

BRISTOL & DISTRICT LADY GOLFERS' ALLIANCE
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT KNOWLE GOLF CLUB
On Friday 15th September 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				

ACTION

1. Apologies – Carol Kirkwood

2. Minutes of Meeting of 2nd June – agreed without change and signed

3. Matters arising – Rosemary to take over running the Scratch and Handicap Foursomes next year. Roles & Responsibilities documents still to be updated to reflect this change.

AF/RF

GP will also send her updated role specification to Angie.

GP

4. Chairman's Report

As the year draws to a close everything appears to have run fairly smoothly with the league until now, but as many matches have been left until September and with a patch of bad weather, timetables have been caught out. This is something to look at for next year, along with the timing of matches during the day. Extremely early or late times makes travelling awkward for players. Many teams during the week would like to wait until working members and those at school were available but have to go further down their lists to play a full team. If a home team wants a match to start late afternoon, the order of play can be changed so the schoolchildren can go out at the end of the field, so the first tee time can be brought forward. Also, starting a match at between 9 and 10 am or 3 and 5 pm necessitates frustrating and lengthy journeys for many. It was agreed that Angie would add the first point to her letter which is about to be sent to all LCs, and Sue will draft some wording and highlight the second issue in her AGM remarks.

AF/SJ

Another issue which arose this year was that either a player brought another person with her to walk around, or a team supporter joined one of the matches being played. In the first instance, the opposing team player is within her rights to refuse another person joining the match (with the exception of a helper under our dementia policy or a chaperone for a minor) and as in this case since the visitor was a minor, the match can be claimed. Other supporters should stay at least 50 yards away and a reminder will be given at the AGM.

SJ

The work during the summer extends to the results being entered on a regular basis and any queries being received and dealt with efficiently, so thanks to Carol and Angie for sorting all. The new website appears to have made life easier and the original results spreadsheet issues have now been corrected.

The Championship took place in June and was my highlight as the pleasure of starting such a fine group was, if anything even better than last year. I would like to thank all for the help and support they offered to Rosemary, who must have felt that she had a baptism by fire with several minor problems that arose.

All ended successfully, but it is always disappointing when there are so few who attend the prize-giving. This may have been accentuated this year as many of the players had come straight from wet Wales to us and therefore wanted to get home as soon as possible.

The two Foursomes finals on Sunday were exciting to say the least with both competitions being played as scratch as the handicap pairings had just one shot to sort and that was on hole 15, which is where the wet weather hit! Both matches went to the 18th and Bristol & Clifton and Worlebury ended up the winners over the two Weston super Mare teams.

Having attended Weston super Mare's 125th Anniversary game I was privileged to see some of their historical documents and discovered that they had found the original BDLGA trophy that they had won so many times that they could keep it – a gorgeous mirror with the shield surrounding it naming the winners in the early stage of the alliance. Hopefully Zena is bringing it to the AGM this year so people can see it. Whilst there I also had the good fortune to be introduced to Diney Costeloe for the first time, so was able to thank her in person for her continued support of the Championship.

5. Secretary's Report including website upkeep

League - We had a few issues around rescheduling of matches due to bad weather and although it has been assumed for a long time that all matches should be played where possible by the end of September, with the first week in October used as a buffer, the Rules under Course Section 5ii, actually state the end of October. The committee unanimously agreed that this is too late to play the last matches, as there is too much to do, to inform everyone of the final league places so that matches can be arranged in a timely manner to fit with the clubs' calendars. Therefore we will put forward a resolution at the AGM to amend this Rule. **AF**

A one-off issue was raised by one team captain about a player in a buggy who drove in front of another player, which she found distracting. The request was to consider amending the buggy policy but the committee felt that this was just a breach of etiquette which should be dealt with at the time, by a quiet word. We cannot legislate for every breach. Angie to feed back. **AF**

Scratch & Handicap Foursomes – The final was held at the Isle of Wedmore on 10th September, in blustery and sometimes wet conditions. Full report and pictures are on the website.

So far this year there are two holes in one – Jackie Walker from Farringdon Park at Bath's 14th and Pat Skelton from Henbury on 2nd at Thornbury.

Rules and Regulations – nil to report, other than end date for matches to be played, as above.

Website – League and Foursomes match updates are uploaded weekly, usually on a Monday as a lot seem to be played on Sundays.

The match dates spreadsheet has been enhanced so that we can sort the dates easily and see whether all results are in, or ask whether the match was played or rescheduled. The new dates are posted as and when they change. Angie will e-mail to the committee as well as Carol when match dates change. **AF**

The old e-mail no longer works and the old website address has been taken over by a fashion company.

6. Treasurer's Report

Gill reported £1,699.32 in current account, £3,441.21 in deposit account and £54.23 in petty cash, after honoraria but before expenses have been paid. We are still awaiting the £300 promised by Bath University for the Harper Salver sponsorship which Gill is chasing. **GP**

Gill proposes to close the Santander account as they will not speak to her but only to the previous treasurer, Susie Gibbon. She will set up a deposit account linked to the Lloyds current account. **GP**

The committee discussed the amount in the accounts in relation to the costs of team entry fees. These had been increased in 2011 but as we have plenty in reserve it was agreed that they certainly do not

need to be increased again yet. The costs of engraving and provision of silver ball markers for Foursomes winners would reduce this amount slowly and it is also a reserve fund to run the Harper Salver should sponsorship not be forthcoming in future years.

The Harper Salver made approximately £600 profit this year, although another two-year supply of towels and more ball markers will need to be purchased which should be taken into consideration. We discussed the prize money being increased. Rosemary will check with EG how much other similar competitions pay in prizes and will liaise with Gill to make a proposal for 2018. **RF/GP**

7. Championship Secretary's Report

I think the competitors would have found the day ran smoothly although we did have a slightly shaky start with one of the second group dropping out at the last minute. This created the first of several shuffles, moving up competitors but they were completely unfazed by the changes.

The speed with which the first round was completed surprised me and then they asked to go out earlier than planned which of course helped to keep the day shorter. One player was unwell and did not play in the afternoon which meant we needed a marker and my thanks go to Mary for stepping into the breach.

Overall I was extremely pleased with the way the day went. I found Bath Golf Club very easy to deal with. Questions were answered and solutions to problems were found very quickly and they could not have been more helpful. Thankyou Bath GC.

My only problem was a computer update that changed the CSS of one round. This gave me a huge problem until I got the solution from the computer programme designer. Angela Trenchard from Bath GC has my sincere thanks for entering all the scores into the computer and rectifying the problem. Apparently, we should not 'combine' the two rounds, we should 'amalgamate' them!

The committee were wonderful with all hands to the deck. It was a joy to work with a group whose experience fits the situation and their willingness to muck in was incredible. I must say a special thanks to Angie for all her help facilitating the arrangements with Bath and generally making my life easier.

A press report was sent to various local papers. Next year it will also be sent to England Golf and Fairway Golf with the additional sentence that it is a qualifier for the national order of merit and include photos. **RF**

We discussed again whether the gross winner should be allowed to win the net prize and it was reiterated that the overall winner can win both trophies but only one cash prize. Rosemary will keep an eye on whether this happens again in the next 2-3 years, in which case we will review the policy. **RF**

Perhaps more should have been made of the net prize-winner in our reporting – one for next year if it happens again.

The date for next year's Harper Salver is Sunday 10th June 2018. RF will contact James Fearn of Bath University to see how he found the day and whether they will support again next year. **RF**

8. Results Co-ordinator's Report

Following one or two minor spreadsheet and email blips at the beginning of the season everything now seems to be running smoothly. Once again, many thanks and compliments to those who put in the time, effort and expertise to design the spreadsheet and to those who have pointed out inconsistencies.

Also thanks to Angie for all her help and prompt responses to my queries. A particularly helpful step forward is the ability to list the match dates in chronological order. This will be a great help next year.

At the AGM I will ask/remind home team captains to put the Division number in the subject of all emails, advise of match postponements, copy the email to the captain of the away teamand of course any other interesting/relevant snippets such as holes in one.

End of season reports are already beginning to arrive. The last ones should be received by October 10th. There are some very close results so although we will know the position of some teams, we will have to wait until the last results are in to know the final positions of all teams.

9. Expansion of area or inclusion of additional teams

Following a formal request from one club to enter a 'C team' to the league, we discussed the possibility of how this might work and also other ways to fill the final space in Division 5 next year. It was agreed that we do not want to add more divisions or more teams to a division.

In 2007, B&C entered a C team but there were clearly difficulties around the administration of this and the team was dropped in 2011. The rules governing how this could work would need to be well thought through. Ideas were put forward about ring-fencing the first 7 players for the A team, the next 7 for the B team who could not play for the C team, and the rest who could of course play for the A or B team too, but who would weaken the teams if they did. Any addition of a C team would need to be on a trial basis.

It was felt that before getting to the detail of exactly how this might work, we had first of all to check whether any of our existing clubs want to add a B team or perhaps go down to one team, so we know whether we have one of more gaps to fill. **AF**

At the same time, Di and Mary should ask local clubs in the catchment area such as Stockwood Vale, Cotswold Edge, Stinchcombe or Enmore Park. **DY/MG**

Once we have an idea of interest from these quarters, we also need to ascertain whether any other clubs would like to add a C team, as we would need to be fair to all about how we fill the final space in the league. This will be done swiftly so that we can bring any necessary resolutions to the AGM. **AF**

Angie to feed back to club who brought the request. **AF**

10. AGM Planning

Most trophies have been returned for engraving and Marian will chase the last few. **MC**

Next year's AGM set for 8th November 2018

Foursomes draws – dates were agreed for the various rounds to be played, including setting the Finals date as 16th September 2018. The draw will be done by Sue and Rosemary using the counters kindly provided by Su Worthington, and will follow the guidance as per the R&A Rules.

Agenda agreed, other than resolution re expansion of area or addition of C teams. No requirement for new committee members to be elected. Committee are very pleased to appoint Zena Balcombe and Ruth Hughes as the new County Representatives.

Letter to LCs agreed with some additions to be sent out ASAP. **AF**

11. AOB - Sue thanked Di and Mary for their invaluable contributions during the years that they had served on committee and wished them well in the future.

12. Date of next meeting – AGM 9th November at 11.00 at Knowle Golf Club

The meeting closed at 1:00pm.