



Sussex County Ladies Golf Association

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD IN THE CHARMANDEAN, WORTHING ON MONDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2018 AT 10.30 A.M.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Mrs Chris Handson	President in the Chair
	Mrs Ann Carnegie	County Captain
	Mrs Sandra Holman	Past-Captain
	Mrs Judith Dingle	Hon. Secretary
	Mrs Carol Smith	Hon. Treasurer
	Mrs Roseanne Rees	Hon. Competition Secretary
	Mrs Jacs Marlio	Communications Officer
	Mrs Louise Simmons	County Junior Organiser
	Mrs Sue Smith	Voting Member England Golf
	Mrs Vicki Pett	County Registrar
	Committee Members: Mrs Pauline Senior, Mrs Wendy Melville, Mrs Wendy Shergold, Miss Bali Bassan, Mrs Caroline Hawkes, Mrs Jill Miles, Mrs Sue Rushworth	

Representatives from 48 affiliated golf clubs were in attendance and a total of 169 ladies signed the attendance register.

NOTICE: The Honorary Secretary, Judith Dingle, read the notice convening the meeting.

APOLOGIES: The Honorary Secretary read out the list of apologies for absence: Brenda Gilbey, Margaret Barrett, Audrey Butler, Karen Thorpe, Mary Barnard, Betty Page, Maxine Green, Kate Rowe, Julia Thompson, Margaret Grover, Di Botham, Sue Macgregor, Iona McKean, Pat Codd, Eileen Ritchie, Ann Howard and from the following clubs: Eastbourne Downs

1. **PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS**

The President opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the Annual General Meeting. Sadly she reported the death of Margaret Cooper who was a member of Bognor Regis Golf Club and had been President from 1988-1992. She also reported on the death of Gerry Honeysett, who had been President of the Sussex County Golf Union at the time of his death.

The President reported that one of the highlights of her year had been supporting the Senior Team at the Inter County South Region Championships, held this year at Highgate. The team of Paula Carver, Aileen Greenfield, Katherine Russell and Karen Sykes won the overall competition, which is contested by 10 counties, by a single shot.

The President reported that a particular honour for her had been representing the R&A at the Regional Finals of the Coronation Foursomes held at Worthing.

The President congratulated the Sussex teams for their many successes throughout the season, noting that the 1st Team, 2nd Team, Seniors' and Juniors' would be reported on later in the meeting. She thanked Tessa Stockwell (2nd team manager) and Jo Galway (Seniors League manager) both of whom were retiring from their roles this year. She also thanked Sandra Holman who is retiring from the Committee this year, noting that her expertise and enthusiasm will be missed.

2. **MINUTES**

Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 6 November 2017 having been circulated were taken as read. They were proposed by Ann Wilson from Worthing Golf Club, seconded by Sue Todd from Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club and signed by the President.

3. COUNTY CAPTAIN'S REPORT

The County Captain welcomed everyone to the AGM. She noted that it had been an interesting year with a cancelled Delegates meeting in March due to frozen pipes, followed by a heat wave for the Scratch Foursomes in April, thick fog at the County Championships in June, torrential rain and thunder and lightning at the Seniors Meeting at Piltdown in July and again at the Division semi-finals at Haywards Heath in August.

The Captain thanked all the clubs that hosted competitions this year, and to all the ladies who entered the competitions making the year such a success. Particular thanks were given to Dyke, Haywards Heath and Littlehampton golf clubs who stepped in to help when the Division semi-finals had to be rescheduled at short notice. The competitions are spread around the County to give variety and choice to the competitors – this year competitions were held at 20 different golf courses. The Captain thanked the Lady Captains and volunteers from the ladies' sections for all the help they provide at our events.

The Captain thanked clubs who had written throughout the year with matters which concerned them and flagged some key decisions which the Committee had made on the issues raised:

- In response to a request to hold the knockout stages of Division matches and also the Scratch Foursomes knockout at weekends, enquiries have been made but we have been unable to secure bookings at clubs for dates at weekends, mainly due to the large number of tee times needed.
- We have been asked whether Division 4 ladies can be allowed to play in Divisions 1, 2 and 3 and visa versa. We do understand that it is sometimes difficult to find players to compete, however Division 4 was originally started for clubs who did not have players to compete in the other divisions and this was a way of including those clubs in our county events. We have discussed this issue and have to notify you all that the rules stay the same and ladies competing in Division 4 may not compete in any of the other divisions, likewise ladies playing in the other divisions may not play in Division 4.
- Last year we announced that caddies would no longer be allowed in any county competition, this was a trial for a year. The trial has been a success and has speeded up play so we will continue with this rule change

The Captain noted that overall Division entries for 2019 are slightly lower than 2018 – 117 teams compared to 121 teams in total in 2018.

The Captain thanked Tessa Stockwell who is retiring after 5 years as 2nd Team Manager. Tessa Stockwell gave her report, noting that the team were runners up to Surrey in the Stovold Trophy. Sandra Holman will be taking on the role of 2nd Team Manager.

The Captain also thanked Jo Galway who is stepping down after 4 years as Senior League manager. Jo Galway gave her report, noting that the team had won the Mulligan Larson Bowl for the 4th successive year. Sara Whittaker (Willingdon Golf Club) will take over the running of the Seniors League.

The Captain thanked Carol Smith who has organised the Seniors' Friendly Matches; the team had 1 win, 1 draw and 2 losses this year.

The Captain congratulated several Sussex ladies for their success throughout the year.

- Christine Knight and Linda Atkins from Cottesmore won the regional final of the Coronation Foursomes at Worthing and went to St Andrews to play in the grand, final they finished tied 8th
- Charlotte Topping and her Grandmother Brenda James from Mannings Heath made it through to the Daily Mail Foursomes Grand finals at Marriott St Pierre, South Wales and reached the last 8.
- Chloe Burdon, as Sussex Junior Champion, finished 7th in the England Golf Champion of Champions at Frilford Heath in August.
- Aileen Greenfield continued her excellent golf, winning the English Senior Women's Amateur Championship at Hallamshire in May, she also played in the European Seniors' Team Championships and for the England Team in the Seniors' Home Internationals at Burnham and Berrow where England were runners up to Ireland
- Aileen, Paula Carver, Clarissa Bushell and Katherine Russell all played in the English Senior Women's Stroke play Championship at Belton Park. Aileen came 11th, Paula 15th, Clarissa 17th and Katherine 33rd out of a field of 67 players

The 1st Team played County Match Week at Hockley Golf Club where Sussex finished runners up to Surrey. Hannah Ralph the 1st team manager gave her report. 1st Team colours have been awarded to Heather Tidy (Bognor Regis Golf Club).

The Sussex juniors have done well under the guidance of Louise Simmons. The Captain noted that we have a talented group of young golfers who are a delight to be with. They are fun loving; but dedicated to do well on the golf course.

The County Captain thanked her committee for all their work and support during the year. Ladies leaving the committee this AGM are Sandra Holman, Past Captain and Wendy Shergold who has organized the Morrice Foursomes. In addition, Vicki Pett who has been County Registrar for the past 5 years and has managed the County Cards will be standing down. In future the Treasurer will handle the County cards.

4. PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES - The President presented trophies to the following:

County Championship Trophy	-	Chloe Briance
Langridge Trophy (Seniors' Championship)	-	Aileen Greenfield
Veterans' Championship	-	Iona McKean (not present at meeting)
Scratch Knock-Out Foursomes	-	Pyecombe
Kathleen Rider Foursomes	-	Golf at Goodwood
Jerdein Memorial Salver	-	Royal Ashdown Forest
Morrice Foursomes	-	East Sussex National
President's Trophy	-	Brighton & Hove
Division 1	-	Worthing
Division 2	-	Copthorne
Division 3	-	West Sussex
Division 4	-	Brighton & Hove

5. BALLOT – Not Held

6. ACCOUNTS – CAROL SMITH

The Treasurer pointed out a few items of interest from the accounts, copies of which were distributed at the meeting.

Costs had been contained well during the year, giving a surplus of £3,831.

Points to note on the income side:

- The way that Per Capita Levies are now collected on a rolling basis has this year had some impact on income with receipts down by nearly £1,000. The SCGU office collects these fees on behalf of the County and Carol thanked the SCGU for their diligence in chasing outstanding receipts.
- County Card purchases continue to be of importance as the income these provide goes some way to supporting junior golf in the County
- The income from Club Affiliation fees and Club competitions has increased as more clubs switch to paying online in advance. No changes in Entry fees are planned for 2019.
- Entries into the county competitions have remained stable
- Sundry income has significantly increased as this year the County ran the England Golf South Region Women and Girls championships. The County also agreed to hold some sponsorship income for Brandy Rook (Royal Eastbourne).

On the expenditure side:

- Expenses for the County Committee and Officials have continued to be well contained
- There has been a decrease in expenditure for the County Teams which is affected by how far teams have to travel to Counties week or scheduled matches.
- Expenditure on the club events has decreased slightly. The Treasurer thanked the organisers of these events for their efforts to control costs

- County uniform costs have significantly decreased. Having been advised by the suppliers Glenbrae last year, that they were discontinuing the yellow in their range of sweaters a number of sweaters were purchased, for purchase by future officials and use by players so there has been little requirement for additional uniform this year.
- Although there was a decrease in the cost of maintaining the website this year as we move forward, we will be making further investment into the website to increase our capabilities, greater resilience and flexibility since it is an increasingly important element of our communication
- Sundry expenditure includes expenditure for the Southern Region Championships, repayment of sponsorship income to Brandy Rook, the purchase of a portable PA system and radios to assist the County Officials and course rating team.

Last year's Glenda Ricketts Memorial Salver had to be cancelled due to adverse weather conditions. The Treasurer thanked those who kindly made donations of some or their entire entry fee. This figure of £402 will be added to the profit from this year's competition.

Although Junior income is down on last year so are the expenses. This is largely due to there being no fundraising day, as this takes place every other year.

A contingency fund set up primarily to cover the cost of the County 1st Team should they reach the County Finals also covers any unexpected or unusual costs that may not have been budgeted for.

The Treasurer thanked Pam Williams for examining the accounts and for her help and support which was much appreciated.

The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Caroline Sutherland Pilch from West Sussex Golf Club and seconded by Rosie Chisholm Hill from Cophorne Golf Club.

The President asked for a show of hands in agreement.

7. COMPETITION SECRETARY'S REPORT – ROSEANNE REES

Roseanne Rees reported on the winners of the main competitions, adding that the first day of the Championship at Pyecombe Golf Club had proved very challenging due to the fog which delayed the start and returned again in the afternoon, forcing the afternoon round to be reduced to just 5 holes, the maximum played by all players.

She noted that the Veterans Championship for ages 60 years and over had been introduced in 2016 because we were asked for such an event for over 60s but only 6 players entered the 2nd round this year. It will be run again in 2019 but if no more players participate we will have to reconsider running the event in the future. The Seniors' Waltz competition has not been as well supported as some of our other events so we have decided to remove the lower handicap limit and open it to all.

The Glenda Ricketts Memorial Salver held annually at Nevill Golf Club to raise funds for Breast Cancer Now has raised £1,500 so far this year. The final total will be published on the website.

Roseanne noted that entry forms for all competitions will be sent to clubs within the next few weeks and available on the website. We are aiming to have an online system for competition entry ready for use early next year.

Finally, she thanked all the clubs who have hosted our County events this year, the lady captains and ladies who have given up their time to help make these days run smoothly, the ladies who participated in the events and County President Chris and County Captain Ann, for their starting duties.

8. SUSSEX VOTING MEMBER FOR ENGLAND GOLF – SUE SMITH

Sue Smith reported that England Golf has now introduced the changes to the Board structure to meet the regulations set out by Sport England, without which their funding would be withdrawn. The Board is now led by an Independent Chairman, Nic Coward, two independent Directors and 8 Directors duly elected by

the Counties as before. There is also a minimum 30% gender representation on the Board. The Sport England funding is reducing each year and could be very much lower at the time of the next 4 year review.

Over the past year there has been much debate on the effectiveness and cost structure of England Golf as it moves forward, prompted by a proposal to substantially increase their affiliation fee from £8.25 to £10 pa. The Counties have finally agreed a figure of £9 but on the understanding that a full review is undertaken of all the departments including costs, the business case, and implications for any reductions. Inevitably the report will take time to come through but meantime England Golf has already promised some significant cost savings.

Jenny Clink from Gloucester will take over as President of England Golf in April.

On the Regional side, support for some of the competitions continues to decline. The Women's and Girl's championship held at Ifield this year was a success, although numbers could have been higher. The event will be held in Kent in 2019.

9. JUNIOR ORGANISER'S REPORT – LOUISE SIMMONS

The Junior Organiser told the meeting about the successful results achieved by the Sussex Girls this year.

- Ellen Nicholas and Anna Wills were selected to play in the County 1st Team at County Match Week
- Sussex finished as runners-up in Junior County Match Week for the 5th year running.
- Junior County colours have been awarded to Salysa Mason, Ellen Nicholas, Katie Field. Lille-beau Thorpe and Yasmin Hang
- Four girls have been selected for the Under 18 South East Regional squad – Chloe Burden, Salysa Mason, Gudron Nolan and Lille-beau Thorpe
- Chloe Burden has been selected as Junior County captain for next year with Ellen Nicholas as Vice-Captain
- Sussex entered a team for the Alresford Cup this year which gave some of the newer golfers their first opportunity to represent the County

Louise asked all those present at the meeting to encourage any junior girls at their clubs to get involved with the County Girls events.

The England Golf initiative "Girls Golf Rocks" was launched in Sussex this year with great success. Five clubs were selected as partners for the initiative and overall 150 girls attended the first taster session, 115 girls completed the 5 week coaching sessions and over 80 have continued with some form of coaching, with some moving into Club membership. Some of the Sussex girls' squad acted as "ambassadors" for these sessions and made a very valuable contribution. Girls Golf Rocks will be run again in 2019.

Thanks were given to the hard work of the Junior Committee – Christine Knight, Julie Field, Megan Edwards and Fenella Buss. Louise also gave tribute to their coach Rob Chruszcz from Rustington who had stepped in when their regular coach Ryan Fenwick was out of action. Louise also thanked all the clubs who had hosted the junior competitions and thanked the Captain and President for their support of Junior Golf.

Sussex host Junior County Match week next year, at Haywards Heath and the preparations for this are well underway.

10. TO CONFIRM ELECTION OF VICE-CAPTAIN – PAT JOHNS

The Captain introduced Pat Johns, a member of Dyke Golf Club. Pat was County Junior Organiser from 2012 – 2017.

The Captain asked for a show of hands in agreement of this nomination and Pat was presented with her badge of office.

11. TO RATIFY THE ELECTION OF HON TREASURER FOR 6TH YEAR – CAROL SMITH

The County Captain asked the meeting to approve the ratification of election of Carol Smith for a 6th year as Honorary Treasurer. There was a show of hands and Carol will remain in office for another year.

12. TO CONFIRM ELECTION OF THOSE REMAINING IN OFFICE

The President asked the meeting to confirm the election of those remaining in office 'en bloc'.

County President	-	Mrs Chris Handson
County Captain	-	Mrs Ann Carnegie
Honorary Secretary	-	Mrs Judith Dingle
Honorary Competition Secretary	-	Mrs Roseanne Rees
Communications Officer	-	Mrs Jacs Marlio
Sx. Ladies' Voting Member for England Golf	-	Mrs Sue Smith
Division 1 Secretary	-	Mrs Pauline Senior
Division 2 Secretary	-	Mrs Wendy Melville
Division 3 Secretary	-	Mrs Caroline Hawkes
Division 4 Secretary	-	Mrs Pat Codd
And Committee Members	-	Miss Bali Bassan Mrs Jill Miles Mrs Sue Rushworth

The President asked for a show of hands in agreement of the above.

13. TO ELECT 3 MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS

One nomination had been received for the vacancies on committee:

Karen Thorpe – Horsham Golf Club
Proposed by Elaine Purton
Seconded by Nikki Dudman

The Captain asked for a show of hands in agreement of the above. Karen Thorpe was unable to be at the meeting and will be presented with her badge of office at a later date.

14. PROPOSAL FOR SCLGA TO INCORPORATE

The Captain introduced this agenda item and explained why the Executive Committee was recommending that the Association should incorporate. The Captain then introduced Millie Broadbent, Legal & Compliance Officer at England Golf. Millie provided the following information in connection with the proposal:

- The main advantage of Incorporation is that it limits the financial liability for Committee members who are all volunteers and gives the organisation a separate legal status
- The main disadvantage is that there will be some additional reporting requirements but the additional work required and associated cost would be small.
- 11 other County Associations/ Unions have already incorporated and a further 4 are in progress. England Golf are strongly encouraging all Associations and Unions to Incorporate.

In response to questions the following additional information was provided:

- The Directors of the new organisation will not be paid – they will all be volunteers
- A quotation of ~£3,000 has been obtained for the work to prepare all the required documentation
- The name of the new organisation will be Sussex County Ladies Golf Association Ltd. All of the County kit with the SCLGA logo will continue to be used
- There will be some small additional costs for auditing and filing accounts at Companies House
- The Shareholder of the new organisation will be all the Sussex Clubs who affiliate to it.
- The purpose of the vote today is to agree “in principle” to proceed with incorporation. There will be a further vote at a Special General Meeting which is planned for 4 March 2019 to agree to Incorporate and transfer the assets of the Association.

The Captain explained that under the wording of our Constitution there is currently some uncertainty on whether the outline approval on the proposal to incorporate needs to be given by the majority of clubs present or by the majority of individual members present. The vote will therefore be recorded both ways.

The vote for all members showed an overwhelming majority of those present in favour of giving approval in principle to incorporate.

The vote for all clubs showed 46 votes in favour, with no votes against and no abstentions (note 48 clubs were recorded as being in attendance).

The Captain announced that as both approaches to voting were in support of the proposal, the Committee would now progress to appoint advisers to prepare the documentation.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The President was asked to provide a summary of the changes in Rules which are due to be introduced from 1 January 2019. The President recommended that golfers should look at the R&A and England Golf websites where there is some excellent information, including videos covering the changes.

16. VOTE OF THANKS TO THE CHAIR

Kim Willis from Brighton & Hove Golf Club gave a vote of thanks to the Chair.

There being no further business the President closed the meeting at 12.00 hours.

Signed -----

Date -----