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**Minutes of the Committee Meeting of the Ladies Section of
Wheathill Golf Club held on Tuesday 20th February 2024, 5.00 pm
at Kribensis, Kingwell Mews, Verrington Lane, Wincanton, Somerset, BA9 8BB
followed by supper at 6.00 pm.**

Present	Anne Scott (AS)	Ladies Captain
	Sylvia Bates (SB)	New Members Delegate
	Nic Boyd (NB)_	Handicap Secretary
	Fiona Cruse (FC)	Vice Captain
	Becky Thompson (BT)	Secretary
	Sam Thorpe (ST)	Treasurer
	Jen Warmington (JW)	Past Captain
	Nicky Wisnieski	County Delegate

1. Apologies for absence

Judith Rowsell (JR) Competition Secretary

2. Approval of minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8th November 2023 were accepted as an accurate record. Proposed by JW, Seconded by FC and signed by the Lady Captain AS.

3. Matters Arising

Defibrillator Machine – now in situ, training completed.

Clock – A new digital clock is being sourced as the old one keeps stopping and it is difficult to change batteries.

4. Main Committee

Reminder of Levy that goes to committees made up by all Gold and Silver membership.

Mark and Martin investigated BRS for bookings of competitions etc. – this has not proved feasible for our club.

Despite the course closure and terrible weather, spiking, seeding verti - cutting to go ahead in early spring, otherwise course holding up well.

Mark and Martin have been looking at the new rules WHS, mainly affects the men, should be easier.

Mark and Martin are investigating the possibility of organising a winter card, depends on County Raters and when they can verify. They are very booked up so this won't be any time soon.

5. Lady Captain's Report (AS)

Well, it was wet followed by a cold start this year, however, we managed to get the New Year Texas Scramble done and what a good turnout it was, despite being early and a tad cold! Jan and Steve Street, Greta Hillier and Ann Gates came first!

Rogers Cup - we've been drawn against Mendip Spring at Minehead and we have agreed on Monday April 22nd. Team choices will be posted on the noticeboard presently, caddies are allowed if required and they will need to make themselves of Rule 10!

Just a quick reminder that as from October 2024 when entering competitions the qualifying card requirement will be 10 qualifiers for silverware competitions, 5 of which needs to be from medals, stablefords and qualifying competitions with the remainder (maximum of 5) from general play rounds.

6. Vice Captain's Report (FC)

Although I am no longer the handicap secretary, I wanted to keep up with the latest developments in the Handicap Rules. As such, I watched a Webinar on the 11th December on the New Golf Rules which come into effect from April this year. These rules are updated every 4 years. Both NB and I also went to the World Handicap System 2024 Workshop on 14th February at Bristol Golf Club. I will leave her to give you more information in her report. Hopefully, we have a better understanding of how it affects us all.

England Golf has launched the Respect in Golf movement and is asking clubs to join. Currently, there are 9 clubs affiliated to this movement but we are not one of them. The tag line is 'Golf belongs to everyone.' The movement is aimed at inspiring a greater understanding of equality, diversity and inclusion in the sport of golf. Rocks and Rookies were also mentioned and I've sent Jill the link. She replied to say that Martin is going to run one of each of the Girls Golf Rocks and the new Rookie Golf Initiative.

I have contacted the clubs involved with us in the friendlies and Tri-matches. You may well have noticed an additional friendly with The Mendip which has been included this year following an email request from their Vice-Captain. Quite a few ladies have signed up for these. Both Elizabeth England and Lucy Sleeth-Stevens have also been asked to join in when they are available. I have also put the Mixed Open details onto Golf Empire and left some leaflets at Bristol Golf Club when I was there last week as well as advertising it on our notice boards. So far, I have had 2 entries.

Along with NB, I shall be attending the main Handicap Committee meeting tomorrow afternoon to finalise our end of year Review. There will be some downward changes

to handicaps for a few men and ladies to take affect from 1st April 2024. Details to be announced at a later stage.

7. Treasurer's Report (ST)

Balances :-

Charity Account	£ 297.03
Current Account	£ 322.42
Reserve Account	£1,017.82
Women on Par Account	£ 600.00

Current Account has recently received £70 of locker money. It was difficult to track this last year which is why we have asked for funds to be transferred by BACS into the account. I have a list of the ladies that have paid and will report back next month as I believe we asked these to be paid by 1st March. I have transferred £140 to the current account today as a further deposit needed to be paid for Woodbury Park Golf Club.

All deposit monies for the away weekend have been paid, some into the correct account and some not which means there is still a lot of transfers I am having to make from the different accounts. This hasn't really simplified the accounting but I hope in time to come everyone will get used to it.

The charity account has received two amounts of £50 in sponsorship one from Phillips Tyres, I will confirm who sent the other one next month.

Please could I have monthly lists of entrants for opens, so I can reconcile them with the bank statements.

Thanks to JR for the finance sheet for Senior Ladies Double on 5's

8. Competition Secretary's Report – read by BT

The first competition for the start of the Lady Captain Anne Scott year was the Chicken Run.

This year the format changed to be a Waltzing Stableford played in teams of 3 off full handicap.

It was a random and controlled draw.

The scoring was 1 2 3 1 2 3 all the way round. Most ladies who commented said that the format played was enjoyable.

There were prizes for the teams, for the highest individual player who won Henny Penny and nearest the pin in 2 on the 15.

Results of Chicken Run 03/12/2023

24 Ladies took part

1 st	Ann Gates, Marion Hodgson, Di Longman
2 nd	Karen Forward, Gaye Volk, Lucy Sleeth-Stevens

Henny Penny Nic Wisniewski
Nearest the Pin in 2 Fi Cruse

Senior Ladies Double on 5's 11/01/2024

This competition should have been played on the 7th December 2023 but owing to bad weather and the course being closed it was played on 11th January 2024.

Results

1st Jill Byrne 41pts
2nd Lynne O'Neill 40 pts
3rd Jen Warmington 38 pts

I have great pleasure to report that Jen Warmington not only came third but had a hole in one on the 18th! Congratulations from everyone.

9. Handicap Secretary's Report (NB)

FC has kindly handed over all the paperwork and given me lots of instructions as to how to deliver my new and rather responsible role. I'll do my best and will learn a lot but will also need support from you all as I learn the tools needed to follow in the footsteps of our excellent previous handicap secretary (now vice captain!).

So, as you all know the WHS rules have been updated and revised in 2024. In England these new rules come into play on April 1st 2024. FC and I attended a seminar in Bristol where two very northern but great presenters who had been integral in the development of the changes presented and explained all the changes. It was lengthy and there was a lot of discussion that went over my head but having said that I felt well informed and way more knowledgeable than if I had just watched a you tube clip. The slides from the seminar (plus some good video clips that explain some of the details well) will become available to us at the end of the month. When we have access to these slides then I can forward them to you if that is useful!

I don't know if I need to go over the rules as they are well documented on the WHS website, however these are the headings that were presented to us last week. I might need help explaining these fully!

1. Course Rating - par + Impact
 Handicap index X (slope rating 113) - (CR-par) = Course Handicap
2. Standardisation of Par
 Optional for clubs
 Appendix F
3. New minimum course length - 18 holes 1500 yards, 9 hole 750 yards. Aimed at new golfers especially.
4. 4BBB can count towards your personal Handicap
 Three provisos:-
 A - the team must score 42 points or 6 under
 B - the golfer must have scored on 9 holes
 C - the golfer must have made 36 points

5. Competitions can be less than 18 holes
6. Expected Score - (If 10 holes are played then get net par +1). Only can be used if the hole is not started (otherwise just a net double bogey as usual).
7. Rounding - Basically, the computer will round the handicap number for competitions (PH).

They put a lot of emphasis on digital technology and use of ISV.
Also, terms of competition and guidance on the club website.
Finally, the use of reports on the WHS sign in page.

Which brings me to the Handicap Reviews that are in progress at Wheathill. We have a meeting on 21st February where the Handicap Committee will meet to review the individual handicaps for 2024.

Useful resources for Handicap Revisions

1. Search on You Tube 'Hannah Holden here's why your handicap will change in 2024'.
2. <https://www.whs.com/>

10. County Delegate's Report (NW)

First Report Presented by JW

As NB was unable to attend, I went along to the AGM and took NW with me so that she could get a taste of the County set up.

There were plenty of reports read out and the full minutes are available on the website, but the highlights were:-

County players have done well at all levels but the stand out performance was from Aimee Sawyer - Mendip Ladies Captain, Club Champion and County Champion who was awarded the Inspirational Golfer of the Year award which is open to all women golfers in the UK.

We are encouraged to enter our Club Champion into the County Championships and the England Golf Champion of Champions competition, and of course encourage golfers of all abilities to enter County competitions, They would also like us to send details of our Opens to add to the County Calendar which has details of all upcoming events.

The Treasurer mentioned our grant, although we weren't named directly, and they are now producing an application form for use by other Clubs – so we obviously blazed a trail for everyone else to follow.

Janet Fear, the Handicap Advisor, highlighted some of the changes coming into effect in April – those we will need to get our heads around.

Delegate Report from January County Meeting NW

The first Delegate Committee Meeting of 2024 was held at the Mendip Golf Club on 13th January. It was a well-attended and informative meeting from which I would like to highlight a few points.

County Competitions

These are now live and can be booked by our members. I have posted a newsletter on the County board detailing these competitions, but they can also be viewed on the SLCGA website. The Roger's Cup draw had been made - Wheathill will be playing Mendip Spring in the 1st round at Minehead (22nd April).

The Centenary Cup was drawn - Wheathill will be playing Enmore Park in the 1st round at Wells. The County Championship is on Sunday 5th May, 36 holes for £35. The clubs have been asked to encourage their Club Champion to attend (maybe the club could consider paying their entry fee?). The clubs have been asked to send details of their opens so that they can be put on the calendar of events on the SLCGA website, they would also like a decent photo of the club / iconic image (rather than just a logo) to advertise the events. The poster for the Ladies Open has been sent to county for inclusion on the website.

Juniors

The Junior Committee are looking at opportunities to grow the game of golf in the south of the county i.e. golf introductory sessions in schools (aimed at 7, 8 and 9 year olds) and assessment days at clubs. If Wheathill are interested in taking part, the club should contact the Junior Committee directly.

The Junior Committee are also wanting to advertise junior opens this year therefore they would like to know about club junior open dates, and the junior organiser for the event.

Course Rating

A compelling presentation from Susie Gibbins gave details on the process of course rating and the need for more course raters. If any club members would like to become course raters and / or team leaders then they should contact Susie. The next Delegate County meeting is 20th May 2024 which includes 12 holes of golf at Wells GC.

11. New Members Report (SB)

New Members – there were no new lady members during January 2024.

Women on Par – the next Women on Par session is scheduled for Sunday 24th March. At the time of print the Pro Shop are putting together an advertisement to cover Women on Par and the Gateway to Golf sessions. Hopefully, the response will be good. The new / newer lady members from 2023 will be included in the session.

The New Members Texas Scramble will be held on Saturday 13th April. I will post the sign-up sheet on the Mixed Competition board next month. Teams of four will be chosen to represent a fair balance of handicaps. Everyone is encouraged to enter – new / newer and established members. A Raffle will be held on the day with proceeds going to the Lady Captains Charity – Porphyria.

12. Junior Report – presented by BT

Junior membership is strong with 41 current members, the majority being active players. Four of our juniors are involved in County Squads and development and Martin continues to enlist and coach new juniors on a weekly basis and through his Summer Camps.

Girls Golf Rocks has been a success and new initiatives are being trialled year on year. The King's School link continues and hopefully we will see more integration from these players as the season progresses.

It has been great to see more juniors involved in main club competitions and to have the Junior Captains photo board installed in the clubhouse.

The League set up continues to thrive and we will be in the South Division this year with Long Sutton, Enmore, T&P, Cricket St Thomas and Yeovil.

12. Correspondence

An email was received from Heather Bush to say that she was temporarily retiring from golf due to health conditions. *AS sent a card on behalf of the club membership.*

13. AOB

Race Night - 12th April details to follow, posters have been produced and will placed on noticeboards presently.

Trophies which were taken home from the Presentation Evening need to be returned. *AS will send out an email to relevant people.*

Ping Mixed 4BBB – is this something we want to enter into? *Discussed but in general the committee were not in favour as the final is at Woodhall Spa and also dates very often conflict with our existing competitions.*

Ladies Handbook has been overhauled and is now on the website. *AS thanked JW, SB and BT for their input.*

AS has approached Aimee Sawyer, Lady Captain at Mendip Golf Club and requested that a possible talk / presentation could be arranged at Wheathill. Aimee has agreed. *Discussions ensued by the committee as to what would be the most appropriate occasion for this to happen. It was agreed that we would give this more thought and perhaps integrate into a New Members / Women in Par get together.*

Club Championship – Format for 2025 onwards. Ideas for Prizes - Glass / Crystal / Pottery? *JW gave out an “options” sheet which was brilliant. This gave three options for onward formats. It was agreed that we would hold a secret ballot in May. JW and BT will liaise to get this organised. Ideas for prizes will be discussed at another meeting.*

Is a Welfare Officer needed? *This was discussed and it was generally felt that we don't need a welfare officer. It is a lot more difficult than someone just volunteering*

to do the position. We have to adhere to official guidelines and the committee felt that we are not a large enough section to warrant the work involved.

BT presented to the Committee that she was having some personal training sessions and her trainer was interested in the possibility of introducing this service to Wheathill members. *Much discussion took place and it was felt that BT should firstly speak to Andrew about it. JW felt that there would quite a few ladies who might be interested in strength and flexibility training etc.*

Duties of Committee members. *It was decided that each committee member should write a job description which will be held centrally. These will be discussed with the committee to ensure that we are all doing the relevant duties required. Some adjustments to responsibilities may be required as a result.*

Meeting concluded at 7.03 pm.

Date of next meeting:- Tuesday 19th March 3.30 pm, Jubilee Room, Wheathill GC

Signed as correct Date 2024

Anne Scott, Lady Captain