretary

Changing the BDLGA Title from Ladies to Women. After much discussion, it was agreed that we would review it next year, currently we have a number of momento’s for this coming year which has the BDLGA title on them.

Vacancies in the League. Erica approached a number of Clubs in the Bristol area, but none were interested in joining the alliance league this year. Erica will keep in contact with them next year.

Enmore GC applied to join us earlier in the year and have subsequently withdrawn their interest.

The Foursomes Final

We had a great day at Filton Golf Club. It didn't rain thankfully. Thank you to Filton for hosting the competition this year and also Pam Jestico and Janet Fear who kindly referred both games.

The Scratch Foursomes was won by Knowle, Jo Hodge and Sophie Williams beating The Mendip, Ellen Reakes and Connie Cox by 2 & 1 a close game.

The Handicap Foursomes was won by the Kendleshire, Heather Earle and Sue Finch beating The Isle of Wedmore, Jane Hewitt & Alison Dodkin, the match went to the 21st hole!! Pam Jestico the referee had a long day! An extremely exciting match.

Well done to everyone who took part this year.

iii. Results Co-ordinator

As Reports Co-ordinator I have had an easy year with you all mastering and using the Results App brilliantly. The visibility of the results makes for interesting viewing throughout, with teams being fully informed of their opponents and their own performance.

Our WHS handicapping did make reporting the Top 7 available players for clubs with more than one team a frequent job for you Captains', but I have checked this information randomly and you have all coped well.

The matches have run smoothly despite the wet and changeable season we have experienced this year with only about 3 matches out of over 400 being rearranged due to flooded greens.

I know also you have all worked really hard this year to field full teams often bringing in willing or not so willing volunteers to play.

I would like to thank all you Captains and Deputies on behalf of the BDLGA Committee for all your hard work. Good luck for 2025 and a huge well done for 2024.

iv. Championship Secretary

Firstly, may I give my apologies for not being present at the 2024 AGM, a precious week when my husband was able to take a holiday and the promise of sunny golf courses in Madeira need I say more!

The West of England Amateur Open Ladies Championship was hosted at Bath Golf Club on Sunday 9th June 2024.

Big thanks to Diney Costello for once again being our main sponsor. Diney's continued support and enthusiasm to encourage our elite women is very much appreciated and something we must never take for granted. We are grateful to her and also to Somerset Ladies County Golf Association and Gloucestershire Ladies Golf Association for their ongoing support, without which it would not be possible to attract and encourage an elite field of female golfers. Many thanks to the 3 referees led by Alison Lee who all did an excellent job. The BDLGA committee and the many volunteers that Bath Golf Club provided much needed help on the day to ensure the smooth running of the competition. Many of the competitors commented on how grateful they were to the ball spotters, the starters and for the warm welcome they received from the volunteers and staff in the clubhouse. A total of 50 competitors played in the championship to compete for the Harper Salver (Gross) and the Costello Trophy (Nett).

The competition attracts the very best golfers with a third of the field being scratch golfers or below in fact the vast majority had handicaps under 5. This was a smaller field than usual possibly due to the rain in the earlier months which forced some competitions to rearrange dates. However, the smaller field was full of quality and gave more time to play 36 holes. Despite the rain earlier in the year the course was in beautiful condition and the golf was exceptional. Ffion Tynan from Pyle & Kenfig won the Harper Salver with an aggregate score of 144. The Costello Trophy was won by Lottie Cadle from Calcot Park with a nett 141. The 2nd Gross place went to Carys Worby from Newport Links Golf Club with 147 with Millie Gait from Knowle GC 148 in 3rd place, Mariella Buchanan from Long Ashton GC in 4th place with 150 on countback from Frankie Dezis from Burnham & Berrow in 5th place. The 2nd Nett was Alecia Carash from Minchinhampton Golf Club with 144 from and the 3rd nett prize to Alex Simmons from the Tehidy Park GC with 148. The best Gross 1st round prize was won by Lauren Hillier from Newport GC with 73 and the best Gross second round prize was won by Aimee Sawyer from The Mendip Golf Club with 71.

The 2025 Championship will take place on Sunday 8th June and will be played from the White tees. We are looking for someone to take on the running of this special competition. It is an extremely rewarding role and really important to help the elite female game. I have been honoured to be the Championship Secretary and hope that whoever takes the role will enjoy it as much as I have.

5. Election of Committee Members

All committee members will be elected annually and are eligible to serve for a maximum of five years. The Committee will have powers to co-opt.

Standing for re-election are:

Honorary Secretary Erica Steed Elected 2022

Honorary Treasurer Barbara Lewis Elected 2022

Results Co-Ordinator Heather Priestley Elected 2022

Somerset Liaison Officer Jeanette Cook Elected 2022

Championship Secretary - Vacant

Nomination received for the Chair of the BDLGA. Proposed by Sam Robinson.

Erica welcomed Stephanie Moorfoot to the Committee. Stephanie had been co-opted on to the Committee in March this year.

Stephanie Moorfoot joined Bath Golf Club in 2006 having lived in the USA for the previous 26 years. Stephanie has held a number of positions since moving to the UK:

Bath Golf Club Ladies Captain 2011
Mixed Friendlies Organiser 3 years
Alliance A Team Captain 6 years
SLCGA Treasurer 2019-2021
Somerset County Seniors Club Rep. 2023/4

Nomination received for the Gloucestershire Liaison Officer role Proposed by Jo Francis Pope.

Erica announced Carol Brooking to the Committee, Carol is away on holiday and sends her apologies.

Carol has been playing golf for 36 years. She has been a member of Broome Manor, The Players, Tracy Park and is now at Lansdown. She has a handicap of 8 and has been Alliance Captain for 4 years. She is an active member of Gloucestershire Ladies is well placed to take on the role of Gloucestershire Representative for the BDLGA.

The re-elections and nominations to the Committee was confirmed by a show of hands. There was still a vacancy for the Championship Secretary – if anyone is interested in the position, please email Stephanie Moorfoot.

6. **Proposed Rule Changes.**

During the poor weather at the beginning of the year we had a number of questions regarding holes taken out of play,

We have amended 5 (iii) of the Alliance Regulations and xiii of the Foursomes Regulations to read “In the case of any hole being taken out of play during the year for maintenance or due to poor weather conditions. Any hole can be replayed providing the Captains’ both agree before the start of the match”.

The Foursomes regulations: There were a few queries regarding the Course playing handicap and the Handicap Index. We also wanted to make it clearer that a higher handicap player can play but must play off a playing handicap of 24.

Proposed by Carolyn Stait
Seconded by Tricia Folland

7. **Draw for Scratch and Handicap Foursomes**.
   The draw was completed by HP and JC and subsequently made available on the Website. The final will be held on Sunday 14th September. Venue TBA.

8. **Date of Next AGM.**
   Wednesday 12th November 2025 at Knowle Golf Club.

9. **Presentation of Trophies.**

   The Trophies were duly presented to the team captains and the winners of each league along with the agreed prize money.

10. **Chair's closing remarks.**

Firstly, I would like to report on the Bath Aqua Bowl Challenge Match, which I attended in early April at Minchinhampton Golf club. This match takes place annually, between the winner of Bristol and District Alliance Division One and the equivalent winners from the Cotswold and District League. The matches alternate between home and away. This year the match was between Henbury 'A' team and Minchinhampton. In wet and windy conditions and after a tough fight, the trophy this year was won by Minchinhampton.

A number of you have emailed us with different issues. We do try to respond to all queries in a timely manner, but I hope you will appreciate, that we are all volunteers. We are trying hard to do our best for the League and for the Clubs.
I also want to remind everyone that all Alliance matches are governed by the R & A Rules of Golf. This includes Conduct Expected of All Players. We are fortunate that Player Conduct is rarely something that comes up in our league and we look for your help as Captains to keep it that way.

I would like to ask all the Team Captains, especially new ones, to familiarise themselves with the Rules and Regulations for the League. There have been a number of changes, especially to the Policy on Use of Buggies. The Rules were relaxed, but it is still important to advise the Opposing Captain if one is required, to make sure a buggy is available. We are aware that some Clubs, either do not have buggies, or only a limited number.

The Proposal to limit the number of times a player may represent a team was originally on the agenda but has now been withdrawn. As was emphasised in the statement,

withdrawing the Proposal, which was sent out, the Committee will review this idea and others, and expect to have wide ranging discussions with members, before new proposals are put forward in the future.

Finally, I would like to ask for your help. As you will have noted we do not have anyone to take the position of Championship Secretary for 2025. In addition, several of our serving members will reaching the end of their term of office later this year. We very much want to do some succession planning. I will be writing to all the captains, asking for your help. If each of you could approach, your team colleagues to see who would be willing to join the Committee, either now or in the future. I would be happy to speak to anyone who may be interested, or they could speak to any Committee member. It is particularly important that we have more Clubs represented on the Committee. This is an amazing League, which we all enjoy playing in. However, we need the organisers to help with its continued success.

The AGM was formally closed at 12.00.