



DURHAM COUNTY VETERAN LADIES' GOLF ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE 68TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT BRANCEPETH CASTLE GOLF CLUB ON MONDAY 21ST OCTOBER 2019

PRESENT: 67 members

APOLOGIES: C Constable, C Taylor, J Rose, E Staincliffe, others as attached list

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

MATTERS ARISING: none

CAPTAIN'S REPORT: presented by Anne Wraith

At the start of my Captaincy I was warmly welcomed by the committee and members and throughout the year I have had great support from all sections of the organisation. There has been a full programme of events during the past 12 months and I'd like to outline those briefly for you:

The year started with a festive coffee morning at Blackwell Grange and there were lots of Christmas jumpers and interesting hats being worn to get us in the festive spirit. This is an opportunity for our members and also our non-playing members to meet old friends and catch up over a cup of tea. A lot of work goes into running an event like that and I'd like to thank all of the committee members and association members who gave up their time, donated prizes, bought tickets and came along to support us. A special thanks to Janice Peacock who masterminded the fourball extravaganza draw that was a great success.

The golfing events started just after Christmas and Jennifer and I wanted to look at the physical game and the mental side of the game as well. With this in mind I arranged two skills sessions at Tyneside Golf Club for potential silver team players. Tyneside Pro Gary Vickers was very generous with his time for which we are very grateful. As well as practice, these sessions also offered the opportunity for Silver team players to get together before the start of the season which contributed to a super team spirit during the season.

In March we had a "Mind Matters" presentation given by sports coach Duncan McCarthy at Durham City Golf Club. This event was very popular with over 60 people attending and I hope that everyone who went came away with something they could use to improve the mental part of their game.

Pre-season coaching continued in March with 2 sessions at Cocken Lodge in Durham and one at Blackwell Grange where the Professionals helped with long and short game practice. These were also very well supported as everyone wanted to get the new season off to a flying start.

Our annual hard-fought match against the Senior Men took place at South Shields this year and it was a bitter, cold, windy, rainy day. Sadly, our team were defeated so I'm hoping that Jennifer can encourage our team on to a win next time.

Competitions also started in April. Congratulations to Ruth Lindley who emerged victorious as our 2019 Champion after fending off the competition at the Silver Spring Meeting this year. Ruth has been the Vets Champion 10 times over the years and I think you will agree with me that this is an outstanding achievement. Congratulations Ruth very well done.

As well as our competitions the Association has a silver and bronze team who compete against the other counties in matches throughout the season. The Bronze team is the responsibility of the Vice-Captain and I will let Jennifer tell you about their achievements in her report.

We played our three Richardson Trophy home matches against Northumbria, Cheshire and Lancashire at Blackwell Grange. We also played two away matches at Huddersfield in Yorkshire and Ulverston in Cumbria. The results of those matches were:

A draw against Cheshire (which felt like a win) A loss of 2 ½ to 4 ½ against Lancashire. A loss of 1 to 6 against Yorkshire. A loss of 2 to 5 against Northumbria
But we ended the season on a high with a win of 4 ½ to 2 ½ against Cumbria!

Over all we finished 4th of the six Counties.

I would like to thank Gill Birkby our retiring President for her help and council during the year. She has acted as our photographer and starter at all of the competitions and we greatly appreciate the time she has dedicated to the Association. Thank you for everything you have done Gill I am sure I speak for the whole Committee and Association when I say we have appreciated the time and effort you have put in to your time as President.

Finally, I would like to thank the committee for all their hard work and support this year. I wish Jennifer all the very best in her year as Captain, she has been a superb Vice-Captain and I feel we have worked together easily and with much humour along the way. I'd also like to thank you, - the association's members, for your continued support at our events. Golf is a great sport and with that comes many life long and happy friendships forged while walking those beautiful green fairways – not to mention hacking out of bunkers and looking for lost golf balls in woods and lakes! I wish you all many more happy golfing years and thank you for giving me the honour of being your Captain this year.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: presented by Eileen Stothert

This year has been a difficult one in terms of organising competitions as well as the weather which has not always been kind to us.

Whitburn were very good in allowing us to hold the Texas Scramble there and gave us a lot of tee time. They have also agreed a date for next year and are happy with the gratuity amount we pay.

Many clubs are now looking for ways of making money in this difficult economic climate and unfortunately we are unable to offer too much in gratuity payments. Because of this we have taken the decision to increase competition fees to £8/£10 and £12 and hope that you will continue to encourage your members to support us.

The fixture list for next year consists of some clubs where we have good relationships and they are happy to offer their courses for the amount we are able to pay. Gill Birkby has kindly sorted out a date with Durham City for our 9 hole competition and it will be on Monday 5 Oct. As you know we are hosting the Northern Championship next year at Bishop Auckland and would like to see everyone there either playing or supporting.

Other Northern fixtures are - Jamboree 5 – 7 August at Glenbervie Golf Club, Scotland.

End of season event - George Washington golf club 4 and 5 October.

The Northern AGM at Moortown will be held on 7 October.

To conclude my report I would once again urge you to think about coming onto Committee. We do need help and I need someone to shadow or take over as Secretary. I have agreed to retain the role in 2020 in order to help with the Northern Championship but need someone to take over in 2021.

Thank you to the Committee and to all of you for your support during the year.

TREASURER'S REPORT: presented by Elaine Reilly

The membership stands at 641 including Associate and Honorary members. A list of current members is provided in your envelope. I would be grateful if you could please check each members' information, especially telephone and email addresses, I have enclosed membership forms in order to provide me with any updates. Could you return the forms to me with either cheques or confirmation of BACS payments by the 21st December 2019. A copy of the Income and Expenditure account has been provided, I would like to draw your attention to the following; Subscriptions are down by £100, which equates to 25 members. Entries are down by £1600 against last year, in part due to change of venues and dates, due to a number of Golf Clubs increasing their green fees at the start of the season, also bad weather conditions for the Bronze Championship which then had to be rearranged, and finally lack of interest in the 9 hole competition at the end of the season. Team meals, travel expenses and B & B's are up on last year by £1000.00 overall which seems to be a trend since 2016. Gratuities to clubs where events and team matches have been held remain much the same as last year, £2725. We still have £5018 in a separate account to cover the costs of hosting the NCVLGA Championship in May 2020 at Bishop Auckland. The accounts were audited by Mr Fotheringham and I would like to propose he continues as our Auditor for 2020. Finally I would like to thank all my colleagues for their help and support during my first year as Treasurer.

PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES;

List of winners presented by Janice Peacock, Competition Secretary.

Trophies present by the Captain Anne Wraith (list of winners attached).

BRONZE TEAM MATCH REPORT: presented by Jennifer Dixon

The match against Northumberland was played at Morpeth and Durham won 4 – 2.

The match against Cumbria was at Blackwell Grange which resulted in a loss for Durham 4 - 2.

SECONDER FOR REPORTS:

Ruth Lindley. Thank you to Committee and all volunteers who helped during the year. Golf is enjoyable for everyone, whatever level, and has great camaraderie and friendships.

Northern Division Championship Report

7 Durham ladies played in the Vets Northern Championships which were held at Rotherham Golf Club in May. What we lacked in numbers we more than made up for in performance. Rotherham Golf Club offered us a superb venue with the course presented in tip top form. As usual, the competition was run with military precision and I would like to thank the Northern Vets committee for all of their hard work on our behalf. In the qualifying Medal Round the greens were a particular challenge for most of the field with only two players out of a field of 96 playing better than their handicap. I am pleased and proud to say that those two players were our very own Ruth Lindley and Lyn Davison. They, together with Marianne Moore went through to the knockout phase of the Championship. The superb nett scores from Ruth, Lyn and Marianne meant that they secured the Northern Division Handicap Team Shield for Durham which is a fantastic achievement. Ruth had the best nett score on the day and was tied (but beaten on the back 9) for the best gross by Yorkshire's Karen Jobling. Well done ladies!

In the knock-out phase we were slightly unfortunate as Marianne had to play Lyn so it was an all Durham match meaning one of them would be knocked out. Ruth had a good match but was unfortunately knocked out in the first round. Marianne managed to triumph over Lyn so was through to the second round but was then knocked out after a tight match in the afternoon.

Our winning streak didn't stop there though because Jennifer Dixon and Sarah Hirst were in the team that then won the consolation team stableford with a great score of 76 points. Helen Morgan and I were in another team and had a small side bet with Jennifer and Sarah so that meant we had to buy the drinks!

The overall winner of the Northern Championship was Cheshire's Caroline Berry

It was a lovely Championship with many laughs and a great Durham Team spirit. I am so very proud of our players and appreciate all the hard work and time that they put into their games and for taking the time to represent Durham in such fine fashion.

Next year the Championship will be held in County Durham at Bishop Auckland so I really hope we will get a big entry from Durham. Work in preparation of this competition has been ongoing now for some months. Please support your new Captain Jennifer and the Association in this event next year if you possibly can. It is open to players with a handicap of 20 and under and it would be lovely to see as many Durham players as possible take part.

Jamboree Report

The Jamboree was held in August at Northampton Golf Club. The team for the North was selected from the six northern counties but sadly this year did not have any players selected from Durham. However, The North finished in second place beating The South and Scotland. The Midlands were the overall winners and were awarded the Miller Sterling Salver.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

President Mrs L Still, Captain Mrs J M T Dixon, Vice Captain Mrs C Miller, Secretary Mrs R E Stothert, Treasurer Mrs E M Reilly, Competition Secretary Mrs J Peacock.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Mrs C Constable (co-opted 2018), Mrs P Allday.

PROPOSALS:

The Committee propose to increase the yearly subscription to £5 per member. This was voted on and agreed, no objections.

COMPETITION/MATCH FIXTURES:

All printed and distributed.

PRESENTATIONS:

Captain Anne presented the incoming Captain Jennifer Dixon with her brooch of office and thanked her for all the support during the year. Jennifer has been a wonderfully supportive Vice -Captain and we have become firm friends. She has been a great support and sounding board and I really could not have managed without her. I have been very lucky to have her as my Vice-Captain and as I hand over to her I know I place the Association in a safe pair of hands for the future. I'd now like to hand over the Captain's badge and be the first to Congratulate Jennifer and wish her all the very best for her Captancy.

Jennifer responded and said she was delighted to become the Captain and was looking forward to working with Claire her Vice Captain and President Lesley.

Jennifer then presented Anne Wraith with a gift with thanks from everyone for the work done over the last 12 months. Anne responded and said it had been an honour to be Captain.

Jennifer then introduced Claire who has played golf for many years enjoying a single figure handicap. She has been a member at Ryton and more recently at Tyneside.

Claire thanked Jennifer for the opportunity to become Vice Captain and looked forward to working hard and enjoying the golf.

Gil Birkby advised that Lesley Still has agreed to be President and wished her well.

Lesley Still - I am honoured to be President of the Association and thank the Past Presidents for my nomination. Golf has provided me with many opportunities throughout the years, but perhaps most importantly, the game has given me wonderful memories as well as new and lifelong friendships. The beauty of golf is there is no age limit and I look forward to working with Jennifer, Claire and Committee in promoting the Association.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Mrs Ruth Emeleus wished to bring the 9 hole competition to the attention of everyone present and requested they ask "Vets" reps to promote it and encourage all members, to support it in 2020.

President Gill Birkby wished everyone a safe journey home and closed the Meeting,.