

# EAST LOTHIAN LADIES' COUNTY GOLF ASSOCIATION

President: Mrs J Buchanan

Vice President: Mrs J Watt



## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at Gullane Golf Club

### 1. PRESENT

There were 64 lady members in attendance.

### 2. APOLOGIES

42 apologies had been received.

### 3. WELCOME

The Captain, Elaine Dick, welcomed everyone to the 2017 AGM of the Association. She thanked Gullane Golf Club for allowing us to hold the meeting in their clubhouse. The Association remembered two of its members who had died during the year: Ros Thoreson (former Secretary) and Caryl Campbell (former Secretary and Past President).

### 4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

As the minutes has been circulated to members and posted on the website, they were taken as read. They were adopted as a true record of the meeting – proposed by Sue Penman; seconded by Mary Lou Watkins.

### 5. MATTERS ARISING

The Captain reported that it had been decided not to co-opt a fourth Committee member.

### 6. JUNIOR REPORT

Wendy Thummanond, Junior Secretary, reported on the progress of junior girls during 2017. There were eleven juniors this year, with handicaps from 3 to 36.

From Castle Park GC: a new member, **Annie Wilson**.

From Dunbar GC: **Annabel Hosie** . Her 3 handicap was an amazing achievement this year as she had taken her Highers. She was also a member at Winterfield GC and Goswick GC. At Dunbar she made it to the final of the Junior championship and came runner up for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row, having made history the previous year as the first girl to compete in the final. She competed in the annual Spain v East of Scotland girls match. She was not too disappointed to lose to her opponent who was the reigning champion and played off +2. In March, Annabel became the youngest-ever PGA-qualified level 1 coach in the UK. She has been running the coaching for the juniors at Winterfield G.C. alongside 2 professionals.

From North Berwick GC: **Catherine Milne**. She was part of the team of four representing East Lothian in the Cuthbertson Cup.

From Musselburgh GC: **Lauren Lee** and **Charlotte Bauld**. This was Lauren's last year as a junior. She had now fulfilled her dream as a little girl to further her studies with a golf Scholarship in America. From the oldest to the youngest, Charlotte has started to play in the Ladies' medals this year.

From Gullane GC: **Kate and Grace Crawford, Emma Chapman, Cassie Davidson McQueen, Abercrombie Nisbet**

Grace Crawford won the East Lothian Juniors Spring Meeting and Championship for 2017. She also achieved:

- St Leonard's Scottish National U11 Girls Champion
- Wee Wonders British and Irish Girls 10 Champion
- US Kids Girls 10 European Champion
- US Kids Girls 10 World Championship 5th place
- Gullane Ladies Golf Club U18 Girls Champion
- North Berwick Golf Club U18 Girls Champion
- Stephen Gallagher Foundation U18 Girls scratch and handicap order of merit Champion
- Renaissance Club Ladies Club Champion (possibly the youngest ever adult club champion in the UK at 10 years 10 months old)
- Scottish Girls U12 Open Champion.

Cassie Davidson McQueen was a prize winner at the recent Gullane juniors prize giving and also awarded most improved GLGC player. She was the highest scoring girl in a team match against Longniddry. She has been asked to be Gullane Junior Girls captain again this year. The girls team won the first winter series match last Sunday. She also won the Kellie Quaich for the best 2 aggregate medal scores.

Abercrombie Nisbet had a handicap of 10 and had made history by becoming the first female member at Muirfield GC through being a junior ticket holder

From Loretto and Old Musselburgh GC: **Alicja (Ala) Gorka**, who won the scratch at the East Girls Spring Meeting for the U14s section. She also achieved:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Stephen Gallacher's Finals Day
- 2<sup>nd</sup> in Stephen Gallacher's Order of Merit U18 Girls Handicap
- 3<sup>rd</sup> in Stephen Gallacher's Order of Merit U18 Girls Scratch
- Winner of the Stephen Gallacher's U14 Girls
- Under 14 winner East of Scotland Girls Spring Meeting
- U18 Girls Winner at Craigmillar Park Golf Club Junior Open
- 2<sup>nd</sup> at The Byrne Howard Royal Troon Junior Open
- A score of 87 gross (77 net) at the East of Scotland Ladies Championship at Royal Burgess.
- A handicap reduction from 16 to 9.9. this year, playing in over 30 events.
- Qualification to participate in the Scottish Golf Development Academy, Tier 3.

Junior activities during the year started with Martin Huish kindly giving up his time to provide two coaching sessions at North Berwick GC. The first team event was the Cuthbertson Cup, played at Pitreavie GC on 15<sup>th</sup> April between the four counties in the East Division: East Lothian, Midlothian, Stirling & Clackmannan and Fife. The East Lothian team had comprised: Annabel Hosie, Lauren Lee (Captain), Catherine Milne and Grace Crawford. East Lothian had played Stirling and Clackmannan in the morning. The match was tied 2-2, and was still a tie even after count back. In the event it was decided by who had won the first hole in the first match, which unfortunately for us was Stirling & Clackmannan. Our team went on to win the afternoon consolation foursomes match against Midlothian, 4-0.

The Junior Spring Meeting and Championship was held at Winterfield GC. Scratch and winner of the Marjory Draper Trophy for the Junior Champion: Grace Crawford (78); Handicap and winner of the Morrison Quaich: Emma Chapman (89 – 21 = 68); 2nd Handicap: Kate Crawford (93 – 23 = 70). Grace and Emma were duly nominated for, and attended, an event at the Scottish Ladies at Dundonald on 26<sup>th</sup>

July 2017 which included a behind the scenes tour, group watch of a professional in the pro-am, Q&A and an opportunity to meet various professionals. They both enjoyed their day. Emma was so inspired that she was out practising her golf at 6.30am the next day!

Unfortunately, the Summer Meeting, the Autumn Meeting and the Hole and Hole did not go ahead this year due to lack of players (Emma Chapman deserved special mention for entering all the competitions). This was disappointing, but new ways were being devised to make sure juniors were available to take part. A questionnaire had been sent to the juniors and their parents and feedback was awaited.

The Captain thanked Wendy for her report and her work during the year to support the juniors. Wendy would now be standing down and her role assumed by Frances Hall. The junior trophies and prizes were presented by the President.

## 7. TREASURER'S REPORT

Carol Murray, Hon. Treasurer, reported on the financial position. She was happy to report a healthy set of accounts. These had been circulated to all members, with supporting notes.

As a headline summary, income in excess of £17,300 had been generated, with expenditure of roughly £15,300, giving a surplus just in excess of £2000. The surplus was, however, somewhat over-inflated by £927.00 as a result of the postponement of the Autumn meeting at Haddington due to bad weather. The event had been rescheduled to September, after the financial year-end. Next year's accounts would show expenditure covering the refunds processed for those people unable to play in the rescheduled event and also the green fees paid to Haddington GC.

Carol hoped that all members had got to grips with the new online booking system which from the Treasurer's point of view was working very well. The company used to process the money was Worldpay and their fees had been less than expected. Also, no fee was paid to them for months where no transactions had been processed. As expected we did have to pay for the website to be enhanced but this was also now looking much better. In terms of other related expenditure, there would be a small fee going forward to maintain the domain name. A new laptop had been purchased in 2017, which was in the plan and it was planned to buy a new wireless printer in 2018.

The overall cost of the Jamboree had been slightly higher than the previous year as it had been held away at Stirling. In 2018, ELLCGA would be hosting the event at Dunbar, which should keep expenditure down.

Carol reported additionally that the County Captain had secured a £1,150 grant from Scottish Golf. £500 would be used for squad coaching, £150 for physical preparation and injury prevention, £200 for junior coaching and £300 for friendly matches.

There were 226 members in 2017, generating an additional £885 subscription income.

There were no questions to the Treasurer. Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Gwen Stewart and seconded by Carole Ross.

## 8. CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Elaine Dick, County Captain, reported on the events of 2017.

Her duties as captain had started when she accompanied the team to Strathaven GC for a friendly match v. **Lanarkshire**. The omens were good since it was a fine autumn day and the result was an East Lothian win 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>. Over the next few months the squad played a number of foursomes matches and enjoyed their coaching sessions with Ailsa Murphy at Gullane GC. They had turned out in good numbers despite the wind and cold. This stood them in good stead when the time came for the match against **Gullane GC**. Unlike last year when it was played in glorious sunshine this year we had strong winds and squally showers. They were determined to play but, sorry to say, the aptly named Percy Vere Trophy remained with Gullane GC. She reminded members that Percy had gone missing in 2016, had later been found, only to be reported AWOL again on the day – a plot to keep it at Gullane was suspected! The weather was

rather kinder at the end of March for the last of the friendly matches, against **Borders** at Torwoodlee GC, which was played in glorious Spring sunshine and won 2-1 by East Lothian.

Earlier in March ELLCGA members had gathered for the annual **Pre-season lunch at Kilspindie GC**. This year the guest speaker had been Ian Malcolm who gave an interesting talk on Aberlady and its surround. We learned that there were old smugglers caves under the Kilspindie course.

Then April arrived and so did the golf season. The first event was the historic first ever **Spring Meeting at Muirfield GC**. Muirfield looked after us very well not only on the day of the Spring Meeting but throughout the championships that followed. The course and the bunkers were of course an expected challenge, supplemented by strong winds – and hailstones, which blew in as the Captain teed off. However, no one called off and only two or three players walked in at the 9<sup>th</sup>.

The **Championship and Handicap Quaich** which followed were also played in cold and windy conditions. There were some very tight matches going to the 18<sup>th</sup> and beyond, with a wonderful final between Jill McNicoll and Kay Lannin which went all the way to the 21<sup>st</sup> hole

The **Commonwealth Spoons** at Longniddry GC followed, with five couples going on to play at the Scottish finals at Alyth GC in September. Sadly, the Spoons have not returned to East Lothian this year.

The **Summer Meeting** was at Royal Musselburgh GC and, as for all competitions this year, there was a good entry. The course was, as for all this year's competitions, in great condition

The **Jamboree** was held at Stirling GC in June. There were some new faces in the team this year, with Hazel Saunders, Pam Hall and new member Alyssa Balding making their debuts and Jill McNicoll our County Champion managing to get time off work to play for the first time in seven years. There was some very good golf and some tight matches but unfortunately the opposition were better. Next year the Jamboree would be held at Dunbar GC and, with the advantage of a links course, we aimed to do better.

The **Autumn Meeting - 1 & 2**. Having had wind and hail at Muirfield and sunshine at Longniddry and Royal Musselburgh, it was perhaps inevitable that we would get rain at Haddington. We were hit by a mini monsoon which flooded the greens so quickly that we went from a decision to suspend play to abandonment in the time it took for the pro to bring round a couple of buggies to let us call players off the course. We did manage to rerun it and a few lucky people played the course twice.

**Hole & Hole Competitions**. These were very well supported, with 59 entering the singles and 98 players (49 couples) entering the Winter Foursomes.

This year as part of the squad training a talk had been arranged from Neil Aitken, a Titleist registered physiotherapist based at Prestonfield GC in Edinburgh. At Neil's suggestion, the talk was opened up to all ELLCGA members, and 50 attended at **Royal Musselburgh GC** in October. It proved to be a very informative and entertaining evening and it may be re-run, since there were a number of people who had expressed an interest but were unable to attend on that date, including a number of the squad.

The County ran two events which were not restricted to ELLCGA members, the **5-a-sides** and the **Babe Zaharias Trophy**.

After 10 years of running the **5-a-sides** as two scratch leagues, the decision had been taken, in consultation with Carole Ross and Carol Macleod, that the format would be changed so that there would be one Scratch league and one Handicap league, clubs being able to enter for either or both leagues. This proved very successful, with all clubs except Winterfield GC, Royal Musselburgh GC and Craigielaw GC taking part. It was hoped that they might join in in 2018. The Handicap League was split into two sections with the section winners playing each other in a final for the Carols' trophy at Longniddry GC. The Scratch Trophy was won by Gullane GC and the Handicap Trophy by Renaissance GC.

The **Babe Zaharias Trophy** was now a "moveable" event and after two very successful years at Gullane GC would move on to Luffness GC in 2018. £3720 had been raised for the Macmillan Fund in 2017, the cheque being handed over at a small reception at Gullane GC in September when the winners Alison

McBride and Vicki Cullen were presented with their trophies. This event was run in conjunction with the host club and had its own committee. Thanks were extended to Liz McLelland, the East Lothian rep on the committee and secretary for the last two years, Barbara Gibb and Jan Gray, the Gullane GC members.

For the last few years there had been an annual meeting of lady captains from East Lothian Clubs. In 2016, the main topic had been the 5-a-side competitions, but with so much uncertainty at Scottish Golf it had been decided to postpone this year's meeting until there were concrete proposals to discuss.

Elaine thanked the team for their hard work in supporting her throughout the year. Jenni Ray as Vice-Captain had amongst other things looked after the 5-a-sides and the lunch; Carol Murray had looked after our money; and Eleanor Black had kept everything on track and successfully introduced the on line booking system as well as speedily processing all the competition results, getting them back quickly to home clubs after the events – a vital service when some players had competitions the following day. Thanks were also extended to Janette Buchanan (County President), Joanne Watt (Vice President), Frances Hall, Linda Henderson, Janet Fairweather and Wendy Thummanond.

## 9. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

The following proposed and confirmed as office holders in 2018

<b>President:</b>	Mrs Janette Buchanan (Musselburgh GC)
<b>Vice President:</b>	Mrs Joanne Watt (Gullane Ladies GC)
<b>Captain:</b>	Miss Elaine Dick (Dunbar GC)
<b>Vice-Captain:</b>	Mrs Jenni Ray (North Berwick GC)
<b>Hon Treasurer:</b>	Mrs Carol Murray (North Berwick GC)
<b>Hon Secretary:</b>	Ms Jane Nelson (Dunbar GC)
<b>Committee:</b>	Ms Linda Henderson (Renaissance GC) Ms Elaine Wolstencroft (Kilspindie GC) Mrs Lesley Wood (Royal Musselburgh GC)
<b>Junior Secretary:</b>	Mrs Frances Hall (Gullane Ladies GC)

The new Committee members were introduced.

## 10. MOTIONS TO AMEND THE RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION

Motions to amend the Rules of the Association had been circulated with the Agenda:

- To amend Rule 3 to provide for changes to the number of committee members and the period of office;
- To amend Rule 4 to provide for a reduction in the term of office for future Presidents and Vice Presidents to two years in each role.
- To amend Rule 5 to recognise that correspondence was now by email rather than Royal Mail, and information posted on the website rather than on Club noticeboards.
- To amend Rule 6 to reflect recent practice with regard to the Hole & Hole competitions, and to provide for an alternative competition if Scottish Golf were to withdraw from the Commonwealth Spoons after 2018.
- To amend Rule 8 to set out the current provisions on eligibility in an accessible place;
- To amend the Rules to refer to the County throughout, to reflect custom and practice.

The above amendments were proposed by Jane McMinn and seconded by Anne Smith. The motions were carried unanimously.

## 11. SCOTTISH GOLF

The Captain updated the meeting on Scottish Golf developments since her most recent email report. The Chief Executive, Blane Dodds, had resigned to take up a similar post with Scottish Tennis (which is where he came from). The Chair, Eleanor Cannon, was now the acting Chief Executive. A proposed Special

General Meeting had been cancelled and was to be replaced by some sort of open Meeting. Recommendations would be put back on the agenda after further consultation at the AGM in the Spring.

The goal posts kept moving. In keeping with the views of the other East Division Ladies Committees, ELLCGA had been taking part in discussions with Lothians Area, Midlothian and Scottish Golf. The East Division Counties had indicated that at the moment they did not wish to amalgamate with the Areas (which in our case would be with Lothians Area and Midlothian). The case for doing so, and the future role of the Areas and Counties, was not entirely clear: indeed Scottish Golf was no longer promoting the amalgamation of Areas and Counties unless they wished to do so.

The Captain was still of the view that, at the national level, the amalgamation of SGU and SLGA had been the right thing to do in principle. It had been failure on the part of those leading Scottish Golf to listen, and to carry the clubs, counties and areas with them. Unfortunately, the confidence of a great many people who had been involved with Scottish golf at all levels had been lost, with the consequent loss of a wealth of experience over the last few years. She drew the meeting's attention to the following:

- There still seemed to be a proposal that we should follow the men's Areas practice, and that all Ladies with a membership of a golf club in the County would automatically become members of the County and have an annual subscription added to their club membership, and passed on to counties by their club or Scottish Golf. This proposal would significantly change the nature of the county in terms of numbers, would stretch capacity at events and the County's ability to know and keep in touch with its members. Multiple club memberships, residence etc, would also need to be addressed since presumably you would not be eligible to play for, or be a member of, two counties.
- Lothians Area had 26,000 members but only interacted with approximately 100 of their "elite" players. No-one with a handicap of more than 18 ever played in any of their competitions. Most men did not realise they were members and their AGM was attended by about the same as ELLCGA. They took the view that they still represented clubs, which under the new arrangements had their own vote. In some ways that is all they could do since they did not communicate directly with over 99% of their members. Scottish Golf did not understand the Counties and the role played in the larger social aspects of golf and the community of golfers, despite claiming that they also wished to promote this.
- She was concerned that Areas wished to increase their power base and may seek to open up membership to lady members, run competitions for the elite and take over the role of official reps of elite golf and training in the area. This was an issue for the future, but it was important to be aware of possible developments.

Members would be updated when there were developments to report and proposals on which to consult.

## **12. AOCB**

- The Captain read out an informative and interesting E-mail from Joanne Free describing the life of a freshman golf scholar in the US.
- 2018 competition venues were as follows:

Gullane No. 1 for the Spring Meeting and Championship; Winterfield GC for the Commonwealth Spoons; Craigielaw GC for the Summer Meeting; Kilspindie GC for the Autumn Meeting.

All fixtures, plus dates for the Inter County Jamboree at Dunbar GC and the pre-season lunch, would be posted on the website.

- The date for the 5 a-side AGM is 11<sup>th</sup> January at North Berwick.
- The Pre-season lunch would be held at Renaissance GC on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March.
- The 2018 AGM would be held at Gullane GC on 1<sup>st</sup> November.