

RENFREWSHIRE LADIES COUNTY GOLF ASSOCIATION

Minutes of 107th AGM 2016 held at Hags Castle Golf Club on Wednesday 2nd November.

Present: Hon President Jennifer Mack; Captain Gillian Kyle; Vice Captain June Lockhart; Secretary Carol McNally; Treasurer Tracy Masterton; Committee Members and 58 ladies.

Captain Gillian Kyle welcomed everyone to the 107th AGM.

1.APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE: There were 33 apologies.

2.MINUTES OF 106th AGM: the Minutes has been published on the website so were taken as read.

3.MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising.

4.TREASURER'S REPORT

Year ended September 2016

Hopefully you should all have or be able to see a set of the accounts. The main figures want to highlight are the surplus of £3,325 and our bank balance of £9,934. This year we made a surplus of £3,325 compared to a deficit of £325 last year. The main reasons for this were:

1. The fundraising that took place in the year (£1,355);
2. There has been a small increase in our subscriptions (approximately £300);
3. For the juniors we received a donation of £300 and last year we bought team gillets for the girls costing £320;
4. With the move to Scottish Golf we did not need to pay the usual SLGA fees (£255);
5. We had one less competition and the Campbell Clock did not run, also we didn't have a seniors team match
6. We have also made a number of other savings in our administrative costs.

This year we had some uncertainty around whether or not Scottish Golf would pay our winter training grant. We made sure that we covered the majority of our costs by the amounts paid by the team however we still received this grant.

Going forward it is not clear what will happen with Scottish Golf funding for training and also the inter county finals however with £9,934 in the bank we are currently in a healthy position however it is important that we continue to maintain or increase our current level of income.

5.SECRETARY'S REPORT

This has been an exciting and extremely enjoyable year for me as Renfrewshire Ladies Secretary. I have now met a lot of members and look forward to meeting more during next year.

Our membership seems quite solid with 213 members at close of this season. This is broken down into 171 ordinary members with the remainder being juniors/under 23s/honorary/non-playing. We have recently received 4 resignations.

Our competitions over the season were played as follows:-

Gillian will report on the Championship.

Spring meeting took place at Paisley. This was undoubtedly our best attended event with 60 players including 5 in the evening. Gorgeous weather and some fantastic scores including Eilidh's scratch 74, with a triple bogey on the 9th.

Foursomes held at Old Ranfurly. Those of you who took part will recall flags almost taking off. But again, a very successful day with 37 pairs taking part.

At Eastwood, for our June medal a very disappointing 26 ladies took part. The date clashed with a few other events and it was in the middle of our very short but very hot weather. This also incorporated Medal Finals. The evening ballot there proved disappointing as there was only 1 entrant. Unfortunately this had to be cancelled. As a result of this your Committee has realised that 1 committee member requires to be available should this situation arise in the future.

The July medal was held here at Hags. Course conditions proved very long with 32 participants including 3 in the evening.

Caldwell hosted our August medal, which was played in beautiful weather. For most of us, however, we didn't happen to play beautiful golf. 45 ladies took part.

Our Greensomes was held at Cathcart Castle. Always a favoured format and enjoyable course. Exactly the same number of pairs as the foursomes took part, 37. It was a magnificent day, just look at the photograph of the winners June and Shirley on our web site which doesn't belie the day's weather.

Our last event of the year was our Triam which as you know had to be very quickly rearranged owing to horrendous weather conditions. Well done to Fiona for making all the painstaking arrangements and rearrangements.

You will note on the reverse of our AGM Notice the 2017 dates for diary: both the courses for next year's events and other notable dates. I am personally delighted to announce Pollok Golf Club hosting our County Championship. Pollok's Committee has been extremely supportive and very keen to be involved and the Club is delighted to welcome us all in April.

One of the greatest enjoyments I experienced this year was both attending the County Jamboree and being caddy mistress. I had never attended this event before, and I now realise what I've been missing. I would strongly recommend you attend ladies. It's a great and thoroughly enjoyable experience to watch such good golf up close and personal.

An enormous thanks to all my caddies (or is that caddy-etts). Ladies, a huge and grateful thanks to all of you who willingly gave your time to support our team and in so doing made my coordinating job so easy. As you know, I'd like to thank you by taking you to Pollok for a game, my diary has been rather full since June, therefore, will try get something arranged.

Gillian and I attended Scottish Golf's inaugural AGM at the Crowne Plaza in January. I am delighted to now hand over to Audrey Sturgess who will update us all accordingly.

6. SCOTTISH GOLF

Audrey Sturgess updated the membership on current status of Scottish Golf Limited.

7. CAPTAIN'S REPORT (incorporating Junior Report)

Honorary President, President, Past Captains, Honorary Members and members of Renfrewshire Ladies County Golf Association -a warm welcome to Hagg's Castle Golf Club this evening to our 107th AGM

What a quick and eventful year it's been. I hope you have all had an enjoyable season.

We were saddened to lose Dorothea Hastings and Jean Brown over the course of the year and our thoughts are with their families.

I shall now give you a brief report of our 2016 season. I'll not go into great detail as it was all on the website as it happened.

We started our Junior and Senior squad training on Jan 31st with a joint session at the Indoor Golf Centre led by Karyn Burns-. We had 11 players in the Senior Squad this year and we met a further 3 Monday evenings for coaching sessions. We have found that the Indoor really is the best place for coffee on a Monday night! A game at Portland and a match against some of our caddies at Douglas Park in March got us all ready for the season ahead.

The Beetle Drive in February was another great afternoon raising just over £1300 towards funds. Grateful thanks to all who attended and those who donated raffle and auction prizes.

April saw the season begin. The County Championship at East Renfrewshire produced a great final with Eilidh Briggs playing some excellent golf to beat Jennifer Rankine 3&2. (despite sleet and snow showers!) The Peggy Clark was won by Donna Jackson with a super net 69. Our new trophy for a Handicap Singles, donated by Jean Irvine and aptly named-The Irvine Trophy- was won by Linda Ellery (East Ren) who beat Elizabeth Russell (Ralston) 4&2 in the final. I do

hope this new trophy will encourage more ladies to play in the qualifying round of the Championship in the future. 15 Past Captains attended the PC's lunch and enjoyed catching up with old County friends.

The Winter 4somes final was held at East Ren on Friday 22nd April between Fiona Roger and Evy McGregor and Birgit Clark and Marilyn Muir on a lovely sunny day. Jennifer Mack kindly refereed the match and the Old Ranfurly couple won 4and2.

37 couples played in the County Foursomes at Old Ranfurly. The Scratch winners were Donna Jackson and Liz Stewart and handicap winners Audrey Mackenzie and Lorna Boyd of East Ren.

The Inter County Foursomes took place at Hamilton GC on June 6th with Donna and Liz taking the honours again.

The Inter County matches, the Jamboree, took place at Douglas Park from 20th-22nd June. Our team was

Megan Briggs,

Denise Cowan

Donna Jackson

Gillian Kyle

Gillian McGinlay

Jennifer Rankine

Liz Stewart and

Carol Whyte.

With confidence high, we had a great win over D&A on day 1 winning 5.5 to 3.5. Day 2 continued well with a good victory over Lanarkshire winning 5.5 to 3.5 again.

So Day 3, we're confident and raring to go but Ayrshire just have that little more fire in their bellies as they have not won a match yet. A loss 3.5 to 5.5 this time which was bitterly disappointing for everyone, especially as 4 of the singles matches finished on the 17th or 18th hole but just not going our way. D&A won on a countback with ourselves and they represented the West at Aboyne in September but unfortunately finished 4th. Grateful thanks go to our caddy mistress-Carol, all our caddies and supporters which make the event extra special.

Next year we really hope to win the Jamboree back for Renfrewshire when it is played at Hamilton GC in 2017 and welcome your support again. Carol loved being caddy mistress so much that she has agreed to do the role again next time.

The rearranged West at Bonnyton was played in rather dreich conditions on July 24th. Only 18 played which is very disappointing when the 4 counties are all involved. (for your information 27 had entered for the May date)
But Renfrewshire did very well with Megan Briggs winning the Individual title and Renfrewshire's team of Megan, Donna Jackson and Carol Whyte winning the Team Trophy.

Lanarkshire won the Junior event.

The West Committee are aware that the support for this event has been poor over the last few years especially when the weather has caused the fixture to be cancelled in May the last 3 years then it clashes with other events when rearranged. They will continue to monitor the situation.

The Rosebowl Final was played at East Ren between Shirley Back and Marion Stewart on a lovely evening in September. A very close match until Marion had a bit of a meltdown on 17 and 18 so Shirley won 2up.

Autumn Greensomes at Cathcart Castle. 37 couples played on a bright warm day. Winners were June Lockhart and Shirley Back (Gleddoch) with 40 points and Runners up were Muriel Young and Margaret Gray (Old Ranfurly) with 39.

We were well represented at Eyemouth GC on Sep 7th in the Commonwealth Spoons and Marilyn Muir and Maureen Mitchell (Old Ranfurly) came a very commendable 3rd place.

The TriAm was postponed at Greenock until October 4th. What a good decision although it did present Fiona Armour with even more of a headache rearranging the teams. Thanks again Fiona!

Winners were Chris Fowler (Cowglen), Mo Neilson (Greenock) and Fay Storey (Old Ranfurly) with an amazing 77 points.

The Winter Foursomes is up and running and all results and stories should be reported to Linda Ellery.

Congratulations to all the ladies who are Champions of their clubs. I'll just take a moment to tell you a little about some individual achievements this year- Eilidh's 2016 achievements

Made cut in Helen Holm

3rd in St Rule Trophy

Qualified for Scottish Amateur Strokeplay, unfortunately lost in 2nd round against Past Champ Gabrielle MacDonald.

Won Royal Birkdale Scratch Championship

Runner up in Scottish Champion of Champions

Selected for the European Team Championships in Iceland

Selected for the Home Internationals in Wales

Gained a 1st at Stirling Uni in PE Teaching!

Other notable successes came in the Senior ranks.

Carol Whyte played in the Mary McKenna Perpetual Trophy at Lahinch GC in April against Ireland and was runner up in the West Vets Championship but work commitments unfortunately made her unavailable for selection for other events in the season.

I myself enjoyed success in the Senior ranks this year-winning the West Vets Championship and representing them at Blairgowrie in the Scottish Vets Championship. I also played at Panmure in their Jamboree and represented the Scottish Seniors at Sierra GC in Poland in the European Team Championships and then at Alyth GC at the Home Internationals. A great experience.

So it was fantastic that Renfrewshire had representatives in all the National Teams-Girls, Ladies and Seniors and hopefully we can continue reporting similar success in the future.

Junior Convenor Report

Here are some of the girls' activities from last season:

Prehandicap and girls with handicaps met at the Indoor Golf Centre in November then the potential junior team joined up with the seniors for a practice session and pizza to kick start the season in January. I know friendly matches has been

scheduled with D & A but due poor weather then lack of time, they were never played.

We had the use of the 9 hole golf course at Mearns Castle Golf Academy on a Sunday evening throughout May and June for the seniors and juniors and we only played foursomes for practice. This was fairly well attended and helped to get the girls to know each other a little better and not be scared of foursomes!

The West Girls only had 30 members this year and 7 of them are from Renfrewshire. This is obviously a worry but the West Committee will continue to organize their medals, matches and Championships as before. Renfrewshire was well represented in all their medals and the highlight, for me anyway, was Sophie Kyle being runner up in the Bronze Championship, just losing on the 19th hole.

The Kennedy Salver took place at Loudoun Gowf Club on 28th June. Our team was Emily Crusher (Eastwood); Niamh Kinney (Erskine); Sophie Kyle (Whitecraigs); Anna Mackenzie (East Renfrewshire); Heather Mushet (Elderslie) and Ellie Wilkie (Greenock).

We had a great start to the day winning all three foursomes so excitement at lunchtime was an understatement! As D&A could only field 5 players they gifted 1 point to each County, so we were left requiring 2 more points in the afternoon singles. A nervous start in the early matches in the afternoon but Niamh and Sophie both won their matches and we beat defending champions Lanarkshire by ½ a point. A very well deserved victory and hopefully this may inspire others to get more involved.

8 girls played in our Junior County Championship over the course of the season with the final being played at Eastwood Golf Club at the end of August between defending Champion Jennifer and last year's runner up Anna. The standard of golf had significantly improved from last year with birdies required to win a hole. Jennifer got an early lead then hung on to win 4&2, although it was a closer game than it sounds.

Both girls have been playing in many national or,petitions this year and gaining loads of experience along the way. I'd like to update you with a few highlights of their season:

Jennifer's 2016 achievements

Handicap 3

Finished 2nd in the Junior Tour Finals

Made the cut in the Helen Holm

Won the Clark Rosebowl at the Scottish at West Kilbride beating some very tough, experienced opposition.

Won Scottish Schoolgirls Championship

5th in Stephen Gallacher Foundation Trophy

Selected for the Girls Home International Team in Wales

Finished 12th in the Scottish under 16s

Won the Higgs Castle Club Championship for the 2nd time

Won the County Junior Championship for the 3rd time

Runner up in the Junior Champion of Champions

Anna's 2016 achievements

Handicap reduced from 10 to 7

Finished 21st in the Scottish under 14s in a very International field

Finished 25th in the Scottish under 16s amongst very low handicap players (around half the 75 players played off 5 or less and they're all UNDER 16.

Amazing!)

Won the East Renfrewshire Ladies Club Championship and the Junior Under 15 Championship

Some significant handicap cuts for the juniors were –

Alison MacNab from 19 to 14

Sophie Kyle from 27 to 20

Emily Crusher from 20 to 17

Rome Erskine from 19 to 14

Regrettably the Campbell Clock was not played this year. Numbers were poor until 3 days before and then they were abysmal. There seemed no point in running 2 competitions with only 5 girls playing in each. Hopefully there will be more girls playing in 2017 and we shall try again.

I have had a good response from an email I sent out to all the clubs a couple of weeks ago and I hope to meet up with representatives from all clubs who have

girl members in the new year and get some ideas for encouraging more girls in the game to get their handicaps.

We are still searching for a new Junior Convenor so if ANYONE would like to be involved, please speak to me at the end of the meeting.

That is the end of my report for 2016. As I said before, it's been a very quick year and I've hopefully learned a lot about being Captain of the County and can take that forward for next year. It's a team effort though and my Committee have been terrific especially when a couple of the major roles saw a change of personnel. Sandra Littlejohn has taken over as Results Secretary and after a few tutorials from Carol Fell and Freda, she has been amazing. Carol McNally our new Honorary Secretary has also been thrown in at the deep end and seems to be enjoying the role as well as being super efficient.

My loyal Vice Captain, June, has been such a great support all season and despite being so ill last month, she has managed to be here and looking absolutely brilliant. Thanks so much for all your support June.

Thank you also to Jennifer Mack our President who has attended all of our events and to Past Captain Gillian McGinley who was always at the end of the phone if required.

Coming off the Committee are Shirley Back, Donna Jackson and Elaine Robb. Grateful thanks to all of them for their hard work and support over the last 3 years.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Honorary Life President-Wendy Cameron

President-Jennifer Mack

VC -June Lockhart

Honorary Secretary-Carol McNally

Honorary Treasurer-Tracy Masterton

Results Secretary-Sandra Littlejohn

Membership Secretary-me ATM-But I'm hoping 1 of the new committee members may take on this role in 2017/18.

Junior Convenor-me ATM-volunteers appreciated.

Our committee members for 2016/17 are-Fiona Armour and Linda Ellery

And new to committee- Sandra MacDougall; Liz Stewart and Marilyn Muir.

Linda Ellery is our new “Sweater girl”.

A couple of dates for your diaries-

Beetle Drive on Sunday 29th January from 2pm-5pm at Ralston GC

Biannual Dinner on Thursday 16th March here at Haggs Castle with Catriona Morrison MBE as our speaker. Cat was Scotland’s most successful triathlete and should provide us with a very motivating talk.

You should all have been given a pink counter on arrival. We have been debating the value of medal spoons at our committee meetings but cannot decide on the way forward. So narrowing the choice down to 4 things, I’d like to ask you to vote using your counter for either – a spoon; a paperweight; a glass or a £10 gift card as the prize for winning a medal.

The members were then asked to decide their preference by putting a pink counter into one of four boxes as per their choice.

Maureen Mitchell of Old Ranfurly Golf Club presented to the membership as follows:-

Course Rating

I have been rating courses for the County for over 10 years and some of you would be present when I last updated.

At the very beginning of rating for ladies, a small group of County ladies were trained by my husband, Bill, who had been rating gents, courses for over 20 years. I started being involved when this group disbanded and eventually 2 groups headed by myself and the other Maureen Mitchell from Cathcart Castle went round the courses. The other group did a great job rating ½ of Renfrewshire’s courses then it also disbanded. Since then, Bill has trained various groups but unfortunately, due to illness, these groups have had to give up. Bill, another rater David and myself have continued rating as a team.

I am sure some of you are wondering what rating is all about. We assess the playing difficulties of courses on a hole by hole basis, considering 10 determined

obstacles eg bunkers, out of bounds, trees, water, etc. This procedure is carried out by groups all over Scotland following the USGA Course Rating System. Our Renfrewshire team is one of the most progressive as we carry our joint rating of courses from gents and ladies tees. Three years ago Bill invited Marilyn Muir to join our team which has been a great help. This year we have been able to rate 9 courses – joint rating for Pollok; Ranfurly Castle; Paisley; Gleddoch; Erskine; East Renfrewshire; Greenock and Renfrew. Also Cowglen for ladies only. Happy to report Renfrewshire is up to date. We try to do each course on an 8 to 10 year rota.

Rating a course is actually only the tip of the iceberg. It takes 4-5 hours out on a course but the follow up paperwork can take longer than this to complete. This is done from charts in the manual the all the information is fed into a computer. Eventually the rated course receives a certificate from SG Limited giving the information about the Standard Scratch Score of the course. As you all know this SSS determines your Competition Scratch Score and how your handicaps are controlled.

You will now have realised that the process is quite time consuming and takes quite a bit of time to train someone new and although some other ladies have expressed an interest in rating, it is difficult for Bill to both train and rate especially as he also trains groups from other countries.

You now know SG has sent out a communication to clubs asking for new volunteers and stating that training will be given.

AOB

Carol Fell advised Renfrewshire County had an editorial within the August edition of Women and Golf Magazine.

Vice Captain June Lockhart passed on her grateful thanks for kindness and support from the membership during her recent period of ill health.

PRIZE GIVING

Captain Gillian Kyle then announced the prize winners for the year and Hon President Jennifer Mack presented the prizes.

Date of next AGM November 1st 2017 at 7.30pm at Higgs Castle GC.

Eilidh Briggs announced Vote of Thanks.