

BRISTOL & DISTRICT LADY GOLFERS' ALLIANCE
90th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT
KNOWLE GOLF CLUB ON
THURSDAY NOVEMBER 7th 2019 AT 11.00am

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 90th 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 Jen Jones of Wells, Denise Andrew of Mendip Spring, Pat Harding of Clevedon, Peggy Box of Long Ashton, Val McFarlane of both Bath and Lansdown and Mabel Ford (at 102) and Ann Gaut both of Shirehampton.

3 Apologies

Apologies were received from Rachael Paul (The Bristol), Ruth Steele (Clevedon), Helen Clarke and Claire Bayliss (Worlebury).

4 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2018

These were taken as read. Acceptance was proposed by Marian Crewe (Clevedon) and seconded by Sue Chambers (Isle of Wedmore), with a unanimous adoption by a show of hands. Lis Henniker-Heaton 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 2019 showing a surplus overall of £319.46.

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. Your recent and current Committee members have been generous with both their time and not claiming for their out of pocket expenses but we must always be aware that these costs may have to be met in the future.

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 made a surplus on the Harper Salver this year which is mainly due to the purchase last year of enough golf towels to hand out to entrants for the Harper Salver for 2019. We are grateful to our very kind sponsors which has allowed us to increase the prize money this year and without them to cover this, the entry fees would need to rise to at least £40.

We have again been advised that there will be an increase in green fees for the Harper Salver Championship for the 2020 championship.

b) Secretary – Angie Frith

On the whole, it has been another very smooth-running year with very few issues to concern the committee, so thank you. However, it was with sadness that Shirehampton decided in January that they could no longer field enough players to make up a regular team and regrettably had to withdraw from the league. It was especially disappointing as Henbury had wanted to put forward a C Team at last year's AGM but there was no space. Consequently Division 4 was left with six teams. We are very pleased though to welcome Henbury's C team to the league now. This will involve adopting the changes to the Rule and Regulations that we agreed at last year's AGM if C Teams were admitted.

Alliance matches

Regarding the matches, thank you to all the team captains for arranging them to be played by the end of September. Three matches had to be rescheduled for various reasons and they were able to use the first week in October, so we were able to publish the results and the new divisions promptly. Once again, I'd like to reiterate that request to have all matches planned before the end of September and also again if possible, please be aware of travelling times for visiting players so if possible please do not offer only very early or very late matches. Also, please be aware of other important dates such as the Scratch & Handicap 4s finals (13th Sept) and the Rogers Cup & Centenary Plate Finals (6th Sept) for those of us in Somerset.

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.

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 we had a couple of instances where a full team was not or could not be fielded. The committee did look at the Rules in relation to this as they state under Rule 4 Eligibility –

(iv) All captains must field a full team, even though it may be under desired strength. If a full team is not fielded on the day, then the club concerned should be referred to the committee, who will decide on any penalties to be imposed.

The committee agreed that for the most part no additional penalties need to be imposed other than of course the light team forfeiting the 2 points for that match immediately. However, we wish to retain that wording in case teams turn up under-strength regularly or perhaps who send their players out in the wrong order due to a player other than that playing at number 7 being omitted from the team, or any other anomaly that is perhaps deemed unfair.

Another point that was brought up was the very real prospect of two teams from the same club being in the same division, particularly now that Henbury has three teams in the league. 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 briefly discussed this at the last meeting but as it didn't affect the coming year, we wanted to take time to look further at this issue. I found out more information from Fay Galley about the last working party's proposals in 2010. However these were not accepted at the AGM and there was no resolution of the issue at that time. We do need to take this forward so will be looking for support from those clubs who have more than one team in the league to create a new working party. I will be in touch with the team captains so that we can look into this early in the new year.

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 again, Long Ashton A, Worlebury, Wells and the newly admitted Burnham & Berrow B Team. 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 two 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

Thank you to Bath this year for hosting the finals of the Scratch and Handicap Foursomes, and to both Janet Fear and Jenny Hobbs for kindly stepping in at the last minute to referee on the day.

Both matches were very close, the scratch match eventually seeing Long Ashton beat Weston-super-Mare 2&1. In the handicap foursomes, Clevedon were the winners over Saltford 3&1, so well done to the winners, commiserations to the runners-up but well done for getting to the finals and good luck to all the competitors for next year.

There was an anomaly this year when tossing a coin to determine the Home or Away venue for some matches which had, up until that toss had equal advantages. There were two occasions when a team played three Home matches in a row. The committee will look at the wording of the Rules to suggest an amendment to ensure where possible that there are only ever two Home or Away matches in sequence.

Another reminder please, to arrange the first rounds of the foursomes by 1st March, as per the Rules.

The Bath Aqua Glass Challenge Bowl

The Bath Aqua Glass Challenge Bowl between Bristol & Clifton as our Division 1 winners played Ross-on-Wye (the Cotswold & District Alliance division 1 winners) at Ross. The match was closely fought and went to the last game on the 18th green. We were delighted that Bristol & Clifton retained the trophy for the BDLGA. Thank you to Ross-on-Wye for their hospitality. Next year's challenge match will be between Bristol & Clifton again, vs Cotswold Hills at B&C. Good luck B&C. Please contact Lis before arranging the match so that she and others from the committee can be present.

GDPR

This year we thought we would copy the ICL idea and suggest that clubs might like to set up generic e-mail addresses for their Team Captains and if appropriate, for the Ladies Captains too. This way, peoples' personal e-mail addresses are protected and the e-mail address can be passed on to the next incumbent with a change of password and recovery email address. It also helps the secretary as I am not forever changing the e-mail addresses on my contact lists, with opportunity for errors. Some have taken this up, others haven't. I will be issuing new lists with the information provided to me today on your club forms, which I will circulate in January so if you are going to set up any generic e-mail addresses please do so and let me know before then.

Finally, this year will be the last one on committee for both myself and Gill, so please would you ask around for any willing volunteers who might take over from us next year and who would perhaps like to shadow what we do now.

c) Results Coordinator – Carol Kirkwood

Thank you to everyone who sent in emails during the season with results. It's always a pleasure to hear from you and I do enjoy the little emoticons some of you add!

The 3 tools of the trade for me are my computer and two spreadsheets: -

A big spreadsheet for entering the results. I enter these - usually a Sunday evening job - then press a few more keys and send the weekly summary and detailed results reports to Angie to who posts them on the BDLGA website. This is when you can then see them. Please, please check them – I make mistakes!

Then there's another, smaller spreadsheet which I use to check that all the results for the week have been sent in - a very useful nudging tool! If you ever get a nudge from me it's thanks to this great little spreadsheet.

Over the course of the season there will be about 300 emails with results and summary sheets. I try to acknowledge these within a day. If you haven't heard from me please let me know and as I said just now do let me know if you spot anything that you think's not right. It's much easier to put things right if I can nip them in the bud. This year someone flagged up an error in October but the match was in August. Fortunately, it didn't affect the team order – I was relieved!

You'll find all the information for sending in results and summary sheets on the BDLGA website. But if you've any queries please ask.

One thing that helps make my job a lot easier is if you always include the division number of your team in the subject of the email. It makes filing things in the proper folder much easier.

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. She's always there to help out with any problems that arise

d) Championship Secretary – Alison Rushgrove

The Harper Salver (West of England Amateur Open Ladies Championship) was held at Bath Golf Club on 9th June with fifty ladies playing for the Harper Salver (Gross) and the Costeloe Trophy (Nett) over 36 holes. Diney Costeloe, our local author and golfer generously sponsored the event along with Somerset Ladies County Golf Association and Gloucestershire Ladies County Golf Association.

This year we decided to increase the entry fee from £30 to £32 and the total prize money was increased from £685 to £775 in line with other similar competitions.

I would like to express my thanks to Didi Ager, Zena Balcombe and Kathy Olive who were the referees on the day. Also thanks to Angie Frith and Gill Prophet who assisted on the day, to Lis Henniker-Heaton who acted as starter for the whole field and Angela Trenchard of Bath Golf Club helped with the start sheet and the results on the day.

The quality of the field was excellent with 13 having a handicap of scratch or better and the vast majority with a handicap 5 or below. The course was in a fabulous condition and the greens with their Championship pin positions provided a real challenge. It stayed dry in the morning but unfortunately not for the afternoon round when everybody got wet! The quality of the golf was stunning and the spectators and ball spotters were treated to some wonderful golf. One highlight was Aimee Sawyer from The Mendip getting an Albatross on a Par 5 and Lauren Hillier from Newport scoring back to back Eagles on the 2nd and 3rd hole in the afternoon - which followed an Eagle in the morning round on the 2nd hole!

Lis-Henniker-Heaton awarded the prizes. Ellen Hume from Mill Green GC was the winner of the Harper Salver with a total gross score of 148. Sarah Gee from West Wilts GC was runner up with a score of 149 winning on the back nine from Lottie Woad of Farnham GC. Alex Giles from Long Ashton GC won the best gross in the morning with 73 and Ffion Tynan from Minchinhampton GC won the best gross in the afternoon with 72

First nett prize and winner of the Costeloe Cup was Grace Bowen from The Worcestershire GC with a nett 147. The runner up was Megan Bartlett from Knowle GC with a nett 148.

The full results were published on the BDLGA website, Bath GC website, England Golf website and news reports went into the Chronicle, the Western Daily Press and a short piece went into the August edition of Women & Golf magazine in the Amateur News Section.

The competitors were, without exception, great ambassadors for ladies' golf and it was a pleasure to be involved in the event.

In 2020 the Championship will take place at Bath GC on the 14th June.

7 Rules changes to accommodate C Teams

Rule changes were accepted by vote at last year's AGM. AF read out the changes which will now come into effect as Henbury's C team has been admitted to the league.

8 Election of committee members

The following members stood for re-election –

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| • Chair | Lis Henniker-Heaton | Elected 2018 |
| • Honorary Secretary | Angie Frith | Elected 2015 |
| • Honorary Treasurer | Gill Prophet | Elected 2015 |
| • Results Co-ordinator | Carol Kirkwood | Elected 2016 |
| • Honorary Championship Secretary | Alison Rushgrove | Elected 2018 |
| • Member | Rachael Paul | Elected 2018 |

These were proposed en bloc by Janet Fear (Worlebury) and seconded by Caroline Stait (Burnham & Berrow), with a unanimous show of hands to re-elect.

The appointed Somerset and Gloucestershire Liaison Officers remain:-

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

9 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 2020 is Sunday 13th September; the 20th September will be used in case of inclement weather. The venue will be announced at a later date.

10 Date of next AGM – Thursday 12th November 2020 at 11am, at Knowle Golf Club

11 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 two Hole-in-One cheques to Ruth Steele (Clevedon) and Heather Sandilands (Thornbury). The Bath Aqua Challenge Bowl was presented to Bristol & Clifton A Team.

12 Chairman's closing remarks

Lis closed the meeting by saying that we were lucky to have such a vibrant league and wished everyone a safe journey home.

The AGM was formally closed at 12:05pm

Jane Harries (Burnham & Berrow) kindly gave a vote of thanks to the committee for their hard work during the year.

Time for Open discussion of any points that arose during 2018

Glenda Latham-Creasy (Weston-super-Mare) ask whether the committee would look into the issue of whether matches should be rescheduled in the event of excessive heat. On one day this year, they were unable to field a full team for a match as a number of their team had already been affected by the heat earlier in the week. The committee agreed to look into this from a Health and Safety point of view.