

BRISTOL & DISTRICT LADY GOLFERS' ALLIANCE
92nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
ON WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 24th 2021 AT 11.00am
AT KNOWLE GOLF CLUB

Lis Henniker-Heaton, Chair, welcomed the Ladies to Knowle Golf Club and thanked Ryan Coles, Club Manager, and Paul French, Catering Manager, for the club's hospitality and assistance in setting up for our AGM. She gave her opening remarks and then introduced the members of the Alliance committee to the delegates.

1 Notice convening the meeting

The secretary declared the 92nd Annual General Meeting of the Bristol & District Lady Golfers Alliance open.

2 Minute's Silence

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

Gill Prophet (Mendip Spring and in post as BDLGA Honorary Treasurer), Ali Vyas (Bristol & Clifton and in post as B Team Captain), Lesley Floyd (Clevedon) and Meryl Williams (Saltford).

3 Apologies

Apologies were received from Zena Balcombe (Weston-super-Mare), Glenda Hanmer (Henbury), Tracy Jones and Kate Williams (both Thornbury).

Due to the recommendation to socially distance due to Covid-19, Ladies' Captains were asked not to attend.

4 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2020

These have been on the website for a year. Acceptance was proposed by Jo Blackmore (Lansdown), seconded by Mary Martin (Henbury) and were agreed as read. Lis Henniker-Heaton signed them as a correct record of the proceedings.

5 Reports

i. Honorary Treasurer (Acting) – Ruth Hughes

From a finance perspective, it hasn't been a typical accounting year.

Due to the Covid impact of not playing the league during 2020 a fair amount of expenditure that we would normally spend, just didn't happen. This includes such items as:-

- No Engraving costs for the trophies (normally spent in October of the financial year)
- No AGM expenses in November 2020
- No Honorariums to the serving committee members in October 2020
- No miscellaneous expenses for the Committee meetings during 2020

These accounts do not include payments made to the 4 players who have achieved a Hole in One during the 2021 season which will be handed out later at this meeting. And also for any late payments that were received outside of the financial year, e.g. the Gloucester County £100 sponsorship payment to the Harper Salver Championship.

You will see from the Income and Expenditure account that the Championship was a well-run and financially profitable event for us this year. The overall sponsorship donation was up on the previous year and we were very grateful for this.

We have now closed our Santander account and the Balance Sheet shows that this money plus the interest has now been transferred to our Lloyds business account during the 2020/21 financial year.

As a consequence of all of this accounting activity our net surplus for the year is approximately £1,000 which is greater than in previous years.

Your League committee will be proactively seeking opportunities to reduce this net surplus during the following year but we will also welcome suggestions from our league representatives too.

Adoption of accounts –

Proposer – Carolyn Stait (Burnham & Berrow)

Secunder – Judy Ponsford (Henbury)

All agreed.

ii. Honorary Secretary – Angie Frith

From an uncertain start due to the Covid-19 restrictions, it has turned out to be another very smooth-running year with very few issues to concern the committee, so thank you to all for your flexibility and understanding.

The team matches started nearly a month late and thank you to all the team captains for the flurry of activity to arrange, and re-arrange, matches to be played by the end of October. Hopefully next year will be able to return to our normal timetable of having all matches planned before the end of September.

We were very fortunate not to have to put matches on hold or forego any matches. The only real change to our normal year was to accept that catering would be out of doors and may be a very reduced offering. I had no negative comments and got the impression that ladies were just relieved to be back playing matches.

Please could I remind you to e-mail the new Honorary Secretary, preferably at the BDLGA g-mail address, with next year's match dates when they are definite, by 31st January, and also any new dates throughout the year if any have to be rescheduled. We keep a close eye on the matches played, especially towards the end of the season.

When arranging dates, another annual request - please be aware of travelling times for visiting players so wherever possible please do not offer only very early or very late matches. Also, please take into account other important dates such as the Scratch & Handicap 4s finals (18th Sept) and the Rogers Cup & Centenary Plate Finals (4th Sept) for those of us in Somerset.

Another annual reminder please is to check the day before that your team players know they are supposed to be playing in a match, so that they all turn up.

We are very pleased to have welcomed Henbury's C team to the league this year. The changes to the Rules and Regulations that we agreed at the 2019 AGM were followed by Henbury's Team Captains to ensure that no ring-fenced players for A or B teams played for the wrong teams. And thank you to all Team Captains of clubs with two or more teams, who, during the season informed me if the top seven players changed, and a reminder to those new A Team Captains to do the same this coming year please.

With the addition of Henbury's C team, the point was raised at the 2019 AGM that there is very real prospect of two teams from the same club being in the same division. When an A Team plays a B Team from the same club, the A team is going to be far stronger and they will be playing both 'home and away' matches at the home club, so are likely to have a 28-point advantage over other teams in that division. The committee created a new working party to look into this and our thanks go to the eight members who were involved. Rachael kindly chaired the working party and we eventually met in July 2021. We discussed many options to deal with this, from notional scoring (too complex); playing off handicap (no as this is a scratch league);

changing the dates when the home and away matches are played to prevent any manipulation, real or imagined; restricting the numbers of times a player might play for her club (probably too restrictive with the WHS creating more fluidity between teams and had been tried and failed before); and keeping one team down but the rules already allow for this if three teams could be in the same division. From the 12-match spreadsheets I did a quick count of players who participated in more than 12 matches during the year – 4 played 13, 4 played 14, 3 played 15, 2 played 16, 2 played 17 and 2 played 18. This probably needs to be revisited now that we have had a year of WHS bedding in and with additional data on frequency of players participating.

Congratulations to all the division winners – Burnham & Berrow A, Isle of Wedmore A, Henbury B, Burnham & Berrow B (a double celebration for their club) and Chipping Sodbury. Also, congratulations to the individual winners who will be presented with their trophies later.

We had a bumper crop of four Holes in One this year – Thank you to the team captains who remembered to send us the relevant information and we welcome the players here today to be presented with their cheques.

Foursomes - The committee decided early on that with the competition for reduced tee times and the late start to the matches, we would not hold the foursomes this year. We hope of course to restart these in 2022, so I have another reminder please, to arrange the first round matches by 1st March, as per the Rules.

The 2019 Bath Aqua Glass Challenge Bowl match between Bristol & Clifton as our Division 1 winners and Cotswold Hills (the Cotswold & District Alliance division 1 winners) was eventually played at Bristol & Clifton in October 2021. We are delighted that Bristol & Clifton have retained the trophy again for the BDLGA and wish Burnham & Berrow every success in their match next Spring. Please contact Lis before arranging the match so that she and others from the committee can be present.

Finally, we were all very shocked and saddened at the news of our Honorary Treasurer, Gill Prophet's diagnosis and subsequent death this year. To show her superb commitment to the committee, she joined us by Zoom from her hospital bed for the May meeting, which was good as we were all able to talk to her, but also very moving. As she died during her tenure as treasurer, it did bring up a practical issue of vulnerability, with missing documentation and BDLGA property. We were indebted to her friends at Mendip Spring golf club for accessing her computer files and cupboards to retrieve everything. This has brought up a query as to whether we should look at a central cloud storage facility where committee members have access and the committee will be looking into this in the future.

I would also like to add my thanks to Gill for her camaraderie and professionalism over the last five plus years that we shared on committee. She is very much missed.

iii. Results Co-ordinator – Carol Kirkwood

It was good to get back to work after being laid off for a year.

Thank you to everyone who sent in emails during the season with match results and spreadsheets. It's always a pleasure to hear from you and I do enjoy any extra little snippets of news or smiley faces!

The last few weeks can be very exciting with all sorts of last minute surprises. You only have to look at the final results summary at the end of October to see how close things can be – the top team in the 3rd division scored 106 points and the team in second place 105!

With around 200 match results being reported during the season there are occasional hiccups. I need all the team captains to keep an eye on the weekly reports on the BDLGA website and point out anything that doesn't look right. Sometimes it's because I've got things wrong and sometimes it's not! But what makes it much easier for me is if any blips are spotted as soon as possible so I can nip them in the bud.

You'll find all the information for sending in results and summary sheets on the website. If you've any queries please get in touch.

Please remember to include the division number of your team in the subject of the email. It makes filing things in the proper folder much easier especially when clubs have more than one team.

That's all – keep up the good work of sending in your results promptly.

And last but by no means least a very big thank you to Angie for always coming to the rescue when I need her – be prepared Jo!

iv. Championship Secretary – Alison Rushgrove

The West of England Amateur Open Ladies Championship was hosted, as usual, at Bath Golf Club on Sunday 13th June 2021. The main sponsor for this event is Diney Costeloe. This year marked Diney's 10th year sponsoring this event. We are very grateful to Diney and were delighted that she could attend the event this year to present the prizes. Somerset Ladies County Golf Association and Gloucestershire Ladies County Golf Association also support the event with donations.

I would like to thank Janet Fear, Alison Lee and Pam Jarvis for doing an excellent job of refereeing, Lis Henniker-Heaton, Angie Frith and Rachael Paul from the BDLGA committee for helping out on the desk and for marking a card. Thank you to Sam Robinson from Bath GC for helping me to produce the start sheet, inputting the cards and producing the results. Also, to Andy Robinson and Deborah McArdle for standing in at the last minute and being prepared to mark a card. We also had ball spotters, starters and Clubhouse hosts – all members of Bath GC helping on the day. It was lovely to see Ellie Harper there too. Ellie was involved from the inception of the Competition at Bath GC.

This year we had a bumper entry and a total of 58 golfers competed for the Harper Salver (Gross) and the Costeloe Trophy (Nett) over 36 holes. Many of the entries came in close to the date of the competition which gave me the jitters but was probably in part due to the uncertainty around COVID. The quality of the field was excellent with over a third playing off a handicap of scratch or below and the vast majority playing off a handicap of 5 or below.

The sun shone on one of the hottest days of the year and Bath's course was in fabulous condition. The greens were set up with Championship pin positions, posing a real challenge to all the competitors. They rose to the occasion and the quality of the golf was exceptional. Spectators and ball spotters were treated to some wonderful golf.

Patience Rhodes from Burnham & Berrow Golf Club won the Harper Salver with a total score of 142 – six under course par.

In second place was Lexi Dart from Churston GC with a score 147, beating Euphemie Rhodes from Burnham & Berrow Golf Club (sister to Patience) into 3rd place on 150.

Katherine O'Connor from West Byfleet Golf Club came 4th beating her 5th place position from 2019. On countback Megan Giles from St Mellion Golf Club won 5th gross with 152.

Davin Xanh (Mendip Spring Golf Club) won the Best Gross Prize for the morning's round with 74. Ellena Slater (Kingshill Golf Club) won Best Gross Prize for the afternoon with 73.

First nett prize and winner of the Costeloe Cup was Imogen Courtney (Westhill Golf Club) with 147.

Isobel Payne (The Kendleshire Golf Club) placed second on nett with 14. Third on countback was Isabella Hopkins (Bristol & Clifton Golf Club) with 151.

The full results were published on the BDLGA website, Bath GC website and the England Golf website. A news report and photographs went into the Chronicle, the Western Daily Press and golfing magazines.

The competitors were, without exception, great ambassadors for ladies' golf and it was a pleasure to be involved in the event. This has been my last year as Championship Secretary and I have very much enjoyed being involved in the BDLGA and with the Harper Salver. I am confidently handing it over to a very capable Sam Robinson from Bath GC. Good Luck Sam!

In 2022 the Championship will take place at Bath GC on Sunday 12th June.

6 Election of committee members

Last year it was agreed that the committee members would serve for a further year due to the unusual circumstances that COVID-19 presented.

Under the terms of the Alliance Regulations members of the Committee retire annually and shall serve for a maximum of five years.

Retiring from committee are: -

Honorary Secretary	Angie Frith	Bath	Elected 2015
Championship Secretary	Alison Rushgrove	Bath	Elected 2019
Honorary Treasurer	This post became vacant upon the death of Gill Prophet		

Standing for re-election, taken en bloc, are:-

Chair	Lis Henniker-Heaton	Henbury	Elected 2018
Results Co-ordinator	Carol Kirkwood	Clevedon	Elected 2016
Member	Rachael Paul	The Bristol	Elected 2018

Proposed by Heather Kerr-Wilbur (Mendip Spring), Seconded by Mel Lear (Filton). Unanimously agreed.

The Somerset and Gloucestershire Liaison Officers remain on the committee

Somerset County Liaison	Zena Balcombe	(Weston-s-Mare)	Elected 2017
Gloucester County Liaison	Ruth Hughes	(Thornbury)	Elected 2017

Nominations:-

Honorary Secretary:- Jo Blackmore (Lansdown) proposed by Angie Frith (Bath) and seconded by Annie Griffin (Thornbury)

Honorary Treasurer:- Glenda Hanmer (Henbury) proposed by Ruth Hughes (Thornbury) and seconded by Diana Meehan (VC Henbury)

Championship Secretary:- Sam Robinson (Bath) proposed by Alison Rushgrove (Bath) and seconded by Heather Cottle (VC Bath)

Again, these were taken en bloc and unanimously agreed.

7 Proposed Rule Changes

These two rules changes were proposed by committee

- i. **2. ALLIANCE COMMITTEE** – substitute **Results** Co-ordinator for **Web** Coordinator
- ii. Formal adoption of the temporary rule change due to introduction of World Handicap System Proposed by the committee in April 2021 –
 - 4 ELIGIBILITY (v)** The seven lowest eligible handicap players in the club at any time shall constitute the 'A' team and shall not be eligible to play in 'B' team matches. If a club fields a C team, the seven next lowest eligible handicap players in the club at any time shall constitute the 'B' team and shall not be eligible to play in 'C' team matches. **Team players are chosen in advance according to this rule, but if the handicaps change within 7 days of the match being played making one or more players ineligible, they may still play in that team match.** The list of A Team players, andetc. For clarity, on the day the team must still go out in exact handicap order.....

These were both agreed unanimously.

8 Draw for the Scratch & Handicap Foursomes

The draws for the scratch and handicap foursomes were made.

The date of the final for 2020 is Sunday 12th September; the 19th September will be used in case of inclement weather. The venue will be announced later.

9 Date of next AGM – Thursday 10th November 2022 at 11am, at Knowle Golf Club

10 Presentation of trophies

The Chair presented the Division Trophies and the trophies to the individual members for top scores in each division and four Hole-in-One prizes to Lesley Gillon (Henbury), Jean Booth (Burnham & Berrow), Clare Page (Bristol & Clifton) and Sue Sweet (Orchardleigh).

The Bath Aqua Challenge Bowl was presented again to Bristol & Clifton A Team.

11 The AGM was formally closed at 12:10pm