

DEVON LADIES' GOLF LEAGUE

MINUTES OF THE 29th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT FINGLE GLEN GOLF CLUB

MONDAY 6th OCTOBER 2014 AT 11.00 AM

Present were representatives from the following Golf Clubs:

Axe Cliff, Bigbury, Bovey Tracey, Churston, Dainton Park, Dartmouth, Fingle Glen, Great Torrington, Ilfracombe, Portmore, Royal North Devon, Saunton, Staddon Heights, Stover, Teign Valley, Thurlestone, Tiverton, Warren, Woodbury Park, Wrangaton.

Apologies: None

1. Welcome and Introductions

Alison Marsh, Warren Ladies' Captain, welcomed the members of the Devon League and introduced herself, Frances Lewes-Palmer, 2014 League Administrator and Annie Ward, Warren League Captain and Warren Ladies' Vice-Captain. Alison Marsh went on to thank Frances Lewes-Palmer for her excellent administration of the League and for setting up and running the Devon League website throughout the year.

2. Prize Giving

Alison Marsh presented the Devon League Salver to Fingle Glen Captain, Michelle Underwood, and the Runners-up Cup to Portmore Captain, Karen Thomas.

3. Adoption of 2013 Minutes and Matters Arising

The 2013 AGM Minutes were adopted.

Proposed: Kay Foster (Woodbury Park), **Seconded:** Glenda Board (Axe Cliff)

Matters arising: None

4. Report from the Warren Golf Club – Devon League Organisers 2014

Alison Marsh reported on the Devon League's year.

"First we'd like to thank Rosemary Perry of Tiverton for the very smooth hand-over and for a fast response to questions while we got up and running.

Twenty clubs signed up to take part in the Devon League in 2014. Sadly both Saunton and Boringdon Park dropped out.

Sixty-four matches were played between 31st March and 8th September. Players' handicaps ranged from 7 to 35. Once again this shows that the League gives players of all abilities the opportunity to play singles matches on a variety of courses. This is regardless of the other competitions in which their club may have teams. Having been so involved this year we come away with the feeling that one of the values of the League is this flexibility to let the Clubs choose how to make the most of it. The spirit of cooperation with competitiveness is certainly alive and well in the Devon League.

The weather has been very good throughout the summer and very few matches have had to be rescheduled.

From an administration point of view the year has been fairly straightforward. Thanks go to the team captains for their commitment and efficiency in returning match results promptly. The majority now come by email – a sign of the times but also more efficient and a cost saving for the teams!

The feedback on the website has been very positive and this is obviously the ideal method for everybody checking how they, the other teams in their group and the other groups are doing on a regular basis. For us, as administrators, the website was a vital tool but not one which should prevent anyone else from taking on the role of League Admin in the future. So one of the proposals today relates to how the Devon League's website will be facilitated in the future.

4.1 Semis and Finals

This was the first year that the Semi-finals and Finals were on different days. However, only a couple of questions arose to do with the use of caddies and team composition and nothing that significantly changed the format or the spirit of

the competition. We are proposing a couple of clarifications in the Rules in response to the questions asked; we will discuss these later.

As hosts we certainly felt the two day format worked well. It certainly meant a much shorter day especially for those teams travelling from afar and then fresher teams playing in the all-important final. However, the issue of working people having to take two days off was raised.

4.2 Semi-finals Day – Monday 22nd September 2014

On a stunningly nice day for late in September, the winners of Group A, Ilfracombe, played the winners of Group D, Fingle Glen, with Fingle Glen winning the first 4 matches so taking the match.

The winners of Group C, Portmore, played the winners of Group B, Dartmouth, and after two early losses Portmore won through.

4.3 Finals Day – Friday 26th September 2014

Not such a brilliant day to start with but the weather improved. The meeting of Portmore and Fingle Glen, with some history from the last few League years, meant the matches were especially competitive. But well played both teams and after a couple of early wins by Portmore, Fingle Glen won through. Congratulations.

4.4 Next year

Twenty teams have entered the League for 2015. That is the 18 who played this year and we welcome back Royal North Devon and Saunton. So there will be four groups all with 5 teams.

We'd like to offer our good wishes to all the teams and to Woodbury Park, next year's administrators."

5. Proposals

Two proposals had been received.

5.1 Proposal - Minor changes of Rules wording to clarify issues that have arisen this year now that Semi-finals and the Final are played on different days.

Proposed: The Warren **Seconded:** Woodbury Park

a) In Rule 3.9 (iii) to allow the use of caddies on Semi-finals Day.

Current wording: "Teams should not have caddies (except on finals day)."

Proposed wording: "Teams should not have caddies (except on Semi-finals and Finals day)."

Reasoning: When the Semi's and the Final were played on the same day caddies were allowed for all matches.

b) In Rule 4.2 to clarify rules on allowing different team composition for Semi-finals Day and Finals Day.

Current wording: "Teams for finals day shall be selected from a squad of 10 players, all of whom must have played in at least 1 match in the divisional stages. Reserves are eligible."

Proposed wording: "Teams for Semi-finals day and Finals day shall be selected from a squad of 10 players, all of whom must have played in at least 1 match in the divisional stages. Reserves are eligible. The squads for semi-finals day and finals day do not have to consist of the same players."

Reasoning: Having the same players available for both days may be problematic for clubs, especially those with a small ladies' section and/or ladies who work.

Supporting Information

These were issues that were queried this year as the rules were not clear. The purpose is clarification only and not to change the nature of the competition.

Wording Agreed After Discussion: "Teams for semi-finals day and finals day shall be selected from players all of whom must have played in at least 1 match in the divisional stages. Reserves are eligible. The teams for semi-finals day and finals day do not have to consist of the same players."

After discussion and agreement on the proposed wording , the proposal was voted on and carried unanimously.

5.2 That the Devon League has its own web site (www.devonleaguegolf.co.uk) which will be managed by the club hosting for that year. The responsibility will be passed from club to club with the rest of the League administration.

Proposed: Woodbury Park **Seconded:** The Warren

Supporting Information: To do this a bank account will need to be opened so that the cost of obtaining the domain name and hosting the web site can be drawn from the account. The costs will be £7.00 every two years for the domain name and £15.00 every year for hosting the web site.

Kay Foster, of Woodbury Park, has found someone who will build the site and there will be no charge for this work.

It is proposed that the bank account will be transferred from club to club each year, which will just require new signatures and addresses etc to be sent to the bank.

Kay Foster of Woodbury Park led the discussion as she will need to set this up for 2015 and so has done the exploratory work in looking at options. The discussion was very positive as the website was seen as the best way to disseminate information in a very efficient and cost effective way. The change will mean future host clubs will not have to find a way to integrate the Devon League website into their club's website or the Devon League's funds in to their Section finance; both of which can be an issue. Frances Lewes-Palmer, who has a web development background and ran the 2014 website for the Warren, reassured the membership that the web technology to be used had been chosen with the needs of the League paramount and would make managing the site as easy as possible. Part of the handover from year to year will include showing the new users how to add documents, add text and results. Also Kay Foster's developer will be available to support us. There followed a discussion around the practicalities of setting up the website and the various concerns of the membership were addressed. It was generally.

The proposal that Woodbury Park should proceed with both setting up the Devon League website, www.devonleaguegolf.co.uk, and opening the Devon League bank account was voted on and carried unanimously.

6. Draw for 2015

6.1 Draw for order of semi-finals

Division B to play Division A and Division C to play Division D

6.2 Draw for Divisions

Twenty clubs have signed up for 2015, so there will be 4 groups of 5 clubs.

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
Staddon Heights	Great Torrington	Royal North Devon	Saunton
Stover	Portmore	Thurlestone	Woodbury Park
Dainton Park	Bigbury	Wrangaton	Ilfracombe
Teign Valley	Fingle Glen	Axe Cliff	Warren
Tiverton	Dartmouth	Bovey Tracey	Churston

7. Introduction of Host Club for 2015 – Woodbury Park

Alison Marsh then welcomed as League Organisers for 2015 Woodbury Park. Maggie Thomas, who is the Woodbury Park 2015 Captain, Kay Foster, who will be the Devon League Administrator for 2015, and Jasmine Clapson.

8. 2015 Dates

Kay Foster then identified proposed dates for 2015. After some discussion on the timing between the Semi-finals day and the Finals day, the following dates were confirmed.

Date by which Group matches must be played: 14th September 2015

Semi-Finals: Tuesday 22nd September 2015.

Final: Tuesday 29th September 2015.

AGM: Monday 5th October 2015 at 11.00am at Fingle Glen Golf Club

9. Any Other Business

9.1 Fingle Glen – Changing back to having the Semi-finals and Final on the same day

Michelle Underwood, Fingle Glen, had submitted a proposal too late to be considered so this was raised as AOB. Fingle Glen is suggesting that the League returns to having the Semi-finals and Final on one day. They felt this would be easier for clubs with working women and small Ladies' Sections. There was a discussion about the reasons for recently having changed to having them on the two different days. These included the length of the day especially for clubs that have to travel a long way and the practicality of playing 36 holes in a day if the weather is not good. There was a lively discussion of the various issues including team composition, travel time and costs. The positives for only having one day included only having the cost of traveling once and ladies only having to take one day off if working. However the other point raised was that the two day format seemed to be missing the sense of occasion and excitement of it all happening on one day with all four teams present.

It was agreed that this should be taken back to the clubs for discussion and, if wished, could be submitted as a proposal for next year's AGM.

9.2 Timing of adoption of proposals

Following on from the discussion of the submitted proposals and AOB, questions were raised about the timing of adoption of proposals. It has been the custom to defer adoption until the AGM Minutes are agreed at the following AGM. The feeling in the room was that this delay of an extra year was unnecessary. After the Rules were checked it was found that there was no reason for this to be happening as Rule 1.5 states only that "Any proposals will be discussed at the AGM and will be adopted only if a majority of clubs present vote in its favour on the basis of one vote per club."

After discussion it was agreed unanimously that the wording should be clarified and read: "Any proposals will be discussed at the AGM and will be adopted immediately if a majority of clubs present vote in its favour on the basis of one vote per club."

The meeting closed at 11.55 am.

DEVON LEAGUE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AT 30th OCTOBER 2014

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	£470.99		
Entry Fees for 2015 (20 clubs at £15)	£300.00	Food Semi-finals and Finals Days	£190.00
		Photocopying for AGM	£3.00
		Expenses: Stationary, telephone, etc	£30.00
		Room Hire for AGM at Fingle Glen	£60.00
Income Total	£770.99	Expenditure Total	£283.00
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	£487.99		