

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL EXECUTIVE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
FOR THE COTSWOLD AND DISTRICT LADIES GOLF ALLIANCE
Held at Lilley Brook GC at 10.00am
on Monday 7th October 2024**

Executive Council Present: June Grady, Chairman, Lilley Brook; Jane Barrett, Secretary; Tracey Millington, League Manager; Sue Trewin, Treasurer

Executive Representatives: Lesley Kirk, Brickhampton Court; Vicky Watkins, Broadway; Mary Griffiths, Cotswold Edge; Fiona Smith, Cotswold Hills; Caroline Sanders, Lilley Brook; Katie Stooke, Ross-on-Wye; Gwen Knight, Stinchcombe Hill; Sara Viall, Tewksbury Park; Sharon Morgan, Minchinhampton; Brenda Taylor, Cirencester; Kerry Welding, Ross-on-Wye

- 1) **The Chairman convened the meeting at 10.00 am** and thanked Lilley Brook GC for providing the venue and the coffee, she also thanked Sue for providing the biscuits
- 2) **Apologies for absence:** Carole Greenup, Puckrup Hall; Ros Fenney, Handicap League Manager
- 3) **Minutes of Interim Meeting on 5th February 2024:** The minutes were circulated and taken as correct
- 4) **Matters arising from Interim Meeting:**

a) Singles Knockout Cup (Tracey)

- The competition was held between the following 4 clubs, on a round-robin basis playing each other once on a drawn, home or away, basis:
 - o Brickhampton
 - o Cotswold Hills
 - o Minchinhampton
 - o Stinchcombe
- Results have been issued to the Reps of the Clubs participating after match and no issues with how these have been recorded have been flagged to me.
- Congratulations to the winners of the Knock-Out, Cotswold Hills who won all their matches
- A memento plaque will be awarded at the AGM.
- Given the small take-up, I propose we do not continue with the competition next year.

Result of vote – It was unanimously agreed not to continue with the competition

b) Scratch League format 2025 (Tracey)

- On 1st July 2024, I emailed the Alliance Reps to encourage them to discuss the format for the Scratch League as there was a clear desire at the Annual Alliance Meeting in October 2023 to reach a conclusion on the format going forward.
- On 15th August 2024, I sent a follow-up email to Alliance Reps setting out the format options I'd received (from Cirencester):
 - o Singles Match-Play
 - o 4BBB Handicap Order (i.e. per 2023 rules)
 - o 4BBB Captains Pick (i.e. per 2024 rules)
 - o 3 Singles and 2 Foursomes (to be determined whether the Foursomes is in handicap order or not)

- The feedback that I have received indicates that 4BBB 'Captains Pick' is the preferred option (although not unanimous), so I'd like to now open it up for a discussion and vote. **Following discussion the majority vote was for the 4BBB 'Captains Pick', it was also agreed that speed of play was important with ready golf on the fairways and putting out once the hole is finished discouraged.**

c) Executive Meeting & AGM Minutes on website update (Jane)

Jane thanked Lena for her work as website manager and updating the website with approved Minutes from last year's meetings. Lena is stepping down at the AGM and this will produce a vacancy which is covered in AOB.

d) Aqua Bowl financial update (June)

It was agreed that £50 would be given to the Gloucestershire home club hosting the Aqua Bowl on alternate years

e) Coffee & biscuits provision for future meetings (Sue)

Sue proposed that buying our own coffee would help the coffers, it was seconded by Brenda from Cirencester and agreed unanimously

f) Buggy availability & costs

Jane reported that an e-mail was sent out to all clubs following the last meeting and 9 clubs responded. Prices varied, but all agreed that advance notice to the Home Captain, who will liaise with the pro shop and negotiate the cost, is advisable.

We cannot demand availability or cost at members rates as some clubs charge more than visitors rates at other clubs

5) Secretary's Report (Jane):

Good morning ladies

The fact that we're all here today proves that I am fulfilling my secretarial duties of keeping everyone informed about what's going on. The job share with Catherine is working well.

Thank you Caroline for booking this venue today and Sharon in advance for the AGM at Minchinhampton . Thanks to all the Reps for attending and can I remind all Trophy winners for the 2023 season to return the trophies at the AGM, engraved, ready to present to the 2024 winners.

The AGM will be on 28th October at Minchinhampton Golf Club at 10:30 am, refreshments will be available to purchase.

Catherine will be sending out the Agenda and draft minutes for the 2023 AGM later this week so please can you post them up for your Alliance ladies to view and report any amendments to me by Wednesday the 23rd October, they can then be agreed at the AGM on 28th October.

Please remember to send in your contact updates so that we can update the list.

Finally I would like to thank the Committee for all their help especially Tracey, who works very hard to ensure everything runs smoothly.

6) League Manager's Report (Tracey)

My fifth 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 to me were all fully refunded, so I'm pleased to say that no-one lost out financially.

Aqua Bowl - Congratulations to Minchinhampton 1 on beating Henbury on 10th April 2024 in the Aqua Bowl. The result was a 5-2 victory in singles match-play.

Scratch & Handicap Leagues - It has been a relatively quiet season in terms of issues and queries until last Monday!

I note that there have been more Fixtures rescheduled than last year, primarily due to the weather, including some recent disruption, but there have also been instances of Fixtures being rescheduled because clubs have had issues with fielding a team.

Three matches in the Scratch League were conceded this year and three 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 would ask all clubs to be considerate of people travelling when there are weather warnings in place or shortly after severe storms and my thanks to those who have been very thoughtful over the last few weeks. However, I remind all Clubs of clause 5.8.1 which states "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 conversations with Clubs about Fixtures last week the issue of courses being playable was raised, but this is not something I can or should decide. My starting point will always be, if a Club says the course is open and it meets our criteria in terms of the number of holes to be played, 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 relevant health and safety risks for players when determining the course is suitable to be open.

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. An update to Clause 7.1.7 is proposed to deal with this situation and I will cover this later in the Constitution agenda item.

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, along with your Captains for your work during the season as, quite simply, this Alliance doesn't exist without you.

7) Treasurer's Report (Sue): Year Ended 30th September 2024

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.

It was agreed that by everyone purchasing their own coffee the subs would remain at £6 next year

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		526.84
		Expenses:	
Softdata Domain	29		£19.18
Tewkesbury Trophies	30		£68.94
Aqua Bowl (Minchinhampton)	61		£50.00 (used new cheq book!)
Coffee LilleyBrook £30 Biscuits £5	31		£35.00
Biscuits for 2 Meetings (cash)			6.00
Softdata InternetLtd	32		£72.00
	Total Expenses		<u>£257.12</u>
Bank Balance as of 1 st October 2024			<u>£275.72</u>

8) Changes to the constitution (Tracey)

Tracey reported that several proposed updates to the Constitution were circulated in the form of an Audit Trail with the agenda for the meeting and that these needed to be gone through.

The Constitution needs to be updated based on the decision regarding the format for the Scratch League and she proposed we approve that version of the Constitution at the Interim meeting in February.

Changes to Constitution to be discussed include:

6.3.2 No less than 4 teams in a division

6.3.3 Full promotion and relegation

6.7.7 Penalties to be agreed if a club cannot raise a team for a fixture - the club forfeiting would lose 3 match points and 1 league point, the compliant team would get 6 match points and 2 league points. It was suggested that there will be no re-arrangement of the fixture.
It was agreed that the updates to the Constitution be approved at February's Interim meeting

9) Joiners/Leavers and Changes to Alliance Membership & proposed divisions for 2025 (Tracey)

Tracey reported there were no requests to join the Alliance, and no Clubs have notified us that they intend to leave in 2025.

Prior to this meeting, we have been advised of the following changes that Clubs wish to make:

- o Minchinhampton will reduce from 4 teams to 3, dropping Minchinhampton 4
- o Tewkesbury Park wish to move their 2nd team from the Scratch League to the Handicap League
- o Ross-on-Wye wish to move their 2nd team from the Scratch League to the Handicap League.

That means that for 2025 we will have 19 teams in the Scratch League (down from 22), and 11 teams in the Handicap League (up from 9).

On 1st October 2024 Tracey sent the Alliance Reps a short document setting out options for the structure of the Scratch League and Handicap League for 2025 and outline the decisions required at this meeting.

Two options were sent out to be discussed at Club level – these were:

Option 1 – three divisions 7, 6, 6

Option 2 – three divisions 6, 6, 7

However, Cirencester proposed that 4 Divisions may be more manageable and a vote was held. The results were as follows:

3 clubs voted for 3 divisions

5 clubs voted for 4 divisions

2 abstentions

It was agreed that there would be 4 divisions (5, 5, 5, 4) if Minchinhampton are willing to reinstate their fourth team into the 4th division.

Post Meeting Note: Sharon confirmed that Minchinhampton will field a team in Division 4

10) Alliance Results 2024 (Tracey):

Tracey reported that the results up to 30th September 2024 for the Scratch and the Handicap Leagues were circulated to all Alliance Reps on 1st October 2024, providing the opportunity to check the basis we are using to determine the Divisional placings. Prior to this meeting, she had not been notified of any errors.

Shortly after the issue of the Results, Cirencester 2 notified her that they had to concede their Division 2 fixture with Tewkesbury Park 1 that was scheduled for today as they were unable to raise a team. That gave Tewkesbury Park 1 3 Home Match Points and 2 Home League Points.

The final fixture of the season is being played today here with Lilley Brook hosting Broadway 2 in Division 3, which will determine the outcome of Division 3.

Based on the results that have been issued, the Divisional winners are as follows:

Scratch League

Division 1 – Minchinhampton 1

Division 2 – Cotswold Hills 2

Division 3 –

Division 4 – Cotswold Hills 3

Handicap League

The winners are Cotswold Hills.

Post meeting note – Lilley Brook beat Broadway 2 (6-0) and are confirmed as winners of Division 3

11) Any Other Business:

a) Website Manager Vacancy (Tracey)

As mentioned in Tracey's League Manager Report, Lena will step down at the end of this season, so we need to find someone to take on this role. The Website is maintained in an online tool called WordPress and Lena sets up the fixtures and maintains the results in Excel before copying these into WordPress. Tracey will get the WordPress logon details, and have a look at how it works.

Lena also ensures the various WhatsApp Groups have the correct Captains on each, and Tracey wondered if this is something the Secretary could do as they maintain the Contact List.

Jane agreed that the Secretaries could do this

Matters Arising – Tracey to look into how WordPress works

b) Handicap League Trophy (Tracey)

Tracey reported that we have not had a specific Trophy for the Handicap League. She believes the Alliance Salver (Division 5) may have been presented as a substitute in the past.

We have the offer of a trophy that has been donated to Puckrup to become our Handicap League Trophy, and Puckrup has also kindly offered to have this engraved.

The donors wish to remain anonymous, so the Trophy would be engraved 'CDLGA Handicap League' and the winners to date would be added as follows:

- o 2018 Naunton Downs
- o 2019 Broadway
- o 2020 Not played
- o 2021 Broadway
- o 2022 Cotswold Edge
- o 2023 Cotswold Edge

As per all our other Trophies, it would become the winner's responsibility to have it engraved for 2024 onwards.

Tracey asked whether the Executive Council would like to accept the offer?

The offer was accepted

c) 4BBB match tee times (Sara Viall)

Tee times are to be discussed between Clubs and there are no official rules covering this

d) Fiona from Cotswold Hills raised the question of spectators at matches (chaperones are covered in the Constitution 5.7.7). Tracey will look at the County Spectator Policy

Matter Arising – Tracey to look at County Spectator Policy

12) Dates of future meetings:

Interim Meeting:	Monday 10 th February 2025, Lilley Brook at 10.00 am
Executive Meeting:	Monday 6 th October 2025, time and place to be confirmed
AGM	Monday 27 th October 2025, time and place to be confirmed

13) Collection of subscriptions for 2025: It was agreed that Subscriptions of £6 per team would be payable by 28th October 2024. The BACS payment details are as follows:

Sort Code: 77-69-50 **Account:** 00620460

Name: Cotswold & District Ladies Golf Alliance

The meeting closed at 12:05 pm with June thanking everyone for coming and their participation.