

BRISTOL & DISTRICT LADY GOLFERS' ALLIANCE
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT KNOWLE GOLF CLUB

On Friday 2nd June 2017 at 10.00am

Present:

Sue Johns	SJ	Rosemary Fife	RF	Gill Prophet	GP
Angie Frith	AF	Di Yates	DY	Mary Groves	MG
Marian Crewe	MC	Carol Kirkwood	CK	Zena Balcombe	(visitor)

ACTION

1. Apologies – None

Carol Kirkwood was warmly welcomed to her first meeting. Zena Balcombe was invited to join the meeting as she is considering taking over from Di Yates at the next AGM.

2. Minutes of Meeting of 13th March – Agreed with amendments to Marian's name, the date and footer, and signed.

3. Matters arising – Di Yates had approached the SLCGA for additional funding for the Harper Salver as Ellie Harper gave a positive response. However, she has not yet had an affirmation from them, so to follow up. **DY**

4. Chairman's Report

Welcome to Carol and Zena and I hope my report gives you a sense of the varied questions we are asked. We basically follow England Golf Rules. I am sometimes bemused by the questions as I was EWGA Rep for Gloucestershire when we merged with the men and our lawyer (male) commented favourably on the ladies' organisation and knowledge.

Thanks to Angie for sterling work with the new website. I am very happy to be back in a supporting role and am working on documenting the instructions that are reminders for how to access and work on the website **SJ**

Challenge Bowl – Simple rules need to be established for this to avoid any repetition of the minor problems encountered this year. As it is an inter-league competition I feel that representatives of both committees should attend, with the Home County Representative presenting the Bowl to the winning team. Therefore the date should be set with that in mind and should not be done until after the AGM when the winner is announced. The committee discussed whether it should be played before the next season starts or at the end of the current season after the final matches have been completed. The general feeling was that time would be too limited to arrange this at the end of the season. However, to be discussed with Cotswold's representative. **SJ**

It appears from the communication with previous chairperson that the BDLGA rules are to be followed, but this needs to be documented and clear for all. I will write a one-pager covering the procedure for arranging the match, the rules adopted and who presents the trophy. **SJ**

As both Cotswold League and BDLGA do not allow caddies in league matches then this should be adhered to for the Challenge match. I did ask various players how they felt and there were some who were definitely not happy having extra people with them.

Caddies - there has been correspondence re use of caddies as an alternative for those who require a buggy in league matches and the Challenge Bowl.

A Modification of the Rules of Golf for Golfers with Disabilities (R & A publication) explains when and how caddies may be used for those with Disabilities, this does not include those who require buggies due a medical condition, either transitory or permanent as there is a separate policy for their use.

Besides studying this document, which helped with the creation of our Dementia Policy after detailed advice and discussion with the paralegal department at England Golf, I referred to our local County Development Officer, the England Disability Manager and through him with the Compliance Manager/In-house Solicitor. They have studied the request and looked again at the wording of our Buggy Policy and they feel that if the need for a buggy is sound, this puts the player on a level playing field with her opponent; if she has a caddy when other players aren't allowed one then she would gain an advantage, even if the caddy held a higher handicap.

Therefore, we are correct not to allow access to a caddy as an alternative to a buggy. If someone wishes to walk "on a good day" when they also have a flatter course, then they can but should not require someone to push an electric trolley for them.

Buggies- comments re some courses not having a buggy available for a player with a medical certificate should be addressed to the club concerned. I have been informed that ALL clubs in Gloucestershire should now have buggies for their use, as if not available this could be challenged under the Equality Act. The committee discussed the fact that some courses may be closed to buggies due to inclement weather so will issue a reminder on the front page of the website to the Team Captain to check with the club concerned on the day and if necessary have a walking replacement ready. **SJ/AF**

Website news page - also to go on the front page will be 1) a reminder to send in the spreadsheet when teams have reached the half-way mark and 2) a prompt to come along and support the championship next week. **SJ**

Dementia Policy – I will write and thank those who prompted the committee to create this policy and for their help and support to their lady concerned over the last few years.

5. Secretary's Report

League - All seem to be running smoothly and there have been no issues flagged of late.

Scratch & Handicap Foursomes – At the start of the season, some clubs were not arranging their matches in a timely manner and may have been confusing our foursomes with Gloucester County Foursomes dates. However, all were informed and Angie will remind everyone at the AGM. These are now all running without issue at the moment.

The finals will be held prior to the next committee meeting. Angie will find referees. **AF**

Sue will attend to assist Angie and award the trophies and prizes. Rosemary is free if required. **SJ/AF**

Gill will provide the silver ball markers. **GP**

Rules and Regulations – nil to report.

Website – All clubs seem to have got used to the new website and e-mail address after a few teething problems. League and Foursomes match updates are uploaded weekly, usually on a Sunday. The old e-mail is checked frequently and any odd e-mails are redirected, with polite reminder to the sender.

Angie to check Carol's photograph as some writing appears across it on PCs. **AF**

Also, Angie to try and remove the arrows from the header picture. **AF**

6. Treasurer's Report

Gill reported £4,092.72 in current account, £3,441.21 in deposit account and £71.23 in petty cash.

The Harper Salver entry fees have been banked and expenses for this event will be paid out next week. A quick calculation showed that although we do not have a full field this year, the event will still be in profit. It was agreed that we would do a review of the Harper Salver finances including reviewing the entry fee and prize money at the next meeting, to see whether these should be changed. **GP**

7. Championship Secretary's Report

So far there are 57 entrants after 3 withdrawals. There may be one late entrant to follow up. **RF**

The standard of competitors again is very high, with 8 having plus handicaps and 42 with a handicap under 3. Currently I am taking names for the practice round.

Last year's winners are entering again and I have contacted them to return the trophies.

Secretary Angie and I have met with Bath Golf Club and arrangements have been made for the day re code numbers, catering, practice rounds, referees buggies, etc. Many thanks to Angie for all her help.

I have organised two referees, Carol Newton and Didi Ager, and have answered all their questions. Carol will organise a course inspection with Angie. She has already asked about the use of the EG Hard Card but we have not previously adopted this as it over-rides the club's local rules. To be discussed with her at inspection and if necessary we can provide these. **AF**

Sponsors:-

1. Diney Costeloe has kindly given us £650 and said she is also willing to support next year.
2. Gloucester County Ladies have given us £100
3. Bath University has agreed to sponsor the event for £300 which is to be used for £5 meal vouchers for the players but I have yet to receive this. I contacted him yesterday and he assures me it will come. Sue will create the numbered vouchers and Gill will arrange reimbursement with BGC. **CF/SJ/GP**

4. I received sponsorship in the form of moisturiser samples for all players from Beauty Time, Cleeve.

I met with the Treasurer and have handed over all the cheques. Gill will also buy the 60 x 500ml bottles of water. Thanks to Gill for all her help. **GP**

The Welcome Leaflet will be completed today and sent to Bath GC for printing. Then I have to notify the Bath Chronicle.

Confirmed that Chairman Sue will be Starter and she will present the prizes and trophies.

Rosemary has created the start sheet in Excel and will revise and recirculate this in the light of drop-outs. One Scottish entrant does not have a CDH number so will need to provide an up-to-date handicap certificate on the day. Two others from Sweden and the US also do not have CDH numbers so Angie to ensure that they can be included on the Handicap Master start sheet, to be included in the results. Angie will enlist the help of Angela Trenchard again this year. **AF**

Angie has been trying to find ball spotters but at present only has the morning covered, due to so many people being away. She will continue to look for additional helpers. **AF**

We had no reserves this year, so will need to look at how we market this event in the future. **RF**

8. Results Co-ordinator's Report

I appreciated Debbie's helpful introduction and am enjoying having input into the BDLGA which provides the framework for many matches that I've had enjoyed participating over the past few years.

Thank you, Angie, for all your help and prompt responses to my queries and thank you to those who have pointed out glitches. It is much easier to put things right if I am able to nip them in the bud. I have already responded to an email asking the results to be put in order.

There is a discrepancy in Thornbury's results on the summary sheet. I will send to Sue to look at the formulae behind the results. Also, she will check whether the played matches where zero is scored on the Detailed Results page can be set to turn red like the other results do. **CK/SJ**

It would be useful to have a notice on the website asking team captains to report any discrepancies to me via the BDLGA email address. **AF**

Some teams have already played 5 matches and I look forward to receiving the halfway reports after their first 6 matches.

9. Return of Trophies for engraving

The list of trophy winners was circulated prior to the meeting and members volunteered to collect the ones close to them. The completed list will be circulated. **AF**

We appear to have no photo of the Harper Salver, so Angie will take one next week and e-mail to Marian for the complete spreadsheet of all trophies. **AF**

10. AOB

Mary notified the committee of the sad accidental death of Mary Evans, Ladies Captain at Shirehampton in 1974, in a recent house fire.

Sue has found all the old notes on the various trophies and will send to Angie to put on the website. **SJ**

Di asked about the addition of another club or team into the Alliance next year, to replace the loss of Lansdown B team. Sue has found the boundaries set in previous years and will circulate to all for discussion and identification of suitable clubs. **SJ**

Angie asked whether arranging of the finals of the Scratch and Handicap Foursomes could perhaps be taken on by another committee member now that she has taken over the website upkeep. Rosemary kindly volunteered to do this next year. R&R documents to be updated to reflect this change. **AF/RF**

Part of the difficulty in finding venues for the Foursomes finals has been that tend to clash with other events at that time of the year. It was agreed that we would look at holding them later, either at the end of September or start of October next year. AF to look at suitable dates. **AF**

GP will also send her updated role specification to Angie. **GP**

11. Date of meetings for 2017 – all at Knowle Golf Club

- Friday 15th September at 10.00
- AGM 9th November

The meeting closed at 12.15am.