

## **BERKSHIRE COUNTY LADIES VETERANS' GOLF ASSOCIATION**

### **Minutes of the 44th Annual General Meeting held at Newbury & Crookham Golf Club on Wednesday 21st January 2009 at 11.00**

**Mrs Margaret Taylor, Captain**, was in the chair. Thirty seven members signed the Attendance Register. Thirty nine members had lunch.

After a delay due to road closures in the area the Meeting was convened by the Secretary at 11.15 a.m.

#### **Apologies for Absence. 22**

1. **The Minutes of 2008 AGM** having been circulated were taken as read. Adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Mrs. Mary Fraser, seconded by Mrs. Barbara Hutchinson and accepted by the members. Mrs Margaret Taylor signed the Minutes as a correct record.

2. **Matters Arising from the Minutes.** Under Item 9. AOB Minutes 2008 the Secretary spoke on behalf of Rosemary Wilson – Reading Golf Club, who had requested clarification be made re the last sentence to ensure that it was quite clear to all members that her complaint was not made because of the funeral and that the Captain would always have discretion in extenuating circumstances.

#### **3. Captain's Report.**

The Captain welcomed all to the meeting and thanked Newbury & Crookham Golf Club, and in particular Steve Myers the Secretary, and Jane Goodenough, the Lady President for their hospitality on the day and for 2009. The BCLVGA were extremely grateful.

Earlier last year, the Committee decided to confer Honorary Membership on two members in recognition of their commitment and service, not just with regard to the Association, but also to the County and the game of golf, over many years.

Joyce Drew and Sheila Fitzgerald had kindly accepted. Unfortunately Joyce was unable to be present but flowers would be sent on behalf of the Association wishing her well.

On the golfing side it had been a successful year, she had received 59 return slips from members wishing to play and all were offered the opportunity of at least 1 game although in reality, personal circumstances just prior to the dates inevitably meant that some had to withdraw. The first match against Buckinghamshire Seniors was cancelled due to an overnight fall of snow and despite 3 attempts to re-arrange the fixture an alternative date could not be agreed. From then on the weather was kind and the teams went from strength to strength. The new fixture, versus Oxford Seniors for H'caps 12 -20 resulted in a 5½ - 1½ win for Berks. Against Wiltshire, the match was halved, against Reading & District Gentlemen Vets, the BCLVGA won by 5 matches to 3, against Hampshire, they won 5½ - 1½ and the final match, another new fixture, versus the Berkshire Captains the BCLVGA won 5 – 2. The Captain congratulated all who had battled so hard.

The 'Open Meetings' were well supported, and the Captain took the opportunity to thank Alison Goudge, the Competition Secretary for her commitment of time and energy to ensure that these events ran smoothly. A full field at Sunningdale Ladies GC for the Spring 36 Hole Foursomes battled through the four seasons of weather experiencing sunshine, high winds, storms and sleet before the Olive Tomlinson Salvagers were eventually won by Brenda Wileman and Hilary Lawes from Maidenhead with 63 points.

The first of the Summer Meetings, the Singles Stableford held at Mapledurham, had a field of 99 players. Doffi Parkinson from Reading G.C. won the Summer Bowl and the over 60's Trophy.

Avril Catto from Calcot Park won the over 70's and Hazel Nixon from Goring & Streatley won the Past Captain's. The new event, the Summer Better Ball, held at the Downshire, was won by Myra Newman and Linda Gower from Maidenhead. At the final golfing event, the Autumn Stableford, held at Calcot Park, Jill Edwardes from Newbury & Crookham won the Silver Scratch Trophy and Margaret Ann Taylor, from Calcot Park, the Silver Handicap. In the Bronze Section, Jane Adamson from Sunningdale Ladies won the Scratch Trophy and Celia Geater from Reading won the Bronze Handicap and Grandmothers' Trophy. She congratulated not just the winners but all who took part.

The Bridge Drive, held in November at Calcot Park had just 9 tables and she hoped that all who made the trip enjoyed the afternoon, and if the cards had not fallen well for them, that they at least enjoyed their tea. Kath Lambert from Reading & Yvonne Cottingham from Calcot Park won the Slam Prize. She thanked Catherine Cookson, the current Ladies' Captain at Calcot Park, and her team of helpers for ensuring that the afternoon ran smoothly.

The Gittins K O Trophy, played for throughout the year, had been fiercely contested. She thanked Newbury & Crookham for allowing the final to be held there and to Jill Edwardes who refereed the match between Marjorie Tierney from Reading and Yvonne Cottingham from Calcot Park. Having played with both finalists during the year the Captain said that she knew how well both could play and thought that it would be a close contest on the day. She was sure that they would not mind her saying that on the day neither played their best golf, indeed they seemed determined to hand the Trophy to each other. However, on the final hole and the final put, Marjorie prevailed to win by 1 hole. She congratulated both players for their tenacity and for the spirit in which they played the game. She then presented second prize to Yvonne. Unfortunately due to traffic problems, Marjorie was not present to receive her prize.

Margaret stated how much she had enjoyed her year as Captain, she said that it was undoubtedly a unique experience reaching out to so many members from so many different clubs. She stated that she had been fortunate to have had the support of a first class Committee & thanked Alison Phillips as Secretary, Maureen Rogers as Treasurer, Alison Goudge as Competition Secretary, Jill West as Past Captain and Jo Russ as Vice Captain. They had, she said, worked well as a team and she was truly grateful for their support and, of course, the backing and hospitality from the Board of Directors of Calcot Park.

Finally, she wished Jo, the current Ladies' Captain at Newbury & Crookham, the very best for a happy and successful 2009.

#### **4. Hon. Secretary's Report.**

The Secretary reported that the Association continued to thrive. At the end of 2008 we had 256 members and we already have 23 new members for 2009. As at today 59 subscriptions were outstanding. Fifty members have entered the Gittins K O Competition.

Our email directory continues to grow and she would appreciate notice of any changes to email addresses, this request also applies to telephone numbers and addresses in order to keep our records up to date. A final point regarding insurance. She stated that currently the Vets do not have a policy to cover trophies – they are covered by the Household contents insurance of the holder. However, we are investigating the possibility that in future we may be able to include our trophies under the Berkshire County's policy. Members will be informed of the outcome in due course.

## **5. Competition Secretary's Report.**

The Competition Secretary commenced her report by saying that her year did not have a good beginning as she discovered she would be away for the fixture at Sunningdale Ladies. She understood that the weather had been awful and the idea of two tees had not proved successful partly due to the delays with thunderstorms. This year it is planned to revert to one tee and the meeting has been moved to May in the hope that sunshine will prevail and she will be there. This is always over subscribed but as usual, any unsuccessful pairing will be ensured of a place the following year.

The Gittins Trophy ran smoothly on time without any extensions requested and the only change will be that both the semi-final and the final will be played on neutral courses to avoid a repeat of competitors having home rounds until the last match. She reminded members that it was in their own interest to try and arrange matches as early as possible within the time frames.

The Summer meeting at Mapledurham had, once again, been successful and has been retained as a venue for this year. She hoped the array of coloured labels was not too confusing but this coding and the help from Mapledurham with computerised entries certainly speeded up the calculation of results.

Thirty pairs entered the new better-ball competition at The Downshire and we hope this will continue to be a success with the venue at Royal Ascot in 2009. In order to spread the dates more evenly this will precede Mapledurham and is fixed for 29<sup>th</sup> June. The Autumn Meeting was down in numbers for some reason, despite being at Calcot. However, the day went well and again with computerisation and her now famous coloured labels results were quickly obtained and lunch was excellent.

As some members know, she had had a few hiccups but she had found it a steep learning curve. She promised to try harder this coming year. She thanked Pat Price for running the Spring Meeting on the day and to the Committee for their help with the other meetings.

Alison ended with a plea – If the entry form asks for separate entries it is to enable her to have the correct information regarding trophy qualifications. She was happy to accept a cheque covering the combined entries but she does get confused when for instance for the Mapledurham competition one form with 3 names said ages over 60, and over 70 and a past Captain of the Association but which are which? By the way, this does not mean a past club captain of a club – yet another case of too much information .

Lastly a plea from her mother who stuffs the envelopes with the start sheets – could you please avoid using very small stamped addressed envelopes – they prove impossible to fill with more than one sheet and her mum is threatening to resign!

## 6. Hon. Treasurer's Report.

Maureen hoped that everyone had had time to study a copy of the accounts. The aim of the Association was to enable members to meet and play golf and we broke even again ending the year with a credit of £61.77p.

She continued that she felt that the sheet was self-explanatory and compared it with the previous year. This year we had had an extra 4BBB meeting at the Downshire which appears on the accounts as Summer Meeting 2. All the meetings were self-financing with a small profit at the end. This was due to the excellent terms negotiated by our Competition Secretary with the respective clubs.

She stated that we have two bank accounts, one current account which is used for the running of the Association, and the Business Reserve Account which is available to draw on should the need arise. The balance in the reserve account has been maintained. In conclusion she thanked Mr Terry Gower for once again auditing the accounts. There were no questions.

Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Doris Reynolds, seconded by Jane Goodenough and accepted by the members.

## 7. Proposal by the Committee.

The following proposal was put to the meeting by the Captain.

**“For Vets Singles Stroke Play Competitions competitors playing on the course of which they are a member will have a 2 shot handicap reduction.”**

Discussion took place with various points being made among which were -

1. The relatively high ratio of prize winners over the last few years playing on their own course.
2. Whether the winners were just having a 'purple patch', 'rub of the green' etc and should not necessarily be penalised.
3. One suggestion – all play off scratch!!
4. Perhaps 1 shot would be more appropriate.

The proposal by the Committee was then put to the meeting and was strongly defeated.

An amended proposal arising from the discussions stating that **For Vets Singles Stroke Play Competitions competitors playing on the course of which they are a member will have a 1 shot handicap reduction and tried for one year.**

was put to the meeting. A vote was taken and the proposal accepted by 25 votes to 7.

## 8. Election of Officers.

Captain	Jo Russ	Proposed by Margaret Taylor Seconded by Jill West
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Vice-Captain	Pat Price	Proposed by Jo Russ Seconded by Alison Goudge
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Hon. Treasurer Maureen Rogers and Competition Secretary Alison Goudge continue in post for a second year. Hon. Secretary Alison Phillips has completed two years but is prepared to stand for a further two years. Proposed: Maureen Rogers. Seconded: Jo Russ. Margaret Taylor is prepared to serve as IPC. Jill West will be retiring.

The Captain passed the Captain's badge to the new Captain and wished her every success.

## **9. New Captain's Report.**

Jo commenced by thanking Margaret for inviting her to be her Vice Captain in 2008 and now to become Captain in 2009. She said that it would be an honour to take up the reins and that she would try to ensure that the traditions of the BCLVGA and the high standards that Margaret Taylor had set would continue. Jo continued by saying that it was a pleasure to see so many present including several past captains of the Society and she extended a special welcome to them.

Jo informed everyone that once again the Association had a full fixture list, with a repeat of the extra matches and meetings of 2008, all of which were successfully run. She had already received many match applications and she would endeavour to give games to all who had requested the opportunity to play. She asked that if, selected as a player or a reserve, that members would do their best to honour that commitment. She intended to have all notifications sent out by the third week of February.

She was pleased to welcome back Alison, Alison and Maureen onto the Committee. They had proved an excellent hardworking team during the past year and she was confident that they would keep her pointing in the right direction! She was delighted to welcome Pat Price as her Vice Captain for 2009, because as members were aware, she had a wealth of knowledge from other County committees and events and that they would all look forward to working with her.

Next, she thanked Newbury & Crookham Golf Club for their commitment in agreeing to host the Association and its events for the coming year & stated how much the Association appreciated their generosity.

Finally, she thanked Margaret for the excellent season that she had made possible for all of the members in 2008.

As a memento of her year as Captain, Jo asked Margaret to accept a gift as a token of their appreciation.

**10. AOB – There was none.**

**11. The Captain closed the meeting at 11.58 a.m.**