

MINUTES OF THE 66<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT  
BRANCEPETH CASTLE GOLF CLUB ON MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2017

PRESENT: 42 members

APOLOGIES: G Birkby, H Hamilton, J Longhorn, A Wraith, others as attached sheet

Prior to meeting - May we all stand for a few moments to remember those members, friends and family who have passed away this year.

Olive Edwards was 101 years old and we feel she deserves a special mention as she must have been one of the founder members of the Association. Olive was both Captain and President of the Vets as well as Captain of the North Team and was always a great supporter. We owe her and her generation a great deal in setting up the Association we enjoy today.

MINUTES OF LAST AGM Previously circulated to all Clubs, and agreed.

MATTERS ARISING: None

**CAPTAIN'S REPORT:** presented by Mrs Aileen Carter

The year started with our money raising coffee morning at Dinsdale spa. We raised £1100 which funds future events,.

The Christmas Waltz at Hartlepool was a joyous affair, and was won by C Miller, J Gill, A Deboo with a score of 63. Soup and sandwiches, followed by mince pies kindly donated by our President, Veronica.

Over the winter silver players met at Knotty Hill for practice and two coaching sessions. The first with Duncan McCray on psychology, and the second with James Haire on bunker play, chipping and putting. Both were very successful and much enjoyed.

In April we had our match versus the county men at Seaton Carew which we won. A great victory, 6 games to 1. Thank you to Di Wilson who organised things at Seaton Carew.

The Texas Scramble at Hartlepool was well attended and organised by Sheila Kilgarriff.

Thank you to Hartlepool Golf club for their unstinting generosity regarding availability of the course from which we have benefitted regularly over the years.

In May we had the Silver Spring Meeting at Dinsdale Spa. M Moore won best gross and L Still won best nett. The knockout rounds were played resulting in Lyn Davison emerging as champion. From this we get our group of team players and those who played in matches are - L Davison, J Doughty, S Handley, S Hirst, R Lindley, C Miller, M Moore, R Preston and L Still.

County match results

5 June – Cheshire at home – a loss 5.5 – 1.5
15 June – Northumberland at home – a win 4 – 3
29 June – Yorkshire away – a loss 6 – 1
19 July – Lancashire home – a win 4 – 3
29 July – Cumbria away - a loss 5.5. – 1.5

Thank you to all players and trusty caddies, not to mention supporters who were absolutely marvellous turning out all the time. Also to Dinsdale Spa who have been so helpful, and in particular thanks to Pauline our fabulous caterer.

The Northern at Pleasington – a lovely few days albeit on a tricky course. We were very proud of our President Ruth Lindley and vice Captain Chris Pascall. A good contingent came from Durham but sadly no-one managed to qualify for the knockout stage.

Also in May we played the County Women, again at Dinsdale Spa. This was another win for us, 3 games to 1. Playing for us – A Wraith/S Musgrove, R Lindley/LWillis, R Preston/S Handley and A Biggs/J Burdis, well done to you all.

The Bronze qualifier was on 1 June at Ryton from which we chose our bronze team. Coaching for the bronze team was organised, again with James Haire. We had two bronze matches, both were won, well done to all who played. The Jean Wood trophy was held at Eaglescliffe, a good entry and we were made very welcome by the club.

We then had Greensomes at Houghton, 4BBB at Whitburn, and Autumn singles at Heworth. The icing on the cake to finish the year was the Northern Vets meeting at Rockcliffe Hall Hotel where we had two rounds of golf, Sunday and Monday, use of the wonderful spa and driving range and a fantastic evening meal. This was a tremendous finale to the year and I urge you to consider next year's weekend at Cave Castle, Hull.

To finish - I have so many people to thank. First of all to my committee, so much goes on behind the scenes, which none of us are aware of until we ourselves serve on it. We have four meetings during the year plus the AGM. In particular Eileen our invaluable Secretary who has put up with constant queries. Sheila, our Competition Secretary who copes single handedly with all the competitions. Jennifer our Treasurer who seems to manage to keep us with a healthy bank balance. Our team of selectors, Veronica Holloway, Chris Pascall, Gill Birkby and Rosie Preston who at times had a tricky job. Also thanks to Anne Biggs and Claire Miller our computer experts. Lastly a particular thank you to Veronica whose company and wisdom I have so enjoyed this year, and of course the team, plus the caddies and supporters where I have to mention Dorothy Harrison, Betty Staincliffe and Ruth Emeleus who seem to be at every event we stage. Because of all of them I had a very happy year.

I wish Rosie lots of luck and enjoyment in her forthcoming year.

#### **SECRETARY'S REPORT** ; presented by Eileen Stothert

This year, as always, we've had some very good events and had a lot of help from the Clubs which gave us courtesy. They were Hartlepool, Dinsdale Spa, Ryton, Eaglescliffe, Houghton, Whitburn and Heworth. All were sent thank you letters and gratuity cheques. We have an enquiry from the Lady Captain of Ingleby Barwick, Pauline Allday, and they are keen to join the Association. More members is always good news and we hope to see them at events next year.

This is my 8<sup>th</sup> year in office during which time I've worked with many successful Captains and have enjoyed it very much. However, I must ask all of you to find out if there is anyone in your Clubs who would be interested in taking over. Every office needs new ideas and new energy which is why there is a term. My term has now been exceeded and although I am happy to continue in 2018 and do intend to retire at our next AGM.

Last week I attended the Northern AGM where the new Officers were elected, including the Captain Chris Pascall and President Ruth Lindley.

The end of season event which has become very successful over the last few years was announced for 2018 and it will be at Cave Castle, Hull, on 7 and 8 October.

Other dates for your diary are – 2018 Jamboree at Hexham from 7 – 9 August, and we urge you to give your support and attend.

The 2018 Northern Championship will be at Stockport, Cheshire, from 22 to 24 May and all details are in the envelopes provided for clubs.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT:** presented by Jennifer Dixon

The membership stand at 606. A list of current and previous members is provided in your envelope. Please check the information, especially telephone and e mail addresses and correct any details or provide updates. Please add new members' details.

Forms are to be returned with cheques by 21 December 2017.

The coffee morning at Dinsdale Spa raised £1134.68. Thank you to all helpers. This year the event is being held at Brancepeth Castle GC on 24 November.

A copy of our Income and Expenditure account has been provided for everyone. I would like to draw your attention to some major items-

The accounts show a surplus of £279.46 which is less than last year of £516.92. Our stock levels have increased by £987.50 to £1644.50. This is due to purchasing sweaters, polo shirts and ball markers. Subscriptions are slightly down, but entries are up by £633.

Thank you to members who made donations, which increased by £185 to £350.

Nett amount on raffles £831.79 slightly more than last year. Thank you to everyone who donated prizes.

Gratuities for Clubs where events and team matches were held increased by £710 to £2015. This is likely to increase again in 2018.

We also opened a Business Account and transferred £5000 to cover the expected costs incurred whilst hosting the NCVLGA Championship in 2020.

The accounts were again audited by Mr Fotheringham and I would like to propose that he continues as our Auditor for 2018.

Thank you to all my colleagues for their help during the year.

### **COMPETITION SECRETARY'S REPORT:** presented by Sheila Kilgarriff

This has been my 10<sup>th</sup> year in office so I have outlasted my term by 4 years. I have loved doing this work, but this year have found it very tiring and sometimes stressful, therefore if anyone is interested in the job then please get in touch, a job description is available.

As you know we compete with Alliance and County competitions, plus Golf Club "Opens" so this is a plea to all Club Reps, please rally round and encourage ladies to join and enter our competitions.

This year the Neatest Card and Hole in One winners were introduced and next year we will also have 2's prizes.

#### Competition report on 2017

**American Texas Scramble, Hartlepool, April.** This is the most popular competition because it is a team event early in the year.

The two tier start we tried proved successful and allowed extra players.

Winners were M Moore, L Davison, J Rose and A Charlesworth from Brancepeth Castle.

**Silver Spring Meeting, Dinsdale Spa, May.** A poor entry of 36 ladies. The winner of the Guthe Picture for the best gross was M Moore, gross 84. The Coronation Salver for the best nett was won by L Still, Eaglescliffe, nett 79, beating M Moore on the back 9.

The Betty Staincliffe trophy for the best gross for those over 65 years was won by C Bowerbank, Dinsdale Spa, gross 92.

Wednesday morning saw the beginning of the Championship, a matchplay event over 2 days with the top 16 gross players from day 1 qualifying. The championship and Lewtas cup was won by L Davison, Brancepeth, and runner up C Miller, Tyneside won the Milburn Salver.

**Bronze Spring Meeting, Ryton, June.** Only 32 ladies played which was very disappointing.

Winner of the best gross and Bailey trophy, also the Silver Salver for best nett, was E Reilly, Beamish Park. The Margaret Robinson trophy for the best gross over 65's was won by B Parkin, Brancepeth.

**Jean Wood Waltz, Eaglescliffe, June.** Team events are popular and numbers increased from last year. Winners of the trophy for best nett stableford points were R Lindley, Hartlepool, our Captain A Carter, Dinsdale Spa, and A Wraith from Blackwell Grange, with 73 points. Winners of Lewtas trophy for best gross stableford points K Lee, P McIntosh and J Burdis from Tyneside with 58 points.

**Open Greensomes, Houghton, July.** Winners of best nett and Lenore Ewart Pin Trays were H Hamilton and M Hovenden, Eaglescliffe, nett 70. Best gross and winners of Armada Dishes were C Miller, Tyneside and S Handley, Heworth, with gross 80.

**Sivewright 4BBB, Whitburn, August.** Winners of Sivewright Salvagers for best nett and also the Club Shield were A Chapman and J Armitage, Boldon, with 42 points. The Sheila Dunn trophies for best gross were M Moore, Brancepeth and P McIntosh, Tyneside, 36 points.

**Autumn Singles, Heworth, September.** In the silver division the winner of the best nett and Silver Bowl was S Kiddle, Dinsdale Spa, 44 points. Winner of the Waugh trophy and best gross stableford points J Turner, Dinsdale Spa, 33 points.

Bronze division, winner of the Ravensworth Salver for best nett stableford points was L Elliott, Roseberry Grange, 36 points. The Ruth Emeleus trophy for best gross stableford points was won by L Franklin, Seaton Carew.

My thanks go to all of the Club Reps, especially those at the venues where we played our competitions. These ladies are so helpful in setting up our Trophy table before the event begins. Thanks also to Anne and Claire for their help this year with the website.

**BRONZE TEAM MATCH REPORT:** presented by Rosie Preston, Vice Captain

It was a delight to arrange the bronze team matches. I am thrilled to say the team won the Connie Suthering Bronze Shield back from Northumberland at Gosforth Bridle Path, the score was 4-2.

This year Cumbria asked for a change to the Dorothy Harrison and Moulie Moore trophy format, rather than singles, it was played as a 4BBB. The match was played at Dinsdale Spa and Durham won 4-2. The new format was enjoyed by both teams.

The teams were represented by

A Deboo, B Healy, B Parkin, E Reilly, E Robson, F Bunce, H Hamilton, M Robinson, J Moore, J Dickinson, J Vaulks, L Stevenson, L Giles, L Steel, M Myers, R Cooper.

Thank you to all of the team members for playing so well.

Seven players received their colours for representing their County for the first time – B Parkin, E Robson, J Moore, J Dickinson, L Giles, M Myers, R Cooper.

The Bronze Team is selected from the Bronze Spring Meeting which in 2018 is on Monday 11 June at Durham City.

### **SURVEY REPORT**

Presented by Eileen Stothert on behalf of Anne Biggs

The survey we ran for members this year had 59 responses. The highest response came from Mature Vets (60-69) 40%, with 30% each from young and Super Vets. These responses revealed that the majority of people are happy with the subscription, entry fees and prize value, so there will be no immediate changes. Spicing up competitions was popular, therefore age group prizes for singles and 2's prizes will be introduced.

The suggestion of having a Coaching Day was very popular and possible venues are being looked at as well as combining it with a short Rules update.

Support was given for paying entry fees online and this is being looked at by the Treasurer as well as the introduction of a web based option.

**SECONDER FOR REPORTS:** Sheila Dunn

Thank you to all Committee Members for their efforts during the year. To Sheila Kilgarrif for organising competitions and remaining in office over a number of years.

Thank you for some interesting reports, which I take pleasure in seconding.

### **NORTHERN DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP/JAMBOREE REPORT:**

Presented by Ruth Lindley on behalf of Chris Pascall.

2017 got off to a great start with the Northern Championship at Pleasington Golf Club.

Karen Lee the defending champion was unable to defend her title.

Sue Dye of Cheshire led the qualifiers with 76 gross, best nett won by Trudy Hubbard of Cumbria 82-7-75. The 2<sup>nd</sup> nett was Sandra Paul of Yorkshire 82-6-76 and 3<sup>rd</sup> nett

Carol Simpson of Yorkshire 81-5-76.

Winners of the Gross and Nett Team Shields- Cheshire.

Championship winner Caroline Berry of Cheshire for the 5<sup>th</sup> time.

The second flight matchplay of 8 players was won by C Helme, Lancs.

Stableford team event winners A Carter, B Conley and A Wraith of Durham, 80 points.

Jamboree - the team for the Jamboree at Frilford Heath in August from Cheshire

C Berry (Champion), S Dye, G Mellor, C Rawthore, Cumbria – B Ewbank,  
Northumberland – A Hanson, Yorkshire – K Jobling, J Wheeldon.

The Midlands were the overall winners as they had more individual points.

I am looking forward to being Captain of the North 2018, we are fortunate next year to have the Captain and President from Durham

Next year the Jamboree is being held at Hexham and I would ask you all to give your support.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

President Ms G Birkby, Captain Mrs R Preston, Vice Captain Mrs A Wraith, Secretary Mrs E Stothert, Treasurer Mrs J Dixon, Competition Secretary Mrs S Kilgarriff.

### **ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

No nominations have been received. Mrs J Peacock has offered to be co-opted in December.

### **COMPETITION FIXTURES/MATCH FIXTURES**

Presented by Eileen Stothert and Rosie Preston. Copies circulated to all Clubs.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

The Captain presented new Silver Team member, Sarah Hirst, with her colours.

Aileen Carter presented Captain 2018 Rosie Preston with her Captain's brooch, and thanked her for all the support given during 2017.

Captain Rosie presented Aileen with a gift from the Association and Team and thanked her for the hard work during 2017.

Vice Captain Anne Wraith was unable to attend the meeting and sent her apologies, however, Rosie gave us some background on Anne's golf over the years.

Anne joined Blackwell in the early 1990's and became the most improved golfer three times.

She has represented the club in matches and County competitions. After retiring in 2015 Anne was advised to join the "Vets" by Aileen Carter and Cathy Bowerbank and since then feels that she has been made very welcome. Anne feels that it is an honour for her that she has been asked to take on this position and is looking forward to role as Vice captain.

The retiring President, Veronica Holloway, advised that the past Presidents meeting chose Gill Birkby to be our new President. Gill was unable to attend the meeting and sent her apologies. Gill has excellent credentials and has been a long time member of Durham City as well as our Association. She played for the Silver team 2003-5 and was Captain in 2007. She has recently been a Selector, and is also usually found taking pictures with her camera at our events.

Aileen Carter then presented Veronica Holloway (retiring President) with a gift and our thanks for acting as President over the last 2 years.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

E mail received from England Golf regarding Champion of Champions competition. County were asked if they run a Senior Womens event and since they do not, it has been passed to our Association for discussion. If so would County be interested in competition for Champion of Champions specifically for women. Information is required as to whether our Association is officially recognised before an answer can be given.

Cathy Bowerbank raised the question of qualifying competitions, i.e. would the Association consider making singles events qualifiers. At present as requested by England Golf we send the first five cards to Clubs for consideration. This will be discussed at the next Committee Meeting.

Veronica Holloway promoted our new 9 Hole Competition and requested everyone to encourage those who are unable to play 18 holes to take part, although It was also stressed that this event will be open to everyone.

Our retiring President, Veronica, then closed the meeting, and wished everyone a safe journey home.