

MINUTES OF LADIES' SECTION AGM

TUESDAY 19th OCTOBER 2010

PRESENT: Lady Captain; Maggie Demuth; Vice-Captain; Mandy Rix; Officers, Committee and 89 members.

The Lady Captain asked the assembled gathering to observe a minute's silence in memory of Mary Baxter and Margaret Raper, Joan Goldsmith and Bettie Taylor who died this year.

APOLOGIES: Received from 27 members

MINUTES: Accepted and signed by the Captain

Adoption proposed by Gill Minns Seconded by Tilly Collard

MATTERS ARISING:

AOB '09 Financing of the Ladies' Locker Room Refurbishment: it was agreed that the cost of the refurbishment would be financed by £6000 from the club, £3000 from the ladies' reserve fund and the outstanding £2000 would be a repayable loan from the club. This money was raised immediately through locker rental. During the year, the club decided to use some of the money from the Boundary Fund to pay for various projects including the re-fitting of the men's locker room. In the light of this it was agreed that the Ladies' Section need not repay the £2000 loan.

AOB '09 Medal Spoons: The allocation of medal spoons was discussed It was subsequently agreed that the cost of the medal spoon should be deducted from the prize fund before prize money was allocated.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Treasurer, Nerys Horrocks gave her report:

This has been my second full year as Treasurer and I now feel an old hand at badgering ladies for money and complaining about the amount of small change that can be crammed into a small brown envelope. The £2 competition fee has doubled our working income and given us a cash flow to cope with increases in expenditure in other areas. The ladies' changing room was refurbished in February. The Ladies' Section was asked to fund half the cost. It was agreed that we would pay a proportion this year and the remainder next year. To be able to do this we offered 40 lockers for rent. The main committee subsequently agreed that the Ladies' Section would not have to contribute any further money towards the cost of refurbishment. I have therefore transferred the locker rental money to the reserve account.

The reserve account accrued the princely sum of £1.24 over the last year.

The Autumn and Spring Meetings, Christmas Cake Walk and Guest Day have again showed a loss but not as bad as it may seem as the expenditure includes the prize money for this year's Autumn Meeting. The Ladies' Open once again made a healthy profit this year.

Cups and Competitions. The increase in competition fees and the subsequent change in allocation of prize money is working well and is giving us a good financial footing to run the Ladies' Section despite the fact that we had zero income in January and February due to the inclement weather.

Coffee Morning proceeds were slightly up this year and I think that the empty tables at the end of the morning were a sign of success.

The total expenditure on team matches is much the same this year as last. The numbers reflect more away matches this year Brenda has done her best to keep the cost of refreshments down at Colchester but I think we can only anticipate a further cost increase in the year to come.

We continue to economise on travel expenses with as much car sharing as possible.

The contribution from the General Committee remained the same this year. Officers' expenses remained the same. The entrance fees for the county matches remained the same this year. The expenses for flowers and gifts were considerably less this year. May be we were all much healthier or Maggie less sympathetic!!

As was agreed at the AGM last year, I reordered cup and medal spoons for 2009/2010. This I did last October to cover the year just gone. When I made enquiries about reordering for the coming year I was told that the cost of silver has gone up by 16%. After consultation with the committee, I ordered as many spoons as possible at current prices, which will see us through next year.

You will see that we made a loss this year, which is accounted for by the cost of the locker room refurbishment and the purchasing of spoons, which will, of course, be in stock. Our bank balance is healthy and should continue so. We should keep our fingers crossed that we escape a harsh winter to ensure our income for next year

Adoption proposed by Philippa Deman Seconded by Heather Dennis

Question: June Warburton asked why the team expenses had increased.

Answer: There were more 'away' matches this year.

DELEGATE' S REPORT:

(For results see appendix on County Notice Board)

The County at present has a balance of £37,166.00. We will be given exact figures at the AGM

The revenue from the County Card for 2010 was £2,846.25.

Entry Fee for the Championship will be raised to £15.00 for 2011. The Championship ran at a loss this year as we no longer have a sponsor.

Handicaps. I informed you last year that your handicaps would lapse unless you had returned 3 qualifying cards. This is no longer the case. We now have Active/Inactive handicaps so although you are still required to return 3 qualifying scores your handicap cannot lapse. The requirement of 3 qualifying scores is being reviewed to see if this should be increased for 2011. Since Colchester Golf Club has its own rule requiring you to return 3 cards to play in competitions this should not affect very many of you.

The Central Database of Handicaps is now running. This database holds the Player's Name, Player's Home Club, Exact Handicap, Year of Their Birth and a Lifetime ID number. Every player has a unique Identity Number, which will enable them to go onto the internet and access their details at any time. This ID Number could also prove useful if you should lose your Handicap certificate.

Supplementary Scores

The Supplementary Scores will continue.

Australian Spoons. This event still needs to be better promoted as it is one of the few national competitions open to Bronze players and it would be a pity to lose it.

Distance Measuring Devices At a meeting in August the use of Distance Measuring Devices (DMD's) and Pedometers was again discussed and EWGA continues to recommend they are NOT to be used in any County Competitions. There will NOT be a change in policy in the near future. They are allowed at club level only, including EWGA Medals and the Ping Competitions.

There is no further news regarding the English Golf Union and EWGA merger.

RETIRING CAPTAIN:

The Lady Captain, Maggie Demuth, then gave her report:

It is said that time flies when you are having a good time. The year since I last stood here in front of you has flown and I have enjoyed greatly being Lady Captain of Colchester Golf Club. My only regret in this year is my lamentable golf. It is the first year since I took up the game that I have not had a handicap reduction, indeed this year my handicap has risen from 18 to 20.

The year started with my ride in on my beautiful horse Sam. He enjoyed being the centre of attention and being fed with apples by Hannah and carrots, organic of course, by Maureen. My neighbours and the good people of Dedham thought that I had finally lost the plot completely as they saw me riding Sam round the village initially with an empty golf bag until finally he was happy carrying me and a bag of jangling clubs. I would like to thank husband Paul and Pene Parker for aiding me in this venture.

Many changes have taken place in our club over the year. Our locker room was finally refurbished thanks to all the hard work of Bridget, Madryn, Alison and Tilly. Our showers were fixed so that they are better than I have at home. Jo Mager has worked tirelessly to give the clubhouse a successful makeover, thanks to her and to Elaine Gilbert for her interior design input. On the course the Captain has been the mover and shaker behind many improvements, the paths, the covering of the steps with non-slip matting, the repairing of the hut on the small practice ground, the drainage ditches, the improvements to the main practice area and many other projects. The 150-yard markers with daily pin positions are a huge benefit for which we thank Roger Robertson. The refurbishment of the Cabby hut is nearly complete and I think that most would agree that this is a feature of our course that was worth preserving.

The team results have been disappointing this year with none of the teams getting to the knockout stages. After two good wins in the Munro Foursomes our team of Philippa and Mandy came up against Chelmsford in the third round. We had 2 juniors in the Hunter foursomes this year, Lizzie Devenish playing with Maureen and Annabel Angel with Bee. Both had good, close matches but did not progress past the first round. My thanks to all the team Captains including Doreen Friedlander for organizing all the friendly matches. We shall have to do better in 2011.

This year we have had only one new lady member, Jacqui Prince. She has fitted in well, is playing a lot of golf and has already started to win cups and reduce her handicap. She clearly is an extremely useful addition to our section.

Colchester GC was featured in Women and Golf as club of the month in the May/June edition and because of this the section has a year's free subscription, which we have started to receive and is kept in the powder room.

In April 52 of us took over Thorpeness GC for 48hours, I hear that they have recovered.

We were blessed with great weather for my Captain's day after a worryingly wet start. My thanks to the Owens for the loan and erection of the gazebo in the early morning rain and to Allen Bevan, Bill Dearnley and Paul for entertaining you all on the 11th. I thoroughly enjoyed the day.

I would like to thank all the office staff for their help and support, however trivial my questions, Brenda and Neil and all their staff for their hard work and in particular Mark Angel for his patience in our matches which I really enjoyed. Apart from our first match defeat by Drs Bevan, playing great golf in the wind and rain Mark managed to raise my game so that that match was our only loss.

My charity this year was EACH. We have raised £742. I thank you all for your generosity. My gift to the club will be one of the smaller blue spruce trees that will make up the new backdrop to the 15th green next year.

I should like to mention Ethel McMillan, Lady Captain in 1964, who will be 100 on November 10th. We will be sending her a bouquet from the section with our congratulations.

I would like to thank Bridget for asking me to be her VC and the officers of the committee for being so efficient and supportive. Lastly I should like to thank all the committee members for making meetings very enjoyable and for doing their jobs so well to make the section run smoothly.

It is now my pleasant duty to pass on the Captain's brooch, this little bag of goodies, very sadly my parking space and the care of the Ladies' Section to Mandy Rix who I know will be a great Captain. Mandy, I wish you every success.

Hannah Butcher, Competition Secretary then read out the names of the 2010 trophy winners:
Club Championship - Jo Taylor Coronation Cup - Mandy Rix
Centenary medals: Gold scratch Mandy Rix, Silver handicap Elaine Gilbert
Morton Trophy - Heather Dennis. Spring Meeting- Chris Hughes. Charles Bland - Maureen Devenish
Long Handicap- Chris Hughes.. Mackenzie Foursomes- Maureen & Lizzie Devenish.
60+ bowl - Patricia Walker. Bentley Green - Rosie Helliwell. Young Cup - Hannah Baker.
Bogey Cup - Elizabeth Bainbridge. Stableford Trophy - Hannah Baker, Medal Cup - Rosie Helliwell.
Autumn Meeting - Jacqui Prince. Hirst Salver - Philippa Deman. Ilford Bowl - Judith Robertson.
Past Ladies' Captains' Tray - Elizabeth Lennox. Birdie Tree Silver - Philippa Deman Bronze -
Margaret Dearnley

NEW CAPTAIN: Mandy Rix

Immediate Past Captain, Maggie and Ladies of Colchester Golf Club. Thank you for accepting me as your Captain for the forthcoming year.

I know this should be a serious affair, but I thought you might appreciate this quote from Bobby Jones... 'Addressing a golf ball would seem to be a simple matter, that is, to the initiated, who cannot appreciate that a golf ball can hold more terror than a spacious room, packed with people'... I beg to differ, and will remember his words every time I have to stand up here during the year!!

Maggie, you have made an exemplary captain, regardless of what you used to say before taking on the role.... you have dealt with any issues with such efficiency, so calmly and mildly. We must not forget that Maggie has been on duty for 5 years now, having been secretary before taking on the role of vice and then captain, so I feel that you are now due a well earned rest from the running of the Ladies' Section, and on that note, I hope you have a wonderful holiday in America

Mandy called on Bridget Whitworth to propose a vote of thanks on behalf of the Ladies' Section to the retiring captain. Flowers were presented to Maggie from the Ladies' Section.

I now have great pleasure in proposing Judith Robertson as my Vice Captain. Judith has been a member of the club for over 20 years, and like myself, joined as an absolute beginner, and now has a very respectable handicap of 16. Judith knows all the pit falls about being captain, as her husband Roger was Club captain in 2000. Together they have won the Jubilee Cup 3 times, and Judith has won many of our Ladies' competitions, including the Coronation Cup. Having played in the Trophy, Bronze and Harris teams when work allowed, and sat on the club's social committee for a number of years, I know Judith is an excellent candidate for vice captain. Judith retired from her high-powered world of computing in 2009 and immediately joined the Ladies' committee. Maggie has seconded my proposal, so please may I have a show of hands so that Judith's appointment as my vice captain is approved by the Ladies' Section.

There are no changes to our officers this year, although our Secretary is standing down in October 2011, and we had had one nomination for the post Jill Slater, which the committee unanimously agreed upon. congratulations and thank you Jill. This means that for this year the officers remain the same. Madryn Abnett as Secretary, Nerys Horrocks continues as Treasurer, Hannah Butcher as Competition Secretary and Maureen Crosbie as our County Delegate

Becoming captain is quite a daunting task, but knowing that you have such a conscientious and capable group looking after you makes the job a lot more appealing. I am sure the rest of the club, would like to thank you for all the hard work you have done, and that I'm hoping you will continue to do!! We have been joined by one new member; Jacqui Prince, who is not here today, but I know she will be a valued and committed member to the club.

Now to plans for 2011.

We have entered the usual County teams.... I will captain the Silver Shield, Judith the Silver Trophy and Maggie the Bronze. After the 3-year trial, it was passed at committee that we will continue with the Harris Bowl, which will again be captained by Joy Bevan. Joy will try and give matches to those players not involved in any other teams, so that they can gain some experience of match play before entering the Bronze team. Tilly Collard has very kindly arranged all the team matches for the captains this year, with the aim of spreading them out over the summer, and just having one contact for us all. It certainly has made our lives much easier this Autumn.....thank you very much Tilly. I'm afraid that with courses getting busier, including our own, arranging so many matches seems to get more and more complicated, so we are sorry if we end up having matches on the same day, or indeed all our first matches are not at home, but it is not for want of trying! Doreen Friedlander has offered to look after the friendly matches again. If you have never played in the bronze or Harris, but would like to be considered, do let the captains know, as some of you are slipping through the net, I think. We shall be competing in the Munro Foursomes, and The Mail on Sunday, which Philippa Deman will captain.

As you know, our teams did not perform particularly well this summer, and some of you are aware, the words team and competition mean an awful lot to me, what ever sport I have participated in, being part of a team is what I am predominantly there for, to represent my club and do anything I possibly can to improve the image of the club by competing and hopefully winning. I know that many members are not here to play golf for that reason; we all have different agendas for playing. For some, it is the social element, for others it is the exercise and for some it is to compete at whatever level they can. I make no excuse that I fall into all these categories, but competitive golf is what really floats my boat! I am therefore rather hoping that you will indulge my wish to try and improve our matchplay skills. The captains put a lot of time and effort into running our teams, so to have some sort of commitment to the cause, is, I feel the way to go. 40 ladies played in our four teams this summer, which is an awful lot for only 25 places, and something we need to address. The dates for all the matches will be posted on the board soon, if you think you are eligible for a team, please try and keep these dates free when booking up your diary! This all sounds a bit serious, but having listened to Monty's inspiring words at the Ryder cup, I feel we should try and raise our game.

I have introduced some matchplay practices on a few Tuesdays over the winter, in order to try and get the idea of matchplay into our psychic. It is called Split 6's, played in drawn threes, in two handicap divisions, and basically there are six points to be won on every hole. I won't explain it now, but Hannah has very kindly produced self-explanatory cards for the competition in anticipation of a lot of questions being asked! We will go off the 1st and 11th tees so that hopefully at some point, there will be a lot of ladies back in the Clubhouse, making it a bit more of a social occasion, as well as hopefully achieving my aim!

I have given a lot of thought to the Captain's winter competition, and have decided not to have a competition spread over the winter. This year was the coldest in 30 years, so not many ladies played anyway. Many more ladies go away over the winter now, and also play at other courses more than ever... I thought I would therefore try something different, so on Tuesday November 23rd, the competition of the day will in effect be my Captain's Winter Competition. There will not be an entry fee, but if you would like to donate to my charity then please do. We will again go off the 1st & 11th in teams of four, and prizes will be awarded. The list will go up today so please put your names down.

This brings me on to my chosen charity of the year. The Club Captain, Alan Irvine, and myself will both be supporting Essex Air Ambulance. We feel it is a very worthwhile cause; it costs in the region of £250,000 per month to cover all charitable costs and aircraft operations. Hopefully none of us will ever require its services but you can never be sure.

Mark Angel has kindly offered to partner me in some mixed golf challenges, so am looking forward to playing against some of you.

The coffee morning is on November 16th. I am very keen to keep it as low key as possible, with the emphasis on a coffee morning, with a bring-and-buy slant to it. It is still a nice way for all non-playing and playing members to meet up and catch up. We need to raise money for our teams if we wish to continue as we do i.e. paying petrol and teas etc. Sheila Greaves is very kindly going to demonstrate a couple of Christmas flower arrangements, which is always very entertaining and inspirational before Christmas.

As you may know, the social committee is no longer chaired by the Ladies Vice Captain, much to Judith's relief! The first social event is Bonfire night on Friday 5th November, and as last year I can promise an excellent firework display followed by a great atmosphere in the clubhouse. If you have nothing planned please come along to New Year's Eve, you don't have to book your place on a table, if you put your name down we can sort out the rest! With a Scottish Captain, we could not let Burn's night go uncelebrated, so on 28th January 2011 please come along and celebrate in the true tradition.

The Captain's Welcome drinks party is this Friday, do come along and enjoy a drink on Alan & I. I think most of the club are away on holidays this year, so it will be a quiet intimate occasion!

The chat in on January 18th will be a Rules refresher. After the last two very successful away trips organised by Bridget and Maggie, I thought it was tempting fate to do it again, so on Friday March 25th we will host a ladies only dinner with a mystery entertainer. Guests will be very welcome, and hopefully many non-playing members will come along too. We can use this as an opportunity to not only invite any friends along but also any potential members, and let them see how friendly and sociable we are!

Every year we have a few days which involve visiting guests, such as guest day, Millennium week, the Open etc. I would like everyone to feel a part of our section, and if they would like to, to find a job to do, so that everyone contributes to the success of these days, and ultimately as to how we are perceived by potential members. If on these days everyone contributes something, whether it is to come along ball spotting, or just meeting and greeting our guests, or to make biscuits for the refreshments, or serve drinks, help with flowers, or just generally be around, I think it could go along way in raising the profile of our Ladies' Section.

Please let either me or a committee member know if anyone falls ill. We don't always know and it is important to keep in contact with all our members.

We were having a sort out underneath the curtain in the powder room, and came across quite a few old photographs. If anyone has the inclination to sort them out and start a photo album, then I think that would be a nice idea. Perhaps if it got started, it could live in the powder room for everyone to look at, and if anyone had any photos they would like to add to it that would be lovely; it will then leave a lasting and ongoing memento for us all. If anyone fancies starting this up, please do.

I'm done now! If you have any issues or constructive ideas during the year, then please just come and speak to a committee member or me and we will try to resolve.

I will do my best to represent us Ladies of Colchester in the best possible way I can during the year and I hope to play golf with as many of you as I can in 2011.

Most of all please enjoy the year!!

Flowers for the new Captain were presented by Alan Irvine, Men's Captain Elect.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE:

The Lady Captain announced there were four vacant committee places and five nominations for election. Nominees were: Philippa Deman, Shelley Persent, Chris Clarke, Anne Rodgers and Lynda Hilliard. A ballot was held and Philippa Deman, Shelley Persent, Anne Rodgers and Chris Clarke were elected

There are no changes to our officers this year, although the Secretary is standing down in October 2011, there was one nomination for the post, Jill Slater, which the committee unanimously agreed upon. The three-year term of office of Competition Secretary also finishes in October 2011. There was only one nomination, Hannah Butcher, who was also agreed unanimously.

PROPOSALS: none

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Claire Hebden asked if Walk-on Stablefords could be re-introduced. This was discussed but it was pointed out that as it was very badly supported in the past and now medals and alternate day stableford competitions are available it was unlikely to be well supported, however, it would be taken back to committee.

The Lady Captain raised an issue which had arisen in committee – it had been suggested that in order to encourage a greater number of competitors for the Hirst Salver that a Hirst Salver medal card could be played at the same time as an eclectic card. All views expressed were to keep the current arrangements.

The Lady Captain announced that the committee had decided that the finals of the Young Cup and the Bentley Green Cup will be played on Finals Day. Ladies were encouraged not to enter if they were unavailable to play on that day or to stand down as soon as they knew they were unavailable.

The Lady Captain, Mandy Rix, gave the date of the first committee meeting as Wednesday 3rd November 2010.

There being no further business, the date of the next AGM set for Tuesday 18th October 2011 at 10.15 am. The meeting closed at 11.25am

Vote of thanks to the chair was given by Pat Owen