

Bristol District Lady Golfers' Alliance
94th Annual General Meeting
11.00 am Wednesday 15th November 2023
Knowle Golf Club

Erica Steed (acting Chair) welcomed the participants to Knowle Golf Club and thanked Ryan Coles, Club Manager, Rachel Jefferey Assistant Club Manager and Paul French, Catering Manager for the club's hospitality and assistance in setting up for our AGM.

Erica introduced the members of the Alliance Committee:

Heather Priestley – Results co-ordinator

Glenda Hanmer – Gloucestershire Rep

Jeanette Cook – Somerset Rep

Barbara Lewis - Treasurer

Sam Robinson – Championship Secretary

1. Notice convening the meeting.

ES then declared the 94th Annual General Meeting of the Bristol & District Lady Golfers Alliance open.

2. Minute's silence to remember those who died during the year.

We remembered the following Alliance players who sadly died during the past year:

- Millie Parker who played at Lansdown
- Gill MacGregor who played at Henbury Golf Club
- Wendy Jones who played at Henbury Golf Club
- Val James who played at Bath Golf Club

3. Apologies

Maria Wellar (Burnham & Berrow) Giol Brown (Burnham & Berrow), Carolyn Stait (Burnham & Berrow), Jane Brown (Thornbury), Emma Bourton (Worlebury), Sue Sweet (Orchardleigh), Susan Ellis (Bristol & Clifton), Amiee Sawyer (The Mendip), Tracy Waring (Chipping Sodbury), Beverly Hill (The Bristol), Chris Down (The Mendip), Ann James (Orchardleigh)

4. Minutes of 2022 AGM

The minutes were adopted without any amendments.

Proposer: Kate Bromsgrove (Filton)

Secunder: Gill Clark (Henbury)

The minutes were then signed by the acting chair.

5. To receive the following reports:

a) Treasurer

First a thank you to Ruth Hughes, who I took over from, and who was most helpful in transferring the bank accounts and patiently taking me through everything.

The Accounts (appended to these minutes). Page 2 of the balance sheet looks healthy at £6457.89. But I have approached the accounts differently this year and separated them into the two different areas, 1) The general running of the Alliance and 2) The Championship.

Page 1 shows the income of the Alliance as £700 (fees) but the expenditure of £1545 a loss of £845. A decision was made a couple of years ago to start to run down the balance as we really should not have so much capital; league awards were introduced, honorariums for committee members, the extra expenditure of the new players app. It will be necessary sometime in the future to address the subscription rate to cover expenditure.

The Championship. It looks to have made a healthy profit. But this is a bit of an illusion. Prizes in 2022 not only consisted of vouchers to the winners, but also a “goody bag” to all entrants. Enough “goody bags” were purchased to cover both 2022 and this year 2023. There was also increased sponsorship from Gloucestershire and Somerset counties. The surplus will be used to fund “goody bags” for 2024/25.

But also, a note of caution – if the Championship should lose our main sponsor Di Costello the situation would not look so healthy.

So going forward, having split these two streams of income the balance for the Alliance is £5339.14 and the Championship £1118.75

Proposer: Jo Francis Pope (Lansdown)

Seconder: Carol Weeks (Thornbury)

b) Honorary Secretary

As you can see, we have made some amendments to the Regulations due to a number of issues from members this year. (To be discussed in item 7). We also had to make some changes to the rules due to the Results App taking over some of the paperwork.

We changed the Policy on the use of buggies during the year. You no longer have to have a Medical Certificate to have a buggy. The Policy is on the Website.

Issues that came up during the year:

A number of ladies this year asked for reasonable tee times to allow for travel to and from matches. We did discuss this a number of times at our Committee Meetings. Heather has added something on the App to the Team Captains reminding them to organise reasonable tee times between the hours of 10.30 – 3.30 pm.

This is something outside of the control of the BDLGA Committee however, all we can ask is if you can negotiate with your Club Manager/Secretary reasonable times it will make everyone’s life happier. Thank you to all those who have fixed next year’s match dates, deadline for these dates need to be in by 31st January.

Change of Date due to a player or players going on holiday.

Holidays are not exceptional reasons for changing the date of a match, as happened in a match earlier in the year. As the change was accepted by both Captains concerned, the Committee did not require this match to be replayed.

The Aqua Glass Challenge Bowl was played between the winners of the 2022 BDLGA League (Burnham & Berrow 'A') and Cotswold and District Ladies Golf Alliance, (Cirencester) on Sunday 16th April 2023

Burnham & Berrow had a convincing victory by 5 matches to 2. The match was played in great spirit between the two sides who will both hope to challenge for the 2023 Challenge Bowl which will be hosted next year by this season's winners of the Cotswold & District League. Well done to:

Harriet Lockley,

Gill Brown,

Jess Haines,

Alice Robinson

Aimee Field

Natasha Bowden

Jane Powell

Finals Day for the Scratch and Handicap Fours took place on Sunday 10th September 2023. Glenda did a great job organising the finals day. Thank you, Glenda. Our thanks go to B & C for hosting this event and also to Pam Jestico and Janet Fear who kindly refereed both games. Despite a delay due to Thunder and Lightning the players were able to eventually get onto the course!

The winners of the Scratch Foursomes were Glenda Latham-Creasey and Jade Cope from Weston Super Mare. Runners up being Gill Brown and Aimee Field from Burnham and Berrow

The winners of the Handicap Foursomes were Lyn Bird and Eunice Bond from the Isle of Wedmore with the runners up being Barbara Lewis and Bev Hill from The Bristol.

It was wonderful to see so many spectators who came along to watch some amazing golf. Well done to all the clubs who took part in this event over a five-month period.

c) Championship Secretary

The West of England Amateur Open Ladies Championship was hosted at Bath Golf Club on Sunday 13th June 2023. Big thanks to Diney Costello for once again being our main sponsor. Diney's support and enthusiasm to encourage our elite women is very much appreciated. Somerset Ladies County Golf Association and Gloucestershire Ladies Golf Association both doubled their contribution, and we are grateful for their ongoing support. Many thanks to the 3 referees led by Janet Fear who all did an excellent job. The brilliant BDLGA committee and many volunteers from 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 57 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.

The course was in beautiful condition and the golf was exceptional. Chloe Howard from Boringdon Park Golf Club won the Harper Salver for the second year in a row with an aggregate score of 143. The Costello Trophy was won by Chloe Haesler from Broadstone Golf Club with a nett 143.

The 2nd Gross place went to Carys Worby from Newport Links Golf Club with 147 with Alice Webb from Parkstone Golf Club 148 in 3rd place, Aimee Sawyer from The Mendip Golf Club in 4th place with 149 and Nellie Ong from Eaton Golf Club with 149 in 5th place. The 2nd Nett was Millie Gait from Knowle Golf Club with 146 from and the 3rd nett prize to Alecia Carash from the Kendleshire Golf Course with 147.

The best Gross 1st round prize was won by Maisie Whittall from Gaudet Luce Golf Club with 71 and the best Gross second round prize was won by Tiffany Mills from Ryston Golf Club with 73.

The 2024 Championship will take place on Sunday 9th June and if you are not entering I would recommend you coming to watch or even better to help!

This will be my final year as Championship Secretary so if anyone is interested in taking over this role please form an orderly queue.

d) Results Co-ordinator

Well, what a first year of being your Results Co-ordinator, instead of manually inputting 420 matches we gained an amazing App that you as Captains have mastered so quickly so that all the results are immediate and fully visible and has made for great viewing throughout the year, getting very exciting towards the end of the season.

A huge thanks for reporting to me any glitches along the way and for your enthusiasm for taking this new App on. Thanks, must go to its designer Neil Dunn who has adapted the App he first set up for the Men's league for us. He has made great improvements for us but it's an ever-changing model so keep the ideas for improvement coming as I have a hot line for Neil who is very patient with me and my questions. Finally, thanks go to Jo Francis Pope who last year in her role on the BDLGA committee helped promote this great technical advancement.

The App has run smoothly and overall, so have the matches. A few issues have occurred this year, but all have been dealt with by your committee. A plea for 2024 season, please do follow the rules of the Alliance to avoid difficult issues arising and immediately contact the Committee via the BDLGA email to raise any of your concerns. We are here to support your enjoyment of playing this great game of Golf on all our fantastic courses in the area. We will continue to promote friendship, fun and of course healthy competitive rivalry as we look forward to 2024 and celebrate 2023 today at this AGM.

6. Election of committee members

As per the constitution:

“All committee members will be elected annually and are eligible to serve for a maximum of 5 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	Sam Robinson	Elected 2021
Gloucestershire Liaison Officer	Glenda Hanmer	Elected 2021

The re-election of all positions was confirmed by a show of hands.

It was indicated that there is still a vacancy on the committee for Chair. If you are interested in this role, please contact Erica Steed.

7. Proposed Rule Changes

Rules and Regulations

3 (i) A change was made from the Hon Secretary to the Results Co-ordinator, and we wanted to make it clearer in the sentence regarding a tie. "In the event of a tie in the total number of points scored throughout the season results will be calculated by the Results Co-ordinator on total points, if level, matches won, if level points away.

4 (7) A question was raised about Safeguarding – due to a young girl playing in one of the Teams. The Committee discussed this at length and as all the Clubs have a Safeguarding Policy in line with England Golf it was agreed that it would have to be the responsibility of the host Golf Club. However, we will add a copy of the England Golf Safeguarding Policy on the Website to make it easily accessible to parents.

6. (ii) We have added in a time limit from the Klaxon sounding to resume play during a match if there is Lightning or flooded greens.

7 (7) An amendment in light of the changes regarding the result app. Match results are to be recorded on the BDLGA results App after playing.

Foursomes Rules and Regulations:

Rule 6: Lateness for Scratch and Handicap Foursomes Matches. It was agreed by the Committee that Team Captains should follow Rule 5.3a of the R & A Rules of Golf.

Rule 11: Play can only be suspended if there is danger from lightning or flooded greens: The time limit for the match to resume play will be 1 hour (that is from the time the Klaxon is sounded).

Proposer: Jo Francis Pope (Lansdown)
 Secunder: Annie Patton (Isle of Wedmore)

8. Draw for the Scratch & Handicap Foursomes

The draw was completed by GH and SR (and has subsequently been made available on the website).

9. Date of next AGM

The next AGM is proposed to be Wednesday 13th November at Knowle Golf Club. (Other locations that volunteered – Salford and Filton and will be considered by the Committee).

10. Presentation of Trophies

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

11. Chair's Closing remarks.

Thank you all for attending the AGM. Farrington Park have removed the wording Ladies and are now known as Farrington Park Women's Section. This coming year the BDLGA Committee will consider doing the same – we are holding our first committee meeting on 6th December where this will be discussed.

I would like to thank the Committee for all their hard work this year we have had a number of rule changes this year and moving forward I hope that this will improve your enjoyment of playing in the Alliance. Please contact any of us if there are any impending issues. Some of us on the Committee work so please bear with us if we don't always acknowledge emails immediately, we do keep a close eye on the email account but try to come back with an answer in a day or two. If it is really urgent, please ring either Heather or Erica.

The AGM was formally closed at 12.00.