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**Annual General Meeting of the Ladies Section of
Wheathill Golf Club held on Thursday 5th December 2024 at 6.30 pm
Venue : Jubilee Room, Wheathill Golf Club**

In the Chair: The Lady Captain: Anne Scott who welcomed all to the 2024 AGM.

Present representing the Ladies Committee

Anne Scott (AS)	Ladies Captain
Sylvia Bates (SB)	New Members Delegate
Nic Boyd (NB)	Handicap Secretary
Fiona Cruse (FC)	Vice Captain
Judith Rowsell (JR)	Competition Secretary
Becky Thompson (BT)	Secretary
Sam Thorpe (ST)	Treasurer
Jen Warmington	Past Captain
Nicki Wisniewski	County Delegate

1. Apologies for absence

Kate Cleverley	Val Hyldon
Lynn O'Neill	Laura Bennett
Molly Shire	Joan Stone
Sue Ovland	Sue Rees
Gaye Volk	

Attendances

Karen Forward	Marion Hodgson
Carolyn Durston	Di Longman
Melanie Brewin	Linda Johnson
Sue Bamping	Sandra Bradshaw
Karon Woodward	Jan Street
Greta Hillier	Jill Byrne
Gin Stewart	Ann Gates
Jen Warmington	Gaylene Meeson
Dee Powell	

2. Approval of minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the 2023 AGM meeting held on Thursday 23rd November 2023 were accepted as an accurate record.

Proposed by Jill Byrne

Seconded by Sue Bamping

Signed by Anne Scott, Lady Captain

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. Lady Captain's Report

Well, this speech has been running around in my head for some time now and after many drafts, now it is on paper it makes me realise that my year is finally coming to an end, and how quickly it has gone! *When you're having fun and all that!*

However, my Captaincy at Wheathill would not have run without the contribution and commitment of so many people:-

My family, and particularly, my husband. who says I've been playing golf or doing something connected to golf most days and evenings, over the last year! True! But no more waking up in the middle of the night, having had a nightmare, that I may (and probably have) forgotten something! However, he has been very supportive!

The Professionals - with their expert knowledge, and who are constantly on hand to answer any queries, questions and give welcome support and advice.

The Club house staff, especially Vicky for her commitment and resourcefulness, always producing brilliant meals. Her versatility in delivering my Lady Captain's Day Meal - a High Tea, was testimony to her artistic flair and passion.

The Ground staff who work tirelessly to keep our course in fabulous condition, in spite of the weather!

I was fortunate this year to have Mel, who partnered me in my Captain and Pro Challenge against many of you ladies. *Great Fun eh?*

My special thanks go to Sean Woodward, Club Captain, who has supported our charity unconditionally. He has also started so many of our ladies' competitions so enthusiastically and with such great dedication (you may recall how he threw himself into the role of Danny from Grease, when he started my Lady Captain's Day competition).

And of course, I couldn't forget Roy who has also started many of our competitions so willingly, and also joined in the Pink Ladies celebration.

My chosen charity of Porphyria, (a relatively unknown charity), kicked off the fund R raising in April with a Race Night - run by the Rotary Club of Brue Valley which proved to be great fun.

Throughout the year many club competitions from all sections have contributed and raised money - so far £4,351.48 for the charity. Phenomenal! Thank you all so much. Hopefully these proceeds will support a project they are organising to give children with Porphyria a chance to have a break away in a forested environment away from

the sun and can benefit from abseiling, climbing, tree activities and den building, as well as having the opportunity to meet with other children suffering from the same condition.

My Away Day at Saltford in May was fabulous, and our Away Days in September at Woodbury, great fun. All culminating with my Lady Captain's Day in September, splendidly organised by Fiona, thank you Fiona and everyone who supported her and me!

Of course, I would not have been able to carry out my captaincy without the support of an amazing committee who have supported me in so many ways. Fiona, Judith, Becky, Sam, Nic, Nicky, Sylvia, and Jen, our past Captain, who we are saying goodbye to tonight, whose knowledge and wisdom, along with all past captains, have guided me and kept me on the straight and narrow!

The Lady Captain then presented JW with a leaving gift

We are also losing Becky our secretary, who has done an amazing job reporting on our meetings and keeping us in order.

The Lady Captain then presented BT with a leaving gift

Finally, my thanks to Fiona who has been a great Vice Captain, has become a good buddy and with everyone's continued support, I know that Wheathill under her Captaincy will continue to flourish and prosper, due to its' many wonderful members.

The Lady Captain then presented FC with a gift

I would like to think that as Captain I have encouraged inclusivity and encouragement to all ladies wanting to play golf at whatever level they are.

Your support and generosity have been amazing. It was an honour to have been asked to be Captain in 2024 and I wish Fiona and her committee well for the next year.

Thank You.

5. Treasurer's Report

I placed a copy of the final accounts for the Wheathill Ladies Section for the accounting period of October 2023 - September 2024 on your seats so hopefully by now you will have had a quick look at them.

You will see an expense entry this year for "Refreshments & Prizes", against last year there is a zero. The reason for this is that in previous years, this line on the P & L was showing as "ladies get together" and for many years shows as a zero. I thought it would be more informative to see a separate entry for the Refreshments & Prizes rather than them to be included in "other expenses".

This year has been a much better year financially for the ladies section with a gain of £924.97. It follows the previous two years losses of £865.14 and £291.17. We can put the figures down to a combination of higher competition entries, some kind donations coupled with a reduction in expenses. Competition numbers this year show an average of 19 compared to last year's average of 10.2 entries per comp. This is brilliant news

for the section and with Women on Par having been a great success for the club, hopefully we will continue to encourage more lady members to play an active part in our competitions.

We started to use the Reserve account for the monies in and out for the Opens, away weekend and away day. Unfortunately, not all the ladies paid into the correct account, which didn't make the accounting very easy. **Could I please request that we all check the individual competition posters rather than just send money to the same account** as one has always done.

Finally, I would like to say, what a fantastic year we have had for the Porphyria Charity, raising £2,719.53 plus the monies that Anne Scott has paid directly to the Charity. We should all be very proud of this achievement.

If anyone would like to ask any questions, I would be pleased to answer them.

Treasurer Presents Accounts

Proposed by Greta Hiller

Seconded by Jan Street

Accounts signed by Anne Scott, Lady Captain

6. Competition Secretary's Report

It seems a bit like Deja vu with the weather as it is now although the rain started a month earlier this year.

I have printed a list of the competitions that the ladies section run which I will post onto the noticeboard in due course, some of which can be compared to the 2023 season but not all. While doing this particular job I realised that we have a good range of different formats that include 13 individual competitions including the Tuppy and Shire, Par Bar and Birdie Tree, Eclectic for silver and bronze players and also the Order or Merit. 12 of them are Pairs, 4BBB, Texas Scrambles, Greensomes, Foursomes and Bowmakers. 5 of which are Mixed.

The good news for next year is that the Ladies Invitation Day has been reinstated.

A few things to mention please - ladies forgetting to enter competitions by the closing date - once tee times have been posted it is too late then for entries to be accepted. If you have been given a tee time and subsequently cannot play (unless in exceptional circumstances) you are still expected to pay your entry fee unless of course someone can replace you. I will ensure that these points will be included on the posters to this effect next year's competitions.

For 2025 you will need to have 5 qualifying (stableford or medal) and 5 general play cards (10 in total) will be needed in order to enter silverware competitions.

Thank you to Marion Hodges for all of her hard work organising and overseeing the Eclectic competition for 2024. The results were:-

There were an average of 11 entries per season with 9 ladies entering all 3. 14 signed up for the Winter eclectic, 11 for the Spring 12 for the Summer. The number of players in silver and bronze divisions was approximately 50 / 50.

Jill Byrne won the Silver Plate and Lynn O'Neill won the Bronze Plate.

We are hoping to increase numbers for the next year to encourage focused play through the winter when general play rounds are not viable (and we are increasing the prize money).

7. Handicap Secretary's Report

The year started with a rule update for the World Handicap System. Fiona and I attended an interesting seminar in Bristol about the changes and learned a lot about all things to do with the WHS. Hopefully we were able to keep the Ladies Section suitably informed.

Mark gave us a lesson on Club V1 so with the input from these two learning sessions I felt a lot more informed about all things Golf IT. However, I have continued to need the support from Fiona and the pro shop and I thank them for that.

The Handicap Committee have met throughout the year. They have considered handicaps in all sections and now have formulated a review remit which has been recently considered and applied. Pete Dunford has stepped down from the Chair due to ill health and this role is now being done by Kelvin Dagger.

We have had an excellent number of entries for both the Stablefords and Medals. Our weekly average over the season has been 17 entries for the stableford competitions and 12 entries for the medal competitions – a considerable increase from last year. This has been demonstrated by the fact that our Order of Merit had 50 ladies enter at least once this year.

It has been lovely to have so many new ladies join the club, especially those progressing from Women on Par.

Now to award our Medal winners this year:

April	Jen Warmington
May	Gin Stewart
June	Lynn O'Neil
July	Gaylene Meeson
August	Elizabeth England
September	Fiona Cruse
October	Jill Byrne

8. County Delegate's Report

The objectives of the 124 year-old Somerset Ladies County Golf Association is, I quote - "To further the interest of ladies golf in Somerset, To affiliate to England Golf, To take part in the County Golf Championship of England and to select and support representative teams to that end, To organise the Somerset Ladies Championship and otherwise promote competitive golf within the County, To support and encourage girls golf".

To that end my report shows the County and Wheathill's successes in 2024.

The County Championship, a 36 hole competition, was held at Mendip Spring on the 5th of May. Abigail Moore from the Isle of Wedmore swept the board and claimed four trophies as well as equalling the course record of 71!

Onto the Handicap Championships held at the Isle of Wedmore on the 16th of August. First, with the lowest gross score, was Aimee Sawyer from Mendip who won for the second year running. I very surprisingly came first in the stableford competition winning the Eileen Islam Salver and the Bridge Bowl and keeping up the Wheathill run Melanie Brewin won the Barlow cup.

Well done to our incoming Junior Captain Lucy Sleeth-Stevens, who won the stableford event and the Chivers cup at the Juniors Spring meeting held at Weston-Super-Mare.

The Rogers cup final was on the 8th of September where Stockwood Vale beat Taunton and Pickeridge. This is the first time in their 100-year history that they have won the Rogers cup.

In the Senior Ladies Summer County competition, held at Wheathill, our ladies did particularly well. Gin Stewart, Ann Gates and Jill Byrne won, and Jan Street, Karen Forward and Fiona Cruse were runners up. Third were Sue Bamping, Sandra Bradshaw and Gaye Volk. Well done ladies

Somerset Ladies Past Captains Spring meeting was won by Linda Johnson and her partner Lesley Willis (Tickenham). The winning streak continued for Linda and her partner at the Summer Past Captains meeting

County competitions run throughout the year to encourage golfers of all abilities to take part in sociable and competitive golf. With that in mind, all SLCGA competitions will now allow competitors over 80 to use a buggy without a medical certificate. The County competition calendar for 2025 is now up on the SLCGA website for you to enter if you wish.

Moving on from competing to development.

The SLCGA are delighted the Women on Par grant has enabled Wheathill to encourage and nurture ladies starting their golf journey. Hopefully emboldening them to become members here and grow our community. The driving force behind Wheathill Women on Par has been Sylvia Bates who was successfully secured funding for 2025.

9. Senior County Delegate's Report

Wheathill Senior Ladies are simply the best!

We currently have 20 members and I am hoping to persuade some of our new members to join for 2025.

This year 11 ladies put themselves forward for Friendly and Shield matches - so particular thanks go to Jill, Gin, Karen, Jen, Anne Scott, Ann Gates, Jan, Sue Bamping, Becky, Nic Boyd and Fiona.

Somerset won both Friendlies v Gloucester and Hampshire and also won the Shield match v Devon.

The Summer Bowmaker held in June at Wheathill on a beautiful day was a huge success story for Wheathill Ladies - the winners with 77 points were Gin, Ann Gates and Jill, and runners up, Jan, Karen and Fiona with 75 points. I would also like to thank all those who helped on the day - particularly Jude and Anne Scott.

Fixtures and dates are now posted on the Seniors Board for 2025 and I will be putting up Sign-up Sheets early in 2025.

Can I also say a big thank you to Sue Bamping for all her assistance this year with the Somerset Senior Ladies.

I will be collecting Subs for next year after this meeting and at the Chicken Run on Sunday - £5 for membership for the year. Any new members who have reached the very young age of 60 and would like to join, please sign up. It's a great way to meet new friends and to play on other lovely golf courses throughout the South West.

Very well done Wheathill Ladies - let's try and retain the Barber Shield in 2025.

10. New Members Report

Thirteen new ladies joined Wheathill Ladies Section during 2024. Five of the new ladies joined as a result of participating in the Women on Par sessions.

A huge part of the success of Women on Par at Wheathill is due to the Grant received from SLGA. The Grant of £600 enabled the Ladies Section to hold Women on Par sessions free of charge. The Grant was matched by Wheathill Management which was spent on advertising. A total of 22 ladies expressed an interest in attending the sessions.

The 2024 Lady Captain has provided a Trophy for the most improved Lady on the Women on Par journey – this year the Anne Scott Women on Par trophy was won by Janet Flanagan.

Somerset Ladies Golf Association have again provided a Grant of £600 for the 2025 season.

11. Election of Officers

The following positions on the Committee had become vacant for the coming year: **Competition Secretary, Handicap Secretary, County Delegate, Treasurer, New Member's Representative, Secretary.**

Nominations were received as follows:-

County Delegate :	Kate Cleverley	
	Proposer : Fiona Cruse	Seconder : Karen Forward
Secretary :	Nic Boyd	
	Proposer : Anne Scott	Seconder : Fiona Cruse

Treasurer :	Sam Thorpe Proposer : Anne Scott	Seconder : Fiona Cruse
Competition Secretary :	Judith Rowsell Proposer : Anne Scott	Seconder : Fiona Cruse
Handicap Secretary :	Karen Forward Proposer : Fiona Cruse	Seconder : Anne Scott
New Members Delegate :	Nicky Wisniewski Proposer : Fiona Cruse	Seconder : Anne Scott

There being no other nominees for those posts, Kate Cleverley, Nic Boyd, Sam Thorpe, Judith Rowsell, Karen Forward and Nicky Wisniewski are elected unopposed.

Therefore, the Ladies Committee for 2024 / 2025 will be:-

Lady Captain - Fiona Cruse
Vice Captain - Sylvia Bates
Past Captain - Anne Scott
Treasurer - Sam Thorpe
Secretary - Nic Boyd
Handicap Secretary - Karen Forward
Competitions Secretary - Judith Rowsell
New Members Delegate - Nicky Wisniewski
County Delegate - Kate Cleverley

Plus

Greta Hillier will continue as Senior Ladies County Delegate

New Lady Captain's Speech (Fiona Cruse)

Thank you all for coming this evening. I never expected to find myself here in this position but I am very honoured to become your Lady Captain for 2025. I will do my utmost to represent you all to the best of my ability. I really must say a huge thank you to Anne who has been there for me all the way through my vice-captaincy. No question, no query - no problem was too much for her to help, support, encourage and advise. I know she will be a very hard act to follow. Anne has worked extremely hard for our section and her enthusiasm and direct approach has known no bounds. So, on behalf of the ladies section, Anne, I would like to present you with some gifts by way of a big thank you for all you have done for us and Wheathill Golf Club over the last few years.

The incoming Captain then presented the retiring Captain with gifts

My journey as Vice Captain started a little differently to most – having had to step in at the last minute due to unforeseen circumstances. It was with much trepidation that I took over the role but hopefully I have proved myself over the last year and now I am looking forward to continuing all the hard work that has gone before. I am very aware that there is vast experience within the ladies section, and I will be tapping into this knowledge along the way.

As many of you are probably aware, Cancer strikes at the heart of us all in some way or other at some time in our lives. For me, I have watched my sister-in-law suffer over many years with breast cancer, melanomas and finally now a brain tumour. Consequently, my chosen charity will be Cancer Research UK.

Finally, over the next 12 months, please contact me or talk to me about any problems or issues affecting you and your golf, or maybe with an idea to take the club forward. We are a team and communication is such an important factor in moving the Club forward allowing us all to enjoy ourselves out on the course and to strive to be better golfers!

Thank you.

12. AOB

Karon Woodward raised the format of the Ladies Championship. Apparently, she has some members who would like the competition changed to a two day event. It was stated that the vote which was held this year was very confusing for a lot of ladies and had it been a more straightforward choice then the result may have been different. A short discussion took place and it was agreed that the committee would discuss at a future meeting the possibility of holding another vote for the 2026 season.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 19:12.

The AGM for 2025 will be held on **Thursday 27th November 2025 at 6.30 pm.**

Signed as correct Date 2025

Fiona Cruse, Lady Captain