

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SVLGA WEST DIVISION

RALSTON GOLF CLUB 13TH NOVEMBER, 2014

Captain Anna Telfer gave a warm welcome to 53 members to the 46th Annual General Meeting of the West Vets at Ralston Golf Club.

MINUTES OF 2013 AGM

The adoption was proposed by Janice Paterson and seconded by Fiona Roger.

MATTERS ARISING

None.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Treasurer, Mo Neilson, submitted the financial report for 2014. Firstly, she thanked Sheila Shaw for all her help in the handover of the Treasurer's duties. Mo also thanked Julie Will for her work in sourcing and selling of the West Vets sweaters. Julie had tracked down a new supplier in Hawick to supply new sweaters in our colours when the previous supplier could no longer provide the same shade. Sales have been good, slightly ahead of last year.

Mo also thanked her neighbour, Gordon Macphail, C.A. for auditing the books.

Mo reported that we had a deficit of £320 this year compared with a surplus last year of £994. The reasons for the increased expenditure were:

1. An increase of 50p per person in the affiliation fees to the SVLGA.
2. There had been two Home Matches this season and only one last season.
3. We purchased a new batch of 12 sweaters at a cost of £480. None were purchased last year.
4. There is a new Trophy (the Stewart Trophy donated by Marion Stewart for a Handicap Competition) and this required initial engraving costs. Also, thanks go to Captain Telfer's husband, Norrie, for making the new plinths for the Super Vet Trophies which did save some expense. However, there was a fair amount of expense incurred with bringing the engraving of these trophies up to date.

The increase in subs from £18 to £20 should help to keep us on an even keel barring any extraordinary costs.

£350 was put into No. 2 Account for insurance purposes and this brings the total in the reserve fund to £1.050.

The closing balance at 30/9/14 was £30 up on last year's closing balance. Therefore, the total Closing Funds amounted to £4,763.

The adoption of the Financial Report was proposed by Janette Stewart and seconded by Lana Macdonald.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Morag reported that currently there were 175 playing members, there having been five resignations before the AGM. Two of the ladies resigning at this time, namely Moira Hogg (Old Ranfurly) and Pat Walker (Ranfurly Castle) have taken Associate Membership. This means that we have one Honorary Member, Wendy Cameron, and three Associate Members.

There are 41 ladies on the Waiting List.

CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Anna commented that time seemed to be passing much quicker these days and 2014 had flown by. However, it had been great weather for playing golf.

The three Meetings were well attended and we are extremely fortunate to still have courtesy from the various venues. Anna thanked her Committee for running these competitions and for the volunteers from the host clubs. These ladies were an invaluable help on the day of the competitions and they were ably assisted by Anne Dunn who also kindly manned the desk. Anna asked the membership if anyone was unable to play on the day but who could help at the desk to please get in touch with Marion or Morag. Every little helps.

The Summer Meeting at Milngavie was in serious danger of being abandoned due to torrential rain and near-flooding of the Course but thanks to the sterling work by the Greens Staff, play did commence. Sleepless night beforehand but in the end just crossed her fingers and hoped for the best. Anna was glad that she is a glass-half-full kinda person!!!

Matches: The first fixture of 2014 was the Singles Match –v- the East Vets for the Elise Duncan Trophy. Always a fiercely contested match, with pride and bragging rights at stake! West Kilbride was the venue and Anna was pleased to report that a magnificent 8-1 result was the outcome, and the West retained the trophy.

Next up were Midlands and the match for players of 10+ for the Mid West Trophy. This was played in June at Ralston Golf Club. The match started in bright sunshine but quickly deteriorated and heavy rain poured down for most of the match. Luckily, West Vets are hardy, strong souls and they coped far better in the difficult conditions. They triumphed 6 to 1 and were able to dry out and then enjoy a delicious High Tea.

The final match of the season was the foursomes match against the East Vets – again for players of 10+ handicaps. This was played at Gullane in August, on a windy and squally day. This time the East players coped better with the conditions and won the match 5-0, so unfortunately the ASP trophy was lost.

Captain Anna thanked all the West Vets who had played in these three matches. These matches are played in a very friendly spirit, but also in an extremely competitive one too!

Championship: Once again 16 ladies qualified for the Championship, and assembled at Renfrew Golf Club at the end of May for the knock-out stages. We are extremely fortunate that Renfrew G.C. continues to accommodate us and it is great that we have this neutral venue to hold the Championship over two days.

Play commenced on the Thursday, and Anna mentioned that Cathy Morton (Eastwood G.C.) played superbly in the 1st round to defeat May Hughes – a former West and Scottish Champion! It reminded all players just how competitive the championship is. All the matches were hard fought affairs, and at the close of play on Day 1, Janice Paterson, Lorraine Campbell, Anna Telfer and Linda McDougall emerged as the 4 semi-finalists. The semis were played the following morning and the final in the afternoon was between Lorraine and Anna, with Lorraine triumphing on the 17th hole. The winning shot was a majestic 5 iron from 150 yards to about 6 feet. The putt was holed for a birdie 3 and Lorraine was crowned a worthy Champion.

The 4 Bronze qualifiers played all their matches at Renfrew this year, and surprisingly, all their ties proved to be one-sided affairs. In the final, Anne Terrey played really well and outclassed last year's winner, Ann Colthart, to emerge as Bronze Champion for the first time.

The Scottish Seniors was held at Elgin G.C. at the end of June. Anna was sorry that she did not defend her title. (Returning from her youngest son's wedding in Las Vegas the day before might have had something to do with it – that's my excuse and I'm sticking to it!). Four West Vets did play well enough to qualify from the Strokeplay to compete in the Matchplay – Sheena McDonald, Liz Keohone, May Hughes and Alex Glennie. Sheena lost in the 1st round to Liz and then May and Liz lost in the second round. Alex, however, went all the way to the final and played really well despite a bad cough and cold. She narrowly lost to Alison Bartlett by 3 and 1. Alison had, therefore, done "the double" – a fantastic achievement.

In the Handicap event, Marion Stewart reached the semi final stage but lost to Margot Barr (an ex Erskine player before moving North).

Blairgowrie: Anna was pleased to report that West Vets returned to their usual high standards and appeared frequently in the prize list this year.

Vice Captain Marion Stewart won the Rosebowl (overall best nett), and the Buchanan Cup (best nett for over 65's)

Anna won the Lyon Picture for best Scratch score.

Sheila Mitchell was runner-up in the Wee Competition (9 hole course)

West Vets won the Lyon Team Trophy (Marion Stewart, Anna Telfer and Liz Hale).

Kay McColl and Enid Young were runners-up in the Beddoch Quaich (Greensomes).

The AGM was held before the prizegiving and it was chaired by the Vice President, Gillian Kirkwood, due to the absence of the President, Sally Coster, who had broken her hip whilst with the Vets Team at the Jamboree in August, and could not attend.

Gillian was duly elected President, Emma Wilson from Midlands is the new Vice President, and Alison Houston, also Midlands, is the new Secretary.

There were some changes to the Constitution, but Anna would explain these in Item 11 of the Agenda.

The SVLGA Championship was held at Strathmore this year because Blairgowrie was hosting the Junior Ryder Cup on the proposed weekend. As intimated last year, this change of date was so that there was no clash with the British Seniors Open Tournament.

Lorraine Campbell played Karen Ballantyne from East Vets in the 1st round but unfortunately lost 2 and 1. Lorna Bennett (Midlands) was the eventual winner.

West Vets continue to feature highly in Ladies Golf, both in Scotland, in the rest of the UK and in Europe. Forgive me for not mentioning every single achievement – there are far too many to list!

However, well done to all – to those members who are Club Champions, County Team members and those who continue to represent their own Clubs. Special congratulations here to Pauline Warlow who led Cathkin Braes to their first ever victory in the Greenlees Trophy. And I must mention our newest West Vet, Lesley Lloyd, who was capped for the Scotland Seniors Team and who also played in the Jamboree at Wallasey.

Anna ended her report by thanking a few very special members who had made such a valuable contribution whilst she had been in office. Firstly, Carol Fell – Carol's help and input have been invaluable over many years and she has been superb yet again despite all her family problems. Anna presented Carol with bouquet of flowers and a small token of thanks from all the West Vets.

To her Committee Members, Helen, Dorothy and Julie – a big thank you for your support and contribution to the West Vets Association.

Finally to Morag, our Secretary. Anna thanked Morag for taking over the post of Secretary with no notice or forewarning in 2012 and for all her hard work with all things secretarial. Anna presented Morag with a beautiful bouquet of flowers as a token of thanks.

Dates for the 2015 SVLGA Fixtures

Mary McKenna Trophy – Dunbar G.C. April 19th & 20th

Jamboree – Sherwood Forest G.C. August 11th-13th

Blairgowrie – September 21st and 22nd

Championship – September 20th and 21st (at Blairgowrie again)

West Vets Fixtures

Spring Meeting – Elderslie G.C. 13th April

Summer Meeting – Largs Kelburne G.C. 14th May

Autumn Meeting – Balmore G.C. 9th September

Championship Finals – Renfrew G.C. 28th and 29th May

Singles Match –v- East – Mortonhall G.C. 2nd June

Midlands Match – Blairgowrie (Rosemount) 9th June

Foursomes Match –v- East – Kilmacolm G.C. 18th August

SCOTTISH VETS MATCH REPORTS

Irish Match: (Report submitted by May Hughes and read in her absence)

Donabate Golf Course in Dublin, the home course of Mary McKenna, was the venue for the annual match with the Irish Seniors. Before we left for the Emerald Isle we had experienced a very wet week but the luck of the Irish was in evidence and we were treated to three days of spring sunshine. Captained by Noreen Fenton, our team of Lorna Bennett, Alison Bartlett, May Hughes, Mary Smith, Anne Ryan, Alex Glennie, Fiona de Fries and Sheena Wood, were up for the fight and although the foursomes were all tight matches, the Irish led 3-1 after Day one.

The Scots were in buoyant mood at the evening dinner which also marked the twentieth anniversary of the Irish Senior Golf Society. The great and good of Irish Ladies golf were in attendance and it was fantastic to meet up with some old friends.

After enjoying a first class meal and classic Irish tales the draw for the Monday Singles was made from a pint measure and everyone was ready to secure their point on the board. Unfortunately, however, the Irish proved to be a bit too hot to handle on this occasion, winning all but two of the eight Singles. Most matches did, however, go beyond the 16th but our host's ability to close out the games again proved decisive.

We look forward, however, to wresting back the cup at Dunbar in the Spring of 2015 when we hope the Scots will turn the result around.

Jamboree: (Report submitted by Alex Glennie and read in her absence)

The Vets Jamboree was held at Wallasey Golf Club from 5th-7th August. A lovely links course with views across the Mersey.

Unfortunately, our President Sally Coster, had a fall on the first day and this confined Sally to the hotel for the next three days.

A new West Vet was introduced to the SVLGA team in Lesley Lloyd. Excited does not fully describe her enthusiasm. Lesley was a great team member and loved every second of the experience. The rest of the team were Alison Bartlett, Lorna Bennett, Fiona De Fries, Alex Glennie, Anne Ryan, Mary Smith and Sheena Wood.

The first day Scotland played the Midlands. After the morning foursomes we were 2/1 down. It was critical we won the afternoon singles to give us a chance. We duly did and won by 4/2. This gave us an overall match win of 5/4 and a point on the board.

Day 2 was against the North and again we went into lunch 2/1 down in the foursomes. Again we needed to win the singles which we duly did by 4/2. This gave an overall match win of 5/4 and another point on the board.

As you can imagine, Noreen was starting to get a little excited. It was a long time since we had been in contention and were in that dreaded situation of only needing a half. Otherwise it was countback situation.

Day 3 was against the South. The plan went well in the morning foursomes and ended with one and a half points each.

However, the singles did not go as planned and we lost the afternoon session by 4 1/2 to 11/2. This meant we lost 6/3.

In the end, three teams had 2 wins and it went to countback and we came out in 3rd place. So near. Lesley was our top points scorer with 5 out of 6.

Let's hope the team can go one step further next year and bring the trophy back North.

PROPOSED NEW COMPETITION

The Committee proposes to instigate a Handicap Competition to replace the Bronze Championship. The format would be that after the 16 best scratch scores at the Summer Meeting, the **Eight** next best handicap scores would qualify for a knock-out competition. There are several reasons for this proposal:

1. For several years now we have struggled to persuade enough members to enter the Bronze Championship. This new competition would be open to everyone.
2. There is the Championship for low handicap players, and there are 2 matches for 10-14 handicap players, but really nothing else for those with handicaps of 15+.
3. Vice Captain Marion Stewart has very kindly donated a beautiful solid silver figure which can be made into a suitable trophy. (The Bronze Salver would be retained by each Captain until such time that a Bronze Championship be reinstated).
4. I also propose that this new competition, if approved, be named the Stewart Trophy.

Anna asked if there were any comments or questions regarding the above. As there were none, this new competition will go ahead from 2015.

CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

Anna reported that a small committee, chaired by the new President Gillian Kirkwood, had taken the time to rewrite the Constitution of the SVLGA, bringing it up to date and clarifying several rules. There are two changes that affect every Division.

1. Application may be made to join the Association if a person reaches the age of 50 by the end of September. (This will allow an earlier application than at present but as we still have a lengthy waiting list, it will not really affect us).
2. Players with a handicap of 4 or less, and whose birthday occurs during the year, should be invited to join their Divisional Association as soon as their birthday occurs.

This does affect us. But it was worded in this way so that a low handicap player would be eligible for selection to the Vets Team for the Jamboree. So we should all be in favour and support that. It might mean that our membership would briefly be over our stated maximum of 180, but it would only be briefly. It would not occur very frequently, and in any case the SVLGA Constitution supersedes ours.

On the plus side, it has lowered the handicap level of automatic entrance from 6 to 4 and so this should allow ladies who are on the waiting list, an earlier entry.

Anna asked if there were any comments or questions, but there were none.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Anna announced that she was delighted to propose Marion Stewart as the new Captain of the West Vets. Marion had been an absolutely superb Vice Captain – extremely supportive, conscientious and dependable. Marion has an even busier life now that she has joined Troon Ladies but I am sure this will not slow her down. Nothing is too much trouble for Marion and everything she does is done willingly – and always with a smile on her face. I know the Vets will be in extremely capable hands.

Anna then presented Marion with the Captain's Badge.

New Captain Marion Stewart then took the chair and said: "Thank you Anna. What a hard act to follow. Congratulations on a fantastic 2 year captaincy. You not only won the Scottish Seniors in 2013, you followed it up by winning the scratch event at Blairgowrie, captained the West to wins against the East and Midlands, did a Radio interview and was chosen to captain the Scottish Senior team in Austria and Huddersfield. And all this and more together with coping with a badly injured son and two weddings! Thank you for being such a great ambassador for the West Vets and I hope I can continue your good work.

Marion then proposed June Lockhart as her Vice Captain. June, a retired Geography teacher, is a member of Gleddoch and Douglas Park Golf Clubs and a past Captain of Clydebank & District as well as Gleddoch. She has also been a Committee member of Renfrewshire County. June's appointment was seconded by Maureen Mitchell.

Marion announced that Morag had agreed to continue for a further year as Secretary and the Meeting unanimously approved this.

Mo Neilson (Treasurer) and Julie Will (Committee Member) both have another year to serve on Committee. Dorothy Horsfield retires after two years on Committee and Marion thanked her for all her support and help over the past two years. Mary Wylie (Elderslie G.C.) was proposed by Marion to replace Dorothy on Committee. Mary is currently in Australia but had indicated her willingness to serve. This was seconded by Liz Hale.

A.O.C.B.

Captain Marion intimated that as we had had worries over the Summer Meeting taking place at Milngavie this year due to the bad weather in the preceding weeks, the Committee has discussed the possibility that if the Summer Meeting were to be cancelled then there would be no scores to count for the Championship. Consequently the proposal was put forward that if for any reason the Summer Meeting has to be cancelled, then the scores from the Spring Meeting will count for qualification for the Championship. Marion asked the Meeting for any comments but as there were none, this will be the procedure in the future. Fixture Cards for 2015 will again be delivered to the members' Home Clubs in February next year.

VOTE OF THANKS

The Meeting closed with a vote of thanks from Lorraine Campbell. Lorraine congratulated Anna on her captaincy over the past two years. The Courses played this year had been much enjoyed by everyone. Lorraine thanked Marion for her support at Strathmore in the SVLGA Championship and wished both Marion and June every success in their positions as Captain and Vice Captain, and good golf to everyone in 2015.

DATE OF 2015 AGM – 5th November, 2015 at Cowglen Golf Club