



*Somerton Somerset TA11 7HG  
Tel. 01963 240667  
Fax. 01963 240230*

**Minutes of the Committee Meeting of the Ladies Section of  
Wheathill Golf Club held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at  
7 Margaret Bondfield Close, Pilton, BA4 4F**

<b>Present</b>	Jen Warmington (JW)	Ladies Captain
	Anne Scott (AS)	Vice-Captain
	Jan Street (JS)	Past Captain
	Sam Thorpe (ST)	Treasurer
	Becky Thompson (BT)	Secretary
	Fiona Cruse (FC)	Handicap Secretary
	Karen Forward (KF)	Competition Secretary
	Nic Boyd (NB)	County Delegate
	Sylvia Bates (SB)	New Members Delegate

**1. Apologies for absence**

None.

JW welcomed everyone with a special welcome to BT and NB - who were attending their first meeting.

**Approval of minutes of the previous meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022 were accepted as an accurate record. Proposed by Anne Scott, Seconded by Fiona Cruse and signed by the Lady Captain.

**2. Matters arising**

1. JW presented the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo, it was agreed by all that it was great. Compliments to our lady captain! It was unanimously agreed that it should be used on the Ladies Championship glassware and all competition advertising for this year.
2. JW reported that Vicky will be off for approximately 6 weeks, from 21<sup>st</sup> February, following her operation. Sarah and Helen are training to work in the kitchen and it is hoped that a new chef will be starting soon.
3. Match meals will be £10 this year, due to general inflation.

4. Jim O'Connor, who runs the Club website is keen to expand the content. JW suggested that JS sent photos of the Rogers Cup team and BT to send winners photos, as and when.

**ACTION : JS, BT TO SEND PHOTOS**

5. Gaye Volk has organised the social event being a skittles evening, for Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March and the sign-up sheet is on the board.
6. Club V1 / Handicap issues - this was later discussed after FC's report and it was decided that FC, KF and JW will attend a seminar that Club V1 are hosting on 21<sup>st</sup> March at Taunton & Pickeridge GC.

**ACTION : JW, FC, KF**

From Main Committee

1. Winter Rules. Due to it not always being possible to see where the fairway starts and finishes - it was agreed that for internal competitions, Winter Rules should cover everywhere except long rough, hazards and trees.
2. There are more Girls Rocks events planned for this year.
3. Handicap Review Committee. Pete Dunford, the Club Secretary - who was very involved in the previous HRC, will take the lead in setting up the new committee and will attempt to resolve the issues regarding access to the WHS Portal and to Club V1.
4. Club V1 – are holding a seminar for users on 21<sup>st</sup> March at T&P.
  - (a) JS pointed out that it was important the Captain's v Vice Captain's Challenge wasn't oversubscribed - numbers need to be limited to avoid disappointment. We want to avoid members thinking they have been snubbed.

**ACTION: JW TO CONSULT WITH GERRY MORGAN**

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

Although the weather and staff illness required us to be a little bit flexible, December got underway with the Chicken Run. Despite us being unable to have our traditional carvery, a good time was had by all with the chicken themed prizes being well received. A new trophy, made from a deer antler found on the 15<sup>th</sup> fairway last year, was presented by Jill Byrne for the nearest the pin in 2 on the 15<sup>th</sup>. This will be held by the winner, in this case Kate Cleverley, for the duration of the year. Kate was also the lucky winner of the reindeer planter, made and donated by Phil & Sandra Bradshaw, which raised £50 for our charity – Prostate Cancer UK.

The Christmas Cracker, organised by Steve Chinnock and Jan Street, got us all in the festive spirit with some brilliant costumes and wonderful prizes.

My thanks go to Gerry for the raffle he organised, at the New Year's Scramble, which raised a fantastic £260 to add to our charity.

Becky Thompson has taken on the role of Media Liaison Officer and aims to get Wheathill back in the local press. We've already had a great write up, penned by Jan, documenting our victorious run in the Rogers Cup and the winners of the New Year's Scramble have also been featured.

The Captains v Vice Captains Challenge has been opened up to all members in an effort to make it more inclusive and a real kick start to the season. Judging by the sign-up sheet this has been a popular decision.

#### **4. Vice-Captain's Report**

Well, it's been a cold month this January and the course, although playable, meant we had no idea of where the balls might end up!

Despite that many ladies got out and completed some Shire / Tuppy and Mixed Blades matches.

One of my first tasks this year was to sort out dates for our Tri Matches with Long Sutton and Cricket St Thomas and the Friendlies. The list is now up in the changing room and filling up nicely with names. Thank you to those who have already done so. I have set up the Mixed Open on Sunday July 16<sup>th</sup> on Golf Empire and we have had 1 entry so far!

I have had some A5 posters printed which I intend to distribute to other clubs as we go through the next months to promote the event. If anyone would like some to distribute please let me know.

The Captain's Away Day is booked for Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June, details to follow with costs etc.

#### **5. Treasurer's Report**

(Up to 27/01/2023)

Balances :

Charity Account £340.26  
Current Account £332.39  
Reserve Account £488.06

Jen's charity account (Prostate Cancer) has started very nicely with £260 from New Year Texas Scramble and £50 from December's Chicken Run raffle.

Jan's charity from last year "Young Minds" have been sent £2,053.77, a fantastic donation achieved.

Gentle reminder please for the finance sheets following competitions, once they get started.

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

Both the Shire and the Tuppy competitions have been running during December and January and are now in the semi-final stages.

The Chicken Run took place on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2022 but unfortunately we were unable to have our usual carvery due to illness in the kitchen. We did have a great day and the format was really good fun. It was great to be able to have a get together in the Jubilee Room with our new lady captain who provided lots of chicken inspired prizes for all who entered the competition. The first three places were as follows:-

1<sup>st</sup> Sue Rees  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sue Adams  
3<sup>rd</sup> Karen Forward

The Senior Ladies double on fives was also held and followed by soup and roll. We had a really good turn out for this competition and were able to give out five prizes. The results were as follows:-

1<sup>st</sup> Pam Frith  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lynn O'Neill  
3<sup>rd</sup> Jan Street  
4<sup>th</sup> Judith Rowsell  
5<sup>th</sup> Sue Rees

We also had a fun get together for the final roll up of the year. However, it was so cold it was decided to hold an indoor putting competition and try out a board game designed by Jill Byrne. We once again had a bowl of soup and roll and it was a good end to the year.

I have put up the notice for the first competition of 2023 on the board which is the Celee.

## **7. Handicap Secretary's Report**

I attended a Handicap Committee Workshop run by Somerset Golf Union which was to provide knowledge, resources and training to club handicap committees. I was the only representative from Wheathill and also Wincanton as apparently no one represents them. We are one of about 6 to 8 clubs without a handicap committee. Other clubs attending had at least 2 members from their handicap committee in attendance.

They gave out a few statistics to start.

The average handicaps are: male 17, ladies 27.2

The highest percentage of males play in the range 13 – 28 (over 60%) and ladies 21 – 36 (about 66%)

They then went through the responsibilities of the golfer (see appendix A of the WHS Rules of Handicapping)

Next was the responsibilities of the Handicap Committee. I shall only give brief details here as I sent all the information to Jen.

There should be a minimum of 3 club members (not including Pro's) and there should be an odd number to prevent deadlock decisions and ideally include all sections of the club. One member should be the Super Admin who has overall control and other members do not necessarily all have the same level of access to the WHS Portal. Through the portal the committee can freeze membership, withdraw membership, submit scores, change/edit scores, manage membership lists, maintain up-to-date

course information. A player can ask for a handicap review at any time but the committee must conduct an annual review every year between 1 October and 31 December.

Other areas covered were:

Playing handicap allowances: a reminder that the 95% imposed was mandatory for competition purposes but for an individual handicap, the gross score is always used.

We can allow 36+ members but possibly divide results into divisions or have 2 competitions. Allowance tables are shown in the portal (page 48) along with mixed tee calculator (one problem yet to be resolved is for any gender greensomes / foursomes only gives 1 shot allowance not 3.)

For holes not played - 10 holes in 18 can be a qualifier, but if a hole is not completed, common sense is required for a reason. NR is no longer allowed.

Automatic penalties – score must be submitted by same method as the intent.

Finally, from this meeting they are looking for volunteers to join the Course Rating team, details of which Jen sent out in a recent email.

I fed back all the details to Jen and she then reported back to the main committee. Following this I had a meeting today about setting up a club handicap committee.

Those present were Pete Dunford acting as chair, Geoff Gilbert (Competition Secretary), Alan Forscutt (handicap secretary) David Eynon (Seniors Handicap secretary) and myself.

The purpose of the meeting was to try and find a way forward from the current position. As far as we know Mark is the only one to have access to the WHS Platform. Last year across the whole club, no handicap reviews took place, (even though it had previously been arranged between Andrew, Mark and the mens committee that reports would be given out on 1<sup>st</sup> October).

Pete explained that he had talked with Wells, and gave as an example their setup. They have a handicap committee of 7. Three have access to Intelligent Golf and there is a chairman who has access to WHS. This committee meet several times only during the playing season. Discussion continued about the perceived reasons we do not have access one being that each additional access cost the club £100. Historically, we did have a handicap committee and reports were given out at the end of the season so that reviews could take place. It was also claimed that when WHS came into being it was deemed unnecessary by some to carry on with a handicap committee and it subsequently disappeared during the pandemic.

Going forward we have decided to ask Janet Fear (our County Advisor) to come along and talk with us so that we can get a better idea of the whole WHS platform and the role of the handicap committee. Ideally after that the intention is to invite Janet and Mark to a meeting to try and find a way forward.

## **8. County Delegate's Report**

I attended my first meeting at Somerset Ladies County Golf Association held at The Mendip Golf Club on 14th January 2023. Given that I didn't know anything about

ladies golf at county level everything and everyone was new and I learned a lot! It was nice to see Becky's friendly face there and she looked quite the part!

It was helpful that we all introduced ourselves and interesting to learn about clubs far and wide across the county. We had reports from the all the officers and their feedback are all in the minutes which I have with me if you'd like to hear more detail. This included, junior and club captains, and the competition secretary.

The handicap and rules update by Janet Fear was interesting. She advised us that the New Official Guide is £25 and something clubs may want to invest in. The little book we used to keep in our bags is replaced by an app (already advertised in our changing room) which also apparently has fun quizzes to test your knowledge! The updated rules are outlined in the minutes which I can go through with you if you want.

Susie Gibbons (Course Rating representative) was also very interesting. They are desperate for more help in this area of golf management - volunteers would be very welcome.

The Rogers Cup and Centenary Plate draw took place. You may have already seen this on the website but in case you haven't we are playing Wells at Taunton & Pickeridge in the Rogers Cup and we have a bye for the first round of the Centenary Plate. We will play Isle of Wedmore at Cannington in the second round. I have the draw and dates for both these competitions with me for further information.

**ACTION : NB TO PUT UP COUNTY COMPETITION POSTERS  
IN THE LOCKER ROOM.**

**JW TO LOOK INTO PURCHASING AN R&A RULES BOOK,  
FOR THE LOCKER ROOM.**

## **9. New Members Report**

No new Members joined the Ladies Section during December 2022 and January 2023.

On going email conversations with the 'Class of 22' regarding forthcoming events e.g. Skittles Night (2<sup>nd</sup> March), Ladies' Get Together (1<sup>st</sup> April) and the New Members Texas Scramble (15<sup>th</sup> April).

A general discussion on ways of continuing to encourage new members, particularly in their second year. A buddy system was suggested and was generally agreed upon. We need to keep in contact with our new members as they may join under the 6 month introductory offer but may not re-join at the end of this time if we don't manage to bring them in. AS informed us of a system used at Farrington GC.

It was also discussed that a 9 hole option might attract more new members to attend roll ups as playing 18 holes is quite challenging to begin with. There

are sure to be existing lady members who would be prepared to play just 9 to encourage new members.

**ACTION : AS TO PASS ON DETAILS OF THE FARRINGTON  
BUDDY SYSTEM**

## 10. Correspondence

None.

## 11. AOB

1. Ladies Get Together - JW reported that the Ladies Get Together (1<sup>st</sup> April 2023) would consist of an hour of coaching (Martin) and fun short game challenges to be held on the Academy course. A meal and quiz would follow. It was agreed that to cover the coaching fee of £40, £2 a head would be charged for the day.

**ACTION : JW TO DO A POSTER AND SIGN-UP SHEET.**

2. Key safe - JS still has the key safe but it may not be needed if the Locker Room remains open during the evenings particularly later on in the Summer. The problems of access don't arise during the winter as late golf is not an issue, in the Summer however sometimes members can be leaving the course at post 9.00 pm when the bar is closed and also the pro shop.

**ACTION : JW TO INVESTIGATE.**

3. Padlock on Lavender Cottage - BT expressed that in her opinion the numbers on the padlock of Lavender Cottage can't be seen clearly without her specs which she rarely has with her. It was agreed that BT could buy a new padlock.

**ACTION : BT TO SOURCE A NEW PADLOCK.**

4. Email addresses - BT asked if email addresses for lady members were readily available. It was explained that if there are any circular emails to go out, KF can send them out.

5. County Competitions - BT asked if the Committee could really push the County competitions. There are criteria for each individual competition but these are clearly stated on the posters and website. All competitions are open to each and every subscribing member, they are not just for low handicappers.

SLCGA have specifically requested that we (as a committee) actively encourage all our members to sign up - it is a great way to play other courses, win prizes and get to know other players from different clubs.

**ACTION : ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

6. Clean up Rota - BT suggested that the ladies section helped out in keeping ball washers topped up and clean, and to attend to the general tidiness of the course. It was generally felt that this is something that should be done by the green keeping staff. JS mentioned that we are waiting for Karen Woodward to kindly supply us with the individually painted buckets which will hopefully

cut down on the amount of tee pegs - broken or not - to be discarded on the tee area and elsewhere!

**ACTION : JW TO TAKE SUGGESTIONS TO MCC**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

**Date of next meeting : 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 6.30 pm**

**Location :**

**Signed as correct ..... Date ..... 2023**

Jen Warmington, Lady Captain