

**BRISTOL & DISTRICT LADY GOLFERS' ALLIANCE**  
**88<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT**  
**KNOWLE GOLF CLUB ON**  
**THURSDAY NOVEMBER 9<sup>th</sup> 2017 AT 11am**

Sue Johns, 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 his 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 then declared the 88th 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 Mary Sylvester who was previous Ladies' Captain of Bath and played for their Alliance Teams; Penny Bennett was previous Ladies' Captain of Lansdown and was a great support for their teams; Mary Evans from Shirehampton; Brenda Driver and Jean Way from Knowle.

**3 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Emma Bourton and Maxine Gardener (Worlebury), Bron Cooper (The Mendip), Jean Phillips and Glenda Latham-Creasey (Weston-super-Mare), Diana Bullock (Orchardleigh)

**4 Minutes for the Annual General Meeting 2014**

These were taken as read. Acceptance was proposed by Zena Balcombe (Weston-super-Mare) and seconded by Lorraine Collins (Orchardleigh). Sue Johns signed them as a correct record of the proceedings.

**5 Matters Arising**

There was none

**6 Reports**

**a) Treasurer – Gill Prophet**

The Alliance has again had a very steady year financially. The year to 30 September 2017 shows a small deficit overall of £243.84, which means that over the last 2 years our overall income has matched our expenditure.

As a committee, we have continued to take on board the comments made over the past few years expressing your dislike to the Alliance accumulating funds each year and this we have achieved.

Last year in my report I mentioned that we had acquired a stock of the silver ball markers. This purchase included the back dating of these to the last time these were handed out to the winners of the scratch and handicap foursomes in 2012 and we have stocks to carry this on until at least 2021.

During this year, we have not had to purchase golf towels to hand out to entrants for the Harper Salver. However, these were fully used in the 2017 championships and therefore a purchase will need to be made if we are to do the same for the 2018 Championships.

We have again been advised that there will be an increase in green fees for the Harper Salver Championship for the 2018 championship.

Gill was then asked whether costs of engraving will be met next year and she confirmed that they, and the refreshments at the AGM, would continue to be paid from the BDLGA funds for the foreseeable future.

Sue thanked Gill for her report.

The accounts were then adopted by the meeting – proposed by Louise Buxton (Bath) and seconded by Barbara Lewis (Bristol), with a unanimous adoption by a show of hands. Sue then countersigned the accounts.

**b) Secretary – Angie Frith**

It has been a very interesting year without too many issues or complications to concern myself of the committee, so thank you to all. That doesn't mean we haven't been busy!

I was relieved that Debbie Dardis came to the first committee meeting even though she had left the committee and was embarking on her own Ladies' Captaincy, as she was the only one who knew the vagaries of our old website. It became clear that it was difficult to update and not fit-for-purpose and Sue and I embarked on creating our first website from scratch using Wix. It kept me busy during the winter months and although we tried to migrate the old .co.uk. domain name across, it was actually much easier to change to .com. With the change in domain name, we could have purchased a few e-mail addresses such as info@bdlga.com, but as g-mail is free and very easy to use, we opted for that instead.

I hope you agree that the new website is much clearer and easier to find information than with the previous one. However, do please give me feedback if anything is missing or difficult to find. And do send your news if you would like it to be shared with those in the league.

The Alliance Rules actually stipulate the different roles on Committee but we have moved jobs around to accommodate the skills of the team. As well as Honorary Secretary, I have taken on looking after the website. We have no Web Co-ordinator, but Carol Kirkwood was co-opted onto committee in December and has taken on being Results Co-ordinator. We work hand-in-glove as she replies to all results e-mails, updating the spreadsheet, which she sends to me for uploading each week. I will leave her to talk about the results.

This year, we decided that I would e-mail the packs out to the Ladies' Captains in January rather than printing and posting. Only one captain asked for a hard copy so I am presuming that most were quite happy to receive the information electronically. It certainly makes my life much easier and saves considerable expense.

Turning now to matches, most of you will have already booked and confirmed your match dates for 2018. In future years, the committee would like to have as many as possible played by the end of September, barring of course those which have to be rescheduled due to inclement weather. This year, the last match was on 9<sup>th</sup> October which, as you know, made rejigging the league for next year's divisions very late. To this end, we have made a proposal to amend the Rules to clarify that the target dates for completing all matches is the end of September. I would also say that if possible, please be aware of travelling times for visiting players and where possible do not stipulate very early or very late matches.

And while on the subject of arranging matches, we used to offer each team in our division at least three dates in the first instance, offering others if the first one were not suitable. We appreciate the e-mail is very easy, but to offer just a few dates to all clubs at the same time can be overwhelming, especially if everyone 'replies to all' - and even more so when you are not in a position to be able to accept any dates yet if you are waiting for your club's calendar. We did have a few comments about feeling pressurised and inundated with 30 e-mails in one morning, with a minimal choice of dates circulated to all teams on a first-come-first served basis. You should also wait for the new league divisions to be published before approaching teams to arrange matches – there could be issues such as a B team being dropped, or even a team being penalised for playing the wrong players or playing out of order, which might affect the final scores. Next year, if the matches are all completed by the end of September, there should not be such a scramble at the end.

Please could I remind you to e-mail me, preferably at the BDLGA g-mail address, with next year's match dates when they are definite, 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.

Another reminder please, to check the day before that your team players know they are supposed to be playing in a match. We had a couple of occasions this year when a player forgot and the team turned up one person light.

Thank you to all Team Captains of clubs with two teams, who, during the season informed me if the top seven players changed.

Congratulations to all the division winners. There were some very close scores in some leagues, with some promotions and relegations resting on final matches.

The finals of the Scratch and Handicap Foursomes at the Isle of Wedmore were both nail-biters going to the 18<sup>th</sup> hole. Eventually Bristol and Clifton beat Weston-super-Mare in the scratch match and Worlebury beat Weston-super-Mare in the handicap fours, so both well done and hard luck to Weston for getting to both finals but being

runners-up in both. Thanks to the Isle of Wedmore for letting us use their course for the finals and providing a very good tea afterwards.

Another reminder please, to arrange the first rounds of the foursomes by 1<sup>st</sup> March, as per the Rules. Some clubs left this very late, and may have confused the timings with Gloucester County Fours, but the first round has to be played by 6<sup>th</sup> May.

The Bath Aqua Glass Challenge Bowl (competed for between the Division 1 Champions from our Alliance and the Cotswold Alliance), was played between Cirencester and Bristol & Clifton, at Cirencester on a cold and rather windy day. The hosts just beat Bristol & Clifton but the matches were all very close. Thank you to Cirencester for their hospitality. Next year Henbury A as Division 1 winners will play Cotswold Hills at Henbury and we wish them every success in bringing the trophy back to Bristol & District.

We were delighted to hear news of two Holes in One scored during league matches and thanks to the team captains who remembered to send us the relevant information.

As ever, if you do have any queries, comments or feedback, please e-mail or phone me.

Sue Johns then thanked Angie for her report.

#### **c) Results Co-ordinator – Carol Kirkwood**

This has been an interesting first season for me on the committee - I've enjoyed learning more about the BDLGA from this side of the fence. Thanks to all the committee members for their warm welcome. I'd like to say a special 'thank you' to Angie who has always come to the rescue whenever I had a query.....and there have certainly a few of those! I'd also like to thank all the team captains for sending in their results promptly and cheerfully and for pointing out any little blips.

It was interesting to see the way in which the order of the teams in the Summary Sheet changed from week to week. On one occasion after I'd entered all the results and was putting them in order before sending them to Angie for uploading to the website, I noticed that in one division there was a run of points that went 80/79/78/77/76/75....you couldn't get much closer than that!

Looking ahead to next year, you'll find details on emailing the results on the BDLGA website but if you have any queries please ask.

There are a couple of things that make my job a lot easier:

- having the division and team names in the subject line, and
- when you are sending in the halfway and fulltime results spreadsheet I'd be grateful if you could do this in a separate email rather than in an email together with a match result. This makes it easier to sort things out at the end of the season.

Thank you to all next year's team captains in anticipation of a smooth running and successful season in 2018

The Chairman then thanked Carol for her report.

#### **d) Championship Secretary – Rosemary Fife**

52 ladies played at Bath Golf Club on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June for the Harper Salver, won by Megan Giles of St. Mellion.

The quality of the handicaps was excellent and ranged from +2.9 to 9.0 while the enthusiasm and professionalism shown by the players continued throughout the day.

Although the wind could have been described as distinctly fresh on the first tee, on the top of the hill at Bath one would undoubtedly have called it a 3-club wind! In view of this, our winner's performance is all the more impressive as she matched the course record with her second round of 69 and came in with a gross 144, which is one of the best results for the Harper Salver.

My thanks go to Mary Groves who served as a marker in the afternoon when one player was unwell.

Also thanks to Bath Golf Club who were very easy to deal with and really could not have been more helpful.

Lastly to all the committee members who helped with everything and especially secretary Angie, who facilitated the arrangements with Bath Golf Club and generally made my life easier. Thank you Ladies.

Nett prizes went to 1<sup>st</sup>, Nicola Wainwright (Rhuddlan) on countback from 2<sup>nd</sup>, Jess Hays (Bath) both with 144 and 3<sup>rd</sup> to Nicola Slater (Woodsome Hall) on 148 while Megan Giles won the Costeloe Trophy for her 142.

The date for next year's Harper Salver is Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

Sue thanked Rosemary for the report and said what a pleasure it had been to start the ladies and watch their approach to the 1<sup>st</sup> green.

## **7 Proposed Rules change re timing of last match dates**

One rule change was proposed by the committee, to change the date that the matches should be completed to the end of September, with the first week in October being used for any matches which need to be rearranged due to inclement weather. The sections affected are 5(ii) and 7(i). The meeting voted unanimously to accept these changes. The new version of the Rules will be posted on the website with the changes highlighted.

## **8 Proposal to admit 'C' Teams on a trial basis**

The meeting was provided with the committee's proposal to admit C teams, specifically at the request of Henbury, as we now have two vacancies in the league, since Saltford are not fielding a B Team this year. The mechanics of how this would work were described, regarding the provision of named players for both the A and B Teams. Prior to the vote by ballot, there was time for questions. One query was regarding the issue of two or three teams being in the same division. Angie replied that having an A and B Team in the same division is already covered in the Rules and that we would need to extend this to cover the possibility of a B and C Team in the same division. The likelihood of A, B and C Teams all being in the same division is remote but we would have four years' minimum to work out a solution for that scenario. Another query was on the availability of course time, but Henbury said that they had ten possible dates reserved for C Team matches.

The vote by ballot showed 15 for and 9 against so as the proposal needed a 2/3 majority, it was rejected.

## **9 Election of committee members**

The following members are standing for re-election –

Chairman	Sue Johns	Hon. Championship Secretary	Rosemary Fife
Hon. Treasurer	Gill Prophet	Results Co-ordinator (co-opted 11.16)	Carol Kirkwood
Hon. Secretary	Angie Frith	Committee Member	Marian Crewe

The election was proposed en bloc by Claire Walker (Mendip Spring) and seconded by Barbara Lewis (The Bristol)

The appointed Somerset and Gloucestershire Liaison Officers, Di Yates and Mary Groves both retired at the meeting. Sue thanked both for all their hard work, acknowledging their valuable input over the years and presented them with silver ball markers as a token of thanks.

The new representative appointed by their counties are:-,

Somerset County Liaison	Zena Balcombe (Weston-super-Mare)
Gloucester County Liaison	Ruth Hughes (Thornbury)

## **10 Draw for the Scratch & Handicap Foursomes**

The draw for the scratch and handicap foursome was made and will be posted on the website later.

The date of the final for 2017 is Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September; the 23<sup>rd</sup> September will be used in case of inclement weather. The venue will be announced at a later date.

**11** **Date of next AGM** – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 11am, at Knowle Golf Club

**12** **Presentation of trophies**

Before presenting the trophies, Sue showed the previous Division 1 Shield incorporating a mirror that was shown to her during Weston's 125<sup>th</sup> meeting, where she also had the opportunity to thank Diney Costeloe for her continued support of the Harper Salver. Weston was allowed to keep it as they had won it 8 times in row.

The Chairman then presented the Division Trophies and the Trophies to the individual members for top scores in each division, plus the Scratch and Handicap Foursomes trophies and two Hole-in-One vouchers. The Bath Aqua Challenge Bowl had been presented earlier in the year to Cirencester.

**13** **Closing remarks**

Sue closed by saying thanks to the committee for all their hard work throughout the year. There were various issues that arose over the year which she felt worth reminding the team captains.

Firstly, home teams please remember you are the hosts and there should be at least some of your home players staying until the last of the visitors has gone home.

Also, a reminder that we do not have caddies, so players should not bring others with them to accompany a game. If a junior is playing her first match then it is understandable if a parent wishes to chaperone, but they should be at least 50m away, and most juniors are experienced, having played in junior matches.

**The AGM was formally closed at 12:15pm**

**Time for Open discussion of any points that arose during 2017**

1 Su Worthington from Bristol and Clifton asked the committee to look again at the use of a caddy as one of their players has a heart condition and does not want a buggy but would like a caddy.

2 Jane Madden from Henbury said that they were very disappointed that the vote to admit C Teams failed. Theirs is a very large club with 40 silver players and 70 players under 25 handicap. They had prepared a speech but did not use it as the proposal came from the committee. They will however put in a proposal at next year's AGM. They would also be interested in feedback from those clubs who rejected the proposal. Sue Johns said that those clubs should e-mail her and she will collate the responses in an anonymised way, prior to feeding back to the committee in the first instance.