

BRISTOL & DISTRICT LADY GOLFERS' ALLIANCE
89th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT
KNOWLE GOLF CLUB ON
THURSDAY NOVEMBER 8th 2018 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 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 89th 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 Caroline Poole and Chrissy Read both from Weston-super-Mare. Caroline was a member for 24 years and during this time took a very active part in of both the Ladies and junior sections, playing for both A & B teams. Chrissy was Weston's Ladies' Captain 1998. She was a long-term member of the club, supporting and playing in the teams.

3 Apologies

Apologies were received from Carol Kirkwood (Clevedon), Jo Francis Pope (Lansdown), Jan Pickersgill (Henbury), Glenda Hanmer (Henbury), Mandy Vickers (Burnham & Berrow) and Helen Kirby (Thornbury)

4 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2017

These were taken as read. Acceptance was proposed by Rachael Paul (The Bristol) and seconded by Di Yates (Mendip Spring), with a unanimous adoption by a show of hands. 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 2018 showing a deficit overall of £628.26.

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

These accounts do not include the payments made to players who have achieved a Hole in One during the season which will be handed out later at this meeting. We have this year agreed to increase the amount paid to each recipient from £20 to £25 as it has not been increased for many years.

During this year we have had to purchase golf towels to hand out to entrants for the Harper Salver and this includes enough to be handed out to the entrants of the 2019 Championships. We have again been advised that there will be an increase in green fees for the Harper Salver Championship for the 2019 championship.

Sue thanked Gill for her report.

The accounts were then adopted by the meeting – proposed by Fran Davies (The Mendip) and seconded by Gill Jones (Isle of Wedmore), with a unanimous adoption by a show of hands. Sue then countersigned the accounts.

b) Secretary – Angie Frith

On the whole, it has been a very smooth-running year with very few issues or complications to concern the committee, so thank you to all team captains.

Alliance matches

After last year's request to have all alliance matches arranged to be played by the end of September, the committee would like to thank you all for making this happen. There was only one match rescheduled due to inclement weather, so we were able to publish the results and the new divisions promptly, with plenty of time for team captains to arrange next year's matches. Once again, I'd like to reiterate that if possible, please be aware of travelling times for visiting players and where possible please do not offer only 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 ones were not suitable. We appreciate that using 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 again, there should be ample time to arrange the following year's matches.

Please could I remind you to e-mail me, preferably at the BDLGA9@gmail.com address, with next year's match dates when they are fixed, 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.

An annual reminder please, 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. This year I don't think we had any no-shows but I'd just like to reiterate for any new team captains.

Thank you to all team captains of clubs with two 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.

Congratulations to all the division winners – Bristol & Clifton A, Clevedon A, The Bristol, Worlebury & Long Ashton B. As always, there were some very close scores, some of the promotions and relegations resting on final matches. Also, congratulations to the individual winners who will be presented with their trophies later.

We were delighted to hear news of three Holes in One this year – two of them on consecutive days! Thank you to the team captains who remembered to send us the relevant information and we welcome the three players here today to be presented with their cheques.

And finally, on the subject of the alliance league, a very warm welcome to both Saltford and Burnham & Berrow's B teams, the addition of which now brings us back to 7 teams in each division again.

Foursomes

Thank you to Chipping Sodbury this year for hosting the finals of the Scratch and Handicap Foursomes, and to Janet Fear for refereeing on the day. The scratch match was very close, going up the 19th but eventually Knowle just pipped Long Ashton. In the handicap match, Lansdown were the winners over Bath so well done to the victors, commiserations to the runners-up but very well done for getting to the finals and good luck to all the competitors for next year.

Another reminder please, to arrange the first rounds of the foursomes by 1st March, as per the Rules. Also, this year a few matches in other rounds were not arranged within the timeframes. Again, the rules state that the home team should contact the visiting team within the first 10 days of the playing round. If this doesn't happen, then the away team can claim home advantage and take over arranging the match. This happened in one instance and almost in another, which ended up being played on the very last date possible, which was not ideal. One match also was unfortunately out of time as neither team arranged it, so both teams were disqualified.

The Bath Aqua Glass Challenge Bowl

This is played between the Division 1 Champions from our Alliance and the Cotswold Alliance. This year it was between Henbury A and Cotswold Hills and was eventually played at Henbury in May, having been postponed due to snow. Congratulations to Henbury who beat Cotswold Hills by 10 points to 4, so a good win for our Alliance. Next year, Bristol & Clifton as Division 1 winners will play Ross-on-Wye at Ross and we wish them every success in retaining the trophy for Bristol & District.

GDPR - Finally, just a word or two about GDPR – The General Data Protection Regulations. We have looked into all the personal information that we keep, and how we keep it, both within the league and also for those entering the Harper Salver. We have published our policy on the website, so please do have a look and let me know if you have any queries about data protection.

Sue Johns then thanked Angie for her report and asked whether there were any questions. Gill Jones (Isle of Wedmore) commented that some clubs are not fully aware of travelling times when offering match dates and times, for instance any of the clubs near the sea can be difficult on Friday afternoons, particularly on bank holiday weekends. Jo Epsley (The Mendip) voiced concern that Knowle only offers a 4.30 start time, which make the fixture an evening one and is unpopular with her players as well as some other teams. The committee felt that it is not our place to stipulate start times for matches and can only request that consideration is given to this when fixing matches, particularly when daylight hours are not long enough or the visiting club has a long journey. However, it only affects each team once in the year.

c) Results Coordinator – written by Carol Kirkwood and read by Angie Frith in Carol's absence

Once again, the season has been interesting. When the results first start to come in there is very little sign of what's in store but towards the end of the season it certainly gets exciting.

Thank you to all the team captains for sending in their results promptly and cheerfully - all smiley faces gratefully received! Please never hesitate to tell me if you think something's wrong. The sooner you let me know the easier it is to sort out.

Again, I'd like to say a special 'thank you' to Angie who always comes to the rescue whenever I have a query.

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

- Having the **division** in the subject line (especially when a club has more than one team in the Alliance),
- 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 2019

The Chairman then thanked Carol for her report.

d) Championship Secretary – Rosemary Fife

After an hour's delay due to fog, which subsequently shortened lunch to 25 minutes, 50 competitors played in the Harper Salver at Bath Golf Club on June 10th 2018.

The quality of the field was excellent with 11 players having 'plus' handicaps and over half the field with a handicap better than 3. Five are on the England Order of Merit, one in the England Girls' Squad and two selected for the U16's.

The course was in beautiful condition with the rough and the greens providing their own challenges.

Hot summer sunshine appeared before the first round finished and this continued for the rest of the day making the golf even more of a physical challenge for the competitors.

The winner, Caitlin Whitehead from Carus Green GC played 4 under and won the Harper Salver with a gross score of 144 matching our competition record at Bath. Second was our own Ebonie Lewis of Long Ashton with 145 while Caley McGinty of Knowle won the Best Gross a.m. with 71.

The winner of the Costeloe Cup was Hannah Golding of Brocton Hall GC with a nett 142.

Diney Costeloe from Weston-super-Mare Golf Club has sponsored this event for some time and it was a real pleasure to welcome her again this year. She went out on the course with a referee to watch the golf and then presented the prizes for us.

It is a joy to watch these young players and I can honestly say I have enjoyed my time as Championship Secretary. My sincere thanks go to the committee who provide very necessary support on the day.

I hand this over to my successor confident in the knowledge that she will enjoy this, the best of all jobs in the BDLGA.

The date for next year's Harper Salver is Sunday 9th June 2019.

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

7 Proposed Rules changes

Rules change were proposed by the committee for both the Alliance Match rules and the Foursomes rules as the new R&A Rules no longer require local rules for 1) the use of distance measuring devices and 2) a player accidentally causing the ball or ball marker to move on the putting green. It was therefore proposed that both of these clauses be removed from both sets of rules.

An addition to the Alliance Match Rules to cover adverse conditions was proposed, under section 5, Course -

- (iv) If a club has a temporary restriction on the use of electric trolleys, only allowing either bag-carrying or trolleys with hedgehog wheels, the Home Team Captain must inform the Visiting Team Captain giving good notice. It is not reasonable to expect visiting players to carry or use hedgehog wheels if it is not a requirement of their own club, so in this event the match should be rescheduled, letting the Honorary Secretary know of the postponement and new date.

A clarification was proposed for the Foursomes Rules point (vi) -

From - Rounds 1 and 2 will be drawn at the AGM and in each match the first team drawn will be the home team. The QF and SF match venues will, where necessary, be drawn by the committee based on previous home and away venues.

To - Round 1 **and byes to round 2** will be drawn at the AGM and in each match the first team drawn will be the home team. **Subsequent match venues except the Final Match** will, where necessary, be drawn by the committee based on previous home and away venues.

The meeting voted unanimously to accept these changes. The new versions of the Rules will be posted on the website with the changes highlighted.

Sue then said that along with the new R&A Rulebook issued to all, there are new rules for players with disabilities. She presumed that each club receives a copy, but due to the work that the BDLGA did two years ago to produce our policy for dementia, she ordered an extra copy which was received this week. There is now Modified Rule 4 "For Players With Intellectual Disabilities". This needs to be seen and noted by all captains as there are more cases coming to light and if ladies in question still qualify for your teams and sign up to play, it is up to each team captain to designate /provide an on-course aide or supervisor or both and inform other teams of the occurrence.

Sue hoped that we will continue to support our ladies if physically able and fit to play as this may help to slow their decline.

There were two questions raised -

- i) A request was made for buggies to be provided to visiting players at members' rates. It was hoped that whenever possible this will be arranged.
- ii) Another query was around proof of dementia and whether a doctor's certificate was required. It was felt that the team captain should be aware of their member's limitations and requirements and therefore it would be left to them to provide what would be required at their own club for such players. It would be helpful if this was fed back to the BDLGA in confidence.

8 Proposal to admit 'C' Teams if the opportunity arises

Lesley Gillon, together with Judy Ponsford, presented Henbury's comprehensive proposal to admit C teams if the opportunity arises due to a team withdrawing from the league and creating a vacancy. The mechanics of how this would work were described, including a proposal of the rules changes that would need to be made to accommodate this, i.e. named players for both the A and B Teams and having no more than two teams from each club in the same division. The full proposal and rules changes are appended to these minutes.

There was a query regarding arranging of matches and whether the C team would have to wait for the A and B Team Captains to arrange their matches first. Lesley replied that Judy had already arranged all match dates last year before the AGM and this was not seen as something which would cause a delay.

Another query was whether a C team would go into the lowest division and this was confirmed.

The vote by ballot showed 21 for and 3 against and as the proposal needed a 2/3 majority, it was approved.

9 Election of committee members

The following members stood for re-election –

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| • Honorary Secretary | Angie Frith | Elected 2015 |
| • Honorary Treasurer | Gill Prophet | Elected 2015 |
| • Results Co-ordinator | Carol Kirkwood | Elected 2016 |

These were proposed en bloc by Di Yates (Mendip Spring) and seconded by Lis Henniker-Heaton (Henbury), with a unanimous show of hands to re-elect.

Sue Johns, Rosemary Fife and Marian Crewe stood down at the meeting, so their positions were up for election.

- Chairman - Liz Henniker-Heaton from Henbury was proposed by Sue John and seconded by Glenda Hanmer from Henbury
- Honorary Championship Secretary - Alison Rushgrove from Bath was proposed by Angie Frith, seconded by Rosemary Fife
- Committee Member - Rachael Paul kindly volunteered at the meeting and was proposed by Sue Jarvis (The Bristol) and seconded by Di Yates (Mendip Spring)

There was a unanimous show of hands to elect these three members to the committee.

The appointed Somerset and Gloucestershire Liaison Officers remain:-

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

Sue thanked both Marian and Rosemary for all their hard work, acknowledging their valuable input over the years and presented them with silver ball markers as a token of thanks. Angie thanked Sue for her sound and dedicated chairmanship over the last three years and also presented her with a silver ball marker.

10 Draw for the Scratch & Handicap Foursomes

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

The date of the final for 2019 is Sunday 22nd September; the 29th September will be used in case of inclement weather. The venue will be announced at a later date.

11 Date of next AGM – Thursday 7th November 2019 at 11am, at Knowle Golf Club

12 Presentation of trophies

The Chairman 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 three Hole-in-One cheques. The Bath Aqua Challenge Bowl was again presented to Henbury.

13 Chairman's closing remarks

My final task is to say thank you for allowing me to be your Chair over the last 3 years, extending my knowledge of aspects of golf in both Somerset and Gloucestershire, that I only occasionally have the chance to experience (super sub is what Helen calls me, for those emergency call outs). My experience with special needs has been of help as we developed the policy on dementia. Knowing where to seek help was the key - and being prepared to badger until I got a result!

I was fortunate to have a committee who gelled from the first moment and with three new officers it was very important. The previous two chairs were asked for advice on several occasions and early on, Mary Groves and Di Yates as our County Representatives were key to our settling in to the roles, with years of experience between them.

Sue then asked Lis Henniker-Heaton as new Chair to say a few words.

The AGM was formally closed at 12:35pm

Time for Open discussion of any points that arose during 2018

There was further discussion around the provision of buggies, with Farrington saying that they could not guarantee obtaining members' rates. Weston-super-Mare only has two buggies so would need advance notice if one was required. Shirehampton has no buggies.

A vote of thanks for the committee's work was proposed by Claire Bayliss from Worlebury and was gratefully received.

Proposal



To allow 'C' Teams to be included in the Bristol & District Lady Alliance.

Golfers'

Information and Discussion Document

This document has been prepared by Henbury Golf Club Ladies' Committee who request that it be circulated prior to the 2018 AGM, so that the Ladies' Committees of each of the clubs can consider the proposal.

BACKGROUND

A similar proposal was submitted to the 2017 AGM and although the voting was 15 in favour with only 9 against, it failed to get the two-thirds majority required for a change of the Rules.

We consider that, at least in part, this disappointing outcome was a result of the limited discussion that took place before the vote, and the fact that some specific concerns were not raised or debated.

The aim of this document is to address the concerns that have come to light since that meeting, so that the proposal can be re-considered, and hopefully approved by a sufficiently large majority.

THE PROPOSAL

The essence of this proposal is that Clubs who already have 'A' and 'B' teams competing in the Alliance can apply to enter a 'C' team if there are spaces available.

For the 2018 season there were only six teams in divisions 4 and 5, compared with seven in the higher divisions. Two more 'B' teams have entered for the 2019 season, so no vacancies currently exist.

However, if further vacancies occur in the future and they are not taken by 'B' teams, the proposal, if approved, would allow applications for 'C' teams to be considered.

If the proposal is approved in principle, the Rule changes detailed in the Appendix would be required. These have been prepared with collaboration with the BDLGA Committee.

POTENTIAL CONCERNS AND SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS

We have become aware of the following concerns, and suggest the following solutions and safeguards :-

1. The possibility of having all teams in one division.

With the strength of the Alliance this is an extremely unlikely scenario. However, having two teams in one league is not unusual and has happened many times. This has been discussed at AGMs previously and should not be confused with admitting 'C' teams.

The Cotswold Alliance has four 'C' teams and one 'D' team – the following is an extract from their 'Rules and Regulations': -

9.9.1 There should be no more than two teams from the same Club in any one division. In the event that there will be three teams from the same Club in one division, then the team that is lowest should be demoted to the lower division or should not be promoted, and the next Club is promoted in their place. (They are still entitled to the Trophy for that division if they came top in the division)

The current proposal would incorporate a similar arrangement for the BDLGAlliance League.

2. Delay in the arrangement of fixtures.

If this proposal is passed there need be no delay in arranging fixtures because the amended Rules for allowing 'C' teams will already be in place. Also, no Club's management is likely to agree to having a third Ladies' team if there is difficulty in supplying convenient tee times.

3. One or more clubs dominating the league whilst other ladies sections are dwindling.

The league is there to provide an opportunity for matchplay between clubs. It might be argued that it is the responsibility of the larger clubs to provide more teams to ensure that the League has a full complement of teams and to ensure that the league continues to be healthy.

4. Other clubs wanting to enter a new team or a B team when the League is full.

If new or more 'B' teams were entered into the League, the 'C' team would automatically withdraw from the league. Any 'C' team entering the league should be fully aware of this condition. The BDGLA had already considered this concern prior to the 2017 AGM and all clubs had been given a copy of potential rule changes affecting admitting C teams.

5. Intimidating to have so many low handicaps in a lower division

As all team captains are aware, it is an extremely rare week when all team members from the 'A' and 'B' team are available to play due to illness, holidays or family commitments. Most weeks necessitate bringing in higher handicaps. As the 3rd team would be last to choose their team, it is likely that there will not be many people in the silver division playing, so it should not be intimidating for other clubs.

6. Policing the teams

In all Clubs with 'A' and 'B' teams, the captains work collaboratively and are constantly updated with any relevant handicap changes to ensure no-one plays out of place. The same would apply for a 'C' team.

7. Other Concerns

We are not aware of any other concerns, but would appreciate the opportunity to respond, before the AGM, if any arise.

BENEFITS OF THE PROPOSAL

To the BDGLA

The Alliance has been and is a very successful league, which thrives on competitive golf and on the ability of teams to compete for promotion or to fight relegation.

However, in recent years and particularly the 2018 playing season Divisions 4 and 5 have been reduced to six teams instead of seven. These Divisions will be back to their full complement of teams for the 2019 season but to help to ensure that they don't fall short again, we would like the Rules of the BDGLA adjusted to allow C Teams to be included in the League.

This is obviously just theoretical at the moment but it'll clear the way for C Teams to be included when the opportunity arises and there will be less likelihood of Divisions 4 and 5 being depleted again.

To Golf

Many Clubs will have heard of the England Golf initiatives 'Get into golf' and Girl's Golf Rocks' which essentially promote more people playing golf.

As well as these excellent initiatives, playing competitively in local leagues is another way of encouraging players to get out there, play other clubs, make new friends and enjoy golf, win or lose. It also encourages competition at a higher level. Having a full complement of teams in the BDGLA league will help to fulfill this objective.

To Henbury and other Clubs with large Ladies Sections

There are many Henbury ladies who are not able to play in the league but would welcome the opportunity to do so. We are sure this will be the case for other Clubs in the league with large Ladies Sections. If there was an opportunity to field a C Team it would give more members fun and experience in match play.

We hope that this Discussion document has helped to clarify the reasons why admitting C teams into the BDGLA League would be beneficial to all clubs. Thank you for your support.

Jan Pickersgill ; Judy Ponsford ; Lesley Gillon

On behalf of the Henbury Ladies Committee - September 2018

Rule Changes

Following the advice of the BDGLA Committee, it is proposed that the following changes be made to the Rules -

- 3 (i) Add to the end of the existing paragraph - There should be no more than two teams from the same Club in any one division. In the event that there will be three teams from the same Club in one division, then the team that is lowest should be demoted to the lower division or should not be promoted, and the next Club is promoted in their place. (They are still entitled to the Trophy for that division if they came top in the division)
- 3 (iv) New clubs accepted into the Alliance shall be given a place in the lowest Division in preference to a 'C' Team from an established club if the overall size prevents the accommodation of both. In this event the 'C' Team occupying the lowest place would be asked to withdraw. If more new clubs are accepted than C teams in the league, then the B Team occupying the lowest place would be asked to withdraw next.
- 4 (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. The list of A Team players, and B Team players in the event of a C Team, must be submitted to the Hon Sec by 31st January, and any changes must be e-mailed as they occur. Further, for clubs with a C Team, the top 14 players would need to be lodged with the Hon Sec prior to each match.
- 4 (vi) If a player eligible to play for the Alliance A Team decides at the start of the year not to make herself available, she should be removed from the list for the whole season. The Hon. Secretary of the Alliance must be notified. This also applies to B Team players for those clubs with a C Team.
- 7 (i) Clubs fielding two teams must also include the names of the seven eligible players for their A Team to the Secretary. Clubs fielding three teams must also include the next seven eligible players for their B Team.
- 7 (iii) Any infringement of the rules governing clubs fielding 'A', 'B' & 'C' Teams will result in the offending team forfeiting the points gained in the match concerned

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The existing BDGLA Rule states –

2(v) Any proposals and changes to the Rules and Regulations of the Alliance requires two thirds majority of those present and voting and eligible to vote at a General Meeting.

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