

Minutes of the
Meeting of the Devon



Annual General
Ladies Golf League
held at Fingle

Glen Golf Club at 11am on
Wednesday 5th October 2022

Present were representatives from the following club:

Boringdon Park, Churston, Warren, Dainton Park, Fingle Glen, Wrangaton, Ilfracombe, Tiverton, Staddon Heights, Thurlestone, Woodbury Park, Bigbury, Portmore, Exminster, Great Torrington, Holsworthy, Honiton.

1. **Welcome and Introduction:** Iris Butler, Past Lady Captain, Churston Golf Club, (standing in for Sue Petulengro, current Lady Captain, Churston GC who was unable to be present) opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.
2. **A minute's silence** was held in respect of the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II
3. **Apologies for absence:** Saunton
4. **Presentation of Kay Sharp Salver and runners-up Cup:** Iris presented the Winner Salver to Wrangaton, the winning club this year. Saunton were unable to accept the Runners-Up Cup due to their involvement in an accident en route to the meeting. Wrangaton Lady Captain, Wendy Roberts, thanked Churston for their organisation this year which she said had been very well run.
5. **Adoption of minutes 2021 AGM:** Proposer Karen Cole, seconded Julie Warner, Dainton
6. **Matters Arising from the Minutes:** There were none.
7. **Report by Churston Golf Club, Devon League Organisers 2022** – Trish Holmes
Good morning Ladies. It's great to see you all in person and to fit faces to emails. When Churston took over at the last AGM I for one was uncertain whether or not covid would again stop play. But no.. after an absence of two years Devon League is again up and running. 17 clubs across the county have met throughout the year to play a total of 112 first-round games not including the semi-final and final. None of these games resulted in major incident or injury and most were thoroughly enjoyed by the participants – welcoming the opportunity to play at other clubs and meet other players. An exception to the above might have been the experience of some players whose matches were played in conditions of extreme heat.
A reminder here to Captains that even the current rules, without the amendments proposed later today, allow for postponement under extreme conditions [see Rule 3.10]. An issue raised by several clubs concerned the difficulties involved in travelling long distances to matches – made even more difficult by the rise in fuel costs, not all clubs having generous petrol allowances. Whilst sympathising with clubs who know at some

point down the line that they cannot win their division it is not in the spirit of the game to cancel games because of the difficulties of travel. The issue will be returned to in the 'proposals' section.

Semi-finals day saw battles between Saunton and Thurlestone and Wrangaton and The Warren. All games were fiercely fought and included a tense play-off down the 19th between Saunton and Thurlestone. Victories went to Saunton and Wrangaton who met again a week later for the final. And again – a fiercely fought and close battle with players once more going down the 19th – these Ladies were not giving up without a fight! Congratulations again to the winners Wrangaton but also to our finalists – The Warren, Thurlestone and Saunton who played some outstanding golf to get as far as they did.

At this point I thought it might be interesting to remind you about the origin of the League. The idea came from Mrs Ann Fensome, Lady Captain of Okehampton GC. In 1986 Ann called the first meeting to discuss the possibility of starting a League for clubs with insufficient players in the bronze and silver divisions to enter the Still Cup or Sheila Creasey. Letters were sent to many Devon clubs with the result that 5 clubs entered the first League Match in 1987. Teignmouth were the first winners of the silver salver present by Miss K Sharp who said "I do hope it will be a symbol of much enjoyment – the chance of playing on different courses, making new friends and last but not least raising the standard of matchplay golf"

Finally, it has been Churston's honour and pleasure to organise the Devon League this year and I personally would like to thank all you Captains for making the task an easy one. You didn't ask too many difficult questions – and most of them were answered just by reading the rules! I would specifically like to thank the following: Sue Petulengro, Churston Lady Captain. Annette Shaw for inputting all the results on the website and her support. Joyce Cowling, Treasurer who I know has burned the midnight oil! Barbara Coley, Secretary and minute taker and Frances Lewes-Palmer, Web Organiser.

Good luck to next organisers: Dainton Park

8. **Notice of Withdrawal from Julia Tindall-Jones, Yelverton Lady Captain** was read as follows: "It is with much regret that I must withdraw Yelverton Golf Club from Devon League this year. This decision has not been made lightly but is as a result of a reducing number of ladies willing to commit to competitions and, for Yelverton, an increasingly aged demographic and a lack of younger members to fill the gap. Hopefully our numbers will increase in the future and we will be able to re-join the League but, in the meantime, I wish you and the League all the best for a successful season in 2023".
9. **Statement of Accounts – Joyce Cowling, Churston Devon League Treasurer 2022**
Joyce gave an overview of the accounts leading to a balance brought forward of £734.18 which transfers to Dainton Park.
10. **Proposals:**
 1. **Proposal by Staddon Heights GC
Seconded by Wrangaton GC**
"In view of the increasing cost of fuel and the time taken in travelling from one end of the county to another, we propose that the county is divided into 2 zones, N/E and S/W for league matches. The top 2 teams from each division would then play off in a semi-final and final."

A representative from SH spoke to this proposal giving an example that to illustrate why they were bringing this to the meeting for consideration. A healthy debate followed and the proposal put to a vote, by a show of hands. This was carried by the majority. In favour: 13 and 4 against. **Carried**

Following on from above proposal, Mary Dummett (Warren) proposed that, having agreed to the two zones, that these should be split into two divisions in each zone. This was seconded by Staddon Heights. This was put to the vote and carried by 15 in favour, 2 against. This will be trialled next year. **Carried**

2. Proposal by Boringdon GC

Seconded by Bigbury GC

“It is proposed that Devon League teams should consist of 6 players only with no reserve player” (to assist with shared travel arrangements and reduce expenses). Boringdon spoke to their proposal and then it was debated by the meeting, followed by a vote. In favour 14 and 3 against. **Carried**

It was further proposed that if there is a tie a review of the numbers of games won by each team will be carried out. Vote taken - In favour 17, none against. **Carried**

A subsequent suggestion was made that teams could have 7 players in the semi-finals and the final and the reserve will apply. Agreed that the reserve player must have played in one of the previous matches - this is a change to the rules as previously the reserve would have had to have played in two matches. Vote taken and it was unanimously agreed. **Carried**

3. Proposal by Fingle Glen GC

Seconded by Churston GC

“It proposed that all wording in the Rules referring to handicaps should be amended to comply with WHS, and clarify whether it is individual hcp or course hcp. See rules 3.4,3.6 and 4.3.

Rule 3.4: reference to ‘silver player’ to be changed to ‘whose individual should not be under 21.4’[reserve player]

Rule 3.10: weather conditions – wording to be amended to ‘bad weather including extreme heat’

Apart from an amendment that ‘individual hcp should read ‘index’. This was carried unanimously. **Carried**

It was suggested that Fingle Glen liaise with Dainton to make these changes to the Rules.

11. **Any Other Business:** There was none.
12. Churston handed over to the 2023 organiser: Dainton GC who took over the meeting. The Dainton Team as follows:
Advisor: Karen Cole Treasurer: Julie Warner Organiser: Janice Eaton
Captain: Sue Elson

13. **Draw for 2023:** This was carried out by Dainton GC as follows:

North East:

Group A Great Torrington, Tiverton, Holsworthy, Portmore, Ilfracombe

Group B Fingle Glen, Saunton, Honiton, Woodbury Park

South West

Group C Wrangaton, Bigbury, Exminster, Warren, Dainton Park

Group D Churston, Thurlestone, Boringdon Park, Staddon Heights

Semi-finals:

Winners of Group B will play Group D

Winners of Group A will play Group C

The winners of these will play in the final.

Karen Cole expressed her appreciation to Churston for hosting the league so well. She thanked all the team members and hoped that Dainton could do as good a job as they had. She asked clubs to please get teams in by end of November. She said a bank account had been set up and that Janice will be sending out an email for fixtures and results. Clubs will be contacted in next few days.

Dates for semi-finals: Monday 18th September at 12 noon for first tee.

Dates for finals: Tuesday 26th September at 12 noon.

14. Date of next AGM: Monday 9th October 2023 at Fingle Glen.

15. Meeting closed at 12.12