

Kings Hill GOLF CLUB Ladies Section Committee Meeting

MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ON SATURDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2015

Present:

Captain Hilary Stephen, Vice Captain Gill Olke, Past Captain Chris Hearn, Secretary Lindsay Tilley, Handicap Secretary Kath Coombes, Competitions Secretary Meg Aldwinckle, Treasurer Nancy Caldwell, Ordinary Member Dawn Edwards. Ordinary Member Lynette Kent

27 members of the ladies section attended, also Maria Babadi, Charlotte and Olivia Heard from the Junior Section plus their respective mothers. Representing Kings Hill Golf Management Glen Halsey and Karen Kelso and Head Pro Ben Blackburn.

Apologies for Absence:

Val Lugard, Kay Elks, Denise Harker, Judith Sansom, Alice Gazet, Yvonne Tucker, Alison Townson, Joy Stevens, Sue Norman, Susan Bowen, Sue Jeffs, Liz Caldwell, Lynn Woods, Elaine Lewis. A quorum of more than 20% of members was present.

Approval of October 2014 Minutes:

The minutes of the last AGM held on Saturday 18th October 2014 were unanimously agreed then proposed as a correct record by Nancy Caldwell and seconded by Chris Hearn

Outstanding Action from previous Meeting:

There were no matters rising from the previous meeting

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Treasurers Report

Copies of the accounts have been distributed.

The accounts for the year ended 30 September 2015 show a surplus of £95 compared to a surplus of £172 for the previous year. The Ladies section continues to show a healthy financial position with reserves standing at £1,653 made up of £2,417 cash at the bank less £764 for outstanding invoices.

I would just like to thank Terry Coombes who kindly volunteered to review the accounts again this year, and if anyone has any questions I will be happy to answer them. If not, can I please have a proposer and seconder for the approval of the accounts.

Proposer: Gill Olke

Secunder: Lindsay Tilley

Accounts approved unanimously.

Finally, I would just like to congratulate Hilary on a very successful year as Captain and to thank her for all her hard work, and to offer my best wishes and support to Gill for her coming year as Captain.

2. Competitions Report

I have thoroughly enjoyed organizing the Competitions for the ladies over the past three years. However, it is time for me to pass on the baton, which Lindsay and Dawn have been kind enough to accept without too much arm-twisting! The plan is for them to split the competitions, so Lindsay will concentrate on the regular Medals and Stablefords, and Dawn on the Major competitions at weekends,

as well as the Eclectics, Order of Merit and Jubilee Trophy records. Please help them by signing up on time, pulling out as rarely as possible, and sending your emails re competitions to both of them, so they are both up to date. And I can concentrate on my golf, for a change!

It was a bad start to Hilary's year, when Hurricane Gonzalo nearly blew us away at the Autumn Meeting. However, the weather improved, and we managed nearly 700 competitive rounds between us. Whilst we have had one or two issues with tee times for the weekend competitions, these have now mainly been resolved, and the intention is to hold more of our weekend competitions on the same day as the men, possibly in four ball games during the winter months. We have also offered 9 hole competitions this year, but there has not been any demand for these recently.

Moving on to prizes, we'll start with the August and September competitions:

August Stableford:	Sunday	Sarat Chick
	Tuesday	1 st Alice Gazet
		2 nd Kath Coombes
August Medal:	Saturday	Gill Olke
	Tuesday	Maria Babadi
September Stbfd:	Saturday	Sarat Chick
	Tuesday	Kath Coombes
September Medal:	Saturday	Denise Harker
	Tuesday	Chris Hearn

Winners of Major Competitions: *Please come and collect your trophies now, and there will be a photo call for you all later on*

EWGA Medal 2014	Nancy Caldwell
Autumn Meeting 2014	Kath Coombes
Scratch Plate	Jo Bentham
Crystal Challenge	Maria Babadi
Spring Meeting	Nancy Caldwell
Scratch Plate	Nicci Parsons
Margaret Hilliar Trophy	Fiona Lee
Eileen's Putter	Debbie Crumpton
Club Championship	Jo Bentham
Handicap Bowl	Hilary Stephen
Salver	Joy Stevens
Summer Meeting	Maria Babadi
Scratch Plate	Denise Harker
Lady Captain's Cup	Sue Norman
Summer Eclectic	Meg Aldwinckle
Summer Singles KO	Jo Bentham
R/U	Heather Dunne
Summer Pairs KO	Jane Marr & Denise Harker
R/U	Jo Bentham & Hilary Stephen
Mixed Pairs KO	still outstanding
Breakthrough Brooch	Denise Harker
Birdie Tree	unable to compute results
Jubilee Trophy	Debbie Crumpton
Winners' Cup	Debbie Crumpton
Order of Merit	Kath Coombes

In addition to the above competitions:-

The Winter Festival 2014 was won by Dawn Edwards & Alice Gazet, & the

Winter Eclectic by Dawn Edwards

The Cecil Leitch 5 Club competition was won by Heather Dunne.

In **The Richard Moore Trophy** our highest scoring lady was Alice Gazet.

The Ping 4BBB was won by Hilary Stephen & Judy Leadley-Woods. Their magnificent score of 44 points won them a place in the Grand Final at Gainsborough G.C., where they were worthy representatives of Kings Hill, finishing in the top third of the field.

The **Davis Trophy** was won by Alison & Peter Townson.

The **Andersen Autumn Bowl** had to be postponed due to fog, and will now be played on Sunday 25th October.

Many congratulations to all these winners, and also to all those who turn out, whatever the weather, to take part in and support the competitions.

During the year the TT (*Tuesday Tournament*) has continued to be well supported, and there have been many other fun competitions on Tuesdays, including the **Grannies' Goblet**, which was won by Kath Coombes. The Tuesday ladies also had a very enjoyable **St George's Day Waltz** game with the Seniors, which was won by the team of Graham Bentham, Hilary Stephen, Eileen Cornwell and blind card Alan Peach – it's the second year running that the Captain's team has won this event! We have another team game with the Seniors still to enjoy in November, and these events are always well-supported. We also revived the **Ladies Invitation Day**, which was a huge success, with 42 ladies playing. It was won by guests of Heather Dunne.

Finally, I would like to thank Duncan, Glen and Ben for all their support behind the scenes. Mark, Chris and Sian in the shop all do their best to help ensure the smooth running of our competitions, and I am very grateful to all of them.

I have very much enjoyed liaising with Hilary, who has worked extremely hard on our behalf to ensure a very successful year. Many congratulations, and a big thank you, Hilary. I would also like to thank the Committee and all of you for your support during the past three years, and I offer my very best wishes to Gill for her coming year as Captain.

3. Handicaps Report

Generally handicaps have not changed a lot in the section, the Junior girls have had a very good year and I will mention them separately. At the present time we have 49 players with a competition handicap, 43 of these players have played in competitions in the past year.

Two players have done well in reducing their handicaps, Judith Leadley Woods who has dropped 5 shots to 20 and Alice Gazet who has dropped 3 shots to 20

Four ladies have reduced their handicaps by 2 shots and 6 have dropped 1 shot.

Our Junior girls have had a great year. Maria Babadi has dropped 15 shots and now plays off 18, she has done this by playing regularly in the Ladies and Junior Competitions. Olivia Heard has also dropped 15 shots, she also plays off 18. Olivia has done this by playing in outside competitions, and she is now beginning to play in Ladies competitions at the weekends. Congratulations to them both for a very successful year. Charlotte Heard has reduced her handicap by 2 shots.

We have a new Junior Member Olivia Cooke and she joined us with a handicap of 11, she has just dropped a further shot. Olivia attends The Lee Westwood Golf Academy and plays most of her golf there, hopefully we will see her play at Kings Hill in the school holidays next year.

The Annual Review will be carried out after 31.12.2015. Meg and Chris Hearn have agreed to make up the handicap committee

2016 Proposed Handicap Changes It is still awaited for CONGU to confirm the 2016 proposals. The main proposed changes are as follows:-

9 Hole Competitions

If a score is returned better than or in buffer zone, 18 points will be added to make an 18 hole score. A score returned outside buffer zone will be doubled.

Continuous Handicap Review

Introduction of a process to flag players with 7 consecutive 0.1 handicap increases so that Handicap Committees can review and immediately a handicap increase if required.

4BBB Handicap allowance is increased from ¾ to 90%

If a player rejoins within a year then “c” handicap will be re instated. After 12 months re allocation of ‘c’ status handicap will require scorecards for 54 holes in any permutation of 9 and 18 hole scores

For more information please look at England Gold web site.

I would like to take this opportunity in thanking Meg for all her hard work in running competitions, a difficult job, also using her past experience her help in dealing with any problems arising with handicapping issues. Finally a big thank you Hilary for all your hard work. It has been a very good year of which you should be proud. You can now relax and enjoy your golf. I would like to wish Gill a very successful year.

4. Captain's Report

Many thanks to you all for coming today and also for the lovely cards and messages of thanks, it has been a pleasure to head up such a great bunch of ladies.

It is said that there are 3 types of person in this world: Those who watch what happens; Those who make things happen; and Those who wonder what the hell just happened. I try to be the middle one of these and so, from a rather nervous beginning last October, I am proud to have reached the end of my captaincy having kept the ship afloat and having achieved most of the objectives I set for myself – organise our updated ladies' website (tick), work with the other section captains to organise some fun social events (tick), support as many matches and tournaments as I could (tick) and keep everyone informed with a regular newsletter (tick).

Along the way the Ladies Section on their own has raised over £900 for Spadework, some £230 of this from the Smartie Marathon, £223 at our coffee morning in June, and the rest in donations and leftover change from competition pots. A further £6000 plus was raised at the large club events, plus £3000 match-funded by Barclays Bank. So – by the time the last few pounds have been counted, the total sum raised for Spadework will be around £10,000!! A staggering sum - thank you for your amazing generosity. Alex and I are arranging to present a cheque at Spadework in the coming weeks, with a photo opportunity for the staff and trainees to share. They don't know how much we've raised and I know they will be over the moon.

Our busy year has included events in all but the months of poorest weather:

November saw 39 teams take part in the Captains' Drive-In, an excellent turnout for a Quiz night, and a joint Ladies & Seniors Winter Festival.

In December we organised a successful 9 Hole & Nibbles , and the club Turkey Trot actually did take place, on a fine day too.

January saw us test our golf knowledge guided by the expertise of Jane Marr in a highly enjoyable Golf Rules & Matchplay evening.

The annual February Wine Tasting evening organised by Shepherd Neame went down very well – I particularly enjoyed all the reds and all the whites.

In March Mark and Sian led two group coaching sessions for the ladies and I can confirm that my bunker play has progressed from ‘hit and hope’ to something resembling a golf shot.

The Ladies & Seniors St George’s Day Waltz in April was enjoyed in an atmosphere of fun and good natured banter.

The pace hotted up in May, beginning with our Spring Meeting, the Richard Moore Trophy, the Captains Bank Holiday Mixed Pairs and Sausage Sizzle, a course swap with the ladies at The Nevill GC, and a wonderfully well supported Captains’ Charity Day.

June saw us sitting in my garden enjoying the Spadework Coffee Morning fundraiser in lovely weather, finishing later in the month with the 36 hole Ladies Club Championship.

In July, 20 players took full advantage of a beautiful dry warm day for the Summer Meeting.

At my Captains Day at the beginning of August, the weather could not have been nicer and the slow pace of play out on the course was eased by liberal amounts of Pimms and fruit skewers.

The Kings Hill Ladies Open, despite our efforts to promote it, attracted a disappointing turnout, and there may be a rethink for 2016. By contrast our Ladies Invitation Day was a huge success with enough entry money to offer decent prizes and a great time had by all. Nice food, wonderful ladies and their guests, a surprise birthday cake and a very tuneful rendition of Happy Birthday made it the highlight of my year. The Bank Holiday Mixed Pairs event was, I think, the only event to be rained off this year.

September saw us host the Doxford Foursomes event at Kings Hill, we enjoyed our second course swap of the year with Lamberhurst Ladies, and Judy and I took part in the Ping Ladies 4BBB Grand Finals at Gainsborough GC in Lincolnshire – we came away with some lovely prizes and, best of all, beat the score of the Nizels pair by a considerable margin – result!

As always, there are many people to thank, starting with our Team Captains who have given their time to organise teams and matches:

Gill Olke – the ladies’ friendlies, Kath Coombes for the club mixed friendlies, Chris Hearn for the Pearson and Tappin Trophies, Liz Caldwell for the KCLGA Captains Cup and Three Feathers, Denise Harker for the Daily Mail competitions, Heather Dunne for Apaljacs, and Dawn Edwards for the Bradley Cook, and most especially for partnering and mentoring Maria Babadi in the Lohan Trophy and getting all the way to the semi-finals. And not forgetting Carol Edwards for continuing in her often thankless role as our Kent Delegate. Since my weekend availability was limited, a special thanks too from me to Denise for kindly overseeing the weekend ladies arrangements.

Graham Bentham, Alex Parietti and I have enjoyed a really good team relationship this year, all being able to contribute according to our talents – and we’ve had a lot of fun along the way.

Thanks go to the bar and catering staff, club management and the pros downstairs for interpreting our plans and keeping things moving for us through the year. Thank you also to Terry Coombes for once again preparing our accounts (Kath would you please pass this token of our appreciation to Terry).

An enormous big thank you to my committee who have guided and advised me, given freely of their time and been A-star contributors to our section. So – Chris – thanks for your unflappable common sense; Lynette and Dawn for your valued input; Lindsay – not just for your excellent secretarial skills, but for all the floral arrangements, offers of support and for feeding me tea and cake and listening to me whingeing on; Nancy for keeping our finances on the straight and narrow; Kath for working so hard to score our competitions correctly and keep track of the ups and downs of our handicaps; Meg for organising all our competitions so ably and always being

one step ahead of me to guide my elbow. (Separate email note sent to Jo because I forgot to thank her for all her work on the new website) And last but not least, Gill for being an outstanding vice captain, always offering to help, deputising when I needed it, and having a fund of great ideas. I hope everyone knows that our Ladies' Section is in a pair of very capable hands. Gill, you might not believe me, but your year will pass very quickly, so take time to enjoy the really nice bits.

I am delighted to hand over the Captaincy to you Gill and to present you with the Captains Survival Kit: Post It notes – you will need plenty of these. Chocolate – an absolute MUST. Some nice wine for when you just have to have a glass, and when that's gone, a pretty mug for all those soothing cups of tea you will need. You will note the birdie decoration on the mug – I hope you get a few of those too. The obligatory headache pills and, last but not least, something you can't buy in the shops, The Patience of a Saint. I will always be at the end of the phone, and you already have my fulsome notes, (soon to be published as a boxed set). Can I now present you with the Captain's Brooch...

Ladies, please show a very warm welcome to the Kings Hill Lady Captain for 2016 – Gill Olke.

5. *Incoming Captain's Report*

First of all, thanks to all of you, not just for your support this afternoon, but to all those of you who have wished me good luck for the coming year, and there have been many of you. Secondly, may I add my thanks to Hilary's to those members of the committee who are standing down from office, to those who are staying on, and those who have agreed to be nominated for my year. Also thanks to everyone who contributes to the smooth running of the ladies' section, organising in our participation in competitions such as Pearson, Tappin, Apaljacs, Bradley Cook, Lohan, Mail on Sunday, Captains Cup, Three Feathers and for representing us at Kent meetings, etc., etc., and for those ladies who organise the flowers, the website, the swindle – I could go on and on, but a big thank you. Also to management who, when they heard about my appointment declared they were relieved as 'they could work with me' – I presumed that was honour indeed.

It's appropriate to mention my co-captains, Dave Seely and Brian Duffey, I'm sure in the forthcoming year we will all work well together. Some have asked if I am looking forward to my year of captaincy, to which I have flippantly replied 'yes I think so'. Others have asked if I am daunted by it, to which I have replied, 'very much so, - I'm worried that I don't know what I don't know'. But, when I look around today and see the faces of my many friends here at Kings Hill, most of whom have done this job before me, how can I be daunted? I am sure I will receive lots of support throughout my year. So yes, you can say I am looking forward to it.

A big thank you to Hilary for asking me all those months ago to be her vice-captain, and I will come back to Hilary later. Another thank you to the committee, they have put their trust and faith in me and endorsed my nomination. Each year, the captain and her committee put their heads together to find a potential candidate for next year's captain and I imagine the conversation about myself went something like this:

'So – what about this Gill, do you think she is physically up for this job?'

'Well, she was walking around with a leg brace and on crutches and seen popping Ibuprofen in the cloakroom, some cock and bull story about a dog knocking her over!'

'So – she's got a gammy leg, never mind. Can she play golf?'

'Well, she's never got her name on the board, and she remains a high handicapper.'

'Oh dear, that's a shame. But what's she like up top, do you think she is going to be able to cope?'

'Well, there again, she can be a bit odd at times, do you know what I mean?'

'Is there anyone else willing to do it?'

(SILENCE)

'Ok, so Gill's a physical wreck, can't play for toffee, somewhat weird, but she's willing?'

'Yes. OK lets vote, Gill as captain?' - (UNANIMOUS).

No seriously, I am being deliberately flippant to set the scene for having a fun year and if any of you catch me taking myself too seriously, you have my permission to bring me back to earth and for those ladies, and you know who you are, who are in many ways better qualified for this job than me, I say this . I am simply keeping the chair warm for you.

What I do take seriously is the responsibility of this role and consider it an honour to accept. I recognise the tasks of the position, and in this respect, I will do my level best to represent the club in the manner that you expect. Most importantly, do my very best to represent you, the lady members. I will endeavour to make myself available as often as possible to discuss any issues you may have or just to play with as many ladies during the year as possible.

Now back to Hilary. Hilary thank you so much for all the effort you put into your captaincy, you can be proud of yourself. To sum up a quality portrayed in your year would be ASSERTIVENESS. You described yourself as a 'rooky captain' but as you stand here at the end of the year I am sure you feel now well qualified for the role - are you sure you have to stand down? You haven't been afraid to challenge either management or the men's section on our behalf, but have positively incorporated the many changes thrown at you during the year. In particular, you have raised the standard of our in-house catering making sure our management understand what we ladies want and expect to eat. You have been good at welcoming and greeting ladies from other clubs, raising funds and organising golfing events throughout your captaincy as well as working with the two men's captains raising a huge contribution to your charities. Perhaps we should also mention you throw in a good Pimms! Hilary you've been a good captain, you haven't seemed to let anything get you down, you've tried to involve me in every single duty throughout your year and made the role as transparent as it could be to carry on. It is with great pleasure I present this gift from all of us to you and a cheque towards your charity.

Now, my first responsibility as incoming Captain, may I ask those members of the committee and last year's past captain to please stand down. There is now a pleasurable task for me, I introduce Judie Leadley Woods as my nominated vice-captain for the forthcoming year. Judie transferred here just a few years ago after playing at Nizels golf club. In her short time here she has won numerous monthly medals and stablefords as well as winning our round of the Ping 4BBB with her partner and going on to play at Gainsborough. Her handicap has plummeted to 20, and there is no doubt in my mind that it will continue on that downward trend, she is a beautiful golfer. I know she has some ideas up her sleeve for the fun competitions and I've heard talk of a Bingo, Bango, Bongo. So you see, she too has one of the qualities required as captain, she's bonkers too! No seriously, I can't think of more deserving person to be my vice and your future captain. (Badge)

I am very sorry to have lost some key people from the committee, but fortunate enough to have had sufficient nominations to fill those roles. Please welcome Dawn and Lindsay who are jointly going to perform the responsibilities as competition secretary, Kath is staying on as handicap secretary, Nancy as treasurer, Hilary is here as past captain but is also willing to be our secretary, and we are joined by Debbie and Jane as ordinary members, though there is nothing 'ordinary' about either of them, and I think you will agree we now have adequate representation from both mid-week and weekend ladies. So here we have our new committee. Please come and join us ladies.

I am pleased to tell you that Dave, Brian and I are unanimously agreed to continue support for your charity Spadework, no need to tell you anymore about them – you already know all about the work they do. Once more I will continue the Smartie challenge, so please ladies indulge yourself and don't feel guilty, you need to empty the tube to refill it with your 20p's. Almost time for the important business of tea and cakes but firstly to ask about any other business from management, anyone else?

Any other business

Kay Elks asked us to raise the following point in her absence ; Would people kindly reply to just the person who sent them an email message and not copy all, this will save us all receiving many unwanted mail messages?

Okay I now declare that there being no further business the AGM of KHGC ladies section is now officially closed at 15.16pm