

COTSWOLD AND DISTRICT LADIES' GOLF ALLIANCE

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Cotswold and District Ladies' Golf Alliance held on the Monday 28th October 2024 at Minchinhampton Court Golf Club at 10.30am.

- 1. The Alliance Chairman convened the meeting at 10:30 am.** June began the meeting by thanking Minchinhampton Golf Club for hosting the meeting on behalf of The Cotswold and District Ladies Golf Alliance (CDLGA).
- 2. Apologies:** Apologies for absence were received from Carole Greenup (Puckrup Hall), Penny Taylor & Angela Woodward (Cirencester) and Mary Griffiths (Cotswold Edge). There were 29 ladies in attendance.
- 3. 2024 Alliance Results and Presentation of Trophies and Replicas:**

Singles Club Knock Out

Tracey reported that an Inter-Club Knock Out competition was held this year, providing the opportunity for Singles match-play. Four Clubs entered the competition: (Brickhampton, Cotswold Hills, Minchinhampton and Stinchcombe). The competition was played on a round-robin basis playing each other once, home or away, and a draw was conducted at the Interim Executive Council Meeting in February. Having won all their Fixtures, our congratulations go to the winners, Cotswold Hills. Given the small take-up, the Reps have decided not to continue with the competition next year.

Results for the Scratch and the Handicap Leagues have been circulated to all Reps to allow them to check everything we had was correct and no errors were reported.

The Presentation of Trophies and Replicas was made by the Chairman as follows:

Division 1 - Minchinhampton 1
Aqua Bowl - Minchinhampton
Division 2 - Cotswold Hills 2
Division 3 - Lilley Brook
Division 4 - Cotswold Hills 3
Handicap League – Cotswold Hills

Tracey was delighted to announce that a member of Puckrup Hall has been kindly donated a new trophy for the Handicap League. Puckrup has also arranged for it to be engraved with all the winners to 2023. Tracey, on behalf of the Alliance, recorded our thanks for this generous donation.

On 10th April 2024 Minchinhampton 1 represented our Alliance in the Aqua Bowl, playing at home, in singles match-play against Henbury from the Bristol and District Lady Golfers' Alliance. Tracey offered the League's congratulations to Minchinhampton on a fabulous 5-2 victory and wished them luck as they will represent us in next year's match.

- 4. Divisions for 2025** were announced. Tewkesbury Park and Ross-on-Wye have notified us that they wished to move their 2nd teams into the Handicap League for the 2025 season. As a result, we have 20 teams in the Scratch League (down from 22 this year) and 11 teams in the Handicap League (up from 9). Next year, all our Alliance Clubs will now be participating in the Handicap League.

At the AEM Meeting, the Reps decided to retain 4 Scratch League Divisions (each with 5 teams) and 1 division in the Handicap League. The Scratch League has been amended in line with the provisions of the Constitution meaning promotion and relegation has been applied to achieve the structure for 2025. The Divisions for 2025 are as follows:

Division 1 - Cirencester 1, Cotswold Edge, Cotswold Hills 1, Cotswold Hills 2, Minchinhampton 1

Division 2 -Broadway 1, Brickhampton Court 1, Lilley Brook, Minchinhampton 2, Ross on Wye 1

Division 3 - Cirencester 2, Cotswold Hills 3, Minchinhampton 3, Stinchcombe, Tewkesbury Park 1

Division 4 - Brickhampton Court 2, Brickhampton Court 3, Broadway 2, Cirencester 3, Minchinhampton 4

Handicap League – Brickhampton Court, Broadway, Cirencester, Cotswold Edge, Cotswold Hills, Lilley Brook, Minchinhampton, Puckrup Hall, Ross on Wye, Stinchcombe, Tewkesbury Park

5. **Minutes of the 2023 AGM:** No objections were raised and the Minutes were agreed as correct, proposed by June Grady and seconded by Sara Viall.
6. **Matters Arising from the Minutes:**
There were no Matters Arising
7. **Report of the League Manager:**

My 6th of 9 reports ...

AWAY DAY

- Unfortunately, the Away Day at Knowle was cancelled due to the weather.
- I'd like to report that Knowle were superb to deal with and we received a full refund of the deposit that had been paid.
- The fees that players had paid were all fully refunded, so I'm pleased to say that no-one lost out financially.

SCRATCH & HANDICAP LEAGUES

- It has been a relatively quiet season in terms of issues and queries until Monday 30th September!
- I report that there have been more Fixtures rescheduled than last year, primarily due to the weather, but there have also been instances of Fixtures being rescheduled because clubs have had issues with fielding a team.
- 3 matches in the Scratch League were conceded this year and 3 have been agreed as draws because of the weather at the end of September.
- To ensure the safety of the members of our Alliance I have asked all Clubs to be considerate of people travelling when there are weather warnings in place or shortly after severe storms. However, I remind all Clubs that "Unless the Home Team Captain has given prior notice that the course is unplayable, or is unsuitable to host a Fixture, the away team must be prepared to play".
- In most recent conversations with Clubs about Fixtures the issue of whether courses were

playable was raised with me, but this is not something I can, should or will decide. If a Club says the course is open and it meets our criteria in terms of the number of holes available to be played, the number of any temporary greens and the use of trolleys, then I would expect the Fixture to go ahead. I say this as I believe the Club should have considered the ground conditions carefully and the relevant health and safety risks for players when determining the course is suitable to be open.

- Ros arranged a couple of Handicap League Captains Meetings, providing guidance at the start of the season and the opportunity for feedback and consideration of changes towards the end of the season.
- In the Handicap League, there were a couple of issues with the calculation of shots, either not reducing the Course Handicap/Playing Handicap to 36 or not calculating the difference to the lowest player correctly. In this situation, as both Captains will have agreed the shots prior to the Fixture, all results have stood.

CHANGES TO PLAYING RULES EFFECTIVE FROM 2025

- At the Annual Executive Council Meeting on 7th October, the Reps agreed several changes that will come into effect in 2025, with the following being of greatest significance:
 - The Scratch League and Handicap League will adopt the same eligibility criteria, making it easier for players to move between the Leagues. As a reminder this was agreed in 2023 but delayed as not all Clubs had qualifying competitions over the winter to meet the changes. Going forward, to be eligible to play in either the Scratch League or Handicap League, players must have a minimum of 3 Qualifying Rounds (i.e., competition rounds) and 3 Acceptable Scores (i.e., general play rounds or additional competition rounds). These 6 rounds must form part of the players England Golf playing record in the twelve months prior to the date of a Fixture. All 6 rounds must be over 18 holes and comply with the requirements of the Rules of Handicapping.
 - Several options for the format of the Scratch League were considered and discussed and I thank the Reps for the work they did prior to the meeting, seeking feedback and preferences from members. It was not unanimous, but most Clubs voted to formally adopt 4BBB with this season playing rules (commonly referred to as ‘Captains Pick’). As a reminder, this allows Captains to choose their pairings and the order in which they go out.
 - Significantly, it has been decided that if a team fails to fulfil a Fixture, they will be deemed to have conceded it – there will be no rescheduling of fixtures other than for unsuitable/unplayable courses or in the event of a Fixture being abandoned. The Match Points awarded to the compliant team will increase to 6 (rather than 3). In addition, the team that has conceded the Fixture will be deducted 3 Match Points and 1 League Point. This change is made to incentivise teams to make every effort possible to fulfil a Fixture, even with a team reduced in size or strength.
 - For the Handicap League, a provision is added that following the conclusion of a Fixture, if the calculation of the Playing Handicap or shot allowance is found to be incorrect, the match result will stand.
- I have started to integrate these changes into the Constitution, and time will be given to the Reps to review and comment on these prior to the Interim Executive Council Meeting in February 2025, when we will formally sign-off the Constitution.

THANKS

I'd like to close by formally recording my thanks to:

- Ros for her support for the Handicap League, I know that like me all the team Captains really value her efforts.
- Lena for maintaining the results on the Website. I don't know exactly how long Lena has been doing it, but she has decided to stand down at the end of this season (which we'll cover in Any Other Business) so I'm sure you'll all join me in extending our gratitude for the work that she has done for the Alliance.
- All of you, the Alliance Reps and Captains for your work during the season as, quite simply, this Alliance doesn't exist without you.

8. The Executive Council Secretary's Report:

Good Morning ladies and thanks to Minchinhampton for hosting us today

As I finish my first of 3 years in post I would first like to thank all of you Reps for your communications which has made my job easier.

Catherine has sent welcome letters to the 2 new Reps Liz Odell from Minchinhampton & Kerry Welding from Ross. I hope this explains everything but email me anytime if you have any questions.

The Roll of Honour is being updated on the website & many Congratulations to the winning teams and good luck to everyone for next season.

Finally I would like to thank June as she finishes her 3 year term as Chairman & welcome Katie Stooke from Ross as she takes over the role

9. The Treasurer's Financial Report:

It has been an interesting year, the financing of the Aqua Bowl teas, has at last been agreed and I hope put to bed, on my watch. The 2 years have passed quite quickly and working the year to finish on the 30th September makes it easier for the accounts and to pass on next year. Not that I'm counting!

The Closing balance in funds is £275.12.

Team subscriptions for the year were £186 for 31 teams.

This covers the Internet domain renewal, purchasing and engraving the replica trophies. Also the Bi- annual help for hosting the Aqua Bowl of £50 (if requested).

Unfortunately, as our subs were not covering expenses, it was necessary last year to raise subs to £6 a team.

With 30 teams this year, no Aqua Bowl to fund and the Committee and your Reps have agreed to fund our own coffee, we will not need to raise the subs for 2025.

So, thank you everyone for helping keep the funds stable.

NB: A copy of the Income and Expenditure Account is attached at the end of these minutes.

10. Fixtures for Year 2025:

There were no issues arising.

11. Appointment of Management Committee

June introduced Katie Stooke, who is the new Chairman. June was thanked by the Committee for her work during the last three years.

12. Any Other Business:

a) Website Manager Vacancy

Mary Mayes kindly volunteered, from the floor, to take on the role of Website Manager. Tracey will liaise with her regarding the role and what we want from the website going forward, as she has already been looking into this

b) Jane Anderson from Broadway asked if the three qualifying cards have to be from the players home club?

Any round played under qualifying conditions, during the preceeding 12 months, home or away, will count for this purpose

c) The Committee for 2025 will be:

Katie Stooke, Ross on Wye - Chairman

Tracey Millington, Brickhampton – League Manager

Sue Trewin, Brickhampton – Treasurer

Jane Barrett & Catherine Beale, Cotswold Edge – Secretaries

Mary Mayes – Website Manager

13. The next AGM will be held on Monday 27th October 2025 at Ross on Wye

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending. The meeting was closed at 10.55 am.

THE COTSWOLD AND DISTRICT GOLF ALLIANCE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2024 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	Chq No	£	£
Opening bank and cash balance as at 1/10/23			340.84
Subscriptions	31 teams at £6		186.00
	Total		<u>526.84</u>
			Expenses:
Softdata Domain	29		£19.18
Tewkesbury Trophies	30		£68.94
Aqua Bowl (Minchinhampton) (used new cheq book!)	61		£50.00
Coffee LilleyBrook £30 Biscuits £5	31		£35.00
Biscuits for 2 Meetings (cash)			6.00
Softdata InternetLtd	32		£72.00
		Total Expences	<u>£257.12</u>
Bank Balance as of 1 st October 2024			<u>£275.72</u>

Cheques Presented after 1st October:

Trophies

Softdata Domain