

BRISTOL & DISTRICT LADY GOLFERS' ALLIANCE
86th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT
KNOWLE GOLF CLUB ON
MONDAY NOVEMBER 9TH 2015 AT 11am

Barbara Cuff, in the chair welcomed the Ladies to Knowle. She thanked Knowle for hosting the AGM and Ryan from Knowle GC for his support.

Barbara then introduced the committee to the Alliance Ladies.

1 Notice convening the meeting

The secretary then declared the 86th Annual General Meeting of the Bristol & District Lady Golfers Alliance open

2 Minute's Silence

There was then a minute's silence in memory of these ladies; From Shirehampton - Val Hopkins Lady Captain and Joan Peters aged 94, from Knowle – Hilda Smethurst Lady Captain 1973 aged 103, Linda Papworth from Weston Super Mare and Angela Edgeworth Henbury.

3 Apologies

Apologies were received from Rose Hargreaves and Paula Crabtree B&C, Christine Janes

4 Minutes for the Annual General Meeting 2014

These were taken as read and the Chairman signed them as a correct record of the proceedings. The acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Frances Henry Knowle and seconded by Jan Pitcher Long Ashton.

5 Reports

a) Treasurer – Susie Gibbins

Madam Chairman and Ladies, I am pleased to present the accounts for the year ended 30 September 2015.

Following the question from Bath last year about the amount of money held in both accounts, the Committee spent many hours discussing ways of spending the monies wisely. It was a great concern to all that we did not drastically decrease the amounts held nor commit to spending annually any amount that could not be sustained in the long term. This year, the expense of the welcome tea/ coffee at this meeting will be met by Alliance Funds, as a thank you to all the attendees who are giving their time to the BDLGA.

When joining the Committee, members have a desire to serve the Alliance to the best of their ability and do not expect remuneration. However, it became clear after discussion that there were several members who repeatedly spend a considerable sum of their own money in fulfilling their duties. (Secretary, Competition Secretary and Treasurer). It was decided to award each member the sum of £20 a year to assist them and is the first time an honorarium has been given. This sum does not however, cover the costs of some of the members and it may be decided by next year's committee to increase this amount.

Faced with the full facts of the Alliance finances and two decisions already made, we were advised that the Trill Cup was badly in need of repair and re-engraving. This was accomplished for £75 and now has a new lease of life and with an extra tier, giving many more spaces for future engraving.

It must be noted that the AGM has been held here for the past three years at no cost. Previously the costs incurred for renting a large room such as this one at Knowle has been in the order of £200. This is one of the many factors that had to be taken into consideration when looking into future spending.

The Committee then looked at other suggestions that we had received

1. Reducing the fees – this was viewed as a retrograde step and would bring little value to all the clubs

2. Reimbursement of engraving costs – it was felt this was a difficult task to achieve and most clubs covered the cost of engraving within their general costs or by the Ladies Sections
3. Scratch and Handicap Foursomes – a more valuable prize for the winners? It was felt that the prizes are only a token and the winners may not have played in all other rounds of the competition. The trophies are the main rewards and are given to the clubs so it was felt this should not be changed.
4. Prizes for individual and team winners – this would be a high on-going cost, which could not be sustained.

All the trophies need to be valued as this has not been done for many years. This will be undertaken following this meeting and will not be inexpensive. The trophies will be engraved by the BDLGA as a one off this year. A knock on of this is that they then have to be distributed which will involve time, co-ordination and expense to Committee members as we cover a large area.

For the last few years a substantial proportion of the surplus held in the Lloyds account was profit from the Harper Salver. We have been very honoured to receive donations from Diney Costeloe (WSM) and Gloucester CLGA for this prestigious event. Whilst this generosity continues the Harper Salver would run at a profit despite increased costs from Bath GC and general running expenses. Should either of these sponsorships stop then this event would run at a loss.

In order to use some of the extra monies from the Harper Salver it was decided by the Committee to commission the embroidery of black golf towels with our logo and Harper Salver underneath. One of these will be given to each entrant. In order to amortise costs, we have ordered sufficient for two years. All prize monies have also been increased by £5.00

Armed with all this information I shall now work my way through the accounts and Balance sheet.

Looking at the Income and Expenditure for the year there are two columns dealing with this year. The first relates to the running of the Alliance and the second to the running of the Championship, the far right column being last year's comparative figure.

There is a deficit of £58.74 for the running of the Alliance (surplus last year of £262.57) and a deficit of (£68.43) for the Championship, (surplus of £593.75 last year) giving a net overall deficit of (£127.17) which is a substantial decrease on last year's surplus of £856.32

There is £40 for 2 holes in one carried over from last year as these were not notified until after the accounts had been audited. There were two holes in one this year, and as last year these will go through in next year's accounts.

Turning to the Balance Sheet, the balance of £5978.95 is self explanatory and is represented by the cash at Lloyds and Santander plus the stock of silver ball markers presented to leaving Committee members. This stock is now depleted and will need to be replenished soon.

Thank you

Barbara then thanked Susie for her report and all her hard work whilst she was on the committee and presented her with her Silver Ball Marker.

The accounts were then adopted by the meeting – proposed by Bobby Appleby, Farrington and seconded by Julie Haydell, Long Ashton

b) Secretary - Claire Biggs

Good Morning Lady Captains and Alliance Captains and prize winners.

Can I start by thanking all Captains for their prompt returns of league, foursomes and halfway and full match results, despite some problems early on in the season. I had to send out a few reminders at the end of the season for the final spreadsheets, it does make trophy sorting easier if these come in promptly. I did experience a few problems reading some mail but a few of you were kind enough to resend. The weather certainly helped this year with very few postponed matches.

Congratulations to all the division winners – Henbury, Long Ashton A, The Bristol, Saltford and Long Ashton B. There were some very close leagues with some results both promotions and relegations resting on final matches and a tied result which was decided by the number of wins.

Also congratulations to the individual winners –Paula Crabtree B&C A 22pts, Jan Pitcher LA A 18pts, Barbara Lew The Bristol 16pts, Liz Meiklejohn and Sue Bindon both from Filton 16pts and again Jan Pitcher this time for LA B 17pts. There are six winners as Division 4 had tied winners.

The finals of the scratch and handicap foursomes at Bath saw B&B beat Lansdown 5/4 and then The Kendleshire beat B&B. I was able to walk around watching the matches and saw some excellent golf. Well done to all four teams. Special thanks to Didi Ager who took photos as the games progressed.

B&C went to Minchinhampton for the Challenge Trophy (competed between the Division 1 Champions from our Alliance and the Cotswold Alliance). Unfortunately Minchinhampton were the winners on a very cold day. Barbara Cuff and I needed to retire for hot coffee at one point! A very good day was had by all those attending we saw some excellent golf and enjoyed a lovely tea. Thank you to Minchinhampton for their hospitality. Next year Henbury as Division 1 winners will play at home against a CDLGA club and we hope they meet with success.

There were a few problems voiced to the committee over slow play due to busy courses and I know teams are sometimes allocated very small slots to play the matches, I ask for tolerance from us all and we do need to appreciate that we are out playing golf at so many lovely courses. Also many people do not realise how quickly we play singles match play (especially men!)

Can I please remind Captains of clubs with two teams that during the season they do need to e-mail the secretary if the top seven players change so we can check teams easily and also to take care to record teams carefully in the correct handicap order. Remember that players can go out in a different order when playing as long as each player plays the correct opposite player, thus if a player is delayed by traffic they can slot in at the end. This year we are asking team Captains to add on to their score sheet that is sent in to Debbie, any Holes in One scored on the day.

The December Pack with all the details of Captains etc will come out ASAP after the AGM. It will be sent FAO The Lady Captain to your clubs.

Finally, as this is my last year on the committee I'd like to thank all the Alliance ladies for their help during my term of office and special thanks to the committee for their friendship and camaraderie.

Barbara Cuff then thanked Claire for her report and asked if there were any questions, there were no questions. She then presented her with her Silver Ball Marker.

c) Championship Secretary - Karen Beaumont-Wraith

This year's West of England Amateur Ladies Championship was once again held at Bath GC on Sunday 4th June and my thanks go to the Secretary Nick Leuty and his assistant Fiona, the bar and kitchen staff and the greenkeepers who had prepared the course in a superb condition. Thanks also to the Ladies of Bath who helped us on the day with their excellent ball spotting.

This year's Harper Salver winner was Ella Griffiths from The Vale with a combined score of 147, won on countback from Sarah Gee. The best nett went to Jordan Ryan from Newport also with a combined score of 147. The scores were all very close.

The calibre of players seems to be getting better and better each year. Although we have a maximum handicap of 14 for entry, this year the handicaps ranged from +3 to 8!

I'd like to also give a special thank you to Diney Costeloe from Weston Super Mare and to Gloucestershire County Ladies Golf Association for their sponsorship.

Finally, a thank you to the Committee for their help on what is a very long day and to the referees who are on the course to help with any rulings, though thankfully there were very few.

Next year the competition is on Sunday 12th June at Bath GC.

The Chairman thanked Karen for her hard work this year

d) Website Organiser - Debbie Dardis

It hasn't been an uneventful year. We lost the site for 5 days at the beginning of the season whilst I tried to establish which service provider was responsible and then to trace back to the original website creator to get proof of identity etc., a learning curve that will at least ensure that it doesn't happen again.

Thank you to all of you who spotted any discrepancies in the league results which enabled me to establish the reason and quickly put right.

Unexpectedly I have spent many months out of the country this year and I would like to thank Chris Harris from Saltford for working closely with me to ensure that the website was updated regularly.

Home team captains, when you are emailing your results in the Heading can you please state your division and your club name. We do keep a copy of every email and this will help considerably with the filing. Captains could you please send us details of any Holes in One during Alliance matches. Thank you.

The website now shows the final league results for 2015, details of the winners of the Scratch and Handicap Foursomes and the Harper Salver. You can now download the application form and poster for 2016. There is a list of the new 2016 divisions and we will shortly be putting up the 2016 match dates.

I would actively encourage you to come forwards with stories of interest to other clubs. If you have ideas that would add interest to our site, then please do let me know.

And finally I am looking forwards to the year ahead now understanding what I am doing and how the committee works. I will be stepping down at the end of 2016 and would actively encourage anyone interested to contact me. You do need some knowledge of Excel and I have written a job specification and very detailed procedure notes to give you a good understanding of the role.

The Chairman then thanked Debbie for all her hard work and asked if there were any questions, there were no questions

6 Election of committee members

The following members are standing for re-election

Debbie Dardis and Karen Beaumont-Wraith.

The election was proposed en bloc by Proposer Bath GC Seconder Weston Super Mare GC

The appointed Somerset and Gloucestershire Liaison Officers remain on the committee.

Nomination of the vacant position of Chair

there was one nomination, Sue Johns from The Kendleshire who was proposed by Barbara Cuff and seconded by Sue Lear, Lady Captain The Kendleshire

The Chairman asked Sue to stand and she introduced her to the members and she was accepted by those present.

Nomination of the vacant position of Secretary

There was one nomination, Angela Frith of Bath who was proposed by Claire Biggs and seconded by Anita Bye Lady Captain Bath.

The Chairman asked Angela to stand and she introduced her to the members and she was accepted by those present.

Nomination of the vacant position of Treasurer

There was one nomination, Gill Prophet of Mendip Spring who was proposed by Susie Gibbins Clevedon and seconded by Jenny Roberts Vice Lady Captain Mendip Spring
The Chairman asked Gill to stand and she introduced her to the members and she was accepted by those present.

Nomination of the vacant position of Committee Member

There was one nomination, Marian Crewe of Clevedon who was proposed by Rosemary Fife and seconded by Elaine Morgan Lady Captain Clevedon
The Chairman asked Marian to stand and she introduced her to the members and she was accepted by those present.

7 Draw for the scratch & handicap foursomes

The draw for the scratch and handicap foursome was made and will be posted on the website.
The date of the final for 2016 is Sunday 11th September; the 18th September will be used in case of inclement weather. The venue will be announced at a later date.
The members were reminded that any individual player may only play in one event, either the scratch or the handicap matches, during the year.

8 Proposed Rule Changes

There were two rule changes proposed by the committee and Barbara explained the reasoning behind the change to Rule 2ii as follows – As you can see by the dates on the agenda five of us joined the committee in 2012 and according to the rules are retiring this year with the exception of Di Yates who was appointed as the Somerset Liaison Officer, not elected. We are very aware that this will leave the committee with only three experienced members and if we do not change the rule in some way the same thing reoccurs in three years. Several suggestions were considered and at the meeting it was decided to change the rule as follows-

Rule 2ii to now read – “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”

This was proposed by the Committee and seconded by Bath GC and accepted by those present.

The second change followed a discussion in committee that members of the committee had a representation through their own club for any proposal and should not therefore have a second or even third vote on a proposal and as the vote must be carried with a two thirds majority there was no need for a chair casting vote

Rule 2iv it is proposed that the following sentence be removed “The members of the Alliance Committee shall each have one vote with the exception of the Chair who shall have the casting vote.”

This was proposed by the Committee and seconded by The Bristol and accepted by those present.

9 Date of next AGM – Monday 7th November 2016 at 11am. Clubs will be informed of the venue.

Post meeting note – now Tuesday 8th November at 11.00 at Knowle Golf Club

10 Presentation of trophies

The Chairman presented the Division Trophies and the Trophies to the individual members for top scores in each division. The Challenge Trophy was won by Minchinhampton playing at home. The match for 2016 will feature Henbury winners of Division 1 and will be played at Henbury.

11 The Chairman formally closed the AGM at 12:10am

Time for Open discussion of any points that arose during 2015

The Chairman then invited informal discussion on points raised by members after reminding them that no decisions would be made at this AGM but that the Committee would discuss points raised at their meetings.

Point 1 - From Mendip Spring – Should the knockout Foursomes be played on neutral ground? Barbara started the discussion by reminding ladies that when the rule was changed after much discussion it was because neutral grounds caused some huge problems with clubs being unwilling or awkward when teams tried to arrange matches whereas there have been very few problems since the change.

Ladies from B&C, Shirehampton and Knowle agreed with Barbara and stressed that the Final needed to be a neutral ground as it is now.

Point 2 - From The Kendleshire – Should trophy engraving costs be paid by the Alliance? Barbara felt that Susie had covered the costs problems and reiterated that this year's costs were being met by the Alliance as a one-off because the valuation had to take place. The Kendleshire explained how Gloucestershire paid the costs for engraving at their AGM with invoices and so it was agreed that the new committee would look at the costs again.

Point 3 - From The Bristol – Should there be a monetary prize for the winners Foursomes and Leagues? Again Barbara thought that Susie had clearly explained this cost question and so this point was left.

Point 4 - From Lansdown – Should there be a defined rule about the use of a buggy in an Alliance match? Barbara began the discussion stating that she had thought long and hard about the Buggy ruling and had spoken to other local golf groups and looked at the National rulings. Without exception all have the same requirement for a medical certificate for the use of buggies in competitions including matches.

The committee did not have time to call an extra meeting before the AGM and she felt this question needed time together, not a series of emails, so she suggested that it was for the next committee to debate and agree on a more precise ruling.

Her suggestion was – “Buggies may be used in an Alliance match if a player is not able to walk due to a permanent or semi-prolonged medical condition confirmed by a doctor's certificate and with the proviso that buggies are permitted by the host club and deemed safe to use on the match day. The captain of the person requiring a buggy should inform the opposing captain prior to the match”. The reference to sharing a buggy should be omitted.

Ladies from Lansdown, Shirehampton, The Bristol, B&C and Filton expressed their concerns about costs of buggies (could the home team organise a buggy at members' prices?), the difficulties of getting a medical certificate and its cost, the difference between a prolonged need for a buggy and a need at the time for a short term problem and for a club with a small ladies membership the difficulty of finding a replacement at short notice for illness etc. It was agreed that the new committee would discuss this quickly and produce a new ruling in time for the start of the 2016 matches.

Point 5 and 6 – From Henbury and The Kendleshire will also be discussed at the next Committee meeting – What should happen re rescheduling of matches for reasons other than bad weather? Can deadlines for the Foursomes be more strictly maintained. (There are rules to cover a team not contacting their opponents in the required time)

Chairman's closing remarks

Barbara first thanked the Ladies for attending this AGM and for showing so much interest in the running of the Alliance. She said that their feedback at the AGM and during the year reassured the committee that we are doing a good job for the clubs and meant we were able to put things right whenever needed. So she thanked all the 2015 committee members for all they have done this year.

Barbara then thanked Knowle GC for their support over the last three years, thanking Ryan Coles, Club Manager, Paul and Rose for their help setting up the room and Mark and his staff for the catering.

Barbara went on to say that she had thoroughly enjoyed her three years as Chairman, despite resisting taking on the role for many years before she succumbed to Fay Galley's persuasive insistence that she could do the job. She said she had made several new friends from among the committee members and was grateful for their support.

Barbara then finished by wishing Sue and her new committee well, she knew they had a challenging year ahead but she was sure they would all try very hard to ensure that the Alliance went on from strength to strength and that they had a successful 2016 with as few problems as possible. She wished all members the best “play well and win or lose, enjoy your matches in the sporting way that it is intended in this great game of ours GOLF”